

Some Issues on Training and Updating Political Theoretical Knowledge for Cadres and Party members via the Internet

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Abstract: *Training and updating political theoretical knowledge via the Internet is an objective trend in the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the current construction of a learning society. It plays a significant role in diversifying forms of political theory education, enhancing the ability to quickly and flexibly transmit a large amount of political theoretical knowledge to the target audience, helping to save costs and time, and contributing to improving the quality and effectiveness of political theory education for cadres and Party members.*

Keywords: *training, updating, political theoretical knowledge, political theory education, Internet.*

In the current stage, the content of training and updating political theoretical knowledge via the Internet for cadres and Party members should focus on providing distilled research results from national and ministerial-level programs and projects in the field of social sciences and humanities; core and new issues in congress resolutions and resolutions of the Party Central Committee; knowledge and skills in protecting the ideological foundation of the Party, combating wrongful and hostile viewpoints; skills and expertise in researching and educating political theory.

Training and updating political theoretical knowledge via the Internet is not only a trend or possibility in the digital era, but it is being increasingly applied at various levels and scales in institutions that function in training and fostering political theory in general, and for cadres and Party members in particular. Clarifying the connotation of the concept of training and updating political theoretical knowledge via the Internet for cadres and Party members, its important role in the Party's political theory education work, and defining the content of this activity hold great significance in realizing the possibility of increasingly widespread application of this form of training and fostering in the practical work of political theory education for cadres and Party members in our country today.

1. Training and updating political theoretical knowledge via the Internet and its role in political theory education for cadres and Party members

Political theory is a system of viewpoints, guidelines, lines, and policies of a political party or class aimed at gaining, maintaining, and exercising state power. It is a system of knowledge about the political field that reflects class attitudes and interests towards state power in a class-based society, and it is the result of scientific research and political practice by many individuals over various historical periods.

In our country, political theory is defined with specific contents, including: Marxism-Leninism (comprising scientific disciplines such as Marxist-Leninist Philosophy, Marxist-Leninist Political Economy, Scientific Socialism), Ho Chi Minh Thought, viewpoints, guidelines, and lines of the Party, and policies and laws of the State.

Training and updating political theoretical knowledge is the process of organizing activities to replace outdated knowledge, supplement, and update new knowledge and understandings about Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh Thought, the Party's lines and viewpoints, and the State's policies and laws for cadres and Party members. This helps them improve their understanding and ability to creatively apply Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh Thought, the Party's lines and viewpoints, and the State's policies and laws into the practice of each revolutionary period.

The Internet is a global information system that can be publicly accessed, comprising interconnected computer networks. This system transmits information using packet switching based on a standardized internet protocol (IP). It includes thousands and tens of thousands of computer networks from research institutes, universities, businesses, individual users, governments, and international organizations worldwide. Currently, the Internet has become the largest interconnected network globally, infiltrating all areas of life—from economy, politics, culture, society to education and entertainment. This explosive development is creating a booming era of services and utilities on the Internet. It also creates opportunities for the field of education, training, fostering, and updating human knowledge. Especially, IoT (Internet of Things)—the Internet connecting all things—is increasingly developing and being widely applied in all areas of social life. The field of education, training, fostering, and updating knowledge needs to quickly seize this opportunity to develop and reach the target audience, enhancing the effectiveness of its activities.

The Internet network also includes Wi-Fi. Wi-Fi is a wireless networking technology that provides Internet access capabilities for smartphones,

computers, laptops, and other devices equipped with Wi-Fi within a certain range. The ability to wirelessly connect to the Internet while moving allows users to check emails, browse websites, access social media platforms, send and receive real-time chats as well. Wi-Fi also creates opportunities for online learning for many users as long as they have connected devices, especially for those who often move and work with tight schedules.

In a broad sense, training and updating political theoretical knowledge via the Internet is a term used to describe the activity of training and updating political theoretical knowledge based on information technology. According to current concepts, it involves the distribution of political theory learning content through the use of modern electronic tools such as computers, computer networks, the Internet, etc. Learning content can be obtained from websites, CDs by videos, audios, etc., through a computer. Teachers and learners can communicate with each other over the network in forms as follows: email, online discussions (chat), forums, seminars, and videos, etc. Therefore, it can be understood that training and updating political theoretical knowledge via the Internet is the process of applying teaching and learning technology, transmitting and receiving, acquiring knowledge through interactive methods over the Internet (E-learning) in all stages of the teaching process—the process of transmitting, receiving, acquiring, and applying political theoretical knowledge.

The activity of training and updating political theoretical knowledge via the Internet for cadres and Party members needs to be widely used and of high quality in the context of information technology development, the Fourth Industrial Revolution, the development of a learning society, and the enhancement of the quality and effectiveness of the Party's political theory education work. This activity plays a significant role in political theory education for cadres and Party members.

Firstly, training and updating political theoretical knowledge via the Internet helps diversify forms of political theory education, enhancing the ability to quickly and flexibly transmit a large amount of political theoretical knowledge to a wide range of cadres and Party members.

Training and updating political theoretical knowledge via the Internet allows implementation anytime, anywhere, promptly and quickly transmitting knowledge according to the needs of many broad audiences. Learners can access courses anywhere and at any time during the week or day. It is also highly flexible; learners, especially cadres and Party members working in our country's political system, can freely choose courses that suit their needs and conditions, work characteristics, and living circumstances.

Through the Internet, multiple learning contents, courses, and levels can be provided simultaneously, helping cadres and Party members easily choose according to their needs to improve their qualifications. The content of the lessons is regularly updated and renewed to best meet the needs and appropriately match the conditions and capabilities of cadres and Party members. With the support of multimedia technology, lectures integrating text, illustrative images, and sound contribute to increasing the attractiveness and persuasiveness of the lectures. Moreover, cadres and Party members can automatically adjust the speed and progress of learning according to their abilities, strengths, and working conditions. Especially, learners can enhance and enrich their knowledge and methods, develop self-discipline, planning, independent thinking, and creativity through self-researching the rich material repository of online libraries.

Secondly, training and updating political theoretical knowledge via the Internet helps increase the level and diversify forms of interaction, saving costs and time for political theory education work for cadres and Party members.

Training and updating political theoretical knowledge via the Internet increases interaction and cooperation between teachers and learners, transmitters and receivers. Cadres and Party members can exchange with each other on political theory issues through discussions, practice, assignments, and practical research projects. They can also easily exchange information with each other and with lecturers or reporters through forums, online chats, emails, etc.

Training and updating political theoretical knowledge through this method allows cadres, Party members, and political theory education institutions to reduce costs, especially travel expenses and venue organization costs. It also helps save time for cadres and Party members who are always busy with daily work. According to current estimates, learners via the Internet can reduce the time participating in courses by 20–40% compared to traditional training and updating methods, thanks to saving travel time.

Thirdly, training and updating political theoretical knowledge via the Internet for cadres and Party members contributes to improving the quality and effectiveness of political theory education work.

This method makes an important contribution to enhancing the quality and effectiveness of political theory education for cadres and Party members in our country today. Besides reducing costs and time—important factors in improving training effectiveness—this method also meets the needs of learners, helping cadres and Party members to self-orient their learning to improve their qualifications. More importantly, it helps learners enrich their knowledge,

skills, and self-learning methods, creating a favorable environment for using interactive teaching methods, personalizing learners in political theory training and fostering. Moreover, it supports and supplements traditional political theory training methods, contributing to innovating methods and improving the quality and effectiveness of political theory education for cadres and Party members in the digital age.

2. Orientation for Content Development in Training and Updating Political Theoretical Knowledge via the Internet for Cadres and Party members in the Current Revolutionary Era

Basis for Determining Political Theoretical Knowledge Content for Training and Updating via the Internet

Education, training, and fostering personal qualities are inherently tied to the era in which individuals live and operate, closely linked with the movement and development of social practice. The content of education, training, and updating knowledge is influenced and defined by the needs of the target audience, their practical work, and the objectives of the educational or training program. The following factors are the primary bases for determining the key content in training and updating political theoretical knowledge for cadres and Party members in Vietnam today.

First, target audience for training and updating in political theoretical knowledge

The target audience for training and updating political theoretical knowledge broadly includes all cadres and Party members. However, given the current circumstances, the focus for Internet-based training and updating should prioritize the following groups:

- Political theory researchers and educators currently working at the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics, its regional branches I, II, III, IV, and the Academy of Journalism and Communication; political theory lecturers at provincial and central-level political schools, district-level political centers, and political theory lecturers in universities, colleges, and vocational schools within the national education system.

- Communication officers, including leaders and specialists working at the Central Communication Department, provincial and city-level communication departments, and district-level communication committees; as well as communication committees of Party organizations in Central government agencies, enterprises, public security, and the military.

- Leaders and managers at various levels.

These groups generally have a background in advanced political theory

programs or university-level political theory studies. They may have participated in multiple programs for training and updating political theoretical knowledge but often face challenges in allocating time for direct learning due to their practical work commitments. However, they are well-suited for online learning or Internet-based training.

Second, objectives of the program

As a program focused on training and updating, its objectives are to provide learners with new knowledge—content that does not overlap with or could not be incorporated into previous political theory programs these groups have undertaken. Additionally, the new political theoretical knowledge should be practical, meaning it must align with and serve the demands of their practical work. This knowledge should aim to enhance theoretical awareness, professional expertise, political and ideological qualities, ethics, and the quality and effectiveness of their practical work.

Third, practical work requirements

Based on practical work requirements, the identified target audiences can be divided into three groups:

- Target group 1: Political theory researchers and educators in educational institutions.
- Target group 2: Individuals involved in training, fostering, disseminating, and educating political theory outside the classroom through ideological and theoretical institutional frameworks.
- Target group 3: Leaders and managers at various levels who primarily acquire new political theoretical knowledge for application in their practical work.

Therefore, the program content must align with the practical needs of these groups. For Group 1: The content should include new political theoretical knowledge and skills for conducting political theory research and summarizing practical experience. For Group 2: The content should focus on new political theoretical knowledge and methods for educating, training, propagating, and disseminating political theory. For Group 3: The content should consist of new political theoretical knowledge and the ability to apply this theory to practical work.

Orientation for New Political Theoretical Content to Be Trained and Updated for Cadres and Party members in the Current Revolutionary Era

On the structure of political theoretical knowledge

Under current concepts, the structure of political theoretical knowledge includes:

- Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought:

Marxism-Leninism is a unified and comprehensive theoretical system comprising three main components: Marxist-Leninist Philosophy, Marxist-Leninist Political Economy, and Scientific Socialism. Ho Chi Minh Thought is a comprehensive and profound system of theoretical viewpoints addressing fundamental issues of the Vietnamese revolution. It represents the application of Marxism-Leninism to Vietnam's specific conditions while inheriting and developing the nation's traditional values and incorporating the quintessence of global culture. The content of programs for training and updating political theoretical knowledge for cadres and Party members should focus on the foundational elements and significant values of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought, the creative development of these ideologies by the Party in leading the Vietnamese revolution, the Party's theoretical system on socialism and the path toward socialism in Vietnam, and perspectives and policies for building and protecting the socialist Vietnamese nation in the new era. The knowledge volume, proportion among subjects, and balance between theory and practical application depend on the program's objectives and the characteristics of the target audience.

- The Party's guidelines and perspectives, and the State's policies and laws:

The Party's guidelines and perspectives represent the application of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought to analyze realities and identify goals, pathways, and methods for the Vietnamese revolution during each historical period. These are expressed through documents, particularly Congress resolutions and resolutions of the Party Central Committee and the Politburo.

The State's policies and laws embody the institutionalization of the Party's guidelines and perspectives into State documents. This constitutes an essential component of political theoretical knowledge, vital for fostering the practical-political mindset and necessary qualities in learners.

On New Political Theoretical Content for Training and Updating in the Current Revolutionary Era

Based on the general body of political theoretical knowledge, and tailored to the target audience, purpose, and nature of the program content, the following key areas of new political theoretical knowledge should be emphasized:

Firstly, synthesized results of research on political theory:

Annually (or within each five-year term), Vietnam's Party and State organize numerous research programs and hundreds of national-level projects, alongside thousands of ministerial-level studies in social sciences, humanities,

political science, and political theory. These research outcomes are meticulously synthesized and reported to leading agencies such as the Party Secretariat, Politburo, National Assembly, and Government.

These synthesized results are the culmination of rigorous scientific research and practical reviews by thousands of scientists nationwide, providing critical theoretical and practical values. They serve as scientific foundations for proposing guidelines, policies, and laws. These results should be widely disseminated among cadres and Party members, particularly leaders, managers, and those engaged in political theory research and education.

Secondly, core and new contents of Party congress resolutions and central committee resolutions:

These are crucial elements within new political theoretical knowledge that must be popularized, trained, and updated for various target groups. The structure of this content in training programs not only enhances understanding and implementation of resolutions but also fosters theoretical and political thinking and the skills to apply and summarize practical experiences.

Thirdly, Knowledge and Skills for Protecting the Party's Ideological Foundation and Countering Hostile Views:

Protecting the Party's ideological foundation is a fundamental, crucial and vital content of Party-building work and rectification efforts. It is the top important task of the entire Party, the entire army, and the entire people, in which the Propaganda force at all levels is the core; is the voluntary and regular work of Party committees, Party organizations, and authorities, National Front Vietnam and political and social organizations at all levels; of each locality, agency, unit and of each cadre and party member. This task requires target groups to be equipped with updated theoretical and practical insights to effectively fight against erroneous and hostile views. *Fourthly, expertise and skills in political theory research, communication, and education:*

This is an essential area of knowledge and skills that cadres and Party members need to be trained and updated on. The content should be designed to align with the work characteristics of the three identified groups of cadres and Party members. All three groups require training and updates in knowledge and skills related to protecting the ideological foundation of the Party and fighting against erroneous and hostile views. Groups 1 and 2, in particular, need in-depth training and updates in expertise and skills for researching and educating political theory.

To fully realize the role of Internet-based training and updating of political theoretical knowledge for cadres and Party members, and to effectively transmit

and absorb the content to achieve its intended goals, a comprehensive system of necessary and sufficient conditions must be established. These include robust information technology infrastructure, strong Internet connections, online classrooms, portals or websites for online training, e-learning software systems, and digital resources such as online and electronic lectures. The most critical condition is the development of a team of lecturers, collaborators, and presenters with high-level expertise in political theory. These professionals must possess advanced skills in designing, structuring, and delivering online lectures. Additionally, a team of staff responsible for managing online training and fostering must be established, with regular technical and technological support from a professional information technology center or an online training/software company. Furthermore, a well-structured and appropriate regulatory framework for online training and updating programs must be developed to ensure the effectiveness of these activities./.

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