

# Educational Culture and Responsibilities, Duties of Teachers in Building University Educational Culture

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## Abstract

Based on social practice, it can be seen that university education culture is an important part of the social culture of each country and nation. Accordingly, university education culture has a great responsibility in training, educating, shaping personality, ethics, lifestyle and thinking of people corresponding to the educational philosophy of the university, as well as having a certain influence on the views, thoughts, behaviors and values of learners towards political and social issues in each country. In recent years, many universities in Vietnam have carried out comprehensive educational reforms in all aspects so that the university education environment becomes a space for training and cultivating the ethics, personality and lifestyle of learners, in which the responsibilities and tasks of teachers are extremely important in contributing to the orientation and setting an example for learners to practice and follow in order to create the necessary spiritual values in teaching and learning activities in the university education environment.

**Keywords:** University Education Culture, Responsibilities, Lecturers.

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## INTRODUCTION

From the practice of higher education in Vietnam, it can be seen that culture in higher education institutions is an important part of social culture, that has a great responsibility in training and cultivating human personality and directly affects the political life, ideology, behavior and cultural values of students, as well as contributing significantly to the orientation of the quality of social culture. Therefore, the cultural environment found in higher education institutions is a system of norms, traditions, and material and spiritual values that were formed during the school's development process in order to create its own identity. These forms and traditions are expressed in the activities and material forms that university members engage in. Therefore, building a cultural environment in higher education institutions is an important content in building personality for students, contributing to forming a standard lifestyle and cultured lifestyle for learners and is also a fundamental factor to build a good, humane, progressive and civilized society in higher education institutions. In which lecturers are the main subject - the main in building a cultural environment in higher education institutions.

## CONTENT

### The Concept of University Lecturer

According to the Law on Public Employees 2010, a public employee is a Vietnamese citizen recruited according to a job position, working at a public service unit under a labor contract, receiving a salary from the salary fund of the public service unit according to the provisions of law. Accordingly, a public university lecturer is a professional officer responsible for teaching and scientific research at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels in a training major of a public university. In universities, lecturers are also scientists, have a good grasp of scientific methods of teaching and education, that know how to use technical means proficiently in teaching, regularly practice to improve their teaching skills, and actively participate in scientific research and social life.

Clause 1, Article 54 of the Law on Higher Education specifically stipulates: Lecturers in higher education institutions are people with clear personal backgrounds, good qualities and ethics, good health to perform their duties and qualifications that meet the provisions of this Law and the regulations on organization and operation of higher education institutions.

Thus, university lecturers are the subjects who carry out teaching work at higher education institutions. In addition to the standards set for degrees, professional qualifications and teaching skills, there are also ethical values and qualifications of teachers to ensure effective organization and teaching objectives.

### **The Concept of Culture, Organizational Culture and School Culture**

Culture is a concept with very broad connotations, related to all aspects of human material and spiritual life. Therefore, culture has many different meanings and understandings. According to UNESCO: "Culture should be regarded as the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society or a social group, and that it encompasses, in addition to art and culture, lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs". According to President Ho Chi Minh, culture was mentioned as follows: "For the sake of survival as well as the purpose of life, mankind created and invented language, writing, ethics, law, science, religion, literature and art, tools for daily life in terms of clothing, food, housing and methods of use. All of those creations and inventions are culture." Thus, culture is a product of human beings created during their lives, subject to certain influences by the surrounding environment and the characteristics of each ethnic group, thereby forming the unique cultural features of each ethnic community.

### **The Concept of Culture, Organizational Culture and School Culture**

Culture is a very wide word that encompasses all facets of the material and spiritual lives of humans. As a result, there are numerous interpretations and definitions of culture. According to UNESCO: "Culture should be regarded as the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society or a social group, that it encompasses, in addition to art and culture, lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs". According to President Ho Chi Minh, culture was mentioned as follows: "For the sake of survival as well as the purpose of life, mankind created and invented language, writing, ethics, law, science, religion, literature and art, tools for daily life in terms of clothing, food, housing and methods of use. All of those creations and inventions are culture." Thus, culture is a product of human beings created during their lives, subject to certain influences by the surrounding environment and the characteristics of each ethnic group, thereby forming the unique cultural features of each ethnic community.

Along with culture, organizational culture is of interest to scientists, depending on the approach, each author can give different opinions. According to Schwartz, organizational culture covers a wide range of behaviors and is a way of thinking, working according to habits, shared to a greater or lesser extent among all members. G. Hofstede identifies specific factors, such as

values, beliefs and behaviors, of an organization that make the difference between members of this organization and other organizations. Authors A. Williams and P. Dobson emphasize the stability, history, inheritance and development of organizational culture. According to E.H. Schein, professor at MIT Sloan School of Management (USA), he has made his mark in the field of organizational development in many areas, including personal development, group process consulting and organizational culture. Schein's organizational culture model originated in the 1980s. An organization is a miniature social community that carries within it its own cultural attributes - organizational culture, the leader's operating philosophy, organizational management and team building. Value orientations, beliefs, consciousness, attitudes, lifestyles and work... form organizational culture. Thus, organizational culture includes a system of meanings, values, core beliefs, ways of perception and thinking methods that are agreed upon by all members of an organization and have a wide range of influence on the perception and actions of each member.

Along with culture and organizational culture, the school is an educational institution with the function of training people in ethics - intelligence - physique and aesthetics. The school creates products that educate and culture people. Accordingly, the school culture shows its own characteristics, creating the difference between the school and other organizations and the difference between this school and other schools. The external manifestations of school culture are vision, policies, goals, rituals, ceremonies, communication behaviors, environmental landscape, logo, cultural activities... The internal content of school culture is emotions, attitudes, beliefs, needs, personal desires, power, ways of influence, brands, etc.

According to K.D. Peterson and T.E. Deal, school culture is an undercurrent of norms, values, beliefs, traditions and rituals that are formed over time as people work together, solve problems and face challenges... shaping people's thoughts, feelings and actions in schools.

In Vietnam, school culture is studied by scientists, but mainly in individual aspects such as: school culture, communication culture, behavioral culture... When discussing school culture, Vu Dung said that school culture is evaluated through the behavioral relationships of members in the school's pedagogical environment. That relationship is mainly expressed between teachers and students, between leaders and teachers, and between colleagues.

Thus, school culture is a set of norms, values, beliefs and behaviors... in that school. School culture is related to the entire material and spiritual life of a school, which are good values formed by a collective and accepted by each individual in the school. School culture

shows unique characteristics, creating the difference between the school and other organizations and the difference between this school and other schools.

### **The Responsibility of Lecturers in Building Cultural Environment in Higher Education Institutions**

The university cultural environment is a system of values and standards created by all members of the school including: lecturers, students, civil servants and other workers. In which, lecturers are a part of the school, occupying a leading position, playing an extremely important guiding role in the reception of students. Every action or statement of a lecturer, whether in teaching activities on books or in daily life, has a great influence on the school cultural environment. Because of this, lecturers play a crucial role in shaping the cultural climate of higher education institutions, which has a big impact on the strategy and direction of higher education in all training facilities. Therefore, in order to create a cultural atmosphere, university lecturers must unambiguously display the following duties:

*Firstly, lecturers need to be responsible for building an academic culture.* Academic culture can be generally understood as the correct behaviors in scientific activities, including research, teaching and learning. These rules are quite general but essential to maintain the quality of teaching and research, as well as create a healthy mental environment for scientific activities. For lecturers, it is extremely important to organize and maintain regular academic activities in universities at all levels, while encouraging students to participate at different levels depending on their level. These activities create an environment for exchanging ideas, contributing to improving the quality of the teaching staff and training students to get used to expressing their academic views, defending their arguments as well as evaluating the ideas of others in a healthy and satisfactory manner. For students in the first years, imparting basic knowledge will create interest in the major for students, initially creating a sense of attachment to the major. In the final years, on the basis of mastering the major knowledge, through practical teaching and scientific research, fostering the self-study, self-research and creative spirit of students. Thanks to that, the creative capacity of full-time students is enhanced. The special nature of the profession determines that lecturers need to have a high sense of responsibility and mission. Education is not a process in which we can see emotional images. It requires dedication, meticulousness and patience. Therefore, in addition to scientific research activities, creativity and innovation in teaching methods and techniques also need to be focused on. From there, universities need to develop a set of evaluation criteria that can quantify both parts, teaching and scientific research. Especially in the teaching part, it is necessary to evaluate the innovations and creativity in teaching methods and techniques of lecturers.

*Secondly, lecturers need to be responsible for building ethical culture in building the cultural environment of the university.* With the philosophy that "Educators also need to be educated, lecturers in building ethical culture also need to be educated to become examples of ethics and lifestyle." Therefore, lecturers primarily play a leading role in fostering an ethical culture in schools, as illustrated below: First and foremost, lecturers are the ones who establish the standards and values necessary to create an ethical culture; second, they are the forerunners and role models in putting these standards into practice and preserving the culture; and third, they are the ones who encourage their peers and students to create an ethical culture. In general, lecturers often have the right political orientation, good moral cultivation and are role models in many other aspects. Therefore, their image, working style and lifestyle will greatly influence both colleagues and students. Lecturers first create a good atmosphere in building a school culture by identifying and building with colleagues the value goals and standards in work communication and life behavior. These values and standards will be present every day both within the school and outside the school. Through training and education activities, lecturers will carry out the work of orientation and education of standards and values for students. In addition, along with the efforts of lecturers, regulations, rules and institutions in the school must be synchronized to ensure the mandatory implementation and supervision of the behavior and thoughts of lecturers and students, thereby ensuring the building of a cultural environment in the university following the path of healthy development.

*Thirdly, lecturers are responsible for leading and setting an example in implementing school cultural values and norms.* Through pedagogical activities, lecturers directly guide and educate students on standards and values, ensuring the healthy development of a school cultural environment. Lecturers with extensive knowledge, scientific teaching methods, shining examples of ethics, lifestyle, working style, setting an example in all work, saying what they do, truly being "models of ethics, self-study and creativity" all have an educational orientation, creating good learning motivation, enthusiasm and passion for research in students. Therefore, the image, working style and lifestyle of lecturers have a great influence on colleagues and students.

*Fourthly, lecturers must be pioneers in the fight against perceptions and behaviors that are anti-value and deviate from school cultural standards.* Lecturers are exemplary in terms of expertise, personality, ethics, and lifestyle to fulfill the function of transmitting knowledge and culture, using the good to push back the bad, and contributing to the development of students' personalities.

Thus, in building a cultural environment for university education, lecturers are identified as the

subjects that create systems of values and cultural standards for pedagogy. In particular, models of standard behavior, scientific working style, friendly and positive teaching attitude will contribute greatly to the formation and development of personalities for students, colleagues and lecturers themselves, thereby contributing to building each university as a cultural and educational center with the function of educating cultural traditions and training people who are both red and professional.

## CONCLUSION

In summary, from the above analysis and presentation, it can be affirmed that the cultural environment of the university is the soul for the development of universities, it reflects the spirit of learning and pursuing the values of the school. In which, lecturers are the main subjects in building the cultural environment in universities. How to cultivate people, how to cultivate, all depend on lecturers to implement. In addition, lecturers in university culture also have a leading and exemplary role, so it is necessary to respect and maximize the dual role of the subject - the main role of lecturers in university culture. At the same time, lecturers also need to absorb the essence, the good things and the progress of the times to promptly improve their own qualities. Of course, the purpose of lecturers when participating in cultural activities at universities is also to better promote their own leading role in building policies and development strategies at higher education

institutions. Therefore, correctly recognizing the position, role and special responsibility of lecturers in building a cultural environment in higher education institutions not only contributes to improving the quality of education and training, but also contributes to building a school culture that is orderly, disciplined, cultural, civilized and healthy for the common goal of building and developing universities.

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