



## Continue to strengthen cooperation in the field of education between Vietnam and India

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### Abstract

The strategic partnership between Vietnam and India, including the field of education, is built on the basis of traditional friendship, trust, understanding, mutual support and assistance each other and similarities in views on many regional and international issues. In recent times, the relationship between Vietnam and India has made strong developments in fields from politics to economics, defense-security, science, technology, education, and culture, tourism and people-to-people exchanges. The leaders of the two countries also reaffirmed their commitment to comprehensively develop this strategic partnership. Vietnam - India relations are built on a solid foundation, based on close links in culture, education, history, mutual understanding and trust as well as mutual support in life regional and international issues. The Vietnamese side reaffirmed its consistent support for India in implementing the "Act East" policy and playing a greater role in the region and the world.

In the field of education, especially training and fostering human resources, the cooperative relationship between Vietnam and India achieved important initial results. In this field, the two countries still have much potential to expand and develop. Therefore, it is necessary to continue: exploiting potential advantages, strengthening comprehensive cooperation between the two countries; promote cooperation in information technology training; enhance cooperation on digital transformation, especially in the field of education; expand cooperation, promotion, and cultural education; Focus on cooperation in training, scientific research. Effectively implementing cooperation in many aspects, especially education, will help the friendship and strategic and comprehensive partnership between Vietnam and India become stronger and better.

**Keywords:** Vietnam, India, cooperation, education

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### 1. Introduction

The history of Vietnam - India relations originates from the process of cultural and religious exchanges more than 2,000 years ago and was supported by great leaders such as President Ho Chi Minh and patriot Mahatm Gandhi, Prime Minister of India. Jawaharlal Nehru laid the foundation, built it, and generations of leaders and people nurtured it to always develop. The two countries always support and help each other in the struggles against foreign invaders and for national independence. During the resistance wars against colonialism and imperialism, Vietnam always received active, strong and substantive support from the Indian Government and people (1). Today, Vietnam and India have a number of favorable conditions to promote cooperation in the field of education. The achievements achieved in the field of education in particular and other fields in general will contribute to further strengthening the diplomatic relationship of the two countries in the current period.

## 2. Research Overview of the Problem

### 2.1. Current status of cooperation between Vietnam and India in the field of education

India and Vietnam have had historical and civilizational relations since many centuries ago. What makes the India-Vietnam relationship so strong is the positive, friendly relationship, through trade, education, culture, religion and the philosophy of peaceful coexistence and non-violence force, there has never been any conflict. Among them, the issue of educating the young generation is a top concern. Vietnam - India's development cooperation relationship in recent times has been clearly demonstrated on five main pillars: economic; politics; culture - education, science, technology; energy and defense - security. All five pillars are closely linked and complement each other to achieve the highest results. Since 2007, when Vietnam and India established a strategic partnership, the political cooperation relationship has developed more than ever. The two sides continuously exchange high-level visits that not only create a foundation and motivation for the implementation of cooperation agreements, but also tighten political trust between the two countries, creating important conditions for cooperation expanding and promoting the effectiveness of cooperation in other fields (2).

The India Technical Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Program, launched in 1964, is a long-standing and successful capacity building program of the Government of India through sharing of activities. Practical encouragement and experience for 160 partner countries, including Vietnam. Development cooperation has always played a central role in India's foreign policy. India has always been a steadfast and reliable development partner through sharing extensive development experiences in many fields over the years. Southern countries representing the aspirations of more than 6.3 billion people around the world are India's important ITEC partners. The ITEC program includes a series of activities in many fields: Support for the establishment of educational organizations and facilities, support for the provision of lecturers and equipment, as well as training of personnel at famous institutions in India. Over the years, the program has trained more than 200,000 officers from more than 160 countries in the civilian and defense sectors. Even during the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the ITEC program continues to be implemented regularly through online courses, also known as e-ITEC (Elearning India Technical Economic Cooperation).

In addition to pre-planned multinational training programmes, India also provides country-specific training in specific areas of governance and skills through training programs sponsored by regional governments. Leading institution in India that designs and teaches. ITEC Program - the leading development cooperation program between India and Vietnam, started in the 1970s. The presence of more than 3,400 ITEC alumni in Vietnam reflects the strategic partnership relationship comprehensively, especially in the areas of capacity building and expertise sharing. The relevance and usefulness of the ITEC program in Vietnam is shown through the increasing number of ITEC scholarships, currently there are about 200 ITEC Civil and Defense scholarships for Vietnam (3).

The ITEC program covers human resource development in many different fields, from information technology, public administration, small and medium enterprises, business, rural development, parliamentary affairs, journalism, agriculture,

renewable energy, water resources, finance, accounting, space science, cyber security, etc. Similarly, the defense sector has training programs on peacekeeping and security and United Nations strategy, defense management, maritime and aviation engineering, logistics and management, maritime navigation, counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency.

After thirty years of implementing the ITEC Program, India has trained more than 3,000 Vietnamese officials, civil servants, public employees, experts, and lecturers in various fields including economics, politics, science and technology turmeric. The program has contributed to improving the quality of human resources in the country's economic, political and social activities while promoting extensive cooperation between Vietnam and India in the field of education and training in general in particular and foreign cooperative relations in general (4).

The training and capacity building program in the defense sector within the framework of the ITEC program is one of the priority commitments with Vietnam. ITEC courses at various military training facilities started in the 1990s and since then, more than 1,000 Vietnamese officers have participated in various courses at Army and Navy training facilities and Indian Air Force. Long-term training courses are also organized for Vietnamese officers at prestigious academies such as the National Defense Academy (NDA), Indian Military Academy (IMA), and the Indian Military Academy (IMA). Indian Navy (Navy Academy - NA), Air Force Academy (AFA), Defense Staff College (DSC), College of Defense Management (CDM) ) and National Defense College (NDC). More than 100 Vietnamese officers have graduated from these long-term courses.

India has training Teams at the University of Communications, Naval Academy and Nha Trang Air Force Officer School. These training teams have cooperated with the Vietnamese Army for more than a decade. 16 Vietnamese pilots have been sent to the Air Force Academy in India to attend the flight learning program. As part of the Navy's capacity building program, more than 500 Vietnamese Navy officers have attended submarine training courses.

The ITEC program has created a vast network of alumni across continents. They became the bearers of the ITEC torch in their respective countries and in the process, developed a strong cultural bond between India and the countries concerned. ITEC Day is an annual event organized by the Indian Embassy in Hanoi and Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City to renew the relationship between India and ITEC alumni in Vietnam - the who is considered a bridge to Vietnam by contributing to friendship, mutual understanding and appreciation, especially at the level of people-to-people exchanges between the two countries.

ITEC is just one of the scholarship programs sponsored by the Indian government for Vietnamese officials and experts under 45 years old and able to use English. India also welcomes Vietnamese candidates to register to study in India at the bachelor's level under the General Culture Scholarship Synthetic (GCSS), Cultural Exchange Program, and Cooperation Program Technical Cooperation Program (TCP) of the Colombo Plan, Mekong-Ganges Cooperation Program (MGC) and Buddhist studies (5).

Recently, the Indian side provided basic flight training for 10 Vietnamese pilots at the Air Force Academy in India and is planning to train 10 more pilots for Vietnam in the second support package. Indian Defense Minister Rajnath Singh

presented a gift worth 1 million USD to build a Foreign Language and Information Technology Center at the Air Force Officer School. For the Information Officer School, within the framework of India - ASEAN cooperation, the Indian Ministry of Defense supported the establishment of an English and information technology center at the school in 2015. Two members of the training team of The Indian Army has been working at the school since 2015 to provide English and information technology training. In addition, in September 2016, the Indian Government also announced a support package of 5 million USD to establish an Army Software Park at the school. To date, the project is progressing smoothly and is expected to be completed in early 2023. Also during the meeting, the Indian Minister of Defense presented a gift worth 5 million Indian Rupees (nearly 1.49 billion VND) for the purchase of training equipment at the school (6).

India is currently a country playing an important role in influencing the wave of Industrial Revolution 4.0 in the world. Close cooperation between Vietnam and India, especially in the field of Technology, will be a great forward to help Vietnam integrate with this strong wave. As the world's most populous country as well as the second largest number of scientists and engineers globally, along with its full preparation in technology, India is ready to become one of the most populous countries in the world. countries at the forefront of technological change in the next decade. The Indian government not only increases the application of new technologies but also tries to minimize the negative impacts of change on society to a minimum to ensure everyone can benefit from the revolution technology. To do that, the Indian government has collaborated with leading technology companies, Institutes of Technology, educational organizations, social organizations as well as many other international organizations to design, Test operation as well as expand regulations, policies, standards, and instructions on the 4.0 industrial revolution. In the context of the country's economy constantly growing strongly, promoting cooperation between Vietnam and India in the field of science and technology will contribute to bringing the two countries' bilateral relations to new heights. Vietnam and India share the same vision and economic approach. In recent years, thanks to the cooperation between the two countries, India has trained more than 1,000 Vietnamese officials in all fields. The Indian Embassy is ready to support and receive initiatives to promote cooperative relations between the two countries. In the future, the two countries can cooperate in the fields of Information Technology (IT), digital economy, renewable energy, healthcare, and civil aviation. Besides, Vietnam can also cooperate in a number of Indian-branded programs. On the contrary, India also wants to learn from Vietnam in the fields of urban infrastructure development and tourism.

India is one of the countries with the most developed IT industry in the world, and has supported Vietnam very early. Since 1999, India has helped Vietnam develop high-quality IT human resources through the implementation of the Aptech International Programmer Training program. India's support for the IT industry in Vietnam at that time was extremely important. In the period 1990-2000, when the Internet was first introduced and the software industry was still very young and primitive, Vietnam took the first steps to build an IT industry. At that time, Vietnam did not have the basic foundations of training, lacked experts, and lacked

standard documents and textbooks. The IT picture in the world has not been generally recognized: what technologies are being applied, what needs to be updated... The most important thing is the training method, no one clearly understands how to teach IT effectively (7).

India actively supports Vietnam in training high-quality human resources. India is currently offering 150 short-term scholarships under the Technical Economic Cooperation Program (ITEC); 30 scholarships under the ICCR Cultural Exchange Program (CEP) and the Cultural Scholarship Program (GCSS). In addition, India also grants Vietnam a number of scholarships for training in Hindi and Indian culture (2 - 4 scholarships/year). India also supports Vietnam with a number of projects on information technology and English teaching, such as the Center for training high-quality resources in information and communications technology in Hanoi (Information Communications Technology - ICT), operating since September 2011); helping Vietnam establish an English Center at Danang University (under the ASEAN - India cooperation framework), an English Center at the National Defense Academy. In addition, India also provides Vietnam with a high-performance computer system installed at Hanoi University of Science and Technology....

Those are important initial results in educational cooperation between Vietnam and India. But this cooperation is not really widespread and has not been exploited and has not fully promoted the inherent potential and advantages of both sides. Therefore, it is necessary to have some solutions to further promote cooperation between the two countries in this area considered national policy.

## **2.2. Some solutions contribute to promoting cooperation in the field of education between Vietnam and India**

Firstly, exploit potential advantages and strengthen comprehensive and long-term cooperation between Vietnam and India. India is one of Vietnam's top 10 trading partners, while Vietnam is India's 17th largest trading partner globally and the fourth largest in the ASEAN region. Bilateral trade turnover in 2021 reached 13.2 billion US dollars, approaching the target of 15 billion US dollars... The two countries still have a lot of potential and advantages that have not been fully exploited for economic and trade development. and can complement each other. The shift of investors in China will be an opportunity for Vietnam and India. The problem is that the two countries must have a solution to take advantage, which requires connection and support between the two countries. That is the connection between Vietnamese and Indian businesses in grasping world market trends. The governments of the two countries quickly implemented many solutions to attract investors in promising areas of cooperation. Vietnam and India include: education, information technology, health care, pharmaceuticals... To cooperate in those fields, we must first continue to train and foster human resources. In the coming time, the two countries need to strengthen cooperation in training and fostering human resources for many industries.

Second, promote cooperation in training and fostering information technology between the two countries. India is a powerhouse in information technology, Vietnam is a country with a majority of young people quickly accessing information technology and actively starting businesses. Vietnam needs to cooperate with Indian institutes, schools, and companies on new materials, biotechnology, AI, and modern technology; Vietnam is also developing strongly in

the software industry and can cooperate with India to bring products to the world. Cooperation in information technology and startups also hopes to bring new breakthroughs between the two countries. India has a pool of technology talent with a globally integrated mindset; Meanwhile, in Vietnam, technological resources still do not fully meet the needs of all occupations and fields. Therefore, Indian technology businesses can increase the training of human resources with skills and experience at an international level; Vietnam actively sends people to study in many classes, training and fostering programs. Accordingly, contributing to supplementing information technology human resources, especially high-quality human resources for Vietnam to meet the country's development.

Third, strengthen cooperation on digital transformation, especially in the field of education. In the context of rapidly developing science and technology, digital transformation is an inevitable need. Vietnam is one of the world's pioneers in promulgating national digital transformation programs and strategies. Our country's large and young population is not afraid to experiment and accept new technological consumer products. This is also an opportunity for Indian technology businesses. The Vietnamese government needs to attract and create favorable conditions for Indian digital technology businesses to operate. At the same time, the two countries have plans to train and foster human resources to meet the country's digital transformation requirements. Special attention is paid to digital transformation in the field of education. The young generation in digital transformation education will be the nucleus for spreading and comprehensively implementing national digital transformation.

Fourth, expand cooperation, promotion and education about the cultures of the two countries. India has a very large culture, with a lot of spiritual culture and famous history, which has great appeal to Vietnamese people. Meanwhile, Vietnam has many rich and diverse natural landscapes, beautiful resorts... that the young and super-rich Indians are interested in. In addition to the fields of defense, economics, trade, and investment in science and technology, the two countries need to promote human connection through promoting the education system and developing tourism between the two countries. The two countries need to be more active in promoting, propagating, and sharing information to enhance understanding of the two peoples, especially updated information about each country's situation through exchange opportunities. cooperation, business investment, tourism, culture, and art activities, thereby contributing to promoting the connection between people and businesses of the two countries in the new context.

Fifth, promote cooperation in training and scientific research. In the field of education, schools, especially universities and research institutes of India and Vietnam have a great scope for cooperation in many aspects, especially training, fostering and research. India has supported Vietnam in training Vietnamese officials, experts, and lecturers in different fields including economics, politics, science and technology. This training has contributed to improving the quality of human resources, promoting Vietnam's socio-economic development and promoting extensive cooperation in the field of education between Vietnam and India. Recommend that India continue to support Vietnam in the fields of education, training and culture, especially providing scholarships and restoring cultural relics; promptly propose

measures to remove obstacles, actively bring educational cooperation departments into greater reality and effectiveness, regularly maintain bilateral cooperation mechanisms and promote people-to-people exchanges in this field. Vietnam needs India's continued support in training and capacity building for security and defense forces; promote cooperation on cybersecurity; Responding to climate change and energy transition, green growth.

In the future, the friendly relationship between Vietnam and India needs to continue to be strengthened and comprehensively developed in all fields, especially the field of education. It focuses on training and fostering human resources, especially high-quality human resources.

### 3. Conclusion

In order for Vietnam - India cooperation to become more profound and substantive, the two countries need to increase focus on certain areas where both sides have strengths, such as education, energy, and science - technology, agriculture... Besides, promoting higher-level exchanges will strengthen political relations between the two countries. India has many achievements in the field of science and technology, such as space, information technology... Furthermore, India has a highly rated education system that can make an important contribution to development human resources in Vietnam. Effectively implementing cooperation in many aspects, especially education, will help the friendship and strategic and comprehensive partnership between Vietnam and India become stronger and better.

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