

Education Motto of President Ho Chi Minh - Theoretical Basis of the Orientation of Constructing Philosophy of College Education in Vietnam Nowadays

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Abstract

From the philosophy of life and human morality, Ho Chi Minh's epistemology was raised to a high general level of dialectical thinking on the basic issues of the Vietnamese revolution. The outstanding characteristic of him is to perceive thoroughly and thoughtfully the nature and movement trends of things, phenomena and life processes in relationships, and then, correctly and appropriately solve the development requirements of real life. He grasped the laws of history, creatively applied them and developed them to a new level. The legacies that he left behind have created a system of comprehensive, diverse and rich philosophies, such as: The philosophy of human life, educational philosophy, political philosophy, philosophy of great solidarity,... creating a Ho Chi Minh philosophy with the title of a sage, a philosopher, or a schoolman, brilliant thinker, practicing dialectician. Therefore, his educational philosophy and educational motto have profound theoretical and practical value in the direction of modern Vietnamese educational philosophy.

Keywords: Ho Chi Minh's Educational Method, Ideology, Philosophy of College Education, Vietnam

INTRODUCTION

There is much praise and consensus around the world to honor leader Ho Chi Minh for his contributions to the era. That is “being a flexible but great and steadfast leader” (Indira Gandhi, India); “Comrade Ho Chi Minh's life is as clear as crystal” (Breginev, Russia); “Comrade Ho Chi Minh belongs to a special class of people for whom death is the seed of life and a source of eternal encouragement” (Fidel Castro, Cuba); “President Ho Chi Minh is ‘Heroic General’ of Vietnam” (Gio Mat Nhuoc, China); “Ho Chi Minh: The heart and talent of a patriot” (Nguyen Dai Trang, Canada); ... “Ho Chi Minh was a Marxist or a Confucian, it doesn't matter. Whether Ho Chi Minh was a communist or a nationalist, it doesn't matter. Just knowing that Ho Chi Minh is Nguyen Ai Quoc - a patriot - is enough to classify him as a world cultural celebrity of the 20th century”.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Based on the synthesis of the results of Vietnamese and world experts on Ho Chi Minh studies, the article uses methods such as: Statistics, generalization, history, logic,... to analyze and further clarify Ho Chi Minh's ideologies on educational philosophy, human philosophy and actions for comprehensive and sustainable development for Vietnamese people.

RESULTS

Ho Chi Minh's University Education Motto

The throughout purpose of Ho Chi Minh's educational philosophy is because of people and for people. He specified that purpose with a philosophy of human life: “My whole life has only one purpose, which is to strive for the interests of the homeland and the happiness of the nation”, with the motto of building a “benefit the country, benefit the people” education.

First, education is the career of the entire people.

For President Ho Chi Minh, the human factor, with its quintessence, understanding, capacity, and morality, is the key and decisive factor for the success of the revolution and the progress of society, the future of the nation

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and the happiness of the people. He once said: "To build socialism, first of all we need socialist people". He always considers education as an important front, the problem is that the whole nation must be educated, each person must be educated, everyone must be educated. It should be understood that in his aspiration, he did not only advocate bringing a good education to everyone, but also to bring education to each individual.

Starting from the perspective that revolution is the career of the masses, Ho Chi Minh believed that education is the career of the entire people. "Education is the career of the masses. It is necessary to fully promote socialist democracy, build good relationships and close solidarity between teachers and teachers, between teachers and students, between students, between officials at all levels, between schools and the whole people to successfully complete that mission". He affirmed that education for all people must be comprehensive: "In education and learning, attention must be paid to all aspects: revolutionary ethics, socialist enlightenment, culture, technology, labor and manufacture". These are very basic educational contents, closely related to each other, forming the foundation for Vietnamese human development. His core ideology in education is to take care of "nurturing the future revolutionary generation is a very important and necessary thing". He always paid attention to establishing a dialectical relationship between education and revolution, between education and the career of national liberation and national construction.

Ho Chi Minh wrote: "Education aims to train successors to the great revolutionary career of our Party and people, therefore all sectors, all levels of the Party and local administration must pay further attention to this career and take care of schooling in all aspects to pushing our educational career to new stages of development". He wrote Letter to professors and students at the University Preparatory School in Thanh Hoa (1947): "You need to study in conjunction with practice so that in the future you can realize the noble purpose: Serving the people honestly". In a letter sent to teachers, students, adolescents and children, he advised "it is necessary to build the ideology: Teaching and learning to serve the homeland and the people. Schools must be closely linked to the reality of the country and the lives of the people".

His democratic ideology in education is clearly expressed in his policy of equality between men and women, between ethnic groups on the basis of universal education. According to him, training young generation nowadays for the country's future is for the nation's hundred-year benefit, contributing to "making the Vietnamese nation become a wise nation". Imbued with the ideology of "education for all people" of President Ho Chi Minh, our Party and State have had many guidelines and policies paying attention to education, raising awareness for the entire population means implementing education for everyone, building a learning society, continuous learning and lifelong learning.

Second, build a team of "both friendly", "both professional" teachers.

According to Ho Chi Minh, everything that exists in this world is due to people. In education "if there is no teacher, there is no education". Teachers are the key factors in education and in implementing correct teaching methods. Therefore, President Ho Chi Minh clearly affirmed: "A good teacher - A teacher deserves to be a teacher, the most glorious person. Even though their names are not published in newspapers and they are not awarded medals, good teachers are unsung heroes". The duties of teachers are very important and glorious. Teachers need to have noble-minded character. Talent and virtue, of which morality is the root. To achieve that, teachers must cultivate and learn a lot throughout their lives. Study and practice diligently to transform their souls into noble and holy ones. A lecturer must study to cultivate morality, improve capacity, and understand all aspects, and getting degrees and titles is a natural consequence, not the main goal.

Ho Chi Minh believes that: Teaching means "teaching well", learning means "learning well". "No matter how difficult it is, we must emulate good teaching and study well". This point of view was stated and advised and reminded by him in many schools, many training classes and educational conferences. He also guides teachers to choose and regularly improve teaching methods accordingly. He said: "There are two ways to train theory: One way is to just fill their brains with dry theory... So the theory is empty and useless. One way is to study practical work and practical experience while reasoning... So practical theory is useful". At the University of the People, Vietnam (1956), President Ho Chi Minh emphasized: "You must combine theory with practical work throughout your lifelong".

In innovating teaching methods, President Ho Chi Minh instructed the Ministry of Education and Training to issue a statement clearly stating the purpose, method and organization of the new education, which is to eliminate formal learning and help students have a new way of learning. Scientific awareness, development of critical thinking, analytical and synthetic thinking, creative spirit and practical mind. The requester must closely follow the teaching content and must serve the teaching goals. He required each officer to be proficient in his or her job, “must practice: do something, learn it”. That's learning how to do it. For teachers, it is about learning how to teach and innovating teaching methods when the curriculum and textbooks have been reformed so that students can understand quickly, remember long and progress promptly. And he also called on teachers to respect other people's opinions and not be prejudiced against opinions contrary to their own.

In his talk at the Teacher's Political Class, Ho Chi Minh said: “Officers and teachers must also progress to keep up with the times to be able to do their tasks. Don't be self-sufficient or complacent, think you're good and then stop. To stop is to step back, to be backward, you eliminate yourselves first. Therefore, you must try to study to improve yourselves, improve your thinking, improve your children and help improve society” . When paying attention to the quality of education and training, the most important step is to take care of the teaching staff. We must make teachers have better ethics, better knowledge, are conscious of their profession, have a heart for children and have good teaching methods. Without good teachers, without good schools, without good educational methods, there cannot be high quality education.

Third, theory is linked to practice; learning along with practice.

- Regarding theory linked to practice: In the process of education and educational direction, Ho Chi Minh often reminded people to avoid the disease of mere theory, or disregarding theory. Having experience without theory is like having one eye bright and one eye blurred; doing without reason is like walking in the dark and having to grope and not be able to see the way. “Learning is to apply to work. Doing without theory is no different from groping in the dark, both slow and stumble” . Ho Chi Minh reiterated Lenin's opinion: revolutionary theory is not a dogma, it is a guideline for revolutionary action. Theory is not something rigid, it is full of creativity. Theory is supplemented by new conclusions drawn from living practice. Learning theory is aimed at learning to apply, not learning theory because theory therefore does not require memorizing words. If we want to transform the world and society, we must first transform ourselves. Therefore, first of all we must connect theory with our practical work and ideology to reform ourselves and improve our cultivation of the stance and methods of Marxism-Leninism.

Ho Chi Minh said: “Unity between theory and practice is a basic principle of Marxism-Leninism. Practice without theoretical guidance becomes blind practice. Theory without connection to practice is empty theory” . He pointed out that if one lacks theory, despises theory or has empty theory, not connected to reality, it will lead to the disease of subjective voluntarism, “Theory is like a compass, it shows us the direction in real work. Without theory, we are as confused as walking with our eyes closed” . Learning is to apply and practice, just like theory must be put into practice. If not applied in practice, “it's like a box containing books, looking at books to show off, to put on airs” . He compares “theory is like a name (or a bullet). Practice is like a target to shoot at. Having arrows but not shooting, or shooting haphazardly, is the same as not having arrows” . He does not deny learning theory in books, but the important thing is what is the purpose of learning theory and how to learn it? For Ho Chi Minh, the unity between theory and practice is not only a principle, a cognitive law, but also a law of human personality formation.

- *Regarding learning along with practice*: The purpose of learning is to practice, to survive and develop. “Practice” has many meanings, from speech, behavior, to labor, and more importantly, determining direction, path... for life. Vietnamese has the expression “learning” - which means learning is associated with practice. Learning and practicing are two stages of the cognitive process. These two stages complement each other. It is also a learning method in itself: learning to practice is also to learn.

As an educator, Ho Chi Minh saw the great significance of combining learning with practice. Learning and practicing not only strengthens but also opens up new perspectives in understanding reality, improving reality, and forming a new human personality. As early as 1947 in “Modifying the way of working”, he wrote: “A person

who has completed university education can be called intellectual... In short: about practical work, he knows nothing. So he only has *half* the intelligence. His intelligence is a *book-learned* intellectual, not a complete intellectual. If he wants to become a fully intellectual person, he must apply that intelligence into *practice*".

According to Ho Chi Minh, learning and practicing are two stages that are always linked together. Learn to practice. Learn to work. If you want to practice well, you must understand thoroughly, and then you can create something new. People believe that words must go hand in hand with actions, speak to do. Thus, learning is not only about understanding the world but also about improving the world. He often reminded: "Study to practice, study and practice must go hand in hand. Learning without practice is useless learning. If you practice without learning, you won't practice smoothly" and "study to practice better and better". He advised learners not to learn by rote. On October 21st, 1964, talking to teaching staff and students at Hanoi National University of Education, he said: "Students should not learn by heart, should not learn by rote... Learning must think, learning must be related to reality, there must be experiments and practice. Learning and practice must combine together".

Learning along with practice is a golden rule in pedagogical education. Implementing this principle will form both knowledge and skills for learners at the same time. And so, practice will become a main form of learning, the learning process will take place during practice. Learning is an active, proactive cognitive activity of an individual to transform humanity's cultural knowledge into one's own understanding and thereby change one's attitudes and behavior. According to him: "Learning is for the sake of doing. Studying without being able to do anything is useless", "If you say it orally, anyone can say it. We need to practice". The right motivation to learn will determine the direction, attitude, content, and method of learning. To help the young generation determine the correct motivation for learning, using his own experience, Ho Chi Minh outlined the great meaning of learning, which is: "Whether Vietnam's mountains and rivers can be crowned with glories, whether Vietnam can gloriously stand as equal among the powers of the five continents depends largely on the efforts you put into your study". Faced with that requirement, learning is not only meaningful to each individual but also meaningful to the whole society.

Starting from the limitations of the education sector, he requested that the program should be revised so that learning can be practiced immediately, after studying, "you need to apply what you have learned along with your experience to real work in a smart, flexible, and appropriate way to the situation, not mechanically". Ho Chi Minh advised students who are about to take on new jobs to "boldly apply what they have learned, but need to apply it in a practical way, appropriate to our circumstances; don't be dogmatic, don't be mechanical".

Fourth, combine school, family and society in educational practice.

Ho Chi Minh considered this a very important educational motto in training new people. On the opening day of the first school year of independent Vietnam (1945), he advised students: Outside of school, children should participate in national salvation children's associations to practice getting used to soldier life and to help with some light tasks in preserving the country. It is in social and practical activities that good character and moral qualities are formed. He emphasized that youth education in particular must be closely related to social struggle. Families and social organizations must be closely linked in educating the young generation. He explained: "...education in school is only a part, there is also need for education in society and in the family to help make education in school better. No matter how good education in school is, without education in the family and in society, the results are not perfect". Therefore, he reminded: Schools must be linked to the reality of the country and the lives of the people. Teachers and students, depending on circumstances and abilities, need to participate in social work to benefit the country and people. People criticize the state of education for not being consistent with specific local developments and require education to serve social life. Integrating school with social life is a motto, a key aspect, an important condition for theory to be linked to reality, learning to go hand in hand with practice, and it is also a motto to create new socialist people. Integrating school with social life is a motto, a key aspect, an important condition for theory to be linked to reality, learning to go hand in hand with practice, and at the same time it is also a motto to create people, new socialist. Because, the harmony of each individual with society is a necessary condition for the complete development of that individual. Comprehensive

personality development is possible only in a community, in which the complete development of all members is the basic purpose of community activities.

He especially values the coordination between family and school, family and society. Only when family - school - society are together in charge of education will the results of this cause be good. To do this, we need to realize: “Educating children is a **SHARED** job of family, school and society. Parents, teachers and adults must take charge together; First of all, we must set an example for the children in everything”.

Combining school with family and society is a correct direction in educational methods. People are born and raised in family, school and social environments. In each of these environments, the process of education and upbringing takes place. Of course, each place has its own specific method. Ho Chi Minh analyzed that “learning in school has a great influence on the future of young people, and the future of young people is the future of the country”

In the process of perfecting your personality and intelligence, there are good and bad things in every environment. If the school teaches well but the family or society teaches the opposite, it will have a negative impact on educational outcomes. Therefore, to educate children to become good people, Ho Chi Minh called on schools, unions, families, and society to all work closely together. On the other hand, the youth union, women's union, agencies, authorities and party committees at all levels also need to really care about the school and their children's learning. Ho Chi Minh considered this a very important motto that should not be overlooked in educational work, these three environments must be closely unified. He requested that education officials need to “well implement the school's motto of being closely linked to society”, contacting public opinion to prevent negative impacts on learners and help them develop their full potential and comprehensive self-development.

Values of the orientation of constructing the philosophy of college education in Vietnam nowadays according to Ho Chi Minh's Educational Motto

Firstly, education is a top national policy with the noble mission of improving people's knowledge, training human resources and fostering talents.

Education focuses on implementing resolutions and conclusions of the Party, the National Assembly, and guiding and operating documents of the Government and the Prime Minister on education and training, especially the effective implementation of Conclusion No. 51-KL/TW dated May 30th, 2019 of the Secretariat on continuing to implement the Resolution of the 8th Plenum of the 11th Party Central Committee on fundamental and comprehensive innovation in education and training; Conclusion No. 49-KL/TW dated May 10, 2019 of the Secretariat on continuing to implement Directive No. 11-CT/TW dated April 13rd, 2007 of the Politburo on strengthening the Party's leadership against with the work of promoting learning, promoting talent, and building a learning society; thoroughly grasp the Government's “breakthrough” action motto to complete the 5-year plan 2016 - 2020. Strictly implement Decree No. 72/2015/ND-CP, dated September 8th, 2015 of the Government stipulating stratification, ranking framework and ranking standards for university institutions associated with Circular No. 24/2015/TT-BGDĐT, dated September 23rd, 2015 of the Ministry of Education and Training stipulates national standards for college education so that each training institution is responsible for building an educational philosophy associated with the motto, process and evaluation the accreditation of training quality to meet current practical requirements.

The above documents demonstrate the consistent spirit of the Party and State on the basis of Ho Chi Minh's view that education is the cause of the entire people with the common mission of raising people's intellectual level, training human resources, fostering talents, building Vietnamese culture and people. With the principle “our nation must become a wise nation”, university education helps learners gain knowledge, skills, attitudes and know how to apply them to life and work; intellectuals must become high-quality human resources. Ho Chi Minh's motto of education is the cause of all people has become the orientation of educational philosophy: standardization, socialization, diversification and democratization today.

Secondly, improving the quality of teachers - The most important step to have an effective education.

UNESCO has launched a new education strategy consisting of 21 points, affirming: “Teachers must be trained to become more educators than experts in imparting knowledge” (Point 18). Faced with that reality, universities in the Federal Republic of Germany have proposed a strategy to build a team of lecturers, focusing on lecturer capacity with two activities: teaching and being educational experts; Teaching capacity includes: Preparation capacity (selecting reference materials, determining lesson objectives, requiring knowledge and skills, choosing teaching methods and techniques, predicting possibilities and handling); implementation capacity includes skills (orienting new content, practicing skills, developing knowledge, testing and encouraging students); capacity to evaluate the ability to absorb lessons and organize social activities inside and outside school.

Higher education institutions need to refer to and apply valuable educational experiences of organizations and countries around the world and continue to thoroughly grasp the Party and State's policies on building a team of teachers, such as: Decision No. 16/2008/QĐ-BGDĐT of the Ministry of Education and Training promulgating Regulations on teacher ethics, with specific criteria including strong political courage, clear professional qualities and conscience, active learning, be proactive in learning, constantly improve professional expertise and pedagogical methods, have a standard lifestyle and behavior, and truly be an example for learners to follow. Resolution No. 29-NQ/TW, dated November 4th, 2013 of the 11th Central Executive Committee on fundamental and comprehensive innovation of education and training with the general goal: “Educating Vietnamese people to comprehensively develop and best promote the potential and creative abilities of each individual; love family, love homeland, love fellow citizens; live well and work effectively... Striving for 2030, Vietnam's education system will reach an advanced level in the region” . Resolution No. 29 talks about innovating major, core, and urgent issues, from viewpoints and guiding ideas to goals, content, methods, mechanisms, policies, and conditions to ensure implementation; innovation from the Party's leadership, the State's management to the governance activities of education and training institutions and the participation of family, community, society and the learners themselves; innovation at all levels and majors.

Implement well Decision No. 58/2010/QĐ-TTg, dated September 22nd, 2010 of the Prime Minister on promulgating the “University Charter” with Article 24 clearly stating the standards of lecturers are: “1. Have good qualities, ethics, and ideologies; 2. Have a Bachelor's degree or higher and a certificate of pedagogical training. Have a Master's degree or higher for lecturers teaching theoretical subjects of university training programs; have a Doctor's degree for lecturers who teach and guide topics, theses and dissertations in master's and doctor's training programs; 3. Have foreign language and computer skills that meet job requirements; 4. Good health according to occupational requirements; 5. Clear personal background” . Pursuant to Joint Circular No. 36/2014/TTLT-BGDĐT-BNV dated November 28th, 2014 of the Minister of Education and Training and the Minister of Home Affairs stipulating codes and standards for professional titles of civil servants teaching in public higher education institutions; Circular No. 47/2014/TT-BGDĐT, dated December 31st, 2014 of the Ministry of Education and Training stipulating working regimes for lecturers as a basis for heads of higher education institutions to assign, announce, use, and improve the quality and labor efficiency of lecturers, through which educational management agencies examine, appraise, evaluate, develop policies, training programs and advanced training programs to improve lecturers' qualifications. Educational institutions need to synchronously and effectively implement Decision No. 89/QĐ-TTg, dated January 18th, 2019, of the Prime Minister on the Project to improve the capacity of lecturers and managers of higher education institutions to meet the requirements of fundamental and comprehensive innovation in education and training for the period 2019 - 2030.

Thirdly, theory is linked to practice; learning along with practice.

One of the causes of limitations in current university education is the lack of awareness of the role and principles, motto and meaning of theory linked to practice, learning along with practice. In the orientation of building and perfecting the philosophy of higher education, lecturers need to thoroughly grasp and master teaching methods, focus on improving political bravery, and direct teaching work towards the task of serving the homeland, serving the people, “serving the political guidelines of the Party and Government, associated with production and people's lives”. Management leaders and lecturers must constantly raise awareness for students about the role and ability to practice this motto in daily learning and training activities. Integrating

theory with practice is an urgent need, a key step with decisive significance for the entire university training career; Training must come from social needs and be linked to real life; Learning goes hand in hand with practice, not just empty theory.

Every lecturer needs to shift from the method of explanation, “monologue” to mainly using the method of organizing, leading, orienting the learning process of learners and motivating and inspiring learners, making them highly self-aware of learning and searching for knowledge through their own thoughts and actions. Lecturers become “directors”, “companions” and “equals” with students in the process of finding the truth. Innovating lecturers’ teaching methods will force students to change their learning methods, increase self-study activities, move from passive learning to active self-study, and develop their abilities; Turn the teaching process into self-study, the training process into self-training to develop students’ capabilities to meet the demands of practice. Strengthen practical teaching and practice skills in applying knowledge to solve practical problems according to university training models and goals, and to perform jobs and tasks according to current career requirements nowadays.

Effectively implement the Project “Strengthening the application of information technology in management and support of teaching-learning activities and scientific research, contributing to improving the quality of education and training in the period 2016 – 2020 with an orientation to 2025”, dated January 25th, 2017 of the Government; Circular No. 17/2021/TT-BGDDT, dated June 22nd, 2021, of the Ministry of Education and Training regulating training program standards; Develop, evaluate and promulgate training programs for all levels of higher education, focusing on innovation in content, teaching and learning methods, testing, evaluation and scientific research and management work towards strengthening internship, practical, and practical programs at current higher education and training institutions.

Fourthly, investing in education is to develop and connect the educational environment and promote lifelong learning.

The 11th Party Congress affirmed the philosophy of education following an innovative path that is deeply humane and humanistic: “People are the center of the development strategy”. Persevere in the path of educational development following Ho Chi Minh's educational philosophy, continue to promote the educational motto, the nation's tradition of studiousness and educational achievements in recent times to have a theory of sustainable development in current university education.

Connecting and innovating the educational environment of School - Family - Society in the direction of shifting from centralized and single-disciplinary management to decentralized and multi-disciplinary management in university training; Innovate the autonomous financial mechanism, moving from State - School relations to State - School - Market relations in the provision of higher education, especially developing Public - Private relations in education to create a social learning environment, contribute to improving the quality of current university education. Message: “Learning - a hidden treasure” is the title of the Report of the UNESCO Council on Education on “21st Century Education” proposed in 1997. Ho Chi Minh’s ideologies are completely consistent with UNESCO's principle of “strongly promoting the career of education for all people and spreading culture”. Resolution No. 29 defines specific goals: “For higher education, focus on training highly qualified human resources, fostering talents, developing the qualities and capacity of self-study, self-enrichment of knowledge and creativity of learners”. To achieve this goal, each level of educational management and university lecturers play an important role, ensuring that they meet the set standards of being ethical, passionate about their profession, and highly professional.

Ho Chi Minh shared that studying is difficult, but: “If you are determined, you will definitely learn”. Education must aim to achieve four basic goals: Learning to know; learning to work; learning to be human and learning to live together. Therefore, it is required that lecturers instructing students need to have a positive awareness and regular and continuous learning methods. Reality has proven that when learners are willing to learn voluntarily, that is, they are aware of learning for themselves, learning to improve their cognitive level and perfect themselves, they will avoid rote learning. Self-study also includes the attitude of studiousness, humility, desire for progress, a sense of initiative and tireless self-study spirit, lifelong learning, learning everywhere, on every subject and in many rich and diverse forms, suitable for each person's specific conditions and circumstances. Self-study to grasp the treasure of human knowledge to enrich your knowledge, turning knowledge into specific beliefs and actions in daily life. Ho Chi Minh’s self-study ideology can be reduced to five basic issues: First, in self-study, the most

important thing is to clearly define the purpose and build the right learning motivation. Second, we must work ourselves to create conditions for lifelong self-learning. Third, if you want to successfully self-study, you must have a plan to arrange your study time, be persistent, persevere in implementing the plan to the end, and not give up in the face of any obstacles. Fourth, we must thoroughly take advantage of all circumstances, all means, and all forms to self-study. Fifth, wherever you learn, practice as hard as you can.

CONCLUSION

The system of educational methods plays a very important position, which is paid special attention by Ho Chi Minh in order to make educational objectives and contents realistic, different from the other education systems, manifested in the harmonious power of human's emotions, knowledge, skills and attitudes in a whole of teaching and learning. His educational methods create a wise system of education that is extremely important in building up the educational philosophy, quality management and prospering higher education in Vietnam today. This is a very important contribution of Ho Chi Minh to education and training in Vietnam; theoretical basis of the orientation of constructing philosophy of college education in Vietnam nowadays.

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