



**MINISTRY  
OF HOME AFFAIRS**



**UNITED NATIONS  
POPULATION FUND IN VIETNAM**

**REPORT  
ON VIETNAMESE YOUTH IN THE PERIOD OF  
2015 - 2018**

**HANOI, 2019**

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## INTRODUCTION

Youth aged between 16 and 30 make up almost 25% of Vietnam's population, just over 23 million people. The majority of the youth population are in the labor force and act as a driving force for the country's development. Vietnam's youth are essential to successfully achieving national development goals. Investment in, and the comprehensive development of, youth is both a responsibility and a goal of the whole society. In recent years, the government has created and implemented a youth development policy to ensure the stability and sustainable development of the country. As youth make up such a significant proportion of the workforce, they must be at the center of any strategy to foster and develop Vietnam's human resources.

With the technical support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Vietnam, the Ministry of Home Affairs has conducted research and developed a “Report on Vietnamese Youth in the period of 2015 - 2018”. This report follows the first National Report on Vietnamese Youth (published in 2015). This report uses secondary data from the General Statistics Office of Vietnam – Ministry of Planning and Investment, Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of Labor, War Invalids and Social Affairs, and survey results from empirical studies, annual assessments, phased assessments on youth-related issues and the implementation of youth-related policies to make general observations about the current situation of youth-related issues and youth policies.

The report focuses on seven areas of key concern for youth: Population; Labor – Employment; Education – Training; Health; Culture – Entertainment; Youth participation; Youth in conflict with the law and the impact of social vices on youth. The report also provides recommendations and policy suggestions to help improve policies and the legal framework to comprehensively develop Vietnamese youth and equip them to be strong and positive agents for the country's development.

The report provides a general overview of the situation of youth and their development between 2015-2018. The report can also be used as a scientific basis for studying and developing youth development policies.

We would like to thank the support of the expert team from the Youth Research Institute under the Ho Chi Minh Central Communist Youth Union for helping us to synthesize, analyze data, build and complete the report.

The Ministry of Home Affairs and the United Nations Population Fund proudly introduce the Report on Vietnamese Youth in the period of 2015-2018.

## **Part 1. PREAMBLE**

### **1. GENERAL OBJECTIVE**

The report's objective is to provide relevant information on general youth issues over the period of 2015–2018, to support the development of proposals and recommendations on youth related policies for the next planning period.

### **2. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

2.1. Provide information and data on youth situation from 2015 - 2018 in the fields of: (1) Population; (2) Education and training; (3) Labor and employment; (4) Health; (5) Culture, entertainment and access to information by youth (6) Youth participation in some areas of social life; and (7) youth in conflict with the law and social vices of youth.

2.2. Propose and recommend policies for youth.

2.3. Propose potential youth research areas.

### **3. IMPLEMENTATION METHODS**

The report analyzed and synthesized information drawn from annual, cyclic or phased statistics from the relevant ministries and departments, from the results of youth surveys and studies, and also youth policies that have been published in the period from 2015 to 2018 performed by the Youth Research Institute and youth organizations.

The surveys were conducted on a sample scale which represented regions, economic zones and specific youth groups. The surveys used were standardized. The results obtained were analyzed and compared between the groups surveyed. The conclusions presented in the report are based on actual survey results.

The data sources used in the report are referenced from: the General Statistics Office of Vietnam, a number of relevant ministries and departments; desk research, including surveys and reports from non-government organizations, and, scientific studies from the Youth Research Institute on youth issues and youth policies.

Youth, ranging in age from 16 to 30 years old, were surveyed and are representative of a number of groups, including: students; public servants and officials; workers; farmers, in representative regions of the country. Specific surveys included:

(1) 2015: Survey of 600 young people in 03 areas: Thai Nguyen, Thua Thien – Hue and Ho Chi Minh City.

(2) 2016: Survey of 1,400 young people in 07 areas: Hanoi, Vinh Phuc, Lao Cai, Thua Thien–Hue, Dak Lak, Vinh Long and Ho Chi Minh City.

(3) 2017: Survey of 1,400 young people in 08 areas: Hanoi, Lao Cai, Nam Dinh, Khanh Hoa, Gia Lai, Vinh Long, Ho Chi Minh City and An Giang.

(4) 2018:

+ Social issues survey of 1,500 young people in 07 areas: Bac Ninh, Hai Phong, Lao Cai, Da Nang, Kon Tum, Ho Chi Minh City, Long An.

+ Youth policy survey of 1,200 young people in 06 areas: Bac Kan, Hai Phong, Dak Lak, Ninh Thuan, Ho Chi Minh City and Soc Trang.

(5) 2017: Youth development policy survey and recommendations of 150 young people aged 16 - 30 and 150 government and Union officers in 3 areas: Hanoi, Dak Lak, Binh Duong.

(6) Surveys and research studies on youth by international non-governmental organizations such as, ILO, UNICEF, OXFAM, UNFPA, etc.

#### **4. LIMITATIONS OF THE REPORT**

Currently, there is no comprehensive national survey of all youth-related issues in Vietnam. Therefore, this report on youth over the period of 2015 - 2018 utilizes and aggregates data which is mainly based on the results of thematic studies and surveys on specific areas relating to youth. This affects the overall view of youth issues, consistency of data, as well as impacting broader issues of representation amongst those surveyed.

### **Part 2. SITUATION OF VIETNAMESE YOUTH**

#### **1. YOUTH POPULATION**

This section considers the youth population in Vietnam across four key areas: proportion of the youth population in Vietnam's population structure; the youth population structure according to a number of important criteria for youth development such as gender, age, living area; youth and migration; the marriage age of youth and concludes by suggesting some policy recommendations for youth.

##### **1.1. Youth population situation**

###### ***1.1.1. Youth population in the population structure***

The youth population of Vietnam as of 2018 was 23,316,036 people, accounting for 24.6% of the country's population, down 0.6% compared to the reported figures in 2017 (25.2%).

The country's population is increasing, but the proportion of youth within the population is decreasing year by year. This is a matter of concern for Vietnam as it tries to take advantage of a “golden population structure period” when the youth population, overwhelmingly in the labor force, is large and productive enough to drive development and support the dependent segments of the country's population. As the youth population decreases, at the same time as the dependent population increases, Vietnam will have less economically productive members of society to support the dependent population.

**Table 1.1. Youth population vs the country's population (2015-2018)**

Year	Population of the country (person)	Youth population (person)	The ratio of the young population to the national population (%)
2015	91.713.300	24.349.226	26,5
2016	92.695.100	23.925.800	25,8
2017	93.678.100	23.651.035	25,2
2018	94.656.118	23.316.000	24,6

*Source: General Statistics Office of Vietnam, 2018*

Compared to the size of other population groups, the youth population size has shrunk, reflected in the proportion of the population aged 16-30 decreasing in the last 5 years from 27.4% to 24.6%, while the proportion of the population aged 31–59, and especially those aged 60 and older has increased.

**Table 1.2. Youth population size vs the population size of other age groups (2015 -2018)**

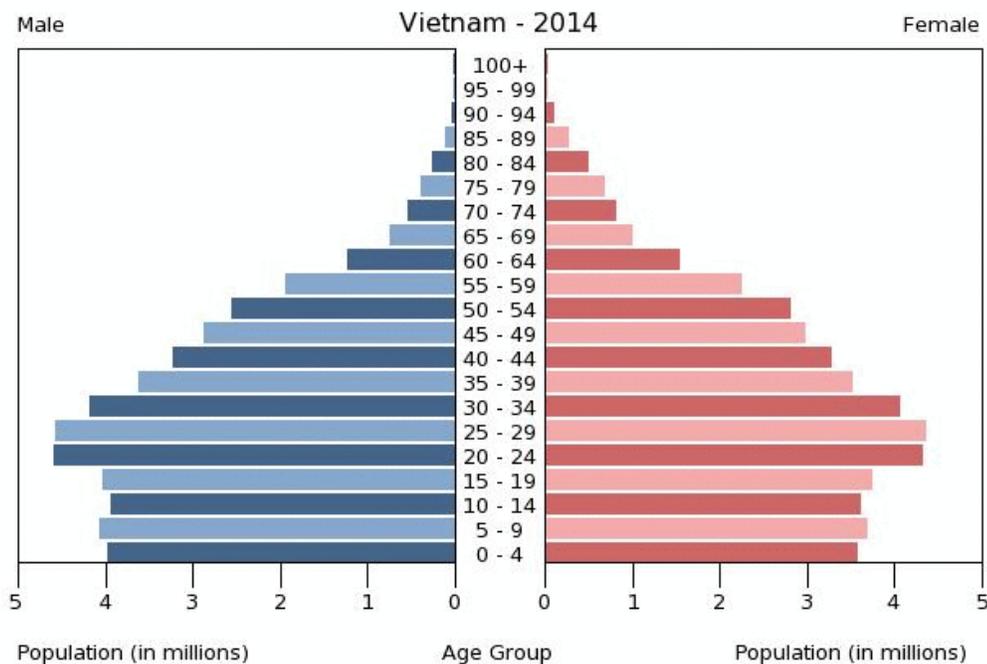
Year	Total population (million people)	Structure compared to the national population (%)			
		0 - 15 years old	16 - 30 years old	31 - 59 years old	From 60 years old and

					above
<b>2015</b>	91709.8	24.3	26.6	35.9	13.3
<b>2016</b>	92692.2	24.1	25.8	36.2	13.8
<b>2017</b>	93671.6	24,0	25,2	36,6	14,2
<b>2018</b>	94656.1	24,0	24,6	36,7	14,6

Source: General Statistics Office of Vietnam (Estimated to June 2018)

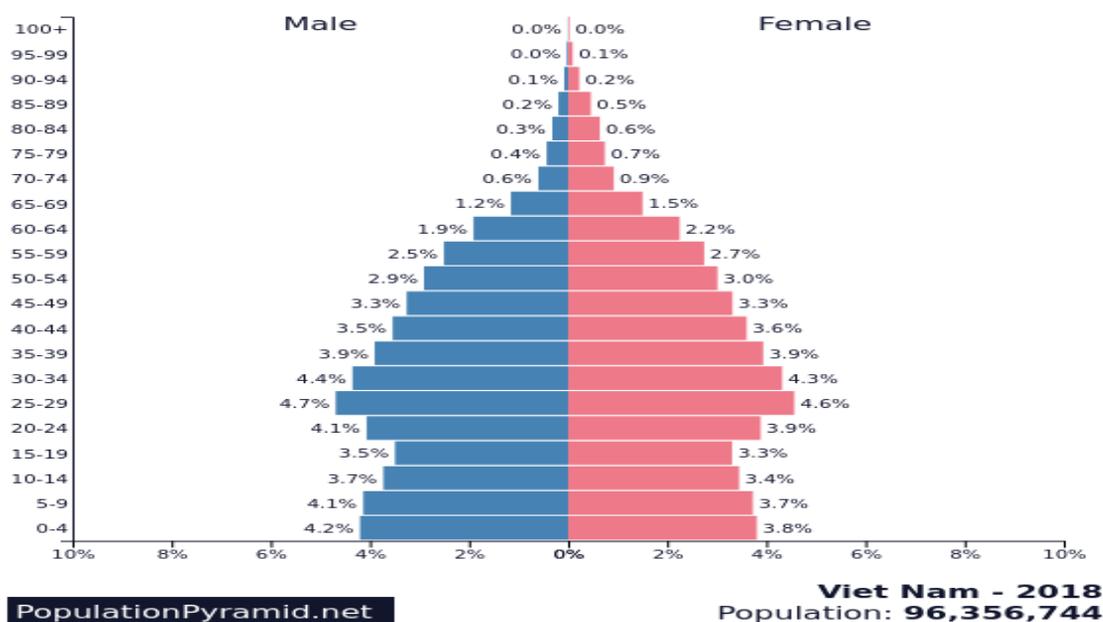
In the 2014 Vietnam population pyramid, the youth population group (15-29 years old) accounted for the highest proportion compared to all other age groups. Within the youth population, 25-29 year olds were the widest pyramid step, followed by 20-24 year olds and the smallest step was the 15-19-year-old group.

**Chart 1.1. Vietnam’s population pyramid by gender and age in 2014**



According to Vietnam’s population pyramid model in 2018, although the youth population group (aged 15-29) still accounted for the largest proportion compared to other population groups, some change can be seen in the intervening years. The late youth age group (aged 25-29) remains the widest pyramid step, however, the middle youth age group (aged 20-24) has narrowed and the first youth age group (aged 15-19) has significantly reduced.

**Chart 1.2. Vietnam’s population pyramid by gender and age in 2018**



Source: <https://www.populationpyramid.net/viet-nam/2018/>

### 1.1.2. Youth population structure by gender

In the period of 2015-2018, males made up a larger proportion of the youth population than females. The youth gender ratio disparity expanded over this time frame with the gap widening from 1.6% in 2015 to 2.0% in 2018.

**Table 1.3. Youth population structure by gender (2015-2018)**

Year	Male		Female		Total	
	Amount (person)	Percentage (%)	Amount (person)	Percentage (%)	Amount (person)	Percentage (%)
2015	12.362.810	50,8	11.986.416	49,2	24.349.226	100
2016	12.161.900	50,8	11.763.900	49,2	23.925.800	100
2017	12.040.200	50,9	11.610.800	49,1	23.651.000	100
2018	11.882.300	51,0	11.433.800	49,0	23.316.000	100

Source: General Statistics Office of Vietnam (2015-2018)

### 1.1.3. Youth population structure by age group

The older cohort, young people aged 16-30, represent the largest portion of the youth population and increased in proportion from 41.4% in 2015 to 45.0% in 2018. The proportion of young people aged 20-24 decreased from 35.6% in 2015 to 32.7% in 2018, while the youngest group, 16-19 year olds, also declined from 23.0% in 2015 to 22.3% in 2018.

**Table 1.4. Youth population structure by age group (2015 - 2018)**

Year	16 - 19		20 - 24		25 - 30	
	Amount (person)	Percentage (%)	Amount (person)	Percentage (%)	Amount (person)	Percentage (%)
2015	5.595.733	23,0	8.662.415	35,6	10.091.078	41,4
2016	5.357.100	22,4	8.311.200	34,7	10.257.500	42,9
2017	5.307.200	22,4	8.008.600	33,9	10.335.300	43,7
2018	5.195.900	22,3	7.631.500	32,7	10.488.600	45,0

Source: General Statistics Office of Vietnam, (2015-2018)

#### 1.1.4. Youth population structure by region

The proportion of the youth population living in rural areas is higher than in urban areas, however, the gap is narrowing. The percentage of young people in rural areas decreased between 2015 and 2018, while the proportion of young people in urban areas increased by 3.5%.

**Table 1.5. Youth population structure by region (2015 - 2018)**

Year	In the urban area		In the rural area		Total	
	Amount (person)	Percentage (%)	Amount (person)	Percentage (%)	Amount (person)	Percentage (%)
2015	8.249.296	33,9	16.099.930	66,1	24.349.226	100
2016	8.384.500	35,0	15.541.300	65,0	23.925.800	100
2017	8.744.700	37,0	14.906.400	63,0	23.651.000	100
2018	8.729.800	37,4	14.586.200	62,6	23.316.000	100

Source: General Statistics Office of Vietnam, (2015-2018)

#### 1.1.5. Youth migration

Statistics show that during the period 2015–2018, the majority of both internal and external migrants are young people. The proportion of young people migrating from rural to urban areas was much higher than that of young people migrating from urban to rural areas.

**Table 1.6. Migration situation of youth by gender (2015 - 2018)**

Year	Total of young people (thousand people)	Not moving (thousand people)	Moving in 12 months				
			Total (thousand people)	From urban to rural		From rural to urban	
				Amount (thousand people)	Percentage of young migrants	Amount (thousand people)	Percentage of young migrants

Year	Total of young people (thousand people)	Not moving (thousand people)	Moving in 12 months				
			Total (thousand people)	From urban to rural		From rural to urban	
				Amount (thousand people)	Percentage of young migrants	Amount (thousand people)	Percentage of young migrants
2015	24349.2	23270.4	1078.9	505.6	46.9	573.2	53,1
2016	23925.8	22982.0	943.8	447.0	47.4	496.8	52,6
2017	23651.0	22874.5	776.5	338.5	43.6	438.0	56,4
2018	23316.0	22529.0	787.1	346.0	44.0	441.1	56,0

Source: General Statistics Office of Vietnam (2015 - 2018)

Internal migration has contributed to Vietnam's socio-economic development through the movement of workers, including youth, to meet labor needs in industrial parks, export and processing zones and foreign direct investment (FDI) sectors. In the future, the proportion of youth migrating to cities is expected to increase.

#### 1.1.6. Marriage age of youth

The average age for marriage is later for male than female youth. Males in urban areas also tend to get married later than their rural counterparts. Across the board, the average age for marriage for both males and females increased slightly between 2015 and 2017.

**Table 1.7. Average age of first marriage by gender and region (2015 - 2017)**

Unit: Age

Year	Total	Average age by gender		Average age by location	
		Male	Female	Urban areas	Rural areas
2015	24,9	26,9	22,8	26,1	24,3
2016	25,1	27,2	23,0	26,4	24,5
2017	25,3	27,4	23,1	26,6	24,6

Source: General Statistics Office of Vietnam (2015 - 2017)

Across the country each region tells a slightly different story. Young people living in the provinces of the Northern Midlands and Mountains have the youngest marriage age in the country. By contrast, the Southeast region is the region with the latest marriage age in the country. These differences reflect differences in both the levels of economic development in each locality as well

as cultural differences. The Northern Midlands and Mountains has a high ethnic minority population, whilst the Southeast region incorporates the economic hub of Ho Chi Minh City. In localities with more developed economies and higher levels of education and urbanization, young people tend to focus on career development and a subsequent later marriage age compared to those with less developed economies and lower levels of urbanization.

**Table 1.8. Marriage age of youth by socio-economic regions and provinces/cities (2015 - 2017)**

*Unit: Age*

YEAR	2015	2016	2017
<b>IN THE COUNTRY</b>	<b>24,9</b>	<b>25,1</b>	<b>25,3</b>
Red River Delta	24,7	24,9	25,2
Northern Midlands and Mountains	22,6	22,6	22,7
North Central and Central Coast	25,0	24,7	24,9
Highlands	23,5	23,7	23,9
South East	25,8	25,9	26,2
Cuu Long River Delta	24,4	24,5	24,5

*Source: General Statistics Office of Vietnam (2015 - 2017)*

### *1.1.7. Changes in the youth population structure*

**Table 1.10. Age structure of Vietnam population in 2015 - 2050 according to the UN forecast (2008)**

Age group	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
<b>0-4</b>	7,66	7,26	6,9	6,39	5,99	5,75	5,63	5,54
<b>5-9</b>	7,64	7,3	6,95	6,66	6,22	5,87	5,68	5,59
<b>10-14</b>	7,84	7,28	6,98	6,71	6,48	6,10	5,79	5,64
<b>15-19</b>	8,25	7,45	6,95	6,73	6,52	6,34	6,01	5,74
<b>20-24</b>	9,59	7,83	7,10	6,68	6,52	6,36	6,24	5,95
<b>25-29</b>	8,74	9,09	7,46	6,82	6,47	6,37	6,26	6,17
<b>30-34</b>	7,35	8,28	8,66	7,16	6,61	6,32	6,26	6,19
<b>35-39</b>	7,33	6,96	7,88	8,32	6,94	6,45	6,21	6,19

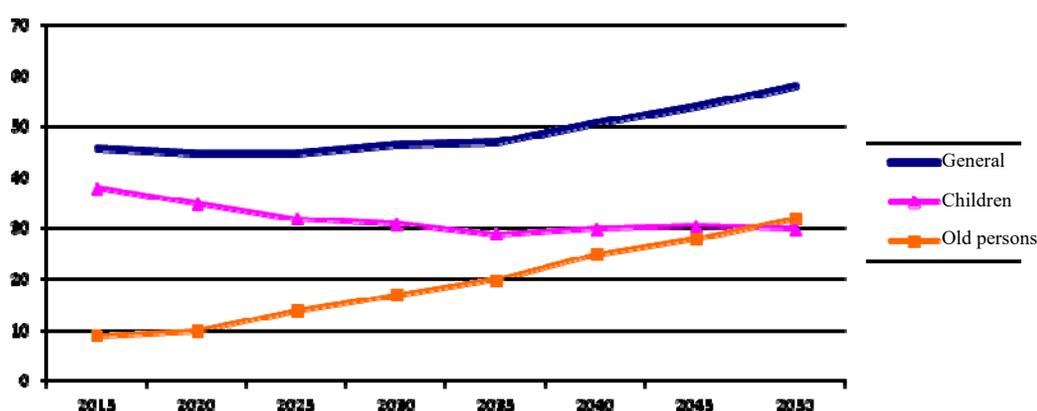
40-44	7,37	6,93	6,62	7,56	8,05	6,76	6,33	6,13
45-49	7,02	6,95	6,58	6,33	7,30	7,83	6,63	6,25
50-54	6,27	6,58	6,56	6,26	6,08	7,07	7,65	6,51
55-59	4,93	5,82	6,16	6,20	5,97	5,85	6,86	7,47
60-64	3,43	4,52	5,38	5,74	5,84	5,67	5,60	6,62
65-69	2,11	3,06	4,06	4,89	5,28	5,42	5,32	5,30
70-74	1,70	1,80	2,63	3,54	4,32	4,71	4,89	4,85
75-79	1,27	1,34	1,43	2,14	2,92	3,60	3,99	4,19
80+	1,51	1,58	1,68	1,85	2,50	3,51	4,67	5,69
<b>Total</b>	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: Calculation from the UN population forecast, 2008

### 1.1.8. Population dependency ratio of Vietnam

Following the UN calculation, Vietnam's population dependency ratio was 47.5% in 2015 and will increase to 50.8% in 2040. This means that in the next 20 years Vietnam will have an “aging” population. However, at the current time, Vietnam has a "golden" population opportunity. This “golden” opportunity begins when the child dependency ratio declines sharply and ends when the elderly dependency ratio increases sharply.

Figure 1.3. Forecast of population dependency ratio in Vietnam



Source: Calculation from the UN population forecast, 2008

## 1.2. Issues raised for the youth population policy

*First*, Vietnam is currently in a demographic transition period in which it can expect a strong fluctuation of the population structure by age, where the youth population tends to decrease and the general dependency ratio tends to increase. Currently, Vietnam is still in the “golden population” period but will enter the “aging” population period in the next 20 years. The projected population changes in general, and the youth population in particular, raise specific population policy issues, as well as, policy issues in all aspects of social life.

*Second*, internal migration is increasing the population concentration in a number of industrialized and urbanized areas and the majority of these internal migrants are youth. This changes the population structure within those regions, necessitating policy responses, from the region development planning to specific policies for each region.

*Third*, the fluctuation in the youth population within the general population structure requires a range of policy level responses. These policy responses will position Vietnam to meet the development needs of youth on the one hand, and to promote and harness youth resources for the positive socio-economic development of the nation on the other.

## **2. EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

Education and training is an important tool to build youth’s access to the modern world. Education not only creates opportunities for socio-economic development for the country, but also for the socio-economic development of the localities where youth live. In this section, the report considers challenges and concerns relating to educational levels and provision, as well as, the learning desires and aspiration of youth.

### **2.1. Situation of education and training for youth**

#### ***2.1.1. The general education level of youth***

Vietnam has seen very positive developments in terms of the attained education levels of youth. The number of youth with high school qualifications increased from 45.4% in 2015 to 46.2% in 2018. At the same time, the number of youth with only primary school attainment, or with no formal education, has

decreased. However, education inequity persists with youth in urban areas achieving higher education levels than youth in rural areas.

**Table 2.1. General education level of youth in the period of 2015 – 2018**  
(unit: %)

Year	Not going to school yet			Not graduated from primary school			Graduated from primary school			Graduated from secondary school			Graduated from high school		
	Total	In the urban area	In the rural area	Total	In the urban area	In the rural area	Total	In the urban area	In the rural area	Total	In the urban area	In the rural area	Total	In the urban area	In the rural area
2015	1.9	0.9	2.4	3.9	2.3	4.9	14.7	10.0	17.3	34.0	26.2	38.2	45.4	60.7	37.2
2016	1.7	0.8	2.2	3.4	2.0	4.1	13.9	9.2	16.5	34.5	26.2	39.1	46.4	61.7	38.0
2017	1.9	1.0	2.4	3.4	2.0	4.1	13.8	9.4	16.3	35.5	27.7	39.7	45.4	60.0	37.5
2018	1.9	1.4	2.3	3.4	2.1	4.1	13.6	8.8	16.4	34.9	29.0	38.2	46.2	58.8	39.0

Source: General Statistics Office of Vietnam (2015 - 2018)

A detailed review of the number of students attending general education shows that the number of students at all educational levels, from primary to secondary and high school, increased in the period of 2015-2018. Of significant interest, as detailed in the tables below, there has been an increase in the number of female students and ethnic minority students, as well as, students with disabilities receiving an education. In addition to these increases, there has been a decrease in the number of students who repeat their grade.

**Table 2.2. Figures on primary school students in the period of 2015 – 2018**

Number of students	School year 2015-2016			School year 2016-2017			School year 2017-2018		
	Total	Divided into		Total	Divided into		Total	Divided into	
		Public	Non-public		Public	Non-public		Public	Non-public
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,790,009</b>	7,732,994	57,015	<b>7,801,560</b>	7,733,318	68,242	<b>8,041,842</b>	7,882,145	159,697
In which:									
- Female	<b>3,735,231</b>	3,709,244	25,987	<b>3,733,347</b>	3,702,699	30,648	<b>3,847,511</b>	3,773,127	74,384
- Ethnic group	<b>1,354,009</b>	1,351,221	2,788	<b>1,381,917</b>	1,378,670	3,247	<b>1,416,710</b>	1,355,769	60,941
- Disabilities				<b>48,562</b>	48,358	204	<b>52,244</b>	51,537	707
- New enrollment	<b>1,918,766</b>	1,900,665	18,101	<b>1,632,207</b>	1,612,347	19,860	<b>1,865,416</b>	1,819,189	46,227
- Repetition	<b>64,369</b>	64,335	34	<b>63,045</b>	62,736	309			

Source: Ministry of Education and Training (2015 - 2018)

**Table 2.3. Figures on secondary school students in the period of 2015 – 2018**

Number of students	School year 2015-2016			School year 2016-2017			School year 2017-2018		
	Total	Divided into		Total	Divided into		Total	Divided into	
		Public	Non-public		Public	Non-public		Public	Non-public
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,138,646</b>	5,094,220	44,426	<b>5,235,524</b>	5,178,829	56,695	<b>5,373,312</b>	5,312,715	60,597
In which:									
- Female	<b>2,506,551</b>	2,487,700	18,851	<b>2,552,436</b>	2,528,662	23,774	<b>2,617,043</b>	2,591,597	25,446
- Ethnic group	<b>834,429</b>	832,637	1,792	<b>853,573</b>	851,264	2,309	<b>875,977</b>	873,413	2,564
- New enrollment	<b>1,529,591</b>	1,513,234	16,357	<b>1,523,251</b>	1,502,487	20,764	<b>1,546,836</b>	1,525,192	21,644
- Repetition	<b>42,698</b>	42,350	348	<b>38,791</b>	38,655	136			

Source: Ministry of Education and Training (2015 - 2018)

**Table 2.4. Figures on high school students in the period of 2015 – 2018**

Number of students	School year 2015 - 2016			School year 2016 - 2017			School year 2017 - 2018		
	Total	Divided into		Total	Divided into		Total	Divided into	
		Public	Non-public		Public	Non-public		Public	Non-public
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,425,130</b>	<b>2,250,972</b>	<b>174,158</b>	<b>2,477,175</b>	<b>2,290,929</b>	<b>186,246</b>	<b>2,508,564</b>	2,313,315	195,249
In which:									
- Female	<b>1,298,292</b>	1,231,195	67,097	<b>1,332,651</b>	1,260,334	72,317	<b>1,344,453</b>	1,267,197	77,256
- Ethnic group	<b>299,394</b>	294,777	4,617	<b>301,502</b>	296,884	4,618	<b>306,091</b>	301,544	4,547
- Disabilities				<b>1,603</b>	1,578	25	<b>2,887</b>	2,865	22
- New enrollment	<b>984,955</b>	908,019	76,936	<b>928,444</b>	862,457	65,987	<b>912,704</b>	840,185	72,519
- Repetition	<b>19,281</b>	18,845	436	<b>15,614</b>	15,152	462			

Source: Ministry of Education and Training (2015 - 2018)

### **2.1.2. Upper high school education level of youth (Professional Technical Secondary Schools, college, university, postgraduate)**

The proportion of youth with professional technical secondary education level decreased from 4.21% in 2015 to 3.62% in 2018. The proportion of youth with higher education levels increased sharply from 4.39% of students with college level education in 2015 to 5.32% in 2018, and 8.77% of students with university level education in 2015 increasing to 9.35% in 2018.

**Table 2.5. Upper high school education level of youth in the period of 2015-2018 (unit: %)**

Year	Professional Technical Secondary School			Colleges			Universities and above		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
2015	4.21	3.15	5.30	4.39	3.17	5.63	8.77	7.34	10.23
2016	4.12	3.12	5.13	4.85	3.68	6.04	9.22	7.65	10.82
2017	3.63	2.59	4.72	4.65	3.43	5.92	9.18	7.31	11.13
2018	3.62	2.60	4.70	5.32	3.72	7.02	9.35	7.44	11.38

*Source: General Statistics Office of Vietnam (2015 - 2018)*

The number of youth attending and graduating from university decreased slightly in the academic year 2016-2017 compared to the previous academic year. Yet, at the same time, the number of youth with postgraduate qualifications increased. This increase suggests that there is demand for learning to improve qualifications amongst youth.

**Table 2.6. Statistics on graduate and postgraduate education in the period of 2015 – 2018**

Level	Year 2015 - 2016	Year 2016 - 2017	Year 2017 - 2018
<b>Scale of university students</b>	<b>1.753.174</b>	<b>1.767.879</b>	<b>1.707.025</b>
Students of public universities	1.520.807	1.523.904	1.439.495
Students of non-public universities	232.367	243.975	267.530
<b>Total number of university graduates</b>	<b>352.789</b>	<b>306.179</b>	<b>320.578</b>
Public graduate students	307.760	268.947	281.965
Non-public graduate students	45.029	37.232	38.613
<b>Divide by training system</b>	<b>1.753.174</b>	<b>1.767.879</b>	<b>1.707.025</b>
Full-time	1.370.619	1.402.683	1.420.509
Part-time	295.261	283.589	221.774
Distance learning	87.294	81.607	64.742
<b>Scale of PhDs and masters (people)</b>		<b>119.388</b>	<b>121.253</b>
Postgraduate of PhDs and masters (research students)		13.587	14.686
Postgraduate		105.801	106.567
<b>Total number of graduates with doctorate or master's degree (person)</b>		<b>35.918</b>	<b>38.021</b>

Level	Year 2015 - 2016	Year 2016 - 2017	Year 2017 - 2018
PhDs		1.234	1.545
Masters		34.684	36.476

*Note: In the total number of universities and institutes, not inclusive of Security and Defense schools*

*Source: Finance and Planning Department, Ministry of Education and Training, 2018*

In the academic year 2017-2018, according to Ministry of Education and Training statistics (2018), the country had more than 2.2 million tertiary level students, including 1,707,025 undergraduate students.

Comparing the 2016-2017 academic year to 2017-2018, the number of undergraduate students decreased among students of part-time and distance studying courses. Specifically, at the undergraduate level, the number of students decreased from 1,767,879 people to 1,707,025 people. However, the number of full-time students increased from 1,402,683 to 1,420,509. The number of undergraduate students of part time decreased, 283,589 people vs 221,774 people, and the number of distance studying students also decreased from 81,607 people to 64,742 people.

The number of students at master and doctoral levels in the academic year 2017-2018 increased compared to the previous academic year. At the doctorate level there were 13,587 compared to 14,868 candidates and at the master level 105,801 compared to 106,567.

## **2.2. Youth opinions on education and training policies**

### ***2.1.1. Access to policies that support youth in education***

According to the results of the youth development survey conducted by the Youth Union Central Committee in 2017, youth indicated that they were generally satisfied with youth education policies. Most policies were rated over 50% which indicated satisfaction with the prevailing approach.

**Table 2.7. Evaluate the implementation of education and training policies for youth**

Policy	Good	Not good	Difficult to evaluate
1. Policy for student loans to study	66.7	16.7	16.6
2. Policy for training master and PhD abroad	26.7	38.7	34.6
3. Policy to add priority points for admission to university and college	52.7	23.3	24.0
4. Admission policy to universities and colleges	51.3	41.3	7.3
5. Policy to develop boarding schools for ethnic minorities	36.0	53.3	10.7
6. Policy for building dormitories for students	36.0	49.3	14.7
7. Policy to support poor students in extremely difficult areas	56.7	28.7	14.7
8. Policy to encourage youth to do scientific research	36.7	56.7	6.6
9. Tuition exemption and reduction policy	54.0	32.7	13.3
10. Scholarship policy	52.7	42.7	4.7

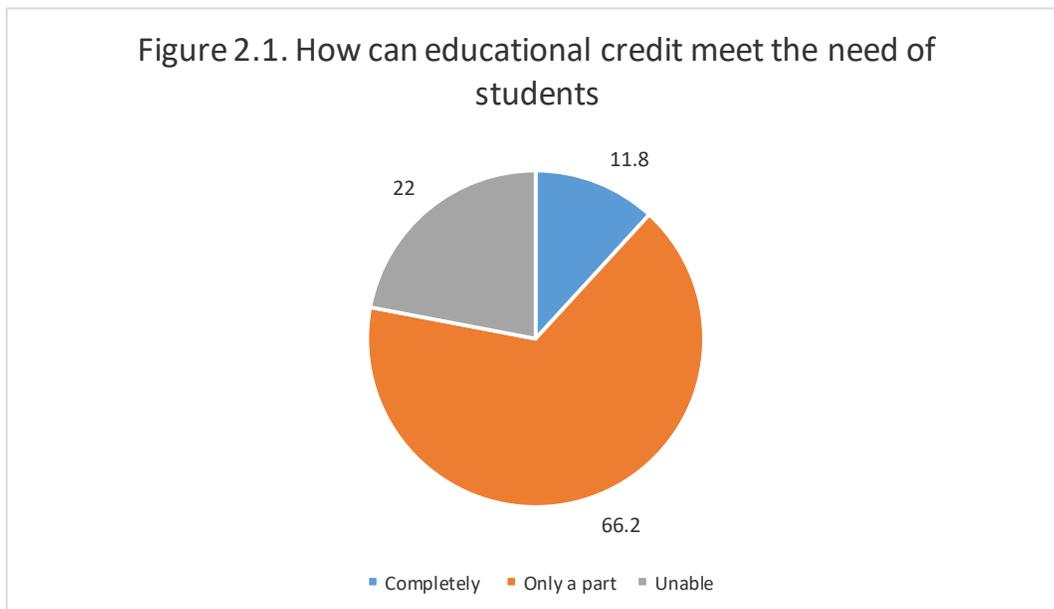
*Source: From DT.KXĐT N 17-02 topic in 2017*

A number of challenges were identified by youth and students, particularly in relation to accessing support for students to continue learning. The key challenges were: that students do not have adequate access to information about supporting policies (59.1%) and that the conditions and procedures to access policies are still cumbersome (44.3%). Students also reported that the system of documents guiding the implementation of policies is unclear (36.0%). It is noteworthy that the Student Union staff are in a position to support and help students understand and access the benefits of relevant policies but even they do not have a clear and deep understanding of the policies, therefore, their support to students was limited (34.4%). In addition, students also said that many of the current study support policies are targeted to specific groups (44.3%) rather than being universally available, which has led to a mismatch between the need and desire of students for academic support and the support which exists in reality (Vietnam Student Association Central Committee, 2018).

Students reported significant challenges with the current credit policies to support youth in learning. The majority of youth assessed the loan limits and the repayment periods of student loans as too limited. A significant number of youth, 88.2%, reported that the current loan limit (VND 1.5 million/month for disadvantaged students) does not fully meet the needs of students, 66.2%

believed the study loan meet only a part of their need, and 22.0% asked student said the loan did not meet their need) (Youth Research Institute, 2018).

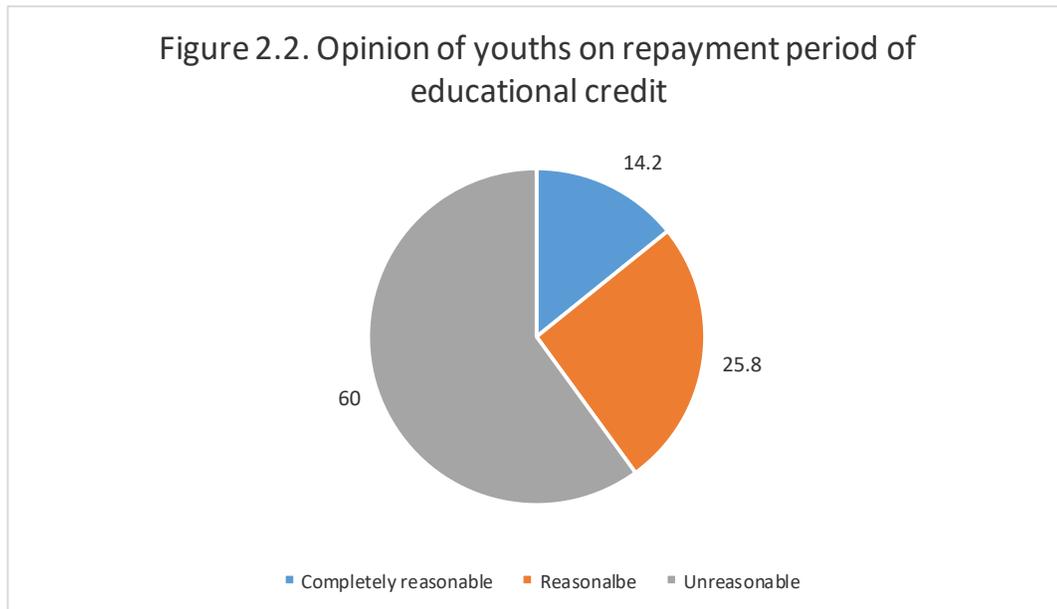
**Chart 2.1. Opinions of youth on student credit ratio (%)**



*Source: Youth Research Institute, 2018*

In addition, 60.0% of youth asked said that the repayment period for student loans under current regulations is unreasonable, as students often find it difficult to find a job immediately upon graduation and the starting salary is not adequate to pay the bank.

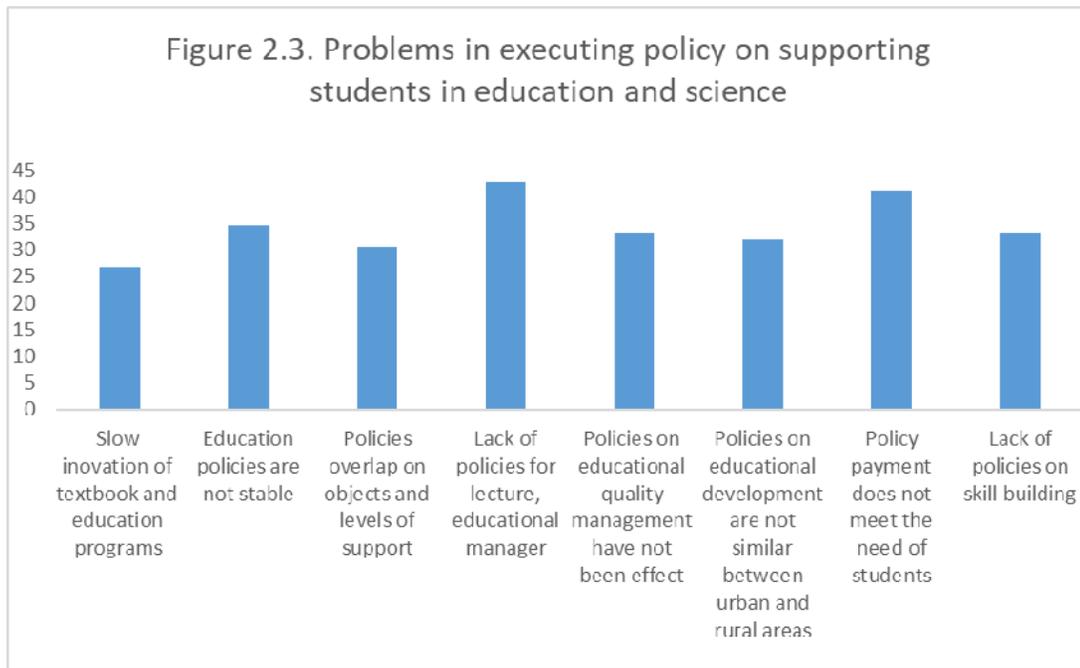
## Chart 2.2. Opinions of youth on repayment period for student loans (%)



*Source: Youth Research Institute, 2018*

In responding to questions about the implementation of learning and scientific research support, students noted a range of difficulties and limitations, including: a lack of policies to attract and retain managers and lecturers (42.7%); financial support level is still low (41.3%); and that policies are inconsistent and/or often changing (34.7%)

## Chart 2.3. Limitations in the implementation of policies to youth in learning and scientific research (%)



*Source: Youth Research Institute, 2018*

### ***2.2.2. Youth's desires and aspirations in learning***

The survey highlighted a major area of concern for students and a mismatch between student aspirations for their educational outcomes and the actual provisions offered by education and training programs. A significant 81.3% of respondents felt that the state needs to focus on improving the content and design of education programs to adequately and practically prepare students for future employment. In addition, two-thirds of surveyed youth indicated that the state needs to do more to provide appropriate vocational training and skills for young workers to equip them with transferrable skills and knowledge, particularly those who transition out of jobs in industrial parks or export processing zones. Two thirds of surveyed students also indicated an expectation that the state should have policies supporting students to find decent jobs after graduation. More than half of students who were nominated by local authority for study without examination expected that the state should pay attention in supporting their jobs after graduation

**Table 2.8. Youth opinions on education and training issues that the state needs to address through policy development (%)**

Issues	Do not need to care	Do not need to care yet	Need to have policies
1. College and university graduates cannot find jobs according to their major	1.5	17.2	<b>81.3</b>
2. Students who were nominated by local authorities without examination struggle to find work in their locality	6.8	41.5	51.7
3. Youth lack transferrable professional knowledge and skills to enable job mobility after ceasing work in industrial parks or export processing zones	4.0	30.0	66.0

*Source: Youth Research Institute, 2018*

A majority of students indicated that increasing the credit limit and extending the repayment period for student loans for disadvantaged students is an area which needs to be addressed to better support student learning. In addition, more than 60% of respondents indicated that career guidance and advice needs to be strengthened. There was no significant difference between the different social groups in the responses to these survey questions.

**Table 2.9. Youth's expectations for supporting policies in education and training (%)**

Policies	General	Youth groups			Officer, official
		Worker	Student	Farmer	
1. Increasing the credit limit for disadvantaged students	<b>61.4</b>	<b>72.0</b>	48.0	55.0	<b>70.7</b>
2. Extending the loan repayment for disadvantaged students	<b>60.2</b>	58.3	<b>65.7</b>	<b>57.3</b>	51.3
3. Division of students from secondary school by their preferred future plan	29.1	30.0	29.0	22.3	35.0
4. Creating conditions for children of migrants to study in public schools	47.6	50.0	41.0	54.3	45.0
5. Increasing career guidance for students	<b>61.1</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>67.3</b>	<b>56.3</b>	<b>60.7</b>
6. Having policies to flow division of students by their preferred future plan and support youth in vocational training according to social needs	45.7	49.0	49.7	40.3	43.7

*Source: Youth Research Institute, 2018*

### **2.3. Issues raised for youth education and training policies**

*First*, the data shows that Vietnam continues on a path of increasing education levels for youth. However, there remains an imbalance between higher education and vocational education in terms of both quality and quantity. This has resulted in a situation where the university education level people exceed the need while there is lack of appropriately skilled workers to meet market place needs. At the same time, the education system is generally heavy in theory and academia and less focused on equipping students to meet the practical requirements of their future work. The system makes it difficult to maximize the initiative, positivity and creativity of learners. As a result, many young graduates are not able to immediately meet the requirements of the job, leading to difficulties in finding a job, or having to do a job that is not suitable to their trained profession.

*Second*, there are still significant disparities in education between urban and rural areas in terms of the diversity and richness of the education offered, as well as, learning conditions. This disparity has a direct impact on the ability of rural youth to access education, as well as, contributing to labor market imbalance.

*Third*, the financial education support policies are lacking. Financial support is not comprehensive or broadly accessible, students report that conditions and procedures are cumbersome and that the support limits are low, while the repayment period is too short. Student financial support policies are unstable and have been slow to catch up with the development of the economy. These issues inhibit access to education among youth.

## **3. LABOR - EMPLOYMENT**

### **3.1. Status of labor, employment of young people**

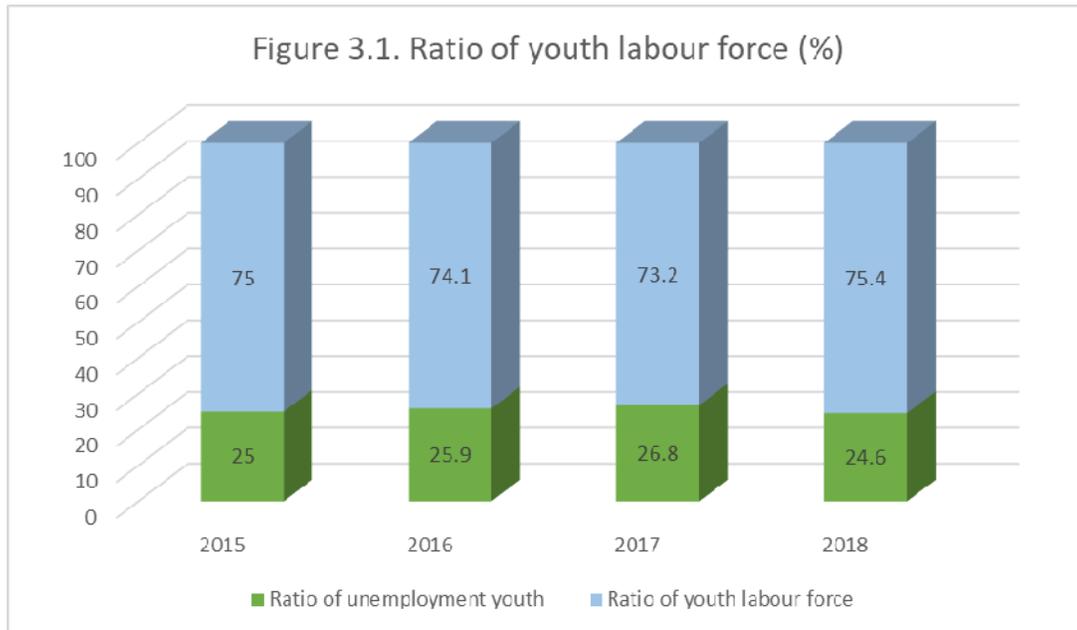
#### ***3.1.1. Structure of young labor force***

As of 2018, a high proportion, 75.4%, of the youth population was in the labor force, whilst 24.6% of the youth population was not participating in the labor force (General Statistics Office (GSO), 2018).

The rate of young people participating in labor in rural areas remains higher than that of young people in urban areas. Young men have a higher labor participation rate than young women, with a difference of 5.6% in 2018 (GSO, 2018).

The trend towards an aging population in Vietnam can be seen when considering the employment structure by age groups. The number of older workers in the economy today is equal to the number of employees aged 15 to 24.

**Chart 3.1. Young labor structure (%)**



*Source: GSO, (2015-2018)*

### ***3.1.2. Professional and technical qualifications of young workers***

Whilst the professional and technical qualifications of young Vietnamese workers are improving, research shows that the proportion of young people with technical and professional qualifications in the country is still low and fails to meet the market demand for labor and integration. Among the labor force with degrees and certificates, more than 50% have degrees from college and university or higher, while the number of intermediate level vocational certificates accounts for only 5.42% and short-term vocational certificates accounts for 5.6% of the total labor force.

Although there have been many improvements in terms of formalizing the market and improving labor market policies, the Vietnamese labor market still had a relatively large number of informal workers, over 18 million, in the second quarter of 2017. Of particular interest, up to 60% of young people aged 15 to 24 are working in informal jobs (Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs, 2017).

### 3.1.3. Unemployment, underemployment of young people

The youth unemployment rate increased from 4.57% in 2015 to 5.09% in 2018. However, the unemployment experience is different in rural and urban areas. The unemployment rate among young people in urban areas has increased while youth unemployment in rural areas decreased. At the same time, the youth underemployment rate decreased.

**Table 3.1. Employment status of young people in the period 2015 – 2018**

Year	Total			In the urban area			In the rural area		
	Employment rate		Unemployment rate (%)	Employment rate		Unemployment rate (%)	Employment rate		Unemployment rate (%)
	The rate of having enough jobs (%)	The rate of lack of jobs (%)		The rate of having enough jobs (%)	The rate of lack of jobs (%)		The rate of having enough jobs (%)	The rate of lack of jobs (%)	
2015	97.29	2.71	4.57	98.72	1.28	7.53	96.66	3.34	3.28
2016	97.75	2.25	4.13	99.02	0.98	6.13	97.17	2.83	3.18
2017	97.56	2.44	5.23	98.72	1.28	7.46	97.04	2.96	4.18
2018	97.69	2.31	5.09	99.01	0.99	6.87	97.09	2.91	4.26

Source: GSO, (2015-2018)

**Table 3.2. Employment status of young people by sex in the period (2015-2018) (%)**

Year	Total			Male			Female		
	Employment rate		Unemployment rate (%)	Employment rate		Unemployment rate (%)	Employment rate		Unemployment rate (%)
	The rate of having enough jobs (%)	The rate of lack of jobs (%)		The rate of having enough jobs (%)	The rate of lack of jobs (%)		The rate of having enough jobs (%)	The rate of lack of jobs (%)	
2015	97.29	2.71	4.57	96.90	3.10	4.46	97.72	2.28	4.69
2016	97.75	2.25	4.13	97.71	2.29	3.62	97.80	2.20	4.68
2017	97.56	2.44	5.23	97.43	2.57	5.37	97.72	2.28	5.08
2018	97.69	2.31	5.09	97.47	2.53	4.54	97.94	2.06	5.72

*Source: GSO, (2015-2018)*

A breakdown of employment numbers by gender shows some interesting trends. Whilst young men are more likely to be underemployed than young women, young women have a higher unemployment rate than young men.

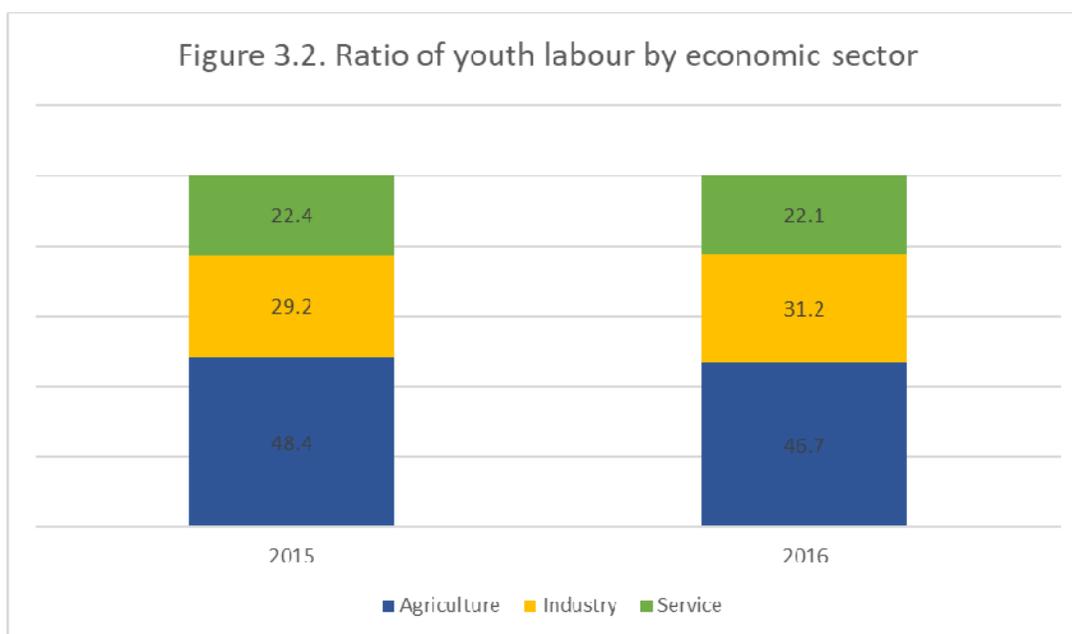
In terms of employment structure, 35.5% of young people work in agriculture, 33.6% of young people work in industry and construction and 30.9% of young people work in the service sector (the overall structure of the country is 41.54% agriculture, 25.05% industry and construction and 33.41% service sector). However, in rural areas, up to 47.2% of young people still work in agriculture with low productivity, income and employment conditions.

The quality of employment conditions of young workers is a matter of concern. In 2017, 58.6% of young workers worked in paid employment, but nearly half of them did not have a written contract. In addition, 41.4% of young people have vulnerable employment, such as self-employment or unpaid family labor. In rural areas the rate is higher at 50.8%. Ethnic minority youth and young people with disabilities face significant employment challenges. In 2018, the unemployment rate for ethnic minority youth was 5.76%, 2.5 times higher than the national unemployment rate of 2.34%.

#### ***3.1.4. Further issues related to the labor and employment situation of young people***

- *Labor mobility between economic sectors:* Young people are increasingly moving from the agriculture sector to the industrial sector. This trend is in line with broader economic restructuring in recent years.

#### **Chart 3.2. Ratio of youth labor by economic sector (%)**



*Source: GSO, (2015-2016)*

- *Youth migration:* Statistics show that young people are a large proportion of the total migrant population. In 2015, the proportion of young people aged 15 to 29 years who migrated between regions accounted for 63.2% of the total number of migrants aged 15 to 59 years (Statistical Yearbook, 2015, p. 4). In 2017, young migrants aged 15-29 account for 41.1% of the total migrants aged 15-59 years old, showing a decline compared to 2015. In terms of youth migration between urban and rural areas during 2015-2017, the proportion of young people who migrated from urban to rural areas decreased while the proportion of young people who migrated from rural areas to urban areas showed an upward trend.

- *Young laborers as overseas migrants:* Every year, Vietnam sends 100-120,000 workers to work abroad under contracts. Of this number, 70% are young laborers aged 18-30 years old<sup>1</sup>.

- *Job creation for youth after completion of military or police service:* The Ministry of Labor, War Invalids and Social Affairs reports that 100% of demobilized soldiers who are in need of vocational training are granted vocational training cards, enabling them to participate in vocational training.

<sup>1</sup><http://vneconomy.vn/thoi-su/thanh-nien-chiem-hai-phan-ba-so-nguoi-that-nghiep-20170415085233868.htm>

This scheme has supported tens of thousands of demobilized soldiers and police to undertake new employment<sup>2</sup>.

### **3.2. Issues raised for labor - employment policies for young people**

#### ***3.2.1. Job counseling and guidance for young people policies***

In accordance with the 2013 Employment Law and its implementing guidelines, young people are entitled to free employment counseling and guidance. To deliver this a series of Centers have been constructed and a job portal created to service the labor force, including youth. The job portal connects 63 websites from each province's employment service centers at the Vietnam job portal. The system of employment service centers<sup>3</sup> includes 4 centers in the Midland and Northern mountainous region; 37 centers in the Red River Delta; 30 centers in the North Central and Central Coast regions; 5 centers in the Central Highlands region; 14 centers in the Southeast region and 21 centers in the Mekong Delta.

Although the system of counseling and job introduction has been established by Youth Union network throughout the country, traditional forms of job-seeking continue, with some young people looking for job information from family and acquaintances. An ILO and General Statistics Office study found that about 40% of employed youth find their jobs due to recommendations from friends and family. The study found that the higher the level of education/training that an individual has,<sup>4</sup> the greater their ability to use employment services. In addition, the Ministry of Labor, War Invalids and Social Affairs (2018) acknowledges that aspects of job counseling and guidance for workers in general and young people in particular still have a number of limitations. The limitations include, a limited connection between labor demand and supply, organizational challenges at the employment service centers and insufficient and fragmented labor market information. In addition, the coordination and exchange of information in the management of people [DC3]working overseas among local agencies are not clear and timely.

#### ***3.2.2. Policies to support young entrepreneurship***

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<sup>2</sup><http://vneconomy.vn/thoi-su/thanh-nien-chiem-hai-phan-ba-so-nguoi-that-nghiep-20170415085233868.htm>

<sup>3</sup> Decision No. 1833/QĐ-TTg approving the planning on the network of employment service centers in the 2016-2025 period.

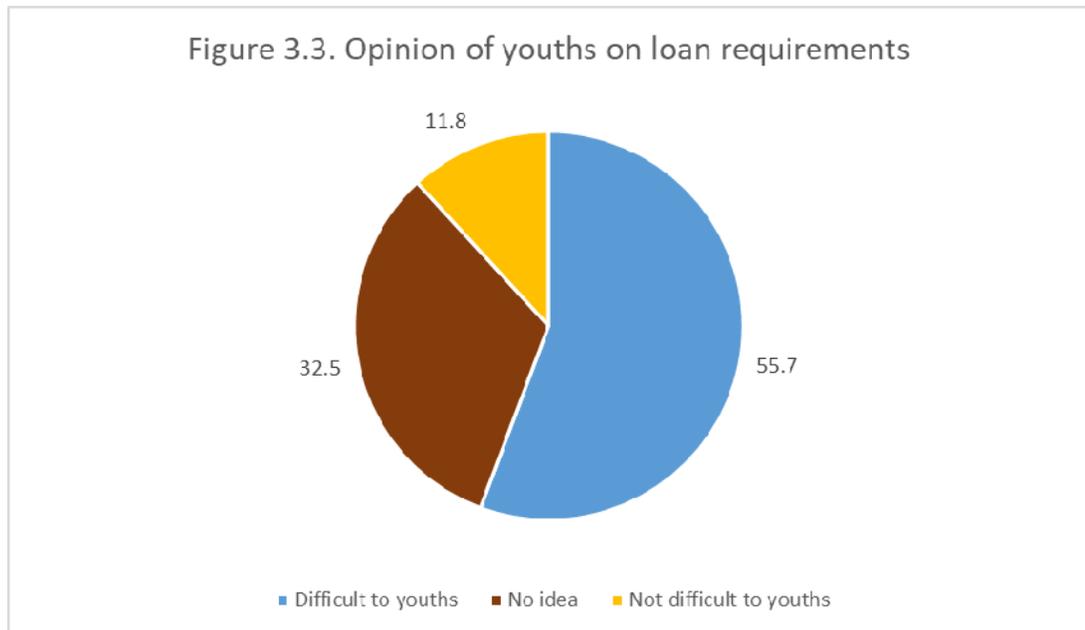
<sup>4</sup><http://www.molisa.gov.vn/Pages/tintuc/chitiet.aspx?TinTucID=29652&page=17>

At the 2017 Young Entrepreneurship Forum, Vietnam was awarded the top position in the Startup Spirit Index for entrepreneurship and second for positive attitude for starting a business. The results were drawn from a survey conducted in 45 countries with 50,861 participants from the age of 14 or older sponsored by Technische Universität München University and GfK market research company. This activity supports the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union's Youth Entrepreneurs Project for the period of 2019-2022. The state supports this positive attitude towards starting a business by giving unsecured loans to banks through the Social Policy Bank to provide startup capital to young people.

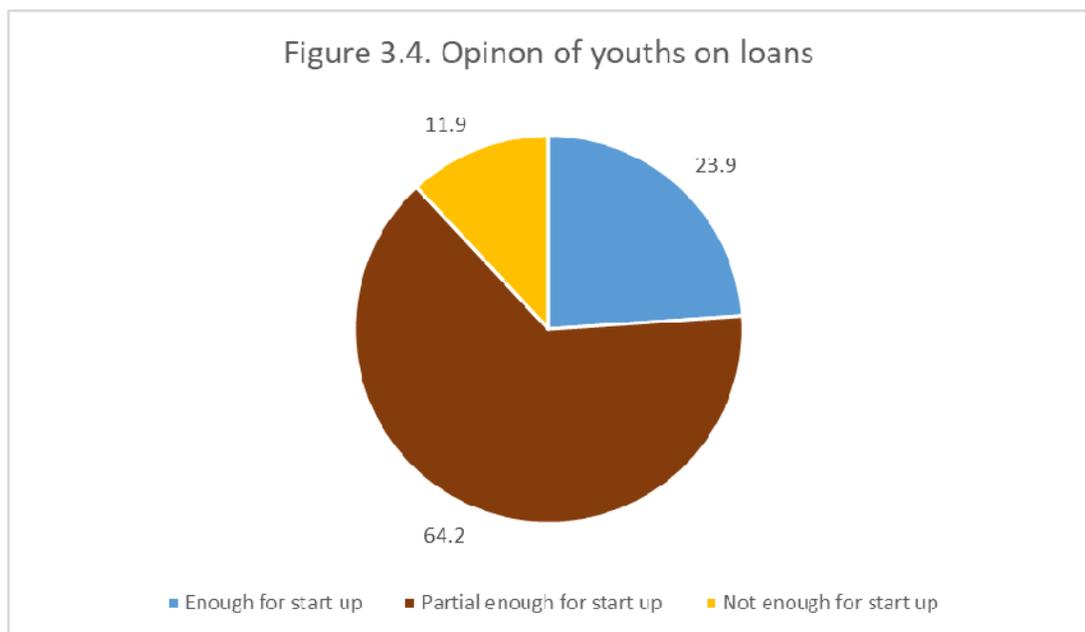
However, the startup process still faces difficulties in relation to starting capital, as well as, legal issues related to business activities. According to the 2018 Ministry of Justice Report, in terms of administrative procedures, there are currently 5,719 business conditions, belonging to 243 industries regulated by the Investment Law. In particular, many regulations and business conditions across a number of industries are not appropriate to a modern economy and are a barrier for startups (Report at the Workshop "Legal barriers to start-up activities in Vietnam").

At present, there are requirements related to loan conditions and loan levels. Specifically, the mortgage loan file must include a description of the business project, a business registration certificate and the loan amount must be less than VND 50 million. According to a survey of the Youth Research Institute in 2018, more than half of the youth surveyed assessed that the current loan conditions were making it difficult for young people to access loans (Chart 3.3). Nearly two thirds of the youth surveyed said that the current loan to support their start-up business met only meets part of the capital needs. (Chart 3.4).

### Chart 3.3. Opinion of youths on loan requirements



### Chart 3.4. Opinion of youths on loans



Young migrants face a range of challenges in accessing social services across a whole range of policy areas including, education, health care, labor market support and job creation. Specifically, young migrants face challenges in relation to:

- Housing; most migrants do not have access to the social housing development policies of the province, and mainly stay in boarding rooms, dormitories and overcrowded accommodation areas (Statistical Yearbook, 2015, p 2).

- Essential services; although the government has a policy to ensure stable electricity and water service prices, the majority of migrants have difficulty accessing and using electricity and water. According to OXFAM research (Report on legal and practical barriers for migrant workers in accessing social security, 2015, p. 35), more than two thirds of migrants are charged excessive water and electricity rates, paying 3 times more for water and 2 times more for electricity than people with local household registration.

- Income disparity; the average monthly income of migrants in general, including young people, is lower than that of non-migrants (VND 5.0 million compared to VND 5.4 million) General Statistics Office, 2015, p 7). This places migrants in the position of being lower paid but incurring higher costs to access basic services. This precarious position means that, with some exceptions in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, migrants have lower savings and are more vulnerable to shocks than other segments of the population. (Statistical Yearbook, 2015, p. 7).

- Employment status; the unemployment rate of young migrants is nearly five times higher than that of non-migrant youth, especially in the 15-24 year old age group. When they are employed, young migrants often hold unstable and precarious jobs especially in the informal sector. The instability of employment of migrants is also quite high (59%), concentrated in the group of workers who work as street vendors (58.3%), construction workers (51.5%), informal workers in garment industry (39.3%) (Statistical Yearbook, 2015, p. 88).

- Household/residency registration; the majority of migrants, up to 86.5%, who arrived at a new place of residence registered themselves with the local authorities. However, only 37.4% of the them were able to register for KT1 permanent residence. The majority of migrants, and young migrants in particular, only hold temporary KT2, KT3 or KT4 residence status (Statistical Yearbook, 2015, p. 88). The absence of permanent resident registration makes it difficult for migrants to access public policies and social services.

- Social policies; migrants in general, and young migrants in particular, have difficulty accessing loan programs for poverty reduction, loans for buying social housing, loans for job creation or start-ups, due to borrowing procedures which require borrowers to have a local household registration to ensure capital recovery in the event of loan default.

- Social services; migrants, including young migrants, face significant difficulties in accessing social services such as education (only 7.7% of migrant children can go to public school and 12% attend public preschools) and healthcare (23.5% of migrants, mainly those working in the informal sector, don't have health insurance) (Report on legal and practical barriers for migrant workers in accessing social security, 2015, p 35).

- According to the results of the General Statistics Office's migration study in 2015, only about two thirds of migrants have health insurance cards, most of whom are migrant workers working in the formal sector. Although the majority of migrants (over 70%) go to public health facilities when they are sick, even with health insurance, up to 63% have to pay for their treatment themselves (Statistical Yearbook, 2015, p. 7).

- Migrant worker access to social insurance depends upon whether they are working in the formal or informal sectors.. Whilst 97.8% of the migrant workers working in the formal sector have social insurance, 99% of the migrant workers working in the informal sector do not have social insurance (Report of legal and practical barriers for migrant workers in accessing social security, 2015, p 35).

- Migrant workers lack access to information. OXFAM research in 2016 shows that only 14.3% of migrant workers in the garment and electronics sectors surveyed know about collective labor agreements; 27.7% know about the dialogues with workers; 29.3% know about welfare funds and 36.4% of migrant workers in the formal sector and 87.3% in the informal sector do not know where advice on Labor Law and Social Insurance could be provided (Report of legal and practical barriers for migrant workers in accessing social security, 2015, p 35).

#### ***3.2.4. Employment support policies for ethnic minority young people and people with disabilities***

In order to support and encourage ethnic minority youths to develop their economy and create jobs, Vietnam has implemented many policies including

preferential loans for economic development, support for vocational training, support for sending workers to work abroad, support for land, means of production and other measures. However, policies are often offer only short-term support, rather than investment and development to exploit strengths in ethnic minority and mountainous areas. The policy approach to support ethnic minority youth tends to have a short-term project-based focus, such as on construction and repair of houses, infrastructure construction, but does not have a long-term sustainable 'stabilization' focus on, for example, supporting agricultural expansion or educating the population on market information. A policy to pay ethnic minorities for the protection and development of forests initially created certain changes in income and life opportunities, but has not yet fully exploited land and forest resources or lead to adequate benefits from forestry livelihoods. The National Survey on People with Disabilities in Vietnam found that whilst people with disabilities are participating in the labor market, only 15.02% of people with disabilities aged between 15 and 17 years and 46.3% aged 18 to 40 years old participate in the labor market (Statistical Yearbook, 2016, p. 91). Up to 80% of people with disabilities live in rural areas, often have low educational levels and lack of information on jobs. People with disabilities face discrimination and are often not encouraged to engage in the workforce. In addition, teachers are not trained in appropriate ways to engage with students with disabilities, meaning that their education level is often low.

## **4. HEALTH**

### **4.1. Health status of young people**

#### ***4.1.1. Height, weight of the youth***

Successive health and population surveys show that Vietnam has made remarkable achievements in the field of basic health care, such as, reducing stunting, reducing malnutrition, improving maternal and child health, raising life expectancy and delivering successful public health initiatives. The malnutrition rate in Vietnam has improved significantly. In 2017, 24.3% were of children were stunted and 13.4% were underweight (compared to 59% and 52% in 1985). However, along with the economic and social development, new health risks are emerging which are leading to increases in non-contagious chronic diseases, including some lifestyle diseases (diabetes, obesity, heart disease, cancer,

osteoporosis). Data published at the International Conference on Vietnamese Nutrition held in Hanoi in December 2018, shows that while stunting and malnutrition is improving in Vietnam and that Vietnamese are on average 4cm taller than in the past 35 years ago, the current average height of young men in Vietnam is only 164.4cm and that of young women is 153.4cm. These figures are lower the World Health Organization standards, respectively by 13.1cm and 10.7cm. The Vietnamese are still among the shortest in Asia.

#### ***4.1.2. Situation of health care for young people***

Youth awareness of the benefits of physical training and sports is not high. Only 23.2% of surveyed youth had a daily exercise routine (Youth Research Institute, 2018). The reasons why young people participate in physical training and sport are quite diverse. For most youth physical exercise is done for good health (82.4%), but a few are motivated in order to improve their appearance (10.9%) (Youth Research Institute, 2016).

Young people also do not attach importance to regular health checkups. Only about two-thirds of the youth surveyed had a habit of regular health checkups, of which 38.8% do annual checkups. The reasons for not going to regular checkups included insufficient economic conditions (23.9%), no habit of going to the doctor (65.6%), and no time to visit (29.9%) (Youth Research Institute, 2017).

#### ***4.1.3. Youth Mental health***

Studying suicide among adolescents in recent years, the World Health Organization (WHO) warns that while the rate of adolescent suicide in Vietnam is lower than many countries around the world, it shows signs of increasing. Suicide is one of the leading causes of death among adolescents and young adults, just behind traffic accidents. According to a UNICEF survey, 8-29% of young people aged between 11 and 24 in Vietnam is experiencing mental health problems, including anxiety, depression, loneliness, and/or reduced concentration.<sup>5</sup> This rate varies among age groups, regions and living situations, but the causes and the way it manifests is relatively similar. According to UNICEF, at the individual level, young people are emotionally isolated, suffer a lack of confidence in their bodies, use too many electronic devices and online

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<sup>5</sup>UNICEF (announced in 2018) survey in 04 provinces/cities: Hanoi, HCMC, Dien Bien, Ha Giang

social networks, and suffer from emotional failures. These factors mean that young people are more likely to encounter mental health problems.

Mental health care for future generations is as important as physical health care, but it has not received adequate attention to date. Based on the data collected to date, it is reasonable to assume that youth mental health concerns will continue to increase in Vietnam in the future. Keeping this in mind, the expansion of psychological counseling services, mental health care awareness and tools at home and within the community is required and its importance cannot be underestimated.

#### ***4.1.4. Youth health risk factors***

- *Smoking cigarettes, using alcohol, beer and other drugs*

The majority, 84.2%, of young people surveyed are aware that smoking is harmful to health. Slightly less respondents, 80%, were aware that even passive smoke could cause harm. Despite this knowledge, while 73.7% of young people said that they would refuse to smoke if invited to use tobacco, a worrying 19% of young people said that they would be willing to smoke if invited (Youth Research Institute 2017).

According to a global survey on adult tobacco use (GATS 2015) by the General Statistics Office in collaboration with the World Health Organization, the smoking rate among men in Vietnam has a reduced by about 2% since 2010. However, the percentage of adult men who smoke remains very high at 47.4%. For young people aged 15-24, the smoking rate among men is 26.1% and for women is 0.3%. Despite these positive signs of intergenerational change in attitude towards smoking, Vietnam currently has 33 million non-smokers, who regularly breathe in smoke at home and more than 5 million non-smoking adults who regularly breathe in smoke in the workplace. The rate of passive smoking in restaurants is even higher at 84.9%.

Alcohol and beer consumption is common amongst youth, with 71.1% of surveyed youth reporting that they had drunk alcohol. Almost half of respondents, 48.6%, first tried alcohol between the age of 14 to 18 years old. Nearly two-thirds of the respondents reported regularly using alcohol, with the most common frequency of use, 56.3% from 1 to 3 times/week (Youth Research Institute, 2017).

- Using internet and games online

The vast majority, up to 94.7%, of young people now have access to and use of the internet. Up to 94.5% of young people used the internet in the 30 days before the survey, and 64.7% of them used it daily (Youth Research Institute, 2017). Many young people today are showing signs of internet dependence or addiction. Survey results show that about one third of young people, 34.2%, feel uncomfortable if they cannot not use the internet for one day. The level of internet dependence is highest amongst young people living in urban areas (35.0%) and between the ages of 19 and 24 (39.5%) (Youth Research Institute, 2017).

Statistics show that Vietnamese youth spend an average of 9 hours a day on social networks. Addiction to social media and the internet is linked to negative physical and mental health outcomes, particularly for youth.

- Early marriage, premature sex and unprotected sex

The 2016 National Survey on Reproductive and Sexual Health of Vietnamese youth conducted by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) indicated that the average age for first sexual intercourse was 18.7 years. Many young people's awareness of safe sex has improved. Nearly half of young respondents (48.4%) said that those who carry condoms and oral contraceptives with them are civilized and knowledgeable about sexual safety (Youth Research Institute, 2017). However, there are many young people with limited awareness or ignorance of safe sex practices who think that carrying condoms and oral contraceptives is not needed if in a relationship (24.5%), or agree with the statement: Only use condoms when having sex with strangers (48.6%).

According to the 2016 UNFPA study,

Among females aged 15-24, the current contraceptive use rate was 60 percent and that of current modern contraceptive use was 50.5 percent. The average unmet need for modern contraceptives was around 30 percent, reaching as high as 48.4 percent among never-married females aged 15-24.

Among the youth surveyed, 83% had heard of male condoms and 63.4% understood the purpose of using a condom. However, only 26% of them know how to use condoms correctly. The most common barrier to buying condoms is shame (76%) and a feeling of doing wrong when buying condoms (18%). Department of Maternal and Child Health, Ministry of Health statistics show

that, every year, around 250,000-300,000 abortions are officially reported in Vietnam. According to the General Department of Population and Family Planning, although the abortion rate in Vietnam in the past 10 years has decreased, the abortion rate among adolescents and young people has shown an increase, accounting for more than 20% of abortion cases. This increase has been attributed to a lack knowledge about reproductive health and pre-marital sex amongst young people.

- *Inappropriate eating behavior and physical activity*

The vast majority of young people now have a proper awareness of the need for annual health checkups (90.2%) and physical exercise to improve their health (92.2%). However, the proportion of young people who are willing to participate in physical activities is much lower (79.5%), with 20.5% refusing to participate in physical activities and another 23.7% of the youth surveyed did not exercise or play any sport in the 3 months prior to the survey. For young people who do exercise, the frequency of doing exercise is not high, only 16.3% of young people exercise daily. Eating habits are a concern with 34.9% of young people using fast food replace the main meal when they are busy. Young people aged 25-30 years are more likely to accept fast food as a main meal than other youth groups. In addition, 67.7% of young people consumed soft drinks or carbonated beverages in the 7 days before participating in the survey and 42.8% of young people had a habit of buying cheap food.

- *Early marriage and close family marriage*

In Vietnam, 2.6% of adolescents (aged 15-19) have been married. However, ethnic minority youth are 6 times more likely to marry early at 8.4% than the Kinh majority at 1.4%.

According to the results of a socio-economic situation survey of 53 ethnic minorities in 2015, the average child marriage rate in 53 ethnic minorities was 26.6%. Child marriage is much more prevalent among ethnic minorities living in areas with very difficult socio-economic conditions including, Mong 59.7%; Xing Mun 56.3%, La Ha 52.7%, Gia Rai 42%; Raglay 38.3%; Bru - Van Kieu 38.9%. There were 13 ethnic minorities have child marriage rates of 40-50% or higher; 6 ethnic minorities have a child marriage rate of 50-60% or more.

The Child marriage rate in Northern Uplands and Central Highlands is higher than other regions: The Northern Uplands 18.9%; Central Highlands 15.8%; The Red River Delta 7.9% and the Southeast 8.1%. The provinces with the highest rates of child and close family marriage in the country include, Lai Chau, Ha Giang, Dien Bien, Son La, Lao Cai, Yen Bai, Cao Bang, Bac Kan, Kon Tum, and Gia Lai.

Child marriage has many negative outcomes and is closely linked to intergenerational poverty, low education and poor health outcomes. Early marriage and early childbirth is connected to increases in the rate of malnutrition and mortality in children under 5 years old. The mortality rate of mothers who get pregnant at an early age is 5 times higher than mothers who are over 20 years old. In many cases, children of child marriage are often disadvantaged and likely to miss out on school, adequate nutrition, health care, cultural activities, mental and spiritual development.

The incidence of close family marriage in Vietnam has decreased, however it is not unknown in some ethnic minority areas, most commonly marriage between cousins. The 2015 socio-economic situation survey found that the percentage of close family marriage among the 53 ethnic minorities was 0.65%. The average rate of blood relative marriage was around the 4% , including, Ma 4.41%, Mang 4.36%. Mngong 4.02% and Xtieng 3.67%.

Close family marriage occurs mainly in the Northern Uplands and the Central Highlands. Some other ethnic groups such as Lo Lo, Ha Nhi, Phu La, Chut, E De, Chu Ru, Si La, Pu Peo, Mong, Ro Mam, Brau have quite high percentage of close family marriage, up to 10% , that is, for every 100 marriage cases, there are 10 cases of inbreed marriage. Close family marriage leads to health challenges for children of the marriage due to consanguinity.

#### *Situation of young people infected with HIV*

In the first 9 months of 2018, the country detected 7,497 new HIV cases, 2,514 patients progressed to the AIDS stage of the disease and the number of deaths was 1,436. Youth make up a majority of these new infections, with new HIV infections mainly concentrated between the ages of 16-29 (38%) and 30-39 (36%). The main route of transmission is unsafe sex (63%) and through blood (23%).

By the end of September 2018, the number of currently reported HIV-infected people alive was 208,750 cases and the cumulative deaths of HIV-infected people were 98,519 cases. It was estimated that 5,500 cases among total new HIV infected cases in 2018, aged 15 years old and above and there were 268 newly infected children.

Among new HIV infections, 36% were women who were infected by their husbands or their partners who were infected with HIV, 24% were sexually transmitted among homosexuals and transgender women, 23% were injecting drug users, 10% were people who bought sex, 5% were men who were infected with HIV from their wives or sex partners and 2% were female sex workers<sup>6</sup>.

#### **4.2. Issues raised for the health promotion policies for young people**

*First*, on April 28, 2011, the Prime Minister issued Decision No. 641 / QD-TTg approving a project aiming to improve the physical development and stature of Vietnamese people in the period of 2011 - 2030, including some criteria of physical strength, stature and physical condition of Vietnamese youth. However, there is a need for a comprehensive policy to improve the health of young people, which sets goals and allocates resources to improve the physical and mental health of young people. The policy should focus on health checkup activities and investigation of youth health; consulting and providing information on health for young people; and provide resources to establish or maintain the services needed to improve the physical and mental health of young people.

*Second*, the awareness of self-care of amongst young people is not high. Not many young people are interested in diet, good lifestyle, exercise, sports and regular health checkups. The public health impacts of this attitude are significant and can increase disease incidence amongst young people. Improving awareness of self-care and countering the complacent attitude of youth needs to be a part of the comprehensive youth health policy.

*Third*, investment in awareness raising and education on health issues, especially those related to mental health, reproductive and sexual health and prevention of health risks is needed.

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<sup>6</sup> HIV/AIDS Prevention Administration (Ministry of Health)

**Fourth**, access of adolescents to counseling, physical and mental health care services as well as medical examination and treatment need to be improved, both in terms of (1) availability and convenience of services and (2) youth-friendly services to reduce reluctance and shyness of youth.

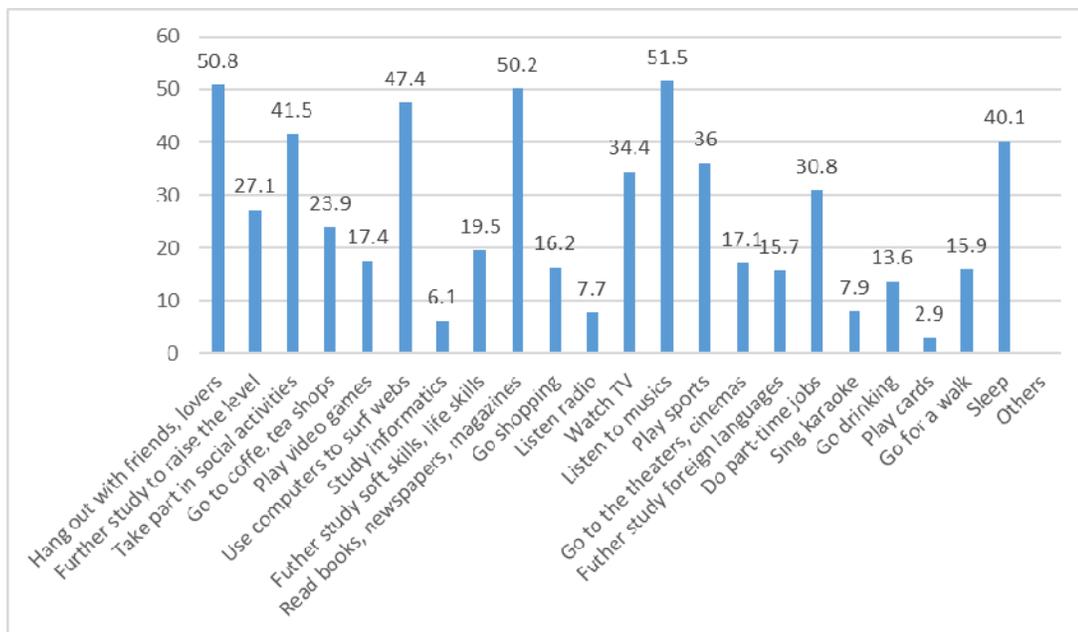
## 5. THE CULTURE OF ENTERTAINMENT AND YOUTH ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

### 5.1. Situation of entertainment culture, access to information and media among the youth

#### 5.1.1. Free time leisure activities

Survey data shows that young people entertain themselves with a range of diverse activities.

**Chart 5.1. Activities often done in the spare time of youth (%)**



*Source: Youth Research Institute, 2017*

Travel is becoming a more common activity for young people, especially holiday travel (44.5%). Instead of saving to buy property or cars, more than a third of young people, 36.2%, prefer to save their money for travel. (Youth Research Institute, 2017). Young people are most likely to travel with family (41.6%), followed by a group of friends (29.4%). In addition, some prefer to travel with their partners (16.4%) while others travel alone (11.8%) (Youth Research Institute, 2016).

Listening to music in their free time is a popular activity for young people. The most popular music is contemporary Vietnamese music (86.0% of young people aged 16-19 years old and 85.0% of young people aged 20-29 years old) (Research Institute Youth, 2017).

### ***5.1.2. Cultural and artistic art forms enjoyed by young people***

According to the Youth Research Institute survey in 2018, 82.9% of the youth surveyed still enjoy some traditional forms of cultural expression, of which traditional folk songs are the most popular (43.4%), followed by *cai luong* (35.6%). Very few young people (<15.0%) like other traditional music such as *tuong*, *cheo*, *chau van*.

The percentage of rural youth (85.7%) who prefer traditional cultural forms is higher than that of urban youth (79.0%). Young workers and young people living in the South prefer *cai luong* (reformed folk songs) the most, while the civil servants, officials, young students and young people in the northern region prefer traditional folk songs. This difference demonstrates the typical features of regional culture and the characteristics of each target group surveyed.

**Table 5.1. Young people's interests in traditional cultural forms (%)**

<b>Types of traditional culture forms</b>	<b>Common</b>	<b>Farmer youth</b>	<b>Worker youth</b>	<b>Student youth</b>	<b>Pupil youth</b>	<b>Public servant youth</b>
1. Cai luong (a form of folk musical theater from southern Vietnam)	35,6	37,0	56,9	26,1	27,5	43,9
2. Classical drama	11,5	12,8	2,0	16,7	19,3	0,8
3. Cheo (is a form of Vietnamese traditional theater art)	14,1	17,1	5,9	14,4	26,6	4,3
4. Chau van (is a type of traditional Vietnamese singing art)	9,9	10,9	0,7	12,0	12,7	8,7
5. Hat noi (is a song accompanied by music and has a specific form of poetry called the "Hat noi" poem form)	10,1	14,7	5,9	7,0	16,0	7,9
6. Quan Ho folk-songs	43,4	30,3	44,4	52,7	27,0	55,3

*Source: Youth Research Institute (2018)*

The need of young people to enjoy modern entertain activities through television channels, especially digital television, and at theaters is increasing. 35.2% of young people have the habit of watching traditional TV channels (digital television, cable TV) and up to 56.2% have the habit of watching TV online (via mobile phone, portable technology devices); 85.2% prefer the modern entertain performance at theaters (of which 15.5% like very much and 69.7% like) and 79.8% go to movies or art shows in theaters (73.3% on an occasional basis, 6.5% on a regular basis) (Youth Research Institute, 2018).

The explosion of modern audiovisual means of integration with contemporary art forms such as drama, cinema, contemporary music theater, is strongly affecting the perception and aesthetics of young people towards cultural arts. Traditional cultural arts and music such as *cheo* and classical opera are no longer the choice of the majority of young people. Youth show a preference to engage with and enjoy contemporary culture.

### ***5.1.3. Demand and participation of young people in cultural and spiritual activities***

Young people share that they are interested in spiritual beliefs and teachings. Up to 41.7% of the youth surveyed showed an interest in a particular religion, of which 84.3% confirmed that religious teachings had different degrees of influence on their thinking and their actions in life (70.9% affect occasionally and 13.4% affect often) (Youth Research Institute, 2018).

Although the participation of young people in spiritual activities is not regular, it is quite diverse, from going to communal houses, temples, pagodas and churches to participating in fortune-telling to ancestor worship and abstinence. When participating in spiritual activities, young people pray for peace (53.2%), for luck (43.8%) and psychological relief to regain balance in life (40.3%). Some young people participate in spiritual activities because they want to know their own destiny (26.2%) or they perform spiritual activities before an important decision at school, work and/or in relationships (Youth Research Institute, 2015).

#### ***5.1.4. Youth access to social media***

##### ***• Type of social media that young people are using***

According to the Youth Research Institute, 96.6% of young people surveyed are using a range of different social media including Facebook, YouTube, Zalo, Instagram and Twitter. Facebook is the most popular social media platform used by 90.1% of respondents, followed by Zalo (69.9%) and YouTube (62.4%).

Young people use social media mainly to exchange or share information and make friends (76.0%); for entertainment and relaxation purposes (67.9%); to research (49.4%); to discuss work and study (47.8%) and to strengthen social relationships (45.3%) (Youth Research Institute, 2018).

##### ***• Social media as information source***

The Youth Research Institute survey indicates that the information that young people search for the most via social media is information about culture and entertainment (64.9%), labor and employment (40.6%), science and technology (37.1%), security and law (32.6%), environment (31.8%) and information on good people and good deeds (30.0%).

In general, young people said that information sourced through social media basically meets the needs of young people, but not in full (74.4%). The

percentage of respondents who thought that these platforms had totally met the needs of young people was 22.1%.

Young people also shared their opinions on the reliability of information found on social media. The majority of young people, 52.4% said that information on social media should be honest, objective and highly reliable (In addition, they need information is updated quickly, regularly (22.6%) and timely (18.5%) (Youth Research Institute, 2018).

• *Expectations about social networks*

The majority of young people surveyed, 77.2%, agreed that Vietnam should build a social network of its own, but only about a quarter of respondents (26.7%) are confident that this will be applied in practice, while about half of young people (50.5%) said that this would not be feasible.

Young people surveyed identified a range of benefits to setting up a Vietnamese social network to act as a channel to promote and introduce the country, people and culture of Vietnam to the world (57.7%), but also because that social network will feature national identity (28.8%) and will be more relevant to Vietnamese people than the social networks from foreign countries (26.1%) (Youth Research Institute, 2018).

## **5.2. Issues raised for policies in the fields of entertainment, culture and access to information and media of young people**

*First*, with the explosion of internet and social networks, it is not surprising that young people are enthusiastically shifting their entertainment needs and information access to the internet environment. This poses a number of major issues that require changing management practices, such as:

- "Virtual" lifestyle among young people, whereby most of the communication is not done in real life but on the internet, affecting the formation of relationships, personal identity and the lifestyles of young people;

- Traditional forms of culture, sports and entertainment are losing their place in young people's lives, books are gradually replaced by e-books, even e-sports are becoming more prevalent;

- Fake, distorted, unverified information appears rampant and is difficult to control across social media platforms. Without critical thinking skills it is difficult

for many internet consumers to identify and differentiate between real and fake information.

*Second*, the need for spiritual and cultural life is increasingly arising among young people. Having a healthy spiritual life helps people become truly happy.

## **6. YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIO-POLITICAL LIFE**

### **6.1. The situation of youth participation in socio-political life**

#### ***6.1.1. Union organizations, Association organizations***

The percentage of young people participating in Youth Union activities is quite high at 87.7% (Youth Research Institute, 2018). However, for the young people who did not participate in the activities of the Youth Union and Youth Association, the three main reasons given are, (1) Not being informed of the summons to participate (52.4%), (2) Union activities are not attractive (30.3%), (3) Feeling that they lose a lot of time when participating in activities (23.8%) (Youth Research Institute, 2018).

For the youth who actively participate in Union activities, participation comes from two main motivators: First, members have a sense of obligation and responsibility to participate, with 47.3% responding that “the union leader in the activities of the Union is carrying out his responsibilities to the organization” and 38.9% of the respondents said that “joining Youth Union activities is the duty of the Youth union members”. Second, Youth Union activities create a social environment for its members to exchange ideas, expand their knowledge and develop their skills (61.5%); interact with friends, develop confidence and contribute to society (30.0%). In addition, other motivations for participating in Youth Union activities include engaging life experiencing, expanding relationships or recording achievements (10.0% - 19.0%) (Youth Research Institute, 2018).

Although the proportion of youth who are union members and participate in Youth Union activities in 2018 is quite high, the participation is not comprehensive. While, 61.4% of youth union members and youth said that they had actively participated in the activities of the Youth Union, only 23.8% participated in the spirit of self-discipline and as active members and leaders. The remaining 37.6% participated in implementing the tasks as assigned. In

addition, 25.3% of Youth Union members and young people participate in Union activities mainly to add attendance numbers.

### ***6.1.2. Social and volunteering activities***

The vast majority of young people participate in volunteer activities, because of community life (93.2%) either occasionally, 55.9%, or regularly, 37.3% (Youth Research Institute, 2018). Young people are involved in volunteering activities in a range of broad fields including, protecting the environment and natural resources, activities to prevent corruption and social vices, or they volunteer to support others, either to support those who are less well off or to assist after a natural disaster. In addition, between 2013 and September 2017, nearly 3 million blood units were mobilized among young people.

Young people report many benefits from their participation, such as, learning new skills (60.9%), feeling that they are a part of the community (59.5%), and expanding their social circle and building new relationships (48.5%). However, whilst the benefits of participation are recognized, young people also shared the reasons that they do not participate, including that they were not physically fit to participate (46.1%), activities were not organized well (40.2%) they felt that the activities were not very beneficial (11.8%), or the time needed to participate (11.8%) (Youth Research Institute, 2018).

In addition to volunteering, young people show their sense of social responsibility in many areas of their lives, from daily life activities to political activities. Specifically:

- 68.5% of young people responded that they were "ready and enthusiastic to participate" in community activities in remote areas, especially disadvantaged areas, and 70.8% of young people are ready to participate in support activities or go directly to the help people in difficulties or after a natural disaster.

- 73.0% of the youth surveyed indicated that they would act if they witnessed problematic behavior in society, either by informing authorities or by stepping in.

- 80.7% of the youth surveyed were willing to "pick up waste and put it in the right place" and "remind other people to throw their waste in the right place"; 84.0% of young people will "arrange work to participate fully in

community clean-up activities", even "calling others to join"; At the same time, 67.7% of the youth "happily use public transport to protect the environment when required".

- The majority of surveyed young people said that they express their opinion to responsible agencies about irrelevance of policies . However, there is a minority of young people, 23.7%, who only pay attention to regulations if it has a direct influence on themselves.

- More than two-thirds of young people indicated that they were "voluntarily and willingly" participating in consultation activities before a new law was enacted, while 20.8% of young people only participated if others participated. This result reflects that the majority of young people are willing to participate in important activities in the country and are willing to contribute their voices and views to fulfil their responsibility towards the nation (Youth Research Institute, 2018).

- 91.7% of young people surveyed said that there are many different ways to express the love of their homeland, of which the most popular option is to study well (55.5%); participate in community activities (48.9%); contribute ideas and efforts for local development (46.1%); join military service (44.4%); good labor and business (43.0%), and being innovative and inventive for economic development (35.7%) (Youth Research Institute, 2018).

### ***6.1.3. Join the Party and elected bodies***

Over the years, young people have exercised their citizens' rights and responsibilities through many activities, including prominent participation in elections, being elected as members of the National Assembly or delegates of the People's Council at all levels. Out of 500 delegates elected to the XIII National Assembly election (term 2011 - 2016), 62 delegates were under 40 years old (accounting for 12.4%). Of 496 candidates for the XIV National Assembly (term 2016 - 2021), there are 71 young deputies (under 40 years old), accounting for (14.3%).<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.htv.com.vn/Trang/TinTuc/2016-6-10/ket-qua-bau-cu-DBQH-khoa-14.aspx>

The results of the People's Council elections at all levels for the 2016 - 2021 term also shows youth and young people participating as elected representatives<sup>8</sup>:

- Of the 3,908 elected representatives of the provincial People's Council, 8.52% were under the age of 35, a decrease of 2.1% compared to the 2011-2016 term.

- Of the 25,179 elected representatives of the district level People's Council, 14.42% were under the age of 35, a decrease of 0.59% compared to the 2011-2016 term.

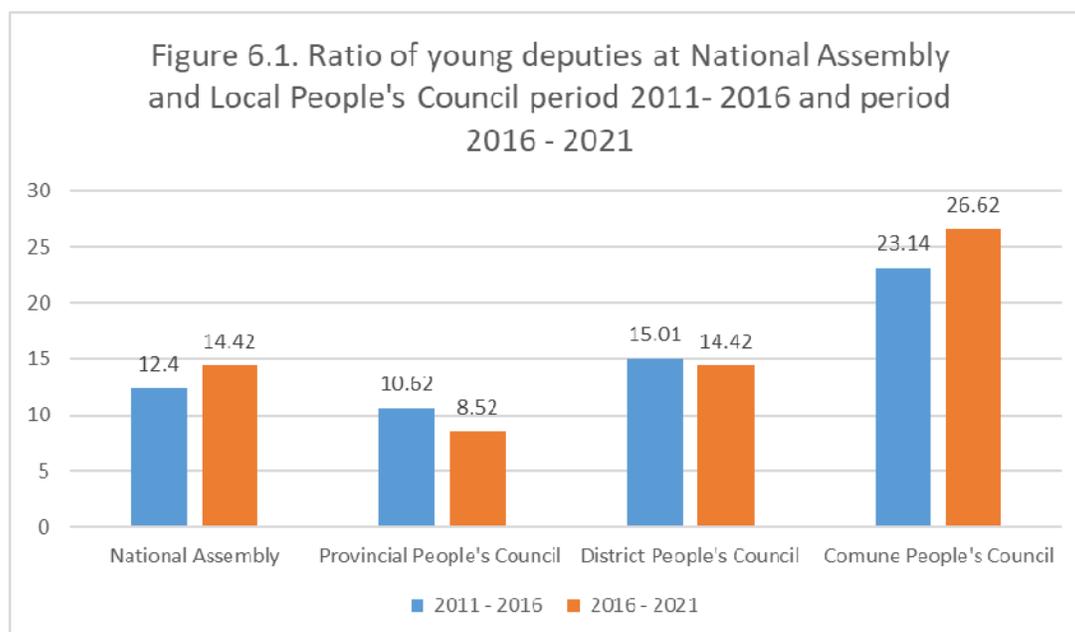
- At the commune level, of the 291,273 elected representatives of the People's Council, 26.62%, were under the age of 35, an increase of 3.48% compared to the 2011-2016 term.

Youth Union cadres were also elected into deputy positions at each level. Across all levels, 53.5% (18,931 out of 35,838 comrades), of elected deputies were aged 35 or under. At the XIVth National Assembly, 15 of 28 deputies, at the provincial People's Council level 131 of 279 deputies, at the district People's Council 987 of 1,829 deputies and at the commune People's Council 17,896 of 33,247 deputies were under the age of 35. (Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, 2016).

**Chart 6.1. Rate of young deputies in the National Assembly, People's Councils at all levels for term 2011 - 2016 and term 2016 - 2021**

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<sup>8</sup>[http://nghean.gov.vn/wps/portal/mainportal/ctbcdqbhct?WCM\\_GLOBAL\\_CONTEXT=/wps/wcm/connect/web+content/portal\\_na/279\\_slsbbg\\_ct/chuventrangbaucu/thongtinbaucu/0f42a3004d96b41b8730cf886f4db942](http://nghean.gov.vn/wps/portal/mainportal/ctbcdqbhct?WCM_GLOBAL_CONTEXT=/wps/wcm/connect/web+content/portal_na/279_slsbbg_ct/chuventrangbaucu/thongtinbaucu/0f42a3004d96b41b8730cf886f4db942)



Source: Central Youth Union

In the 2016 Youth Union survey, 76.1% of those surveyed said that Union members and youth aspire to become a Communist Party member and 84.5% of respondents expressed a personal desire to become a Communist Party member. Young people were motivated to join the Party because they saw membership as indicating an individual is cultivated, trained, devoted and mature (75.3%). For many, 54.4%, Party membership would be a personal and family pride and honor and a further 15.5% were motivated to become Party members due to family tradition.

Each year from 2015-2017, the Youth Union nominated more than 200,000 elite members for Party admission and more than 100,000 members were admitted to the Party's ranks.<sup>9</sup>

**Table 6.1. The number of Youth Union members admitted to the Party from 2015 – 2017**

Year	Union members are introduced	Union members are admitted	Rate (%)
2015	205.168	107.471	52,38
2016	212.834	119.645	56,21
T6/2017	95.365	37.674	39,50

Source: Central Youth Union's Organizing Committee

<sup>9</sup>Ho Chi Minh Youth Union, *Report on Youth Union work and youth movements of the year*

#### ***6.1.4. Participating in the development and implementation of State policies and laws***

The Youth Union, as a member of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, participates in the inspection and supervision of the implementation of policies and laws. This role enables youth to participate in state management.

**Table 6.2. Number of inspection and supervision activities of the Ho Chi Minh Youth Union from 2015 to June 2017<sup>10</sup>**

<b>Content</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>6/2017</b>
Inspection	1,012	979	340
Supervision	690	613	227

*Source: Central Youth Union*

In recent years, the Youth Union has organized many awareness rising, and information activities on policies and laws for young people. The Youth Union also offers a forum for young people to participate in the formulation of policies and laws. However, the percentage of young people participating in policy and law-making is generally low. The 2018 Youth Research Institute survey results show that nearly 40% of young people have never participated in the process of developing policies related to youth. Youth engagement has mainly focused on propagating and disseminating policies (58.4%) and dialogue on the implementation of policies (46.7%).

International experiences showed that Young people face a range of challenges, including representation and appropriate engagement, to participate in decision-making around youth-related policies. Key challenges include; the participation of young people in the formulation of policies and laws is often confused and misunderstood and directed towards social volunteer activities; economic and social inequities create difficulties and obstacles for young people to participate in political and social issues; and disadvantaged young people are often less consulted and thus less interested or involved in policy making than young people with better learning and living conditions.

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<sup>10</sup>Ho Chi Minh Youth Union, *Report on Youth Union work and youth movements of the year*

**Table 6.3. Youth activities in policy making (Unit: %)**

No.	Activities	Ratio
1	Proposing and developing programs, regimes and incentives for young people	33,3
2	Contribute comments on the content, the level of support of programs, regimes and incentives for young people	43,2
3	Propagate and disseminate programs, policies and incentives for young people	58,4
4	Dialogue with schools, agencies and authorities on the implementation of regimes and incentives for young people	46,7
5	Monitoring the implementation of regimes and incentives for young people	20,5
6	Never participated in any activities	37,7

*Source: Youth Research Institute, 2018*

The Youth Research Institute survey made similar findings in 2018. Nearly half of the respondents said that the role and responsibility of youth in building and making policy was low in reality. More than one-third of the respondents said that young people's opinions had not been heard by the state agencies. Only 23.2% of respondents believed that state agencies 'listened' to young people in the formulation and review of policies.

**Table 6.4. Comments on youth's participation in policy development (Unit: %)**

No.	Comments	Agree	Hesitate	Not agree
1	The role of young people in participating in developing and commenting on programs, policies, incentives for young people is still very weak.	49,3	34,3	16,4
2	The "voice" of young people in formulating and commenting on policies, incentives for young people has not been listened to by agencies and branches.	36,7	40,1	23,2

*Source: Youth Research Institute (2018)*

## **6.2. Issues raised for the policy of increasing youth participation in socio-political life**

*First*, when assessing the Global Youth Index, the commonwealth countries ranked Vietnam at 157/183 at the index of youth's participation in political life. Although there is a need to discuss the authenticity of this assessment, this is a good figure for policy makers to pay attention to, and a motivation to find appropriate solutions for young people to participate more actively and effectively in the politic life of the country.

*Second*, the role of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union in gathering young people to participate in activities is facing challenges from the development of information technology, as young people increasingly communicate via the internet. The Youth Union must adapt to this changing landscape.

*Third*, Vietnam does not yet have a clear and appropriate legal mechanism to encourage the establishment of youth managed organizations and youth led groups to promote activities for youth beside socio-political youth organizations. which were regulated in the Constitution and laws, such as Youth Union and Youth Association.

*Fourth*, current state policies only apply to youth volunteer activities which are, (1) programs, projects approved by competent authorities, or (2) organized by Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union or other youth organizations (Decision No. 57/2015/QĐ-TTg dated November 16, 2015 of the Prime Minister).

*Fifth*, Vietnam lacks an effective mechanism to encourage young people to participate in the monitoring and reviewing of state policies and laws, internal rules and regulations of agencies, organizations, units and living areas, etc. In addition to the lack of forums, state agencies and organizations need to improve the way that youth are able to engage with official bodies, and, importantly, these bodies also need to improve their capacity to 'hear' youth opinions.

## **7. BREACHES OF LAW AND SOCIAL VICES**

### **7.1. The situation of conflict with the law and social vices among young people**

### 7.1.1. Situation of conflict with the law among youth

#### • Situation of conflict with the law amongst young people

Ministry of Public Security statistics show that during 201- 2017, the percentage of young people in criminal acts and violating law has tended to decrease d, but the seriousness of the crimes they commit have increased.

**Table 7.1. The rate of youth violating the law**

Year	Number of Criminal Acts by youth	Total number of law violations by youth	Rate of criminal and violating law by youth
2015	31.458	34.872	90,2
2016	19.970	24.371	81,9
2017	10.937	15.969	68,5
<b>The first six months of 2018</b>	2.744	4.641	59,1

*Source: Criminal Police Department, Ministry of Public Security (2015-2018)*

The number of young people violating the law has decreased year by year. This may be the result of improved control and assurance of social order and security

**Table 7.2. Institutional system for adolescents (16-30 years old) who have violated the law (number of cases)**

*Unit: Number of cases*

Institutional system	In 2015	In 2016	In 2017	The first six months of 2018
Criminal system	31.458	19.970	10.937	2.744
Administrative system	3.414	1.507	5.032	1.897
<b>Total</b>	<b>34.872</b>	<b>17.154</b>	<b>15.969</b>	<b>4.641</b>

*Source: Criminal Police Department, Ministry of Public Security (2015 - 2018)*

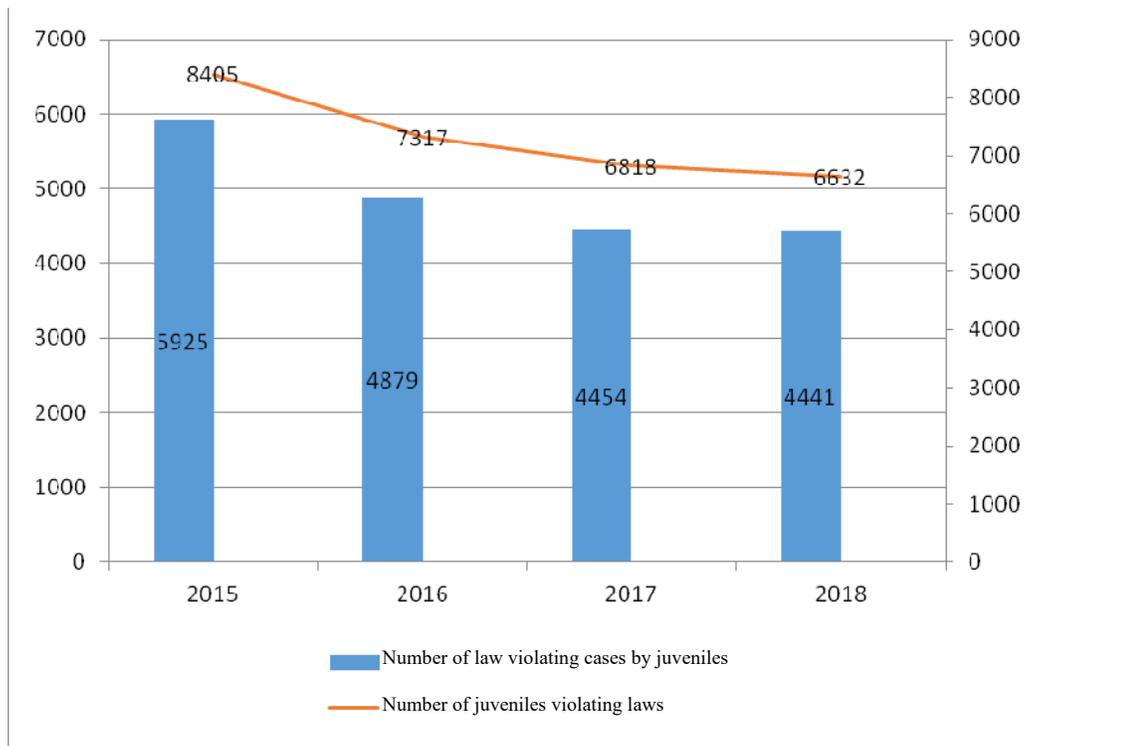
In general, the number of criminal law violations is higher than the number of administrative violations. The number of criminal law violations has decreased significantly over each year.

Those who commit crimes tend to be young. About 70% of crimes were committed by individuals aged from 18-30-year-old among criminal cases. Children under the age of 18 account for 8% of these. Notably, the majority of

youth, 82%, represented in these statistics are coming the courts for the first time and do not have criminal records.

Criminal Police Department, Ministry of Public Security statistics show that, in 2017, the proportion of children and juveniles (under 18 years old) violating the law was about 26 per 100,000 population. The same data shows that the number of people under 18 year violating the criminal law has decreased from 9,156 in 2014 to 6,632 in 2018. The number of legal violations involving children under the age of 18 has decreased from 6,297 in 2014 to 4,441 cases in 2018.

**Chart 7.3. Number of cases and number of people under 18 years old violating laws in the period 2015 - 2018**



*Source: Criminal Police Department, Ministry of Public Security (2015- 2018)*

In 2014, the Law on Handling of Administrative Violations was implemented, and Vietnam now has more comprehensive data on those who commit administrative violations, including those under the age of 18. The data issued by the Department of Administration, which handles administrative violations and monitoring of law enforcement under the Ministry of Justice, shows that there are a significant number of people under the age of 18 who are committing administrative violations. In the period from 2015-2017, an average

of 12,000 people under 18 years of age received administrative sanctions in communes, wards and towns and some were sent to reformatory schools. Combined with the above data from Criminal Police Department, it can be estimated that there are at least 18,000 juveniles in conflict with the law every year.

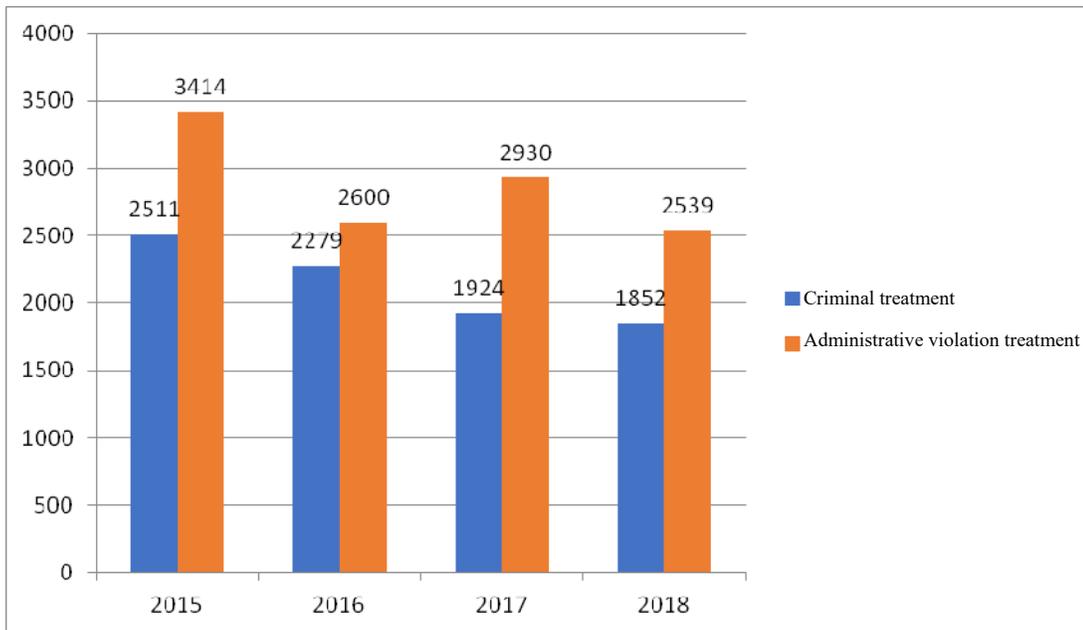
Vietnam needs a unified statistical system which integrates data from both the administrative and criminal systems so that clearer and more reliable data on the incidence of children and young people in conflict with the law is readily available. Clear and reliable data will enable Vietnam to craft laws and policies to reduce the number of young people in conflict with the law.

- *Type of violations*

Most violations of the law committed by people under the age of 18 are administrative violations. In 2018, 58% of the law violations committed by people under 18 years old were administrative violations and 42% were criminal offenses.

Amongst the violations committed by people under the age of 18, administrative infringement is the most common (nearly 46%), followed by criminal property theft (nearly 38%). Acts of infringing on others' lives, health, honor and dignity account for more than 18% of the total. Serious criminal behaviors such as murder (1.4%), rape (2%) and property robbery (3.6%) are a relatively small proportion of violations committed by those under 18 years of age.

**Chart 7.4. Number of law violations committed by people under 18 years of age 2015-2018**

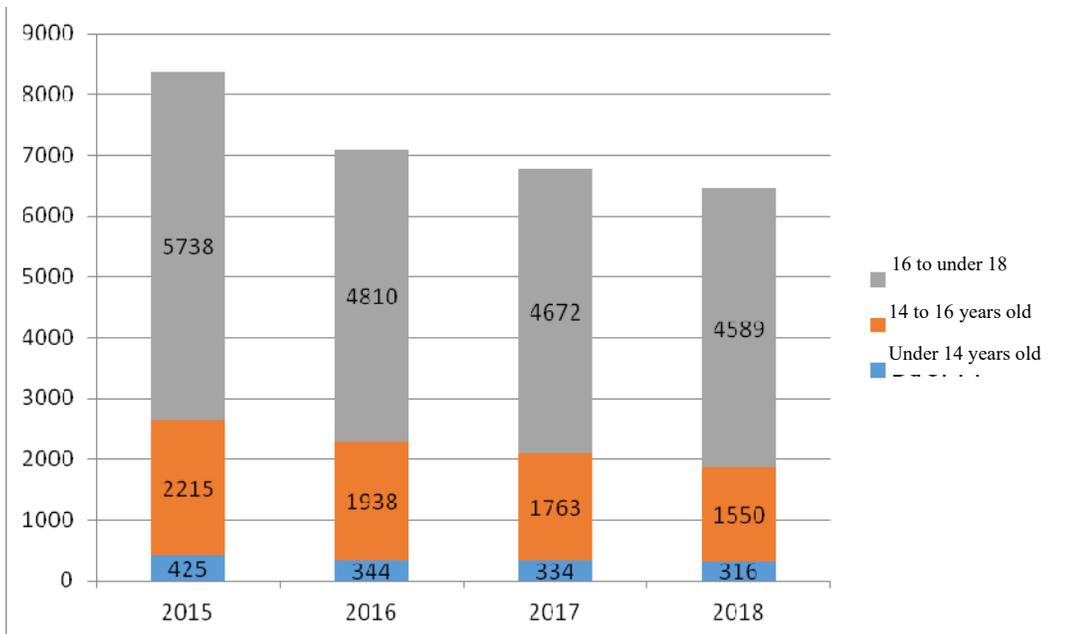


Source: Criminal Police Department, Ministry of Public Security (2015- 2018)

• *Age groups of children in conflict with the law*

The majority, 70%, of those under the age of 18 who violate laws belong to the age group from 16 years to 18 years (juveniles). The number of children under the age of 14 years who violate the law accounted for the smallest proportion at nearly 5% in 2018. The age group from 14 to under 16 accounted for about 24%.

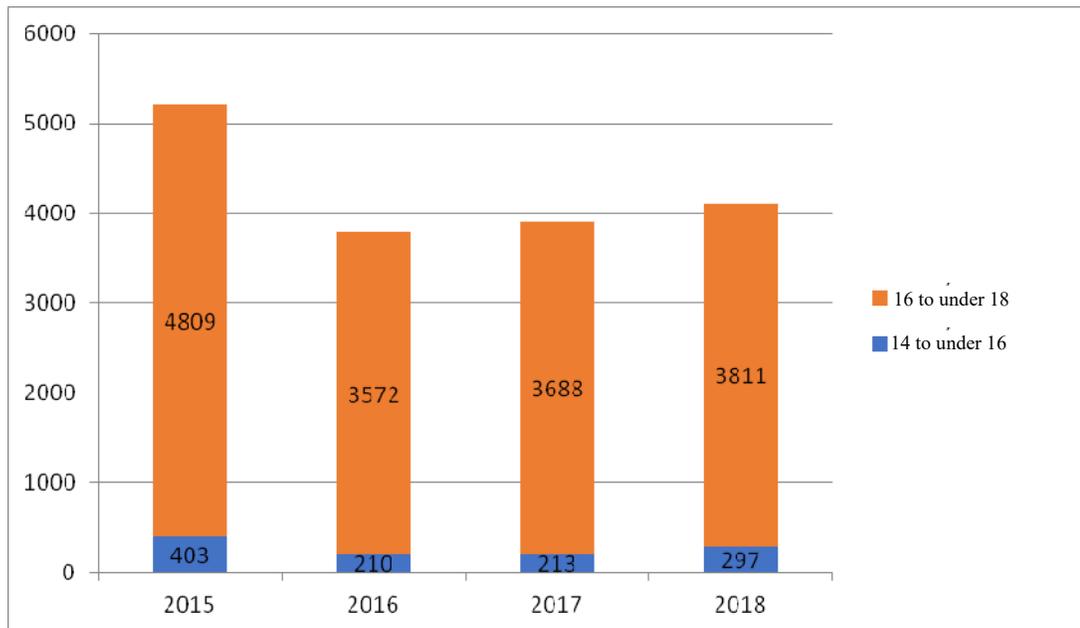
**Table 7.5. People under 18 violating laws in the period of 2015 - 2018**



Source: Criminal Police Department, Ministry of Public Security (2015- 2018)

In the criminal system, juveniles from 16 to under 18 accounted for over 90% of the total number of defendants who are under 18 years old. The percentage of suspects under 18 years between the ages of 14 and under 16 is around 10% of the total and is decreasing.

**Chart 7.6. Age groups of persons under 18 years of age who are prosecuted in the period of 2015 - 2018**



Source: *The Supreme People's Procuracy* [DC4](2015- 2018)

### ***7.1.2. The situation of social vices among young people***

#### ***• Situation of youth drug addiction***

Ministry of Public Security data shows that Vietnam has more than 222,000 drug addicts with management records. Although drug users are found in all sections of society and in all age groups, 76% of drug users are under 35 years old. About 60% of first-time drug users are under the age of 25 years, of which 8% are first-time drug users under the age of 18 years. More than 70% of those who are addicted to drugs use synthetic drugs. In several localities, synthetic drug use is much higher than the average, such as Tra Vinh 96%, Da Nang 86% and Quang Tri 84%. In Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and Hai Phong it is mostly young people, especially those aged between 17 to 18, who are using synthetic drugs. The main drugs in circulation and causing addiction in Vietnam include heroin, amphetamines (ATS), especially methamphetamine (ice), cocaine, marijuana, and other psychotropic substances. Drug addiction has

negative consequences across society and requires multi-sectoral policy responses.

- Youth gambling situation [DC5]

Vietnamese law does not allow Vietnamese citizens to gamble. However, gambling does occur in the country.

## **7.2. Issues regarding policies for social vices and young people in conflict with the law**

*First*, although recent years have seen some positive signs in terms of a reduction in young people in conflict with the law and increasing awareness of some social vices, the achievements to date should not give rise to complacency. There is a need for the government to develop specific policies to address the range of social and legal challenges that face young people.

*Second*, broad social awareness and the participation of families, schools and society in general to prevent youth coming in conflict with the law and youth engaging in social vices show an upward trend, however there is room for improvement. In particular, young people are not equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to identify and deal with potentially negative social problems.

*Third*, Vietnam is missing the opportunity to actively and intensively engage with juveniles between the age of 16 to 18 to support them to avoid social vices and/or conflict with the law. There should be a specific priority policy for young people in this age group.

*Fourth*, The current approaches to drug addiction treatment and post-treatment community reintegration are not entirely successful, there is a significant number of addicts who relapse within short timeframes. [DC6]

*Fifth*, the mobilization and utilization of social resources to prevent young people being negatively affected by social vices or conflict with the law needs to be increased in order to sustainably and effectively improve the effectiveness of this work.

## **Part 3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **1. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **1.1. Population policy**

In order to take advantage of Vietnam's current golden population opportunity to promote national development and prepare to cope with the aging population trend, some policy-related issues in the coming time should focus on as follows;

*First*, Vietnam needs to shift population policy focus from family planning towards a focus on population and development. The state needs to consider and clearly calculate the relationship between population (for example; size, structure, distribution, birth rate, death rate, migration and quality of population) and development (economic, social, environment). This shift in focus would enable the country to pay attention to the young demographic groups in order to maximize their potential and their contribution to the country's socio-economic development. The shift in focus should be seen at every step of the planning process, developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the plans, at each level of government.

*Second*, demographic forecasts database based on strong evidence need to be developed. By placing demographic forecasts at the core of the planning process, the government is able to allocate resources to the areas that need them. Population forecasts will assist the government to actively engage with and respond to trends within its young population. Key population issues which need to be addressed in the short to medium term include; maintaining replacement fertility, minimizing the imbalance in the birth sex ratio and developing strategies and plans to cope with youth migration trends, both internal and overseas.

*Third*, Vietnam has an opportunity to enhance communication education on gender equality and the consequences of gender imbalance to the young through mass media, in schools, and through cultural and entertainment programs of youth, to build positive attitudes towards childbirth without gender selection.

*Fourth*, Vietnam has already begun to shift focus in the education system

from quantity towards quality . The "golden population" period has actually helped Vietnam to make some of these steps as the size of the school population (5-24 years old) has decreased due to low fertility. At the household level, there are less children in each household and this trend is reflected at the national level, thus reducing pressures on the education system. Reduction in the number of school pupils has helped to improve education quality. Vietnam can go further with this change and adopt policies which help the education system to deliver individualized education for each student instead of meeting the needs of majority.

*Fifth*, the "golden population" period offers Vietnam an opportunity not only for growth but also to improve the quality of its human resources and create jobs. The focus should be on developing a variety of industries suitable for Vietnam's stage of development whilst also developing the country's human resources, especially scientific and technical skills, ready for the next stage. The "golden population" period also offers the opportunity for Vietnam to put in place policies to encourage young people to develop individual financial, insurance, investment and health plans in preparation for the transition to an aging population and thus reduce pressure on the state.

## **1.2. Education - training policy**

Education is key to fostering and harnessing the potential of Vietnam's youth population. Key policy-related follow:

### ***1.2.1. Education-oriented policy***

- In the context of the rapid development of science and technology, especially information technology, the education system in Vietnam needs to switch its focus from providing knowledge to developing creative problem solving and critical thinking skills amongst young people. This change will enable students to develop their lifelong learning capacity and to flexibly respond to labor and social changes. To achieve this change, it is necessary to develop a comprehensive policy to change education starting from the way teachers are taught, developing appropriate teaching methods to changing curricula, textbooks, reference materials and testing and evaluation methods for learners.

- Vietnam needs to have policies ensuring that its education and training

system is set up to provide appropriate learning pathways which are beneficial for each individual student as well as positioning the country to maximize its future socio-economic development. This will require adjustments to a range of services, from vocational guidance to formulating and planning for a network of higher education and vocational education institutions, as well as designing appropriate programs and methods of education and training for education levels.

- Reforming education mechanism is vital for youth development as it will create an equal and competitive educational environment for properly trained and qualified young people. A healthy education environment will maximize its product to meet, the national development requirements.

### ***1.2.2. Policy of study encouragement and equality in education accession***

Vietnam should:

- Continue implementing support policies which improve access to education for young people such as: scholarships, tuition fee exemptions, accommodation support, social allowances for young students from difficult situations, and so on.

- Adjust student credit policies to raise loan limits and extend loan repayment periods to ensure student's living standards, particularly after graduation.

- Devote resources towards policies to detect, attract, train and foster young talents in the education and training field. The state must see this as a key investment to create a push for the nation to develop. In the context of limited resources, the state needs to place priority on investment in the fields and industries that can create practical value for the development of the country.

- Develop and enhance policies to ensure equality of access to high quality education for all vulnerable and disadvantaged groups including, girls, ethnic minority children, child migrants and children of migrants, and children with disabilities.

### ***1.2.3. Policies to ensure learning conditions for young people***

Vietnam should:

- Review, change and reform administrative procedures which impact

access to education including limiting the negative impact of permanent and temporary residence procedures on young people's ability to access education.

- Support educational institutions to build the pedagogical environment so as to encourage exploratory and creative learning processes which recognize the different learning competencies of learners.

### **1.3. Labor-employment policy**

To ensure the adequate and appropriate labor and employment conditions for young people, policy-related priorities include:

#### ***1.3.1. Orientation policy and creating employment opportunities for young people***

- Establish a comprehensive strategy for human resource development, which focuses on vocational training appropriate to the specific characteristics of each young person. In addition, actively considering young human resources as a specific component in the planning of socio-economic development plans at all levels of government.

- Complete information system of labor market including Vietnam Labor market Indicator collect, update and analyze labor market information on fluctuations, employment needs; labor market forecasts in the short and long term to provide information to young people in making decision on personal career development as well as seeking for future job opportunities.

- Develop strategies which support or require state agencies, socio-political organizations, public service agencies operating in specific fields related to youth to employ a certain percentage of youth.

- Develop strategies and incentives such as preferential policies on tax, credit and land. for businesses, organizations and individuals to improve vocational education, job creation and implementation of support programs for young workers.

- Give priority to young people when selecting participants for socio-economic development programs and projects in areas with difficult socio-economic conditions and regions with special hard socio-economic conditions; or working oversea under the state contract.

- Improve system capacity of Employment Service Centers in counseling, job introduction for workers and career orientation for students by; coordinating activities of the Center with training establishments and businesses; increasing frequency of employment sessions, diversifying employment transaction activities, organize appropriate job transaction activities at basic level facilities; enhancing application of information technology in employment service activities.

### ***1.3.2. Policies to encourage and support young people to start businesses***

- Conduct regular reviews of the legal framework around setting up businesses to ensure consistency and uniformity in the system and to effectively support startup enterprises;

- Simplify and publicize processes and administrative procedures related to organization and operation of enterprises at state agencies and public service agencies, as well as on electronic information portals of ministries, branches and localities, as well as promote application of information technology in receiving and processing business registration documents.

- Enhance the role of business associations and professional associations in supporting youth entrepreneurs. This would include giving the business community the ability to monitor, evaluate and propose effective solutions for the activities of government agencies as a basis for improving the quality of public services related to business registration.

- Create connection and coordination among state agencies, representative organizations of enterprises and lawyers' associations to provide legal assistance if needed . This scheme would promote legal support for start-up businesses, communicate and disseminate policies of the State on supporting start-up businesses and create favorable conditions for businesses to access policies and legal information

- Develop an effective communication portal for potential youth entrepreneurs to access all relevant information, advice and support so that they are able to start their businesses through business registration processes and connect to appropriate support and peer mechanisms.

- Develop and expand models to supporting the youth to startup business effectively, and strengthening dialogue between startups and representatives of

state agencies and Youth Union organizations and potential financial resources.

- Make preferential loans from the national fund for employment and other credit sources for young people to create jobs and to develop production, business and service by themselves.

### ***1.3.3. Policies for discovering, training and fostering talented young people***

- Develop a mechanism [DC7] which both recognizes the achievements of talented young people with outstanding achievements in learning, scientific and technological activities, culture, arts, and creates a forum for these talented individuals to work and contribute to the development of Vietnam.

- Develop a platform to connect talented youths as a basis for their further engagement in Vietnamese nation building.

### ***1.3.4. Social security policies for young migrants, and young workers in industrial parks and export processing zones***

- Create a communication campaign targeting young migrants to raise awareness of and increase accessibility to relevant information including on their rights and obligations across a range of areas including such as education, employment, social security, and so on.

- Review and reform administrative procedures and develop information technology in order to simplify and facilitate administrative procedures arising from change of permanent and temporary residence places such as, procedures for granting, changing household registration, registering temporary residence, temporary absence, participating in social insurance, and others in or to prevent limited access to basic social services.

- Ensure that the issue of migration is incorporated into planning processes for constructing infrastructure and into socio-economic development plans to ensure adequate resources to serve all people, including migrants.

- Create mechanisms to encourage and support agencies and organizations to employ young migrant workers.

- Support and encourage youth organizations such as Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, Youth Union, to develop and operate institutions to support and protect young people and young migrants such as a Center for

Supporting Young Workers and Young Laborers, Center for Employment Services and so on.

- Review and amend policies to promote access to social housing or subsidized housing, for young migrants.

#### **1.4. Policies on health and medical care**

Ensuring the healthy physical and mental development of Vietnam's youth is key to the continued successful development of the country. To support the healthy development of the youth population, a range of health related policy responses are needed, including:

- *Physical and mental health for young people;*

- Develop and organize implementation of nutrition standards and norms for the physical development of Vietnamese youth.

- Reorganize health service delivery network as well as health financing mechanisms, especially health insurance, to enhance the accessibility of young people. Strengthen the health human resources in disadvantaged areas and require all private health facilities to participate in the health insurance scheme for medical examination and treatment.

- Implement laws restricting usage of alcohol, beer and cigarettes among young people.

- Develop a national strategy on reproductive health and sexual health for adolescents and young people which incorporates education and awareness raising about sexual and reproductive health.

- Reduce barriers to access to sexual and reproductive health care for young people, especially teenagers. - Encourage young people to have a health check before marriage registration to detect and address any health and reproductive health issues that may affect health of the next generation-

- *Mental health, counseling, education and health services;*

- Provide convenient, accessible, private, confidential and comfortable health care services for youth using a variety of delivery methods including educational media, online exchanges and public programs in order to provide the most effective support.

- Conduct an education and awareness campaign on a range of issues of relevance to youth, including, love, marriage, family, reproductive health, sexual health, gender equality, prevention of sexual abuse and gender violence, drug prevention, prevention of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases and other social diseases via extracurricular programs at educational institutions.

- Facilitate easy access to encourage regular health check-ups for youth, regardless of age, gender, locality and occupation. Youth will then have awareness of their health status and the government can track broad youth health trends.

- Develop a legal and policy environment which supports investment in the development of private sector health and counselling facilities.

*Third*, it is about policy of health investigation among the youth:

- Develop and implement a periodical assessment of risk issues affecting the physical and mental health of youth, such as via a national youth health survey, as a basis for understanding emerging trends and issues and adjusting overall policies in response to the evidence.

- Develop a national health database to track and respond to general and emerging health issues and support evidence-based policies and decision making.

- Establish and organize implementation of basic health and physical standards for youth based on results of the youth health survey and in consultation with relevant agencies and organizations.

- Develop and operate an official information portal on physical and mental health to advise and provide knowledge to young people about all aspects of their physical and mental health including, love, marriage, family, reproductive health, sexual health, gender equality, prevention of sexual abuse and gender violence, drug prevention, prevention of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases and other social diseases.

### **1.5. Policies about entertainment and information access**

To encourage young people to participate in various types of culture, entertainment and to access information in a healthy manner, a range of policy responses are suggested below:

- Regularly review policies and process on management of cultural products (movies, photos, music, online games and so on), especially products provided via the internet and social networks, to ensure official classifications and processes are keeping up with social and technological developments and protect adolescents from unhealthy and harmful to their development

- Develop and enhance policies and processes to support locally produced content by implementing a minimum, locally produced, content ratio for the entertainment sector, including radio, television and movies. These policies will encourage appropriate local content and create conditions for Vietnamese manufacturers to develop and compete with foreign products.

*Third,* Develop policies promoting values of existing cultural institutions and products, creating conditions for young people to actively organize community cultural activities, promoting traditional cultural values, as well as receiving quintessence of foreign cultures

- Develop awareness raising campaigns to support the ability of youth to engage safely with online activities and social media.

#### **1.6. Policies to encourage socio-political participation of youth**

To ensure and encourage the socio-political participation of young people in the running and development of Vietnam a range of policy related approaches are suggested as follows:

*Firstly,* - Ensure adequate resource allocation to enhance the ability of the youth's official socio-political organizations to engage with young people and involve youth in their own activities, as well as the broader political and social life of the country.

*Secondly,* - Formulate the legal and policy mechanisms needed to encourage the establishment of groups and organizations to promote appropriate activities for youth in addition to those currently prescribed under the constitution and laws. Involvement of young people in their own organizations voluntarily enhances their activeness and self-awareness, and is also a channel that the state can use to better understand the situation of youth to support it to develop appropriate youth-related policies.

**Thirdly**, - Develop appropriate policies to support and encourage sustained youth engagement in volunteer opportunities.

**Fourthly**, - Develop an official mechanism to support young people to engage with the development of policies and laws, particularly those related to youth. The official mechanism should focus on both encouraging youth engagement and support official agencies to develop and enhance their ability to 'listen' and respond to youth voices.

it should complete mechanism encouraging young people to participate in supervising and making opponency with policies and laws, especially policies and laws related to youth, in the direction of clarifying responsibilities of state agencies in recognizing, sending feedback, explaining ideas and opinions of young people during the process of drafting, and adopting and organizing implementation of these policies.

**Fifthly**, - Develop policies and procedures which require organizations and agencies to regularly hold dialogues with young people and outline agencies responsibility to disclose and respond to the issues raised through the dialogue process.

### **1.7. Policies to prevent law violations and social vices among young people**

- **Firstly**, aAdopt policies to raise social awareness, particularly amongst youth, to prevent youth from coming into conflict with the law and to reduce the impact of social vices on young people. A variety of methods should be considered for the awareness raising including through, integrating this content into the school curriculum, organizing contests, forums and other methods of youth engagement.

**Secondly**- Create priority policies targeted at young people aged from 16 to 18 to help them to develop the knowledge and skills needed to avoid antisocial and illegal behavior.

**Thirdly**- Review and improve the drug addiction treatment regime drawing from international best practice and include support for social reintegration for recovered addicts by supporting return to education, vocational training and employment.

*Fourth*, adopt policies of the prevention of young people from violating law in order to encourage and create conditions for agencies, organizations, families and individuals to actively participate in and contribute their responsibility to the society

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RESEARCH STUDIES ON YOUTH ISSUES**

Research for this report has identified that there are a number of knowledge and information gaps in terms of understanding youth related issues. Knowledge and information is needed to support policy-makers, the general public and youth themselves to devise social and policy responses to youth issues and challenges. To bridge these knowledge and information gaps both large-scale, broad research studies, as well as, investigations into smaller, more niche areas are needed.

Following are a number of suggested research areas broken down into thematic areas:

### **2.1. Studies about youth issues**

- Large-scale studies (large numbers of participants and broad subject areas) on young people could focus on: education and learning; labor issues; health; participation; youth need and expectation

- Studies on different groups of young people could include, urban youth, rural youth, young male workers, young women, ethnic minorities, and youth with disabilities.

- Longitudinal studies on young people over 5 years' intervals, to develop long-term understanding of youth over time.

### **2.2. Studies on Youth related policies**

- Studies on youth development policies according to fields (study and education; occupations and employment; health, etc.)

- Studies on policies for specific groups of young people (youth in challenging circumstances, ethnic minority youth, young people violating the law, and so on).

- Study on the impacts of youth-related policies.

## **3. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EVIDENCE AND DATA**

Vietnam needs to develop its capacity to collect and analyze data so that policy makers and lawmakers have access to a consistent and comprehensive statistical system which integrates data from across a range of sectors. Clearer and more reliable data will help Vietnam to identify the issues which impact upon youth and to craft laws and policies which appropriately address the needs and issues faced by Vietnamese youth.

Some suggested focus areas include:

- Statistical data according to age of young people (16-30 years old) in the fields of labor; health; youth in conflict with the law; and behaviors of young people that are harmful to society.

- Effective coordination mechanism among concerned ministries and branches in providing annual or regular statistical data on youth in different fields.

## Appendix 1

### POLICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

<b>I</b>	<b>DOCUMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE PRIME MINISTER ON THE YOUTH AND YOUTH AFFAIRS WORK</b>
1	The Government's Resolution No. 120/2007/ND-CP, dated July 23 <sup>rd</sup> on guiding to implement a number of articles in the Youth Law.
2	The Government's Resolution No. 12/2011/ND-CP, dated January 30 <sup>th</sup> 2011 on organization and policies for youth volunteers.
3	The Government's Decree No. 78/2017/NC-CP dated July 03 <sup>rd</sup> 2017 on amending, supplementing Resolution no 120/2007/ND-CP of the Government on guiding to implement of a number of articles of Youth Law.
4	The Government's Resolution No. 112/2017/ND-CP dated October 06 <sup>th</sup> 2017 on regimes, policies for young volunteers in the South to join in the resistance in the period of 1965 – 1975.
5	The Government's Resolution No. 140/2017/ND-CP dated December 05 <sup>th</sup> 2017 on policies for attracting and creating human resources from civil servants, excellent graduates, and young scientists.
6	The Government's Resolution No. 45/NQ-CP, dated September 11 <sup>th</sup> 2009 promulgating The Government's Action Program in implementing Resolution 25-NQ/TW, dated July 25 <sup>th</sup> 2008 of the 10 <sup>th</sup> Central Committee of Communist Party of Vietnam on strengthening the Party's leadership for youth affairs in the period of speeding up industrialization and modernization.
7	Decision No.157/2007/QD-TTg, dated September 27 <sup>th</sup> 2019 of the Prime Minister on credit for students.
8	Decision No.103/2008/QD-TTg, dated July 21, 2008 of the Prime Minister on approving the Scheme on support for young people in vocational training and job creation in the period of 2008-2015.
9	Decision No.121/QD-TTg, dated October 09 <sup>th</sup> 2009 of the Prime Minister on policies for supporting demobilized soldiers in vocational training.
10	Decision No.174/QD-TTg, dated January 29 <sup>th</sup> 2010 of the Prime Minister on approving the Scheme of enhancing young cadre volunteers to work in defense economic zones in the period of 2010-2020.
11	Decision No.1471/QD-TTg, dated August 13 <sup>th</sup> 2020 of the Prime Minister on the establishment of Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
12	Decision No.2160/QD-TTg, dated November 26 <sup>th</sup> 2010 of the Prime Minister on approving the Scheme for enhancing law and education dissemination in order to raise legal awareness for young people.
13	Decision No.170/QD-TTg, dated January 26 <sup>th</sup> 2011 of the Prime Minister

	on approving the pilot project on recruitment of 600 young cadres with university degrees to work as Vice Chairmen of the People's Communal Committees in 62 poor districts.
14	Decision No.2474/QD-TTg, dated December 30 <sup>th</sup> 2011 of the Prime Minister on approving Vietnam's Youth Development Strategy in the period of 2011-2020.
15	Decision No.1912/QD-TTg, dated February 20 <sup>th</sup> 2012 of the Prime Minister on approving Entrepreneurship youth village in the period of 2013-2020.
16	Decision No.13/2013/QD-TTg, dated February 6 <sup>th</sup> 2013 of the Prime Minister on the regimes and policies for officials of Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, Vietnam Student Association, Vietnam Youth Union Nam in educational and vocational institutions.
17	Decision No.324/QD-TTg dated February 18 <sup>th</sup> 2013 of the Prime Minister on approving the Scheme of Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union in building new rural areas in the period of 2013-2020.
18	Decision No.2051/QD-TTg, dated December 24 <sup>th</sup> 2013 of the Prime Minister on approving the Scheme of Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union in traffic order compliance in the period of 2013-2020.
19	Decision No.1758/QD-TTg dated September 30 <sup>th</sup> 2013 of the Prime Minister on approving the Pilot Project of recruiting young cadres to volunteer in communes to participate in the development of rural and mountainous areas in the period of 2013 – 2020.
20	Decision No. 567/QD-TTg dated April 22 <sup>nd</sup> 2014 of the Prime Minister approving the Scheme on fostering and improving state management capacity for young cadres and civil servants at commune level.
21	Decision No.57/QG-TTg dated November 16 <sup>th</sup> 2015 of the Prime Minister on policies of youth volunteer activities.
22	Decision No.158/QD-TTg dated January 25 <sup>th</sup> 2016 of the Prime Minister on promulgating statistical indicator set for Vietnam's Youth.
23	Decision No.1042/QD-TTg dated July 17 <sup>th</sup> 2017 of the Prime Minister on promulgating Implementation plan of Vietnam's Youth Development Strategy in the Phase II (2016-2020).
24	Directive No.13/CT-TTg, dated May 18 <sup>th</sup> 2012 of the Prime Minister on implementing Vietnam's Youth Development Strategy in the period of 2011-2020.
25	Directive No.06/CT-TTg dated February 16 <sup>th</sup> 2016 of the Prime Minister on the continuing implementation of Resolution No.45 and Vietnam's Youth Development Strategy from now to the end of 2020.
<b>II</b>	<b>DOCUMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE PRIME MINISTER RELATING TO THE YOUTH</b>
1	Decree No.49/2010/ND-CP, dated May 14 <sup>th</sup> 2010 of the Government on

	stipulating on reduction and exemption of tuition fee, support for learning costs, collection, expenditure, use of tuition for education systems under national educational systems during 2010-2011 to 2014-2015.
2	Resolution No.01/2012/NQLT-CP-BCHTWD, dated December 14 <sup>th</sup> 2012 of the Prime Minister on the promulgation of operating coordination between the Government and Central Committee of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union.
3	Decision No.71/2005/QD-TTg, dated April 05 <sup>th</sup> 2005 of the Prime Minister on management mechanism, loan administration of National Fund for employment.
4	Decision No.155/QD-TTg, dated June 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2006 of the Prime Minister on approving accommodation settlement for students in Universities and Colleges until 2010.
5	Decision No.15/2008/QD-TTg, dated January 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2008 of the Prime Minister on amending, supplementing a number of articles of Decision No.71/2005/QD-TTg dated April 05 <sup>th</sup> 2005 by the Prime Minister about management mechanism, loan administration of National Fund for employment.
6	Decision No.71 /2009 / QD - TTg dated April 29 <sup>th</sup> 2009 of the Prime Minister on approving the Scheme supporting poor districts Labor boost exports contribute to sustainable poverty reduction in the period 2009-2020.
7	Decision No.1956/QD-TTg, dated November 27 <sup>th</sup> 2019 of the Prime Minister on approving the Scheme “Vocational training for rural workers until 2020”.
8	Decision No.267/2005/QD-TTg, dated October 31 <sup>st</sup> 2005 of the Prime Minister on vocational training policies for boarding ethnic minority students.
9	Decision No.579/QD-TTg, dated April 19 <sup>th</sup> 2011 of the Prime Minister on approving Vietnam Human Resource Development in the period of 2011-2020.
10	Decision No.2013/QD-TTg, dated November 14 <sup>th</sup> 2011 of the Prime Minister on approving National Strategies on Population and Reproductive Health in the period of 2011-2020.
11	Decision No.630/QD-TTg, dated May 29 <sup>th</sup> 2012 of the Prime Minister on approving Vocational Training Development Strategy in the period of 2011-2020
12	Decision No.711/QD-TTg, dated June 13 <sup>th</sup> 2012 of the Prime Minister on approving Educational Development Strategy in the period of 2011 – 2020.
13	Decision No.1199/QD-TTg, dated August 31 <sup>st</sup> 2012 of the Prime Minister on approving National Target Program on Population and Family Planning in the period of 2012 – 2015.

14	Decision No.1208/QD-TTg, dated August 31 <sup>st</sup> 2012 of the Prime Minister on approving National Target Program on employment and vocational training in the period of 2012 – 2015.
15	Decision No.1208/QD-TTg, dated September 04 <sup>th</sup> 2012 of the Prime Minister on approving National Target Program on Health in the period of 2012 – 2015.
16	Decision No.641/QD-TTg, dated April 28 <sup>th</sup> 2011 of the Prime Minister on approving a master plan to develop physical strength and height of Vietnamese people in the period of 2011 – 2030.
<b>III</b>	<b>DOCUMENTS OF MINISTRIES, MINISTERIAL AGENCIES ON YOUTH AFFAIRS AND RELATING TO THE YOUTH</b>
1	Decision No.2010/QD/BYT dated June 7 <sup>th</sup> 2006 of the Ministry of Health on National Master Plan for Protection, Health Care of Vietnamese Adolescents/the Youth in the period of 2006-2010 and Orientation forward to 2020.
2	Decision No.4617/QD/BYT, dated 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2007 of the Ministry of Health on guiding provision of friendly health services to adolescent/the youth.
3	Decision No.68/2008/QD-BGDDT, dated December 09 <sup>th</sup> 2008 of the Ministry of Education and Training on vocational guidance, employment counseling in higher education institutes and vocational schools.
4	Joint Circular No.30/2010/TTLT-BGDDT, dated October 16 <sup>th</sup> 2010 between the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Education and Training on guiding the coordination in implementing propaganda work of laws at schools
5	Circular No.04/2011/TT-BNV, dated February 10 <sup>th</sup> 2011 of the Ministry of Home Affairs on guiding additional tasks, organization and personnel of Department, Division of Home Affairs under the Provincial and District People's Committees.
6	Circular No.11/2011/TT-BNV, dated September 26 <sup>th</sup> 2011 of the Ministry of Home Affairs on guiding the implementation of a number of articles of the Government's Decree No.12/2011/ND-CP dated January 30 <sup>th</sup> 2011 on organization and policies for youth volunteers.
7	Joint Circular No.119/2013/TTLT-BTC-BNV, dated August 26 <sup>th</sup> 2013 of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Home Affairs on stipulating estimation, management, usage and expense settlement of regular operating funds of youth volunteer from the state budget.
8	Circular No.18/2014/TT-BNV dated November 25 <sup>th</sup> 2014 of the Ministry of Home Affairs stipulating volunteer youth units to be established and operated in periods to all the undefined units.

## **Appendix 2.**

### **STATE MANAGEMENT APPARATUS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS**

1. Clause 2, Article 5 of the 2005 Youth Law and Government's Decree No. 120/2007/ND-CP on July 23th 2007, guiding the implementation of a number of articles of the Youth Law without specifying any agencies to help the Government perform state management tasks of youth affairs. By 2008, at the Government's Decree No. 48/2008/ND-CP on April 17th 2008, it defined functions, tasks, powers and organizational structure of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Government assigned state management tasks on youth affairs for the Ministry of Home Affairs, during this period, there was no specialized apparatus to perform state management tasks of youth affairs.

- Implementing the Poliburo's Conclusion in Notice No. 327-TB/TW dated April 16th 1010 on approving Organization scheme on state management apparatus of youth affairs, the Prime Minister issued Decision No 1471/QD-TTg on August 13th 2010 to establish Youth Affairs Department under the Ministry of Home Affairs and Minister of the Ministry of Home Affairs issued Circular No 04/2011/TT-BNV dated February 10th 2011 on providing additional guidances of tasks, organization and personel of Department of Home Affairs, Division of Home Affairs under the People's Committe at provincial and district levels on youth work. Accordingly, the Provincial and City People's Committe under the Central Government has established Youth Affairs Divison under the Ministry of Home Affairs (from 02 to 05 staff) and appointed 01 specialized staff about youth affairs for Division of Home Affairs at district level; for commune level, state management task has been designated to staff in Office – Statistics Office for implementation. Ministries and ministerial-level agencies has assigned state management task of youth affairs to Department of Personel and Organization for implementation. The apparatus of state management tasks of youth affairs has brought into play the efficiency in advising formulation, promulgation of policies, laws and implemetation organization of policies, laws to the young people; simultenously has worked closely with the Youth Unions at all the levels in formulating and organizing the implementation of policies, laws

with the purpose of taking care of, fostering, training and promoting the youth role of impact and volunteering.

2. Implementing Circular No.15/2014/TT-BNV dated October 31th, 2014 of Ministry of Home Affairs on guiding functions, tasks, power and organizational structure of Department of Home Affairs under the People's Committees of provinces and municipalities, Departments of Home Affairs of The People's Committees at rural districts, urban districts, towns, communes, provincial cities as stipulated with in the direction of streamlining, reducing clues, contributing to improving the efficiency of state management of local governments but not neglecting the tasks of Home Affairs, to incorporate Youth Affairs Division with Government Construction Division into Youth Affairs and Authority Construction Division. After incorporation, Youth Affairs and Authority Construction Division basically assigns staff to be in charge of state management tasks of youth affairs from 01-02 staff (including 01 head of department and 01 civil servant to work directly in youth affairs). Other departments, sectors under the Provincial People's Committee arrange 01 specialized staff. At the district level, Division of Home Affairs still arranged one full-time staff; at the same time, Deputy head is assigned to be directly in charge. At the commune level, there has personel arrangement of Office – Statistics Office and Vice Chairman of the Communal People's Committee to be in charge of youth affairs. However, the change of the organizational structure module in the localities has made a great impact on operation effectiveness of state management on youth affairs in the localities, specifically:

- First, as there was not much attention in state management tasks of youth affairs, in research investment to organize implementation of policies, laws for young people after incorporating, state management tasks of youth affairs in several localities has been gradually neglected but just with the focus on implementing tasks relating to building grassroot administrations of this Division. Many localities even assigned concurrent civil servants

- Second, after incorporating, contingent of state management of youth affairs has been experiencing many changes (previously assigning for Division of Youth Affairs from 03 to 05 civil servants, presently only from 01-02 people after incorporating). Most of the contingent of civil servants in charge of state management of youth affairs who have had experiences in performing state

management tasks have been assigned to work in the other fields to settle staff policy. That civil Servants of Youth Affairs and Government Construction Division assigned to lead and take responsible for direct implementation of state management tasks of youth affairs are mostly new people who have not grasped state management contents of youth affairs leads to confusions, passiveness in task implementation. On the other hand, due to instablility of organization, inexperience and multi-tasks, there has also an impact on psychology and operation efficiency of the contingent of civil servants in charge of state management tasks of youth affairs.

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