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Mai Nguyen

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Creating a Happy Education Environment in Vietnam

Mai Nguyen, Graduate Student, major in Teaching & Curriculum, School of Education

Introduction

In 2018, a high school student spoke out against her teacher for not delivering any lectures during the semester, which sparked a public debate. The student then had to move to another school to avoid intense public opinion pressure.

Also in 2018, another student committed suicide as he could not accommodate his parents' academic expectation.

In 2019, a parent in Danang slapped a teacher because she thought that the teacher was violent to her child.

For long, Vietnamese people have put education on the top of their priorities. Accordingly, teachers are the most respectful people in the society. However, after some school violence scandals, the connection between parents, students and teachers has disintegrated.

A happy education environment is vital to student's development and the whole society's betterment. This research will look at factors and how to bring a positive education environment in Vietnam.

Table 1: Ten countries with the most efficient education sectors

TEN MOST EFFICIENT COUNTRIES IN CONVERTING INPUTS TO EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES					
Rank	Country	GDP (PPP)	PISA surplus	GMAT surplus	Combined
1	China	\$15,399	115	94	209
2	Vietnam	\$6,429	93	63	156
3	Singapore	\$90,151	60	72	131
4	Georgia	\$10,044	22	106	128
5	Poland	\$27,764	39	69	108
6	New Zealand	\$37,294	18	83	101
7	Russia	\$26,490	40	53	93
8	Korea	\$37,740	41	49	90
9	Japan	\$41,275	61	28	89
10	Slovenia	\$32,085	34	50	84

Source: K.L Chan, GMAC, IMF, OECD, World Bank

<https://knowledge.insead.edu/leadership-organisations/the-countries-getting-the-highest-return-on-education-10666>

Vietnamese Education

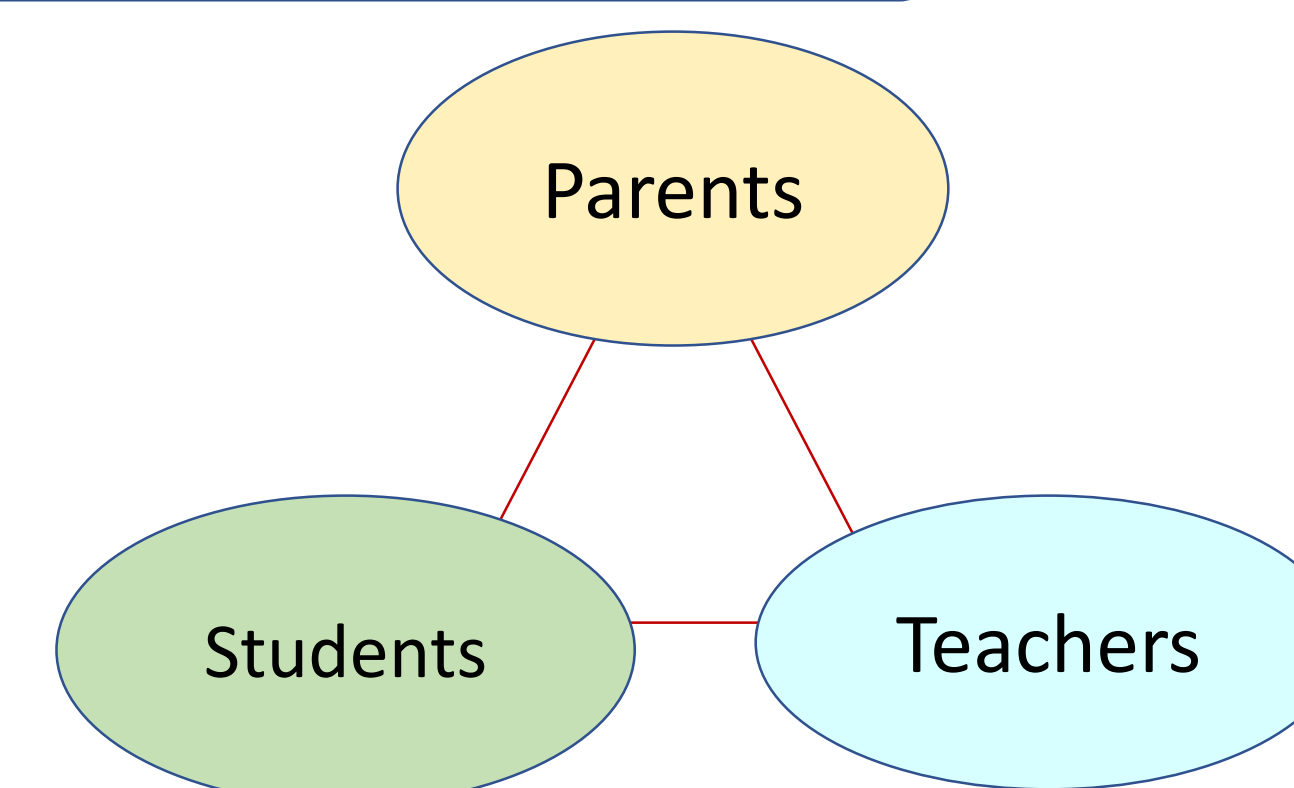
- Vietnam is among the countries who have the highest Pisa and GMAT achievement.
- 1/5 of young Vietnamese people experience mental health problems (Harpham & Pham, 2006) cited by Nguyen.
- 80% of students surveyed in Can Tho, VN want to have less homework and they need reliable counselors (Nguyen et al., 2013).
- Teachers are working under immense pressure and confused between discipline and violence.
- Parents lost trust in the education system and show less respect for their children's teachers.



Students at extra class. Source: Bich Thanh, Thanhnien.vn.

Factors to a positive education

- ❑ Students' Intrinsic motivation
- ❑ Teachers' living and loving classroom
- ❑ Parents' support, encouragement and collaboration.



Solutions

1. Form panels of experts

- Teachers are matched with a panel to get immediate advice professionally and psychologically.



Students meditating before lesson. Source: Happy Home Danang



Teachers and some parents sitting and discussing mindfully and happily. Source: Happy Home Danang

3. Three-party meetings

- Replace traditional meetings with a private one with parents, teachers and students.



Image. A happy Vietnamese teacher. Source: Kenh14.vn

2. Mindfulness training

- Hold mindfulness training workshops to equip parents, teachers, and students with methods to communicate with each other.



Source: Robert Neubecker, The Wall Street Journal

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