

# Confucianism Theories and Its Influence on Vietnam Society

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**Abstract-** In the current context of international economic integration, it is necessary to recognize the role of Confucianism in the society, especially in the context of many interwoven ideologies. This paper uses mainly qualitative analysis methods, with synthesis, analytical and historical materialism methods. Besides, in social practice and in education, it is necessary to propose many policies on Confucianism, but it is a topic of interest to recognize practically the role of Confucianism. Analyze the practice and theory of Confucianism in ancient and present social life, from which solutions and suggestions - this is one of the main research objectives of this topic.

#### Keywords: Confucianism theories, society, vietnam, ideology.

## I. INTRODUCTION

In a long time, Chinese culture and Confucianism has been affecting several countries, including Vietnam society. The educational ideology of Confucianism exists in parallel with the educational system of many countries, including Vietnam. Like many other theories, Confucianism has its positives and negatives.

This paper will present main points representing the effects of Confucianism theories influence on our Vietnam society and education.

We structure the study with introduction, research questions, method, main findings, then discussion and conclusion.

## **Research Questions**

Question 1: What are effects from Confucianism theories on Vietnam society, ideology and education?

Question 2: What are recommendations to help us to maintain good values of Confucianism and get rid of bad sides?

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The word "Confucianism" implies that those who read the book are gentle and know well. The grapevine is a man who has read the holy book and knows how to teach the world to eat in courtesy. Confucianism is considered to be a system of ideology, philosophy, morality and schools built by sages such as Confucius, Lao Tzu, Mencius and other generations of students (such as Nhan Hoi,...). Generations of students who follow these philosophies are called Confucianism or Confucianism. The saints when building their own schools based on Confucianism, called Confucianism or Taoism or Mengism. Like Buddha Shakyamuni, Jesus, Saint Alla, Confucius, Lao Tzu are called thinkers with great influence in society, in the spiritual life.

Then, Mitu (2015) argued for and against the importance of the role played by the Confucianism in the capitalist development of Korean society, will explore the Confucian tradition and its modern transformations and will trace the historical evolution of Confucianism, showing how, more recently, Confucianism has changed in response to the challenges of the capitalist development. Employing a large survey on more than 200 Korean young people, this article will identify the contemporary forms of Confucian values and their importance for the development of the Korean society.

Peter et al (2018) revealed that youth from collectivist cultures were mainly influenced by family expectations, whereby higher career congruence with parents increased career confidence and self-efficacy. Personal interest was highlighted as the major factor that influenced career choice in individualistic settings, and the youth were more independent in their career decision making. Bicultural youth who were more acculturated to their host countries were more intrinsically motivated in their career decision making. Further research is imperative to guide the understanding of parental influence and diversity, particularly for bicultural youths' career prospects and their ability to use the resources available in their new environments to attain meaningful future career goals.

Next, Jalaluddin et al (2019) focused on the three factors which are student attributes, social influence and financial consideration. Result of this work showed that motivation, family influence and financial consideration are significantly associated with students' decision in pursuing higher education.

Tinh, D.T., Thuy, N.T., & Huy, D.T.N. (2021) specified For undergraduate students, we need to equip students with foundation knowledge to enter business work and work environment, knowledge including politics, economic or technology, language (English, Chinese, Japanese, etc.) and sports. For post graduate level, we need to train students both English and computer skills to produce qualified reports for management and write economic, marketing and management reports. For doctoral level, we need to train the how to use English to communicate, write and produce very good articles to publish in famous journals such as ISI, Scopus, ABDC high rank, etc. For all three levels (undergraduate, postgraduate, doctoral) students need to be trained and equipped with foreign language, esp. English using skill in job, business and scientific research and life.

Beside, Tram, P.N and Huy, D.T.N (2021) recognize historical values of ideology of Ho Chi Minh in building the country and analyze roles of his leading viewpoints for a sustainable economy and society and for future generation. Vietnam has surpassed wonderful wars and left many lessons for modern revolution in the country. Factors that affect his ideology for socio-economic development and values of his Independence declaration has been also discussed. Last but not least, it also find out his philosophical perspectives that contributes for society and economic management, which became lasting values for the nation over time.

Finally, Deng and Smith (2018) examines recent discourse from New Confucian intellectuals, particularly dialogue with liberals and the New Left, to highlight the major debates and leading figures that define the cultural nationalist movement of Mainland New Confucianism. Despite the immense difficulty of finding power as a minority voice in contemporary China, an integration of the religious and political dimensions of Confucianism in mainstream Chinese social, political, and intellectual culture remains the primary ideal that fuels and unites these intellectuals in the 2010s.

## III. METHODOLOGY

To do the research, the author uses qualitative research methods and explaining methods.

• Qualitative research method: Based on the theoretical background and models from previous studies to gather information, then analyze effects of Confucianism on Vietnam society and education and ideology. Synthesis, historical and dialectical methods are also used.

## IV. MAIN RESULTS

We find out 2 main below findings on roles of Confucianism in Vietnam society over years.

## **1. Values of Confucianism over Years**

Values in historical years	Effects on society and
	education
Confucianism flourished during feudalism. The Vietnamese people with "one	Confucianism is considered a
thousand years of domination of the Chinese invaders, one hundred years of	useful political doctrine in
domination of the West" shows that when China invaded and ruled over our	social organization. Today,
country, Confucianism developed and used it as a tool of transmission. promote	Confucianism plays an
Chinese thought into the Vietnamese people.	important role in promoting
From the 9th century, when Ngo Quyen defeated the South Han army on Bach Dang	the spirit of filial piety, respect
Giang, Vietnamese society began to stabilize discipline and build peace and	for religion, and respect for
independence. This is a favorable premise for maintaining the Confucian tradition,	educated people. Since then,
using Confucianism to spread ideas and consolidate power.	people can live culturally and
Vietnam also left many names of talented and virtuous Confucian scholars such as	ethically.
Chu Van An, Nguyen Binh Khiem, Nguyen Thiep, Nguyen Dinh Chieu there were	
even people who did not care about the honor of the court, returned home to hide to	

teach.

## 2. Good and Bad aspects of Confucianism Theories

Positive sides	Negative sides
First, Confucius Confucianism has a wide range of influence in all fields of	It is necessary to limit the
economic - social - political - cultural - family life.	negative aspects of
Second, in the new era, Confucianism must also resolve new relationships	Confucianism, for example,
including relationship between the new ruling class, the new bourgeoisie	knowledge of productive
and the new proletariat.	labor should be focused.
Third, in any age, Confucian doctrines have value in building people,	We also pay attention more
building human personality.	to modern economic and
Fourthly, in the new era, along with Marxist theories and Ho Chi Minh's	management theories and
thought, Confucianism plays a role in building socialist people.	practices.

## 3. Other aspects of Confucianism Theories

Impacts on human education	Other effects of Confucianism ideology
Confucianism focuses on human education, first of all on the	Filial piety is the basic relationship in the
matter of religion. "Dao is the right path from origin to	family that is applied to the society as
destination" (1). Kinh Do conception that people are born	the middle religion, this is the basic
close to the same, but the movement later, the impact of	relationship in society. The filial person
society and other factors make people more and more apart.	in the family is not contrary to the
The establishment of humanitarianism is to keep people from	faithful religion, so filial piety is the basis
deviating from the right path.	of the middle. Therefore, Confucianism
Confucianism values family and social relationships.	conception of religious education to
According to Confucius, religion is the five basic human social	make people basically must focus on:
relations called humanity; Manh Tu called the five rotations:	religion must be filial; religion makes me
king - me, father - son, husband - wife, brothers, friends. In	middle. Khong - Manh always
which, the three most basic relationships are called	emphasizes the middle word, "king of
"triangular" by Dong Trong Thu - three strings binding people	the king, I am middle," but middle here is
from family to social relations. Germany is the most	middle to king worthy kings. From the
important quality that a person needs to perform well in	Han dynasty onwards, the middle way
these basic relationships. Confucius emphasized the three	was understood in one direction, one
virtues (human, intellectual, and courageous); at Manh Tu are	servant was absolutely dependent on the
the four virtues (human, meaning, ceremony, wisdom); Dong	king in the way "the army executes the
Trong Thu called the five common (human, meaning,	death god, the immortal god of immortality" or also known as
ceremony, wisdom, credit). The three diamonds and five are often referred to as the erectile - often. In order to perform	immortality" or also known as foolishness.
the above relationships (the five wheels), there must be	1001131111035.
righteousness, which is the means to practice religion.	
righteousness, when is the means to practice religion.	

## V. DISCUSSION

## **Confucianism affects Individuals**

Confucianism affects people and individuals, maintaining the spirit of learning, learning more successfully in society. Confucianism helps people towards goodness (like Buddhism), and virtue to behave better in the collective, in the family, in the community. According to Confucius, the word "Nhan" has meaning in perfecting human values and is the principle defining nature and relationship between people, in all walks of life. Both Confucius and Tuan Tu believe that human nature can be taught, though one side thinks that starting out human nature is good and one side thinks that starting out human nature is evil.

# VI. CONCLUSION

Confucianism has been affirming an important position in the school. Since he was a primary school student, the thought of "first school ceremony, after school" has been instilled by the students. The word "Ceremony" always reminds students to behave politely to their parents, teachers, to behave in an

orderly manner, to respect dignity and to be polite is a fine cultural tradition in the East. The word "Literature" always reminds generations of students to sharpen their history to remember his father's efforts to build and defend the country. It was Ho Chi Minh's thought that when telling generations of students to bring the country of Vietnam to "stand shoulder to shoulder with the five continental powers in part because of their academic merits" expressed the word "Van" of Confucius. This thought has been popular in all schools across the country, and is a useful tool in the social development in Vietnam today.

Confucianism also played a role in the formation of virtuous and talented people for the army. On the other hand, Confucianism also played a role in emphasizing the education of other classes.

Beside, we need to overcome weaknesses of Confucianism theories by adding more modern advanced theories on economics development and management.

Yeo et al (2017) indicated that supervisors' Confucian values were positively associated with the interpersonal trust, interpersonal justice, and information sharing of subordinates. Contrary to our expectation, the BRST had no significant moderating role in the relationship between supervisors' Confucian values and interpersonal trust, interpersonal justice, and information sharing of subordinates. Their study contributes to organisational behaviour and psychology by highlighting the significance of societal values such as Confucian values in understanding an organisational member's attitude and behaviour in the East Asian region.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Authors express sincere thanks to editorial board, friends, colleagues and brothers to assist this publication.

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