THE IMPACT OF CONFUCIUS EDUCATION ON THE CHOICE OF MAJOR COURSE OF CURRENT VIETNAMESE STUDENTS

O IMPACTO DA EDUCAÇÃO CONFUCIANA NA ESCOLHA DO CURSO PRINCIPAL DOS ATUAIS ESTUDANTES VIETNAMITAS

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Abstract. In education in Vietnam, Confucian education plays an important role in forming students' perspectives and choice of major. The influence of Confucianism is often expressed through respect for tradition, ethics, and students' decisions about majors. However, the choice of major also depends on many other factors such as personal interests, abilities and career opportunities. In this research, I will focus on clarifying issues such as Confucian education, surveying the impact of Confucianism on the ethics, lifestyle, choice of major and study attitude of Vietnamese students. Find answers to the questions raised and clearly show the impact of Confucian education on students' choice of major. Consider it in the comprehensive context of today's education and society. Besides, the author also provides discussions and future research directions for this topic.

Keywords: impact; Confucian education; choose major.

Resumo. Na educação no Vietnã, a educação confucionista desempenha um papel importante na formação das perspectivas dos alunos e na escolha da especialização. A influência do confucionismo é frequentemente expressa por meio do respeito à tradição, à ética e às decisões dos alunos sobre as especializações. No entanto, a escolha da especialização também depende de muitos outros fatores, como interesses pessoais, habilidades e oportunidades de carreira. Nesta pesquisa, vou me concentrar em esclarecer questões como a educação confucionista, pesquisando o impacto do confucionismo na ética, estilo de vida, escolha da especialização e atitude de estudo dos alunos vietnamitas. Encontre respostas para as perguntas levantadas e mostre claramente o impacto da educação confucionista na escolha da especialização dos alunos. Considere-a no contexto abrangente da educação e da sociedade de hoje. Além disso, o autor também fornece discussões e futuras direções de pesquisa para este tópico.

Palavras-chave: impacto; educação confucionista; escolha especialização.

1. INTRODUCTION

In the history of ancient Eastern philosophy, Confucian doctrine highly emphasizes the role of education in transforming people and society. Since its inception, Confucianism has provided profound insights into the purpose, content, and methods of education. Determining the overarching educational content in Confucian education is the issue of moral education. Confucian educational ideology has formed an extremely rich system of educational methods such as the method of setting an example, the method of classifying type of subjects in teaching, suggest problems, educate the spirit of learning for students, etc. to bring the highest efficiency in moral education.

Besides, Confucian education ideology during the Early Qin period also suggested many effective methods of moral education. For example, moral education should start from natural human emotions, then socialize them into moral values and standards so that moral behavior is both voluntary and representing the basic interests of the ruling class in society. With strict explanations in the content and methods of education, Confucian educational ideology has trained classes of people who adapt to the feudal social order - elite classes who carry out the

task of governing the people and classes of people who know how to live peacefully and peacefully according to religious order. From progressive educational policies, the Confucian educational perspective has reached the highest goal of the educational process when building an ideal model in society.

The gentleman model - the pride of Confucianism - is not only the ideal personality of feudal society in the spirit of Confucianism but also a nuclear force to supplement the ruling class to carry out the task of governing the people. With those outstanding characteristics, Confucian educational ideology has gone beyond the territory of China and reached other countries in the region, including Vietnam.

Confucian education, with profound influence from ancient Chinese philosophy and educational methods, has played an important role in the formation and development of Vietnamese education. However, in the modern era with outstanding economic and technological development, the question of the impact of Confucian education on the choice of major of Vietnamese students today is attracting attention of many researchers and educational administrators.

In addition to many opinions, Confucian education not only brings professional knowledge but also shapes an individual's perspective and values towards future study and career. However, there are also opinions that Confucian education can limit students' creativity and freedom in choosing majors. Imposing notions of traditional majors and "safe" jobs from the perspective of family and society can take away students' potential and passion for self-discovery and development. .

To better understand the impact of Confucian education on the choice of major of Vietnamese students today, it is necessary to conduct specific studies on the thinking, values and influence of traditional education in the decision-making process about students' majors. At the same time, discussing and proposing more flexible and diverse educational methods is also an important factor to create a diverse and developed learning environment for students. This article will explore the influence of Confucian education on the process of choosing a major for Vietnamese students today, and explore the challenges and opportunities that Confucian education brings.

2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

It can be said that research on the impact of Confucian education on the choice of major of Vietnamese students today has attracted the attention of many researchers. Below, the author will point out some theoretical bases discussed by the studies.

Research on the influence of Confucian education on society by (Jianfu, Y. 2009); (Bahtilla, M., & Xu, H. 2021); (Wang, G. 2022); (Tan, C. 2020); (Fang, X. 2021) mentioned strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges. The author all agree that Confucian education has created inequality. The author believes that this statement is not completely accurate. If we go back to its birth history in 550 BC, at this time the division of labor by gender in China was going strong.

The division of labor is based on the theory of yin and yang (weak yin, representing women on the inside; strong yang, representing men on the outside), educating women to favor the yin nature so that they can take on their work. It is considered a progress towards gender equality. Studies by (Billioud, S. 2021); (Wang, C. 2022); (Muyunda, G., & Yue, L. 2022) points out that Confucian education often carries traditional values, culture and lifestyle of society, so research contributes to the preservation and develop traditional cultural values of society. The author believes that it will be more complete when it comes to Confucian education that emphasizes personal and social moral development. The research to contribute to strengthening values such as responsibility, respect and compassion in society is necessary.

Research on Confucian education to the choice of major through surveys by (Xiong, R., & Wei, P. 2020); (Wang, X. 2021); (Qu, F., et al. 2021); (Liu, D., et al. 2023).3 suggests that in order to have

an objective view on it, it is necessary to go through surveys to better understand the impact of traditional education on students' major decisions. It is necessary to consider the scope of the study, including the number of participants and the geographic and social scope. The research sample needs to ensure representation of both students from urban and rural areas, from families with Confucian culture to families with other cultures. Consideration should be given to the research method used, including the design of the questions, the means of data collection (such as online surveys, interviews, or discussion groups), and how they will be analyzed and interpreted. data. Ensuring the reliability and validity of data obtained from surveys is very important, so it is necessary to check data collection methods, control errors, and ensure the reliability of results.

The author highly appreciates the above opinions and believes that there needs to be a specific historical method to research and clarify the issue. It is the same educational ideology of Confucianism, but the application in each country is completely different. Its application does not come from Confucianism, which has many branches, but is due to the will of the ruler to use it in the countries which are not the same.

Research on the influence of family in forming attitudes has influenced students' choice of major (Sundly, A., & Galway, G. J. 2021); (Wiswall, M., & Zafar, B. 2021); (Wang, T., & Li, S. 2022); (Bo, S., Chen, J., et al. 2020); (Sahu, R., et al. 2021); (Haas, C., & Hadjar, A. 2020). Studies show that family plays an important role in forming a student's decision to choose a major. They explain that family is often where students absorb values, beliefs, and desires for the future.

Traditional values such as respect for family, economic stability and safety can influence the choice of major. Specifying the role of career orientation according to the theory of Multiple intelligences of (Gardner, H. 1993). Researchers say that only family and school are the fastest places to detect a child's intelligence (Aguayo, B. B., et al. 2021); (Meena, R. S. 2020); (Rasheed, F., & Wahid, A. 2021).

However, family has a stronger influence on their career choice. In another direction of research, we believe that discovering children's intelligence and choosing a career are two opposing issues. A student's career choice can be driven by social needs, peer influence, etc. Family also puts pressure on choosing a major, especially a major that is currently the family's strength. Obviously, family plays an important role in forming students' opinions and decisions about majors, but this statement is not a comprehensive statement.

Research on the values that Confucianism brings to education today (Li, B., et al. 2023); (Wang, C. 2023); (Xie, T., et al. 2021); (Gilgan, S. 2022). Researchers all believe that Confucian education has demonstrated the motto and strategy of educating people; focus on moral education in the educational process; Confucian education methods proposed by Confucianism such as the method of setting an example, the method of suggesting, evoking the positivity and creativity of learners... are still widely used in the educational reform process to this day. The author agrees with the above comments but further emphasizes that its value is also reflected in building the ideal type of person in society. From that point of view, the author believes that a living example is made up of hundreds of empty speeches**.**

3. RESEARCH METHOD

The article aims to clarify the impact of Confucian education on the choice of major of Vietnamese students today and provide discussions on these issues. To well carry out the research goals and tasks, the article must carry out historical rigor, comprehensiveness, multi-dimensionality, considering it in the development process of Confucianism as well as in Vietnamese history.

When researching the impact of Confucian education on the choice of major of Vietnamese students today, the authors approached the research issue from a dialectical philosophical perspective; history of philosophy to analyze and explain the contents.

Historical-logical method

The article uses this method to review and evaluate Confucian education in the era in which it was born, in order to sequence the scientific issues that the article addresses. On the basis of historical data, we can draw the regularity of its movement and development.

Method of collecting information and documents

The author collected documents such as books, newspapers, and magazines in Vietnam and other countries about the impact of Confucian education on the choice of major to study and prove our points of view.

Survey method

To conduct the survey, the author selected 17 universities, including 02 national universities; 02 regional universities; 02 universities by fields; 11 universities. The number of students participating in the survey is 2,116. The selection of subjects to participate in research is mainly based on volunteerism. 2,116 students studying at 17 different universities in the first semester of the school year 2023-2024 participated in answering the survey questionnaire, resulting in 2,116 valid votes. After the survey, 212 random students out of these 2,116 students were invited to participate in in-depth interviews.

Two data collection tools including a questionnaire for students and an in-depth interview protocol were developed. To find out students' perceptions and responses to the impact of Confucianism on their choice of major, a student questionnaire was designed. The main part of the questionnaire includes 20 questions. Each question is on a scale from 1 to 5, with higher numbers corresponding to lower levels of disagreement: from very inaccurate (1) to very accurate (5). Students check the box corresponding to their level of agreement.

To collect qualitative results for research and simultaneously compare and contrast with quantitative research results obtained from the questionnaire. This table is built after the quantitative research results have been collected and the results obtained. The purpose of the in-depth interview is to explain the initial results obtained from the quantitative research results.

The process of collecting quantitative data takes place from August to December 2023. After the quantitative results have been processed and analyzed to provide initial results. Some in-depth interviews were conducted via internet phone, some in-depth interviews were conducted directly at the school or at the cafeteria, depending on the convenience of the students participating in the interviews. The interview results were recorded and noted down.

The data processing and analysis process is conducted in two phases. Phase 1 after having quantitative data from the questionnaire. During the process of collecting the questionnaire, the research team briefly checked and gave reminders to ensure that participants did not miss questions in the questionnaire. With a total of 2,116 votes collected, objectivity and reliability are guaranteed. Because the questionnaire was set up mainly in the form of closed questions, the data collected from these 2,116 questionnaires were entered and processed on SPSS software version 20. Data were processed to calculate the average value (Mean), standard deviation (SD) and maximum value (Max), minimum value (Min). Information from open-ended questions is used to supplement qualitative information for the in-depth interview. Phase 2 is conducted after conducting in-depth interviews. The data were noted during the interview process and the recording was listened to again if necessary. The main information and outstanding ideas are synthesized and grouped by themes to support quantitative results.

Analysis and synthesis method

The article uses this method to analyze survey results on the impact of Confucian education on the choice of major of Vietnamese students. On that basis, generalize and synthesize assessments.

Research question

To research on the topic of the impact of Confucian education on the choice of major of Vietnamese students today, the author poses the following three questions:

1. How has Confucian education influenced students' choice of major?
2. Is the impact of Confucian education on the choice of major positive or negative?
3. How to overcome the limitations of the impact of Confucian education on students' choice of major?

4. RESULTS

To conduct the research, we selected students from 17 universities including national universities; regional universities; universities by fields; multidisciplinary universities; local universities; international universities. All universities are part of the higher education system in Vietnam. The number of female students participating in the survey was 1609, the number of male students participating in the survey was 507. In which first-year students account for 65.8%, second-year students account for 25.6%, third-year students account for 13.5%, fourth-year students account for 4.1%.

To better understand family education from a Confucian perspective, the author conducted a survey with two separate questions for both genders. From the perspective of Confucianism, the education of both sexes is not the same. If men belong to the yang element, symbolizing strength, they need to educate them in kindness, propriety, wisdom, trust, courage, and righteousness, while women belong to the yin element, symbolizing weakness, they must educate them in justice, content, speech, conduct.

In line with that viewpoint, the author posed a question to male students: "*Have you often been taught by your parents that you need to cultivate to become a gentleman?*" The results were 26.3% very often, 35.5% often, 26.2% neutral, 9% often, 3.1% very infrequent. Question for female students: "*Have you often been taught by your parents to practice to become a woman of merit, tolerance, speech, and conduct?"* The results are 25% very often, 35.5% often, 27.4% neutral, 9% infrequent, 3.2% very infrequent.

Confucianism believes that human morality is extremely important. To survive, people need to behave ethically from within the family to in society. Only when people have morality can they think about developing their talents. Because of this point of view, the author asked the question: "*Have your parents often told you that morality is the most important thing, followed by talent"* Results 43% very often, 40.6% often, 12.2% neutral, 3.5% infrequent, 0.6% very infrequent.

Respecting elders is one of the necessary virtues that Confucian education focuses on. The author asks the question: *Do your parents often tell you that you need to respect adults?* Results: 68.1% answered very often, 27.4% answered often, 4.1% answered neutral, 0.2% answered not often, 0.2 answered very infrequently. In Confucian and traditional education, Vietnamese people pay great attention to family meals, which include two main categories: lunch and dinner. During this meals, family members sit at the dining table to eat together.

Daily tasks are also shared and discussed by family members. Before eating, family members with lower positions must invite members with higher positions to eat. During meals, members with lower positions must take food for those with higher positions before taking food for themselves. Based on this issue, the author conducted a survey with the question: *Is it mandatory in your family to invite elders before eating?* The result includes 38.3% answered very often, 30.3% answered often, 20.3% answered neutral, 8.2% answered infrequently and 2.9% answered very infrequently. through. To survey students' self-discipline, the author asked the question: *While eating, do you get food for the elderly first*

Br. J. Ed., Tech. Soc., v.17, n.se5, p.260-269, 2024
DOI http://dx.doi.org/10.14571/brajets.v17.nse5.260-269
ISSN 2316-9907

and then get it for yourself? As a result, 27.3% answered very often, 27.7% answered often, 29% answered neutral, 10.75 answered infrequently, 5.3% answered very infrequently. Thus, the level of mandatory and voluntary implementation is very high.

Examining the family's educational environment is to confirm the educational foundation of the survey subjects from a Confucian perspective. The author begins to understand the impact of Confucianism on the choice of major. To the question: *Was the major you chose guided by your parents?* The results obtained are as follows:

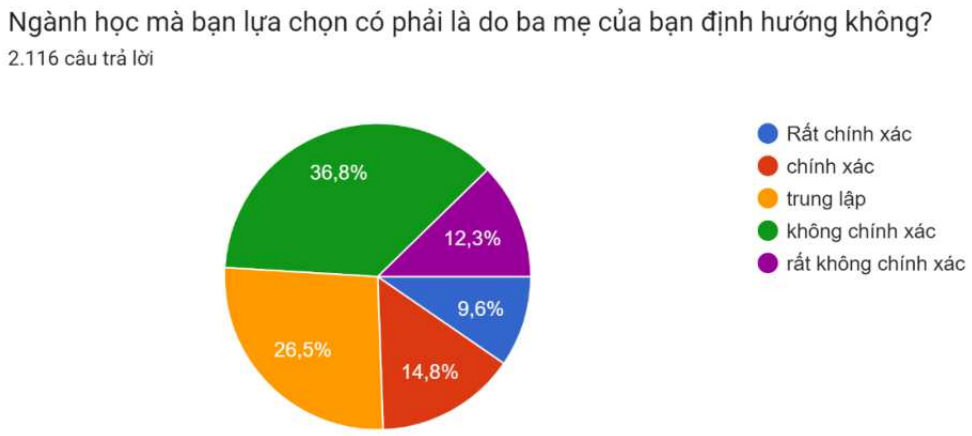

Figure 1. Educational foundation of the survey subjects from a Confucian perspective.

Continuing with the question: *You chose this major because your family thinks you can advance when you graduate?* As a result, 12.4% answered "very correctly", 24.5% answered "correctly", 32.5% answered "neutral", 22.2% answered "incorrectly", 8.4% answered "very incorrectly". Confucianism advocates training people towards two goals: to be an official and to be a teacher. To verify this issue, the author conducted a questionnaire survey: *You chose this field of study because your family said that after studying, they would find you a job as a teacher?* As a result, 8.6% answered "very correctly", 10.7% answered "correctly", 20.6% answered "neutral", 43% answered "incorrectly", 17.1% answered "very incorrectly". To reaffirm, whether a student's choice of major comes from his or her family or not. The author asked the question: *Your choice of major is influenced by your family*? As a result, 9% answered "very accurately", 14.7% answered "exactly", 29% had a "neutral" opinion, 34.5% answered "incorrectly", 12.8% answered "very incorrectly".

To see the role of Confucianism in education today, the author asked the question: *Confucian education has helped you have a clearer view of different majors to make choices*? The results were 13.4% answered "very accurately", 24.5% answered "accurately", 46.6% had "neutral opinions", 11.3% answered "incorrectly", 4.2% answered "very incorrectly". Confucian education often considers personal development an important goal. Through training and education about ethics, virtue and thinking. Through discussing personal values, life goals and thinking abilities of learners. The author, asked the question: *Confucian education has helped you recognize your skills and abilities to choose the right field of study for yourself*? As a result, 14.2% answered "very correctly", 27.5% answered "correctly", 46.1% answered "neutral", 8.8% answered "incorrectly", 3.4% answered "very incorrectly".

Confucian education influences people's view of the world and themselves. Each person's education is inseparable from the education of the family, the law of a country, and family rules. Therefore, the author conducted a survey with the question: *Confucian*

education is an important factor for you to choose your major? As a result, 13.8% answered "very accurately", 22.6% answered "correctly", 46.6% had a "neutral opinion", 13% answered "incorrectly", 4% answered "very incorrectly". This question can help create a space for discussion and deeper awareness of the role and influence of Confucian education on the process of choosing a major for students.

Surveying students' learning attitudes is an important part of the research process on the impact of Confucian education on the choice of major of Vietnamese students today. Students with a positive attitude and enthusiasm for learning tend to choose majors that reflect their interests and abilities. Students' learning attitudes are an important part of better understanding the impact of Confucian education on their choice of major, as well as other psychological and spiritual factors that may influence their decisions. their determination. We started with the questions and the results were obtained as shown in chart 01 below:

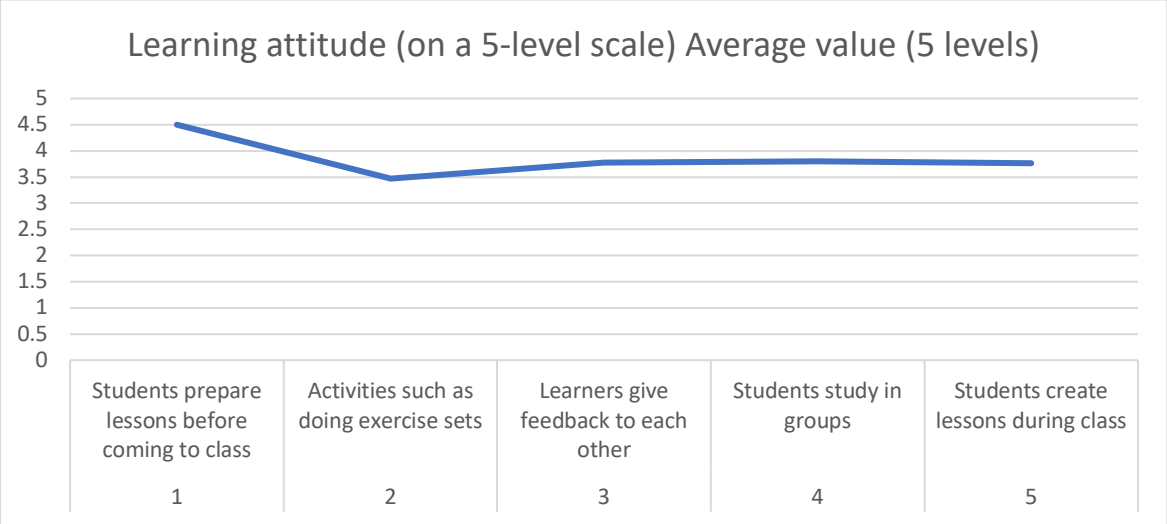

Figure 2. Surveying students' learning attitudes

5. DISCUSSION

There are many opinions that Confucian education is only aimed at training the ruling class in society and is not focused on women and common people, so it has no meaning today (Fengyan, W. 2004). The author believes that this statement is not entirely accurate, considering the time it was born in 551 BC, when society had a gender division, the division of education according to gender in Confucianism is completely suitable. During the research process, we cannot study a line of thought according to the historical process because it may have been politicized.

For today, the author believes that when studying Confucian education, it is necessary to consider its reasonableness. Confucian education often emphasizes preserving values and traditions. The influence of family and social environment according to Confucian philosophy can contribute to shaping students' views and influencing their decision to choose a major. Confucian education often emphasizes the development of morality and virtue. Students are encouraged to choose a major that they feel reflects their moral and ethical values and aspirations.

There is an opinion that the education of today's young generation needs to focus on talent development. However, in this study the author found that practicing ethics and maintaining virtue is the foundation of sustainable success. Even with outstanding talent but lacking ethics, a person can still fall into difficulties and failure. Ethics help build good relationships and reputation in the community. People often respect and trust people with higher ethics, which is more important than just talent without loyalty and charisma. Ethics help people face and

resolve conflicts and challenges in life in a kind and fair way. When people adhere to ethical principles, society can develop in a more sustainable and peaceful way. The combination of talent and ethics will help individuals develop and contribute positively to society in the most comprehensive way.

There is an opinion that the choice of major should be left to each person to choose according to their own interests. However, the author finds that many students today are choosing the wrong majors. During the interview process, the author asked why they studied this field, 35% of students answered because they chose to follow their friends. Continuing with the question, if you graduate from these fields, what will you do? These students all answered that they did not know. Obviously, families should not leave the choice of career to their children or the school to guide them, but must accompany them to have the most appropriate choice method.

Students may be inclined to choose majors that reflect the depth and traditional thinking of Confucian philosophy. Students can choose majors related to community service and positive contributions to society, reflecting Confucian philosophy. Confucian education often encourages personal development and morality in action. Students can choose a major based on their ability to develop professionally and contribute to society, thereby reflecting the ideology and values of Confucian education.

Researching this topic can provide insight into how Confucian education influences the major choice decisions of Vietnamese students today, as well as the challenges and opportunities it brings.

6. CONCLUSION

The ongoing fourth industrial revolution will bring many opportunities but also challenges. To solve these challenges, education must be valued, so the impact of Confucian education on students' choice of major is a topic of concern. Confucian education is not only a traditional education system but also a cultural philosophical foundation that has a profound influence on the decision to choose majors of Vietnamese students today.

By respecting traditions and ethics, students are also influenced by family, society and cultural education on their decisions. The influence of Confucian education is also seen in encouraging moral development, deep thinking, and loyalty to traditional values.

However, in today's diverse and complex world, choosing a major is not only based on traditional education but also depends on many other factors such as personal interests, abilities, and career opportunities. industry and social development trends. Therefore, the impact of Confucian education on students' choice of major cannot be considered absolute but must be considered in the comprehensive context of current education and society.

The diversity and richness of majors as well as the freedom of choice of students should be respected and encouraged, to ensure the comprehensive and sustainable development of the country.

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