



FACTORS AFFECTING STATE MANAGEMENT OF YOUTH IN HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM

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Abstract:

Youth is the vanguard force in socio-economic development, state management of youth in Ho Chi Minh City plays an important role in orienting, supporting, and promoting the potential of youth. This study aims to analyze the factors that directly affect state management of youth in the current context, including the leadership of the Communist

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Party of Vietnam, the administration of state management agencies, the impact of the market mechanism, the response and support of the whole society, and the participation of youth. The research results show that these factors interact and determine the effectiveness of youth work. In which, the leadership of the Party and the effectiveness of state administration play a leading role, while market factors, society, and youth themselves are the driving force to promote youth policies into practice. The study proposes several solutions to improve the effectiveness of state management of youth, including perfecting the legal framework, enhancing inter-sectoral coordination, promoting the participation of society and youth, and utilizing digital technology in youth work.

Keywords: state management, youth, youth policy, social impact, sustainable development

1. Introduction

Youth are considered the vanguard force, playing an important role in the socio-economic development of each country and locality. In Vietnam, the population structure provides opportunities to maximize young resources (Nguyen *et al.*, 2019). According to the 2019 Population Census results, Vietnam has about 20.4 million young people (aged 10-24), accounting for 21% of the population, the highest rate in Vietnam's history. This is considered a rare "demographic opportunity" to consider youth as a driving force for sustainable development. Ho Chi Minh City is the largest city in the country, with more than 9 million people. In the golden population period, it possessed a large youth force with great potential to contribute to the city's dynamic growth.

State management of youth plays a role in guiding, supporting, and effectively promoting the role of young people in development. The Communist Party of Vietnam and the State highly appreciate the position of the youth, place their trust in them, and issue many important policies and guidelines to care for and nurture the young generation. The 2020 Youth Law and the Vietnam Youth Development Strategy for the 2021-2030 period have been issued, creating a legal framework and long-term orientation for youth work. State management of youth has received attention at all levels, demonstrating the strong political commitment of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the Government to youth. This work not only aims to promote the potential of youth but also helps youth to fully access their rights and obligations according to the Constitution and laws (Anh *et al.*, 2020).

In addition to the advantages, Ho Chi Minh City youth are facing many difficulties and challenges. The number and proportion of young people in the population tend to decrease due to low birth rates and population aging. Young people have to deal with problems of employment, income, and housing, especially the severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The multidimensional impacts of the market mechanism and international integration, such as social networks, social evils, and law violations, are posing many challenges for young people. Without timely management and guidance

from the state, these issues can prevent young people from developing healthily and making positive contributions (Khuong & An, 2016).

In this context, improving the effectiveness of state management of youth in Ho Chi Minh City is of urgent significance. After the Youth Law 2020 was promulgated and took effect, state management of youth has had positive changes, creating a premise for agencies and organizations to effectively implement policies, helping young people access their rights and responsibilities. However, for this work to be truly effective, it is necessary to identify the factors affecting the state management of youth, thereby providing appropriate leadership, implementation, and evaluation directions in the current period. This study aims to analyze the main factors affecting the state management of youth in Ho Chi Minh City and, at the same time, assess the overall impact and propose solutions to improve the effectiveness of state management of youth in the city (Tri, 2022).

2. Methodology

The study was conducted based on qualitative methods combined with document analysis and secondary information synthesis. Documents of the Communist Party of Vietnam, legal documents, and policies on youth (such as the Resolution of the Communist Party of Vietnam on youth, the Youth Law 2020, the Youth Development Strategy 2021-2030, reports of the Government and Ho Chi Minh City) were collected and analyzed to identify the main influencing factors.

The study referred to the latest works and data on youth and state management of youth. On that basis, the influencing factors were systematized into 5 main groups, including:

- 1) the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam;
- 2) the management of state management agencies on youth;
- 3) the impact of the market mechanism;
- 4) the response and support of the whole society; and
- 5) the participation of the youth themselves.

The analysis focuses on clarifying the role of each factor and its level of influence on the results of state management of youth, especially in the context of Ho Chi Minh City. From there, the study proposes several solutions to promote positive factors and overcome limitations, contributing to improving the effectiveness of state management of youth in the locality.

3. Research content

3.1. Leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam in youth work

The correct leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam is the leading factor determining the effectiveness of youth work. The Party sets out guidelines, policies, and political and ideological orientations for youth work, considering it an important part of the revolutionary cause. Resolution No. 25-NQ/TW of the 7th Central Conference of the

10th tenure in 2008 stated that it is necessary to strengthen the Party's leadership in youth work to care for, nurture, and promote the role and strength of youth in the cause of building and defending the socialist Vietnamese Fatherland. This viewpoint affirms the important role of the Party in guiding and leading youth to contribute to the cause of building and defending the country (Nguyen *et al.*, 2020).

The Party leads youth work and manages the state of youth through many methods. The Party issues resolutions and directives to institutionalize its views and policies on youth work. The Central Executive Committee, the Politburo, and the Central Party Secretariat have set out specific policies on youth, educating revolutionary ideals, ethics, and lifestyles to create a source of young cadres. Local Party committees, including the Ho Chi Minh City Party Committee, have organized and seriously implemented the Central Committee's resolutions and directives on youth, ensuring that the Party's guidelines are conveyed to all activities to care for youth. The Party directly leads the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, the core force that gathers young people, and considers building a strong Union an important content in party-building work. Reality shows that wherever Party committees at all levels pay close attention to youth, youth movements, and policies are highly effective. Therefore, the Party's leadership is a factor that directly affects the success of state management of youth. In Ho Chi Minh City, strengthening the Party's leadership in youth work has become important to ensure that the city's youth develop in the right direction.

3.2. Management of state agencies on youth

Management has a strong impact on youth work, which is the effectiveness and efficiency of specialized state management agencies. As a management entity, the State plays the role of organizing the implementation of the Party's policies and promulgating specific policies and laws related to youth (Van Truong, 2021). The Government has assigned the Ministry of Home Affairs as the standing agency to perform the task of state management of youth. The Ministry of Home Affairs closely coordinates with ministries, branches, and socio-political organizations through an inter-sectoral coordination mechanism, ensuring the correct and effective implementation of functions and tasks in youth work according to the goals and requirements set by the Party and the Government. Synchronous coordination between agencies from the central to local levels, between the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Central Committee of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, the Ministry of Education and Training. In Ho Chi Minh City, the Department of Home Affairs coordinates with the City Youth Union and the Department of Education and

Training to help implement youth policies in a unified and smooth manner. Institutionalizing and perfecting the legal framework for youth is a key task of state management agencies. The State has issued many important legal documents, such as the Youth Law 2020, decrees guiding the implementation of the law, the Youth Development Strategy 2021-2030, and specific programs and projects on youth. After Youth Law 2020 took effect, state management of youth has had positive changes, creating conditions for management agencies and organizations to effectively implement policies, ensuring that youth fully enjoy their rights and obligations. In Ho Chi Minh City, the City People's

Committee has issued a plan to implement the Youth Law and the Youth Development Strategy in the area, assigning specific tasks to relevant departments and branches. The flexible management of the city government contributes to bringing policies to life and meeting the needs of the city's youth.

The inter-sectoral coordination mechanism in implementing youth policies is of particular importance. Effective coordination between units helps avoid overlapping or missing tasks while mobilizing combined strength (Zhang & Lu, 2022). This coordination activity has raised awareness of respect for the law among young people, contributing to ensuring the rights of young people according to the 2013 Constitution and the 2020 Youth Law, as well as promoting socio-economic development. Therefore, the management and unity of state management agencies and relevant departments are core factors to ensure effective implementation of youth work. On the contrary, if the management apparatus lacks coordination or has limited capacity, even good youth policies will find it difficult to achieve the desired results. In the context of Ho Chi Minh City, with a large youth population and diverse youth issues, the coordination role of the city government needs to be promoted more strongly.

3.3. Impact of market mechanisms on youth policy

The transition to a socialist-oriented market economy and the process of deep international integration have had many impacts on the Vietnamese youth. These impacts have both created development opportunities for youth and posed new requirements and challenges for state management of youth.

The dynamic market mechanism encourages youth to constantly improve their qualifications and skills to adapt. The current generation of youth in Vietnam was mainly born and raised during the digital technology boom and is forecast to account for nearly a quarter of the country's population and about a third of the workforce in the period 2030-2045. Youth have many new characteristics, such as open-mindedness, sensitivity to science and technology, and the ability to quickly integrate and actively learn knowledge and skills on digital platforms. Youth tend to self-study via the internet, entertain, and create on digital platforms. Many young people are passionate about startups and innovation; young workers are moving strongly to urban areas and industrial parks to seek opportunities.

In Ho Chi Minh City, these trends are even more evident. Dynamic, daring young people in the city have contributed to forming a vibrant creative startup community, contributing to economic growth and the digital transformation of the locality. The competitive market mechanism has stimulated young people to develop their potential, become a key workforce, and contribute to the rapid and sustainable development of Ho Chi Minh City.

However, the downside of the market economy and fluctuations in the global environment hurt young people, requiring the State to adjust policies promptly (Sambo, 2016). Currently, the Vietnamese economy and Ho Chi Minh City are facing unsustainable development, with many potential difficulties and challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-2021 has had a serious impact on the employment and lives

of young people; the risk of a global economic recession has increased, creating pressure on the domestic labor market. Vietnam is rapidly moving into the stage of population aging, which means that the young labor force is gradually shrinking. The process of industrialization and urbanization is taking place strongly in Ho Chi Minh City. Non-traditional security issues such as climate change, natural disasters, and epidemics are affecting young people in many ways. The explosive development of the Internet and social networks brings a huge flow of information but also contains potentially harmful information that affects the awareness and lifestyle of a segment of young people.

The need to improve the quality of young human resources has become urgent, Vietnam should effectively take advantage of the golden population before the population structure becomes more unfavorable. The modern labor market requires new skills suitable for the 4.0 industrial revolution, automation, and the emergence of new occupations. Meanwhile, there is still a gap between the qualifications and skills of many young people compared to the actual needs of businesses; the unemployment rate among young people tends to increase as some traditional jobs are replaced by technology (Dioneo-Adetayo, 2006).

The habit of abusing smart devices and interacting more virtually than directly can reduce the social communication skills of a part of young people. All of these pose challenges for state management of youth. The government and Ho Chi Minh City authorities should regularly update policies and programs for young people by the market mechanism and new context. The government should focus on policies to encourage and support young people to learn a trade, improve their skills, start a business, and adapt to digital technology; at the same time, there should be solutions to prevent and minimize the negative impacts of the negative side of the market economy (such as unemployment, social evils, and moral degradation). The impact of the market mechanism is a strong objective factor shaping youth policies, forcing state management of youth to be flexible and innovative to meet practical requirements.

3.4. The response and support of the whole society for youth work

To make youth work successful, it requires the consensus and broad support of the whole society. Young people grow up in a social environment where cultural factors, ethics, and public opinion have a great influence on the process of forming their personality and development. Society cares about youth and actively supports policies and guidelines for youth, which will create favorable conditions for the young generation to promote their role. On the contrary, if society is indifferent and has negative prejudices against youth, youth work will hardly be highly effective (Benamer, 2021).

The response of the community to youth policies is decisive for the success of state management of youth. When the values and solutions proposed for the development of youth are recognized and agreed upon by society, they will be implemented smoothly in practice (Esparza, 2009). Social ethical standards and good traditional cultural values of the community have an impact on the formation of awareness and qualities of the young generation. A society that promotes personality and a healthy lifestyle will create

responsible, idealistic young citizens; on the contrary, an unhealthy social environment will easily cause young people to fall and deviate.

To mobilize the strength of the whole society in youth work, the role of political and social organizations and mass organizations is important. In Vietnam, the Vietnam Fatherland Front and its member organizations including the Youth Union, Women's Union, General Confederation of Labor, Farmers' Association, Veterans' Association, Student Association, and Youth Union are the bridge between the Party, the State and the people, performing the function of gathering people and creating social consensus. In the youth field, the Front and mass organizations have actively propagated and mobilized people to properly implement the policies and laws of the Party and the State towards the youth. Take care of education, nurture the young generation, and promote the potential of youth to contribute to the development cause.

Social support for youth work is demonstrated. Ho Chi Minh City has a tradition of "taking the lead" with many vibrant youth movements over the years, always receiving the support of the people. Ho Chi Minh City Youth Union, local Youth Union organizations are the core force of the City Party Committee in youth work and are a reliable support for the city's youth. Volunteer movements, start-up activities, cultural and artistic activities, and sports launched by the Youth Union and Youth Association in Ho Chi Minh City attract a large number of young people to participate and are highly appreciated by the community.

Many families, schools, and businesses in the area have actively coordinated and supported education, training, and creating employment conditions for young people. The response and support of the whole society through organizations and unions have become a direct factor contributing to improving the results of state management work on youth. When the entire political system and community work together to care for and nurture the young generation, young people will have a favorable environment in which to develop and contribute. From there, the state's goals and policies on youth will be effectively implemented (Okijie *et al.*, 2023).

3.5. Youth participation in youth work

The participation of youth themselves in youth work is an important factor. Youth are the subjects of policy service and are the subjects actively participating in the process of building and implementing that policy. This comes from the viewpoint that "people are the root" of state management. For policies to be effective, the participation of beneficiaries, which are the youth, should be mobilized (Odoh & Innocent, 2014).

Youth are the subjects of management and have the right to enjoy policies and development programs issued by the State. The 2013 Constitution and the 2020 Youth Law stipulate the rights and obligations of youth. It is the responsibility of the State to ensure that youth fully exercise those rights and obligations. The State, through management agencies, creates maximum conditions for youth to study, work, contribute, and protect the legitimate interests of youth.

However, young people do not only passively receive policies but also actively participate in the policy-making process. Young people have the right to be given

opportunities to participate in building, contributing opinions, and implementing policies and laws directly related to them. In the process of building the Youth Law or youth development programs of Ho Chi Minh City, the role of young people (through the Youth Union, Student Association, and feedback forums) is important to make policies close to practical needs. When young people agree and clearly understand the policies, they will actively implement them, helping the policies to be most effective.

The awareness of the responsibility of young people towards society is increasingly enhanced, creating the premise for their active participation. Vietnamese youth have made positive changes in political awareness and civic spirit. Many young people are interested in social and national issues and are ready to act for the community. The social activism of young people is demonstrated through movements launched by the Youth Union and Association such as volunteer movements, humanitarian blood donation, "Youth volunteers", and "Creative youth". Volunteer activities have attracted a large number of young people to participate, including students, pupils, young intellectuals, and young entrepreneurs, who have gone to difficult localities and remote areas to contribute their youth to build their homeland. In Ho Chi Minh City, the movements "Spring Volunteer", "Green Summer", and "Supporting exam season" have been strongly responded to by young people, becoming a beautiful tradition of the city's youth. Such dynamism and initiative show that young people are not just passive beneficiaries, but they want and have participated in solving their own and social problems.

With the spirit of initiative, the lifestyle and needs of young people are changing in a modern, healthy direction, requiring new issues for management work. The majority of young people have a positive lifestyle and quickly absorb new things but still respect and preserve the good traditional values of the nation. Young people have high demands for information, learning, communication, entertainment, and self-affirmation in modern society (Zurba & Trimble, 2014).

Young people have high expectations for democracy and social justice and want to create conditions for fair and transparent development. Citizen awareness and the spirit of respect for the law among a segment of young people have been significantly raised; the majority of young people understand that rights must go hand in hand with responsibilities, and individual freedom must be within the framework of the law. Young people have boldly expressed their opinions and contributed to common decisions through various channels, directly or indirectly.

Youth want society to respect and acknowledge them, this is a positive signal, showing that the young generation of Vietnam has a new, dynamic mindset, more adaptable to the socialist-oriented market economy mechanism. The changes in youth are the result of education and propaganda policies, which have had a negative impact, forcing the State to adjust its management methods accordingly. Due to the high demand and demand for transparency and fairness from young people, the Ho Chi Minh City government has organized many direct dialogues between city leaders and young people, creating online information channels to receive feedback and suggestions from

people. This demonstrates a new management approach that puts youth at the center, valuing youth participation in policy-making and monitoring.

Youth participation is a significant factor in the effectiveness of state management of youth. When young people proactively and voluntarily participate from policy formulation to implementation, they not only ensure that the policy is suitable for their needs but also create motivation for them to implement policies and laws well. If young people are indifferent and lack the awareness to contribute, youth work will hardly be successful, even with a good policy framework. In addition to youth management, the State should strongly shift to the role of companion and support, and create an environment for young people to promote their role as subjects and participate substantially in programs and policies for themselves.

4. Conclusion

Ho Chi Minh City is making efforts to promote the advantage of a young population for development, and state management of youth plays an important role. Research has shown that five main factors directly affect state management of youth. These factors are closely related and interact with each other, and together, they determine the quality and effectiveness of youth work. In the current conditions, the Party's leadership is the fundamental orientation, creating favorable political and social premises; the state management apparatus is the force organizing implementation; market and integration factors set goals, creating pressure to promote policy innovation; social consensus is a catalyst for policies to penetrate deeply into life; and youth participation is an endogenous driving force to ensure the sustainability of youth work. Ho Chi Minh City Party Committee should make youth development a focus of the action program, associated with building a civilized and modern city.

The Ho Chi Minh City government should develop a long-term strategy to maintain and develop high-quality young human resources, ensuring that they meet the requirements of the new era. The implementation of the Youth Law 2020 and the Youth Strategy 2021-2030 must be monitored and evaluated regularly and promptly adjusted to suit the city's characteristics. Ho Chi Minh City should proactively research and forecast the impacts of the market and integration on youth to have appropriate support solutions. It should encourage and replicate socialized models in youth work and encourage businesses and the community to join hands in caring for and training youth. The State should create all conditions for youth to participate in the city's development process. Ho Chi Minh City should establish regular dialogue channels between leaders and youth and establish youth councils or committees to advise on policies at the city and district levels. At the same time, encourage the spirit of volunteerism and creativity of young people through supporting projects, start-up ideas, and community activities proposed by young people.

State management of youth is a system that combines many factors. Identifying and properly influencing factors will help youth work in Ho Chi Minh City, in particular, and Vietnam, in general, to be more effective. A comprehensive strategy, promoting the

strength of the Party, State, society, and the youth themselves will create a solid foundation to build a generation of Ho Chi Minh City youth with pure hearts, bright minds, great ambitions, and worthy contributions to the prosperous and sustainable development of the city and the country in the coming decades.

Authors' Contribution

All authors contributed equally to the conception and writing of the manuscript.

Conflict of Interest Statement

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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