

Research on Education Development in Multi-Ethnic Nations

—The spread and the limit of primary education in Northern part of Vietnam—

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Research area: The socialist republic of Vietnam

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Back ground and objectives of my research

Since 1990's, the spread of education, and its development at the primary education level has become an important issue in developing countries. Response to these trends, Vietnam established the law on education named Universalization of Primary Education in 1991, and development agencies have been giving support to this action. As a result, Vietnam has achieved about 95% in primary education enrollment rate, and ethnic minorities such as Muong and Tay also achieved nearly 90%.

On the other hand, the enrollment rate of some other ethnic minorities such as Hmong and Dao remains to be relatively low (under 70%), and their completion rate is even more lower. Although there are several complex factors behind this "failure", those who carry out the development programs tend to regard this as their methodological problems. This is, of course, one of the important factors, but we need further investigation into the "failure" from different viewpoint. We should start with investigating into the domestic education policy, especially for ethnic minorities, and reveal how they consider that kind of policy implemented by their government. My hypothesis and suggestion is: the reason why education development doesn't succeed is the problems on the domestic policy rather than on methodology of development itself. Does there exist some ethnic minorities which are quite indifferent to the policy? If so, is it the reason why education development doesn't succeed completely?

Although the constitution of Vietnam says that we should respect the culture and languages of ethnic minorities, the government education policy since 1980(CP-53) determined to teach them by using the language of majority, Vietnamese. How do the ethnic minorities consider this policy? My research will investigate into these question further, and suggest the reason of the "failure" in terms of domestic policy.



【Pic 1】 Ministry of Education and Training, Vietnam



【Pic2】 National library of Vietnam, Hanoi



【Pic3】 Elementary school, Hanoi