



Received: 04-12-2024
Accepted: 14-01-2025

International Journal of Advanced Multidisciplinary Research and Studies

ISSN: 2583-049X

Integrity Culture Education for Cadres and Party Members to Meet the Development Demands of Vietnam in the New Era

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.62225/2583049X.2025.5.1.3682>

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Abstract

Cadres and Party members are the “roots,” determining the success or failure, prosperity or decline, of the nation-building and development endeavor. Vietnam stands at the threshold of a new era, driven by great aspirations, high determination, and a strong will to successfully build a wealthy, democratic, equitable, civilized, prosperous, and happy socialist Vietnam, on par with global powers. This demands that the entire Party, military, people, and political system - especially the cadre and Party member teams -

maximize opportunities, overcome challenges, and lead the country toward comprehensive, sustainable, and robust development. Cadres and Party members must possess pure hearts, clear minds, and place the nation's and people's interests above all else, dedicating themselves to serving the homeland and its people. To achieve this, emphasis must be placed on educating cadres and Party members about the culture of integrity.

Keywords: Integrity, Integrity Education, Era of Resurgence

Introduction

Over nearly 80 years of construction and development (from 1945 to now), under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam founded and trained by President Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam has experienced a glorious era with great achievements, won independence, freedom and unity; bringing the country to socialism, innovation, integration and development.... The 13th Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam assessed: “With all humility, we can still say: *Our country has never had the opportunity, potential, position and international prestige as today*”¹. Those proud achievements have created a great foundation and motivation for Vietnam to break through, accelerate, rise and develop more strongly in the new era - the era of the nation's rise with the opening time of the 14th Congress of the Party.

The country stands on the threshold of a new era, facing immense historical demands: the nation must vigorously rise, successfully achieve strategic goals, foster exceptional development at a new level, with new proficiency and quality, establish a new national standing on the international stage, and lay the foundation for the next breakthrough in development. Alongside these great opportunities, there are also considerable challenges, particularly the rapid and complex changes in the global and regional landscape; the adverse effects of internationalization, globalization, and market economy trends; the infiltration of foreign cultural elements; issues of bureaucracy, corruption, and wastefulness; the temptations of money, material wealth, extravagant lifestyles, indulgence, showiness, and pragmatism; as well as the decline in political thought, ethics, and lifestyles, including “self-devolution” and “self-transformation” within the ranks. These are “sweet traps” and “roadside bombs” that continuously and increasingly impact the political ideology, ethics, and lifestyles of officials and party members, making it

¹ Communist Party of Vietnam, *Document of the 13th National Congress*, Publishing House, Hanoi, 2021, p.I, p.25.

very easy for them to become corrupted and degenerate in their political thought, ethics, and lifestyles, leading to dishonesty and injustice, which adversely affect the country's development in the new era. This situation places high demands on building a cadre of officials and party members who are sufficiently qualified and capable, possess great ambition, strong determination, and unwavering will, always uphold integrity and honor, and are dedicated to serving the Fatherland and the people. Their commitment is essential to realizing the goal of building Vietnam into a prosperous and happy socialist nation, standing shoulder to shoulder with the great powers of the five continents. To do so, it is necessary to synchronously carry out many contents and measures, in which special attention is paid to the education of the culture of integrity, "to make each cadre and Party member clearly see their duties and responsibilities, always stand firm in the face of all difficulties and challenges and not be tempted by materialism, money and fame; effectively struggle against all manifestations of individualism, bureaucratic disease, opportunism, locality, factionalism, and internal disunity"². In order to educate the culture of integrity for cadres and Party members to meet the development requirements of the Vietnamese nation in the new era, Party committees, administrations and heads of agencies and units need to carry out a number of main contents and measures as follows:

Firstly, clearly recognize the importance of cultivating a culture of integrity for officials and party members to meet the developmental requirements of the Vietnamese nation in the new era

The new era places high demands on the entire Party, the entire military, the entire populace, and the entire political system to successfully build a socialist Vietnam—a wealthy, strong, democratic, just, and civilized nation that elevates the people to stand shoulder to shoulder with the great powers of the five continents. This is a significant political determination that requires each official and party member to further enhance their role and pioneering responsibilities in leading the country's development and advancement. Party committees, party organizations, and authorities at all levels need to clearly understand the importance of cultivating a culture of integrity for officials and party members to meet the developmental requirements of the Vietnamese nation in the new era. Regular education should ensure that each official and party member clearly recognizes the importance of integrity and practices it, continuously self-cultivating and training to maintain a "clear conscience and bright intellect" to deserve being revolutionary fighters in the vanguard of the working class, the laboring people, and the Vietnamese nation, striving lifelong for the Party's goals and ideals, placing the interests of the Fatherland, the working class, and the laboring people above personal interests! Each official and party member needs to earnestly cultivate, train, and practice integrity, as it is a quality of good ethics that embodies a person's purity, honesty, and straightforwardness before all temptations, especially concerning reputation, position, money, and material goods; it is the principle, standard, and moral benchmark for each official and party member within the

Party and the State apparatus; it is the foundational value of public ethics. Every official and party member who values and upholds integrity will behave according to ethical standards and comply with the law, ensuring honesty and straightforwardness; always uphold chastity, maintain integrity and honor, remain upright, and resist corruption, skulduggery, and opportunism, contributing to the construction of a clean public culture and creating a Vietnamese political culture imbued with humanistic spirit in the new era. Cultivating a culture of integrity helps officials and party members deeply understand the objectives, ideals, and moral principles of the Party, possess steadfast political integrity, exhibit ethical behavior in the light, live pure and strong lives; have the determination and willpower to fiercely combat immoral and unjust phenomena; prevent and resist the decline of political thought, ethics, lifestyles, "self-devolution," and "self-transformation" within officials and party members; prevent and curb bureaucracy, corruption, greed, and malice from their roots, early on, and from afar. These are particularly meaningful and important issues that help Vietnam minimize negative aspects and enhance positive ones to ensure the country's strong and sustainable development in the new era.

Secondly, innovate the content and methods of educating a culture of integrity for the cadre and party members

The new era sets forth new requirements for the content and methods of educating a culture of integrity for the cadre and party members. Accordingly, to educate a culture of integrity for the cadre and party members, it is first necessary to innovate the work of political ideology education, moral ethics, and lifestyles in a practical, specific, and effective manner. This approach should avoid preaching, verbosity, exaggeration, and formats that do not help cadres and party members develop steadfast political resolve, possess integrity, maintain dignity and honor, dare to defend what is correct and good, and fight against wrong, evil, unethical, and unjust practices. Combine and creatively integrate propaganda and education to enhance the level of political consciousness and political integrity with education on culture, ethics, and lifestyles for the cadre and party members. Focus on educating about the nation's beautiful cultural traditions and the glorious revolutionary history of the Party; propagate the Party's lines, policies, and the state's laws linked with promoting patriotic emulation movements. Specifically, educate each cadre and party member to correctly and deeply understand the Vietnamese people's cultural values in the new era to inspire a strong patriotic spirit, pride, and self-respect for the nation. Build beautiful cultural and ethical values for the cadre and party members so that they cultivate and train themselves, avoiding corruption in ethics and lifestyles; resist temptations related to material wealth, money, status, fame, greed, and personalism.

Integrate the content of educating a culture of integrity with enhancing the role and responsibility of setting examples, professional ethics standards, public ethics, and the code of conduct of agencies and units for cadres and party members through conferences, party activities, agency and unit meetings, etc. Incorporate the content of educating a culture of integrity into public culture training classes for the cadre and party members to raise their awareness, emphasizing their roles and responsibilities in maintaining qualities, ethics, and lifestyles, building a culture of integrity, strictly

² Communist Party of Vietnam, *Document of the 13th National Congress*, National People's Congress, Hanoi, 2021, p. II, p. 237

enforcing discipline and order, and combating corruption, negativity, and waste. It is necessary to employ diverse forms, multiple skills, modern technology, and appropriate means tailored to each group. When propagating and educating, it is essential to carefully select practical issues, avoiding imposed, biased, one-sided propaganda and education, which are both unconvincing and offensive, leading to reverse effects. Strengthen the application of the achievements of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, especially the use of information technology and digital transformation, to innovate the content and methods of propaganda and education. This includes utilizing social media platforms, internet information pages, simulation technology, and more to build reputable channels for propagating a culture of integrity in the online environment. These channels should ensure the reliability of Party, state, and mass organizations while being friendly and attractive to create a strong spread among cadres, party members, civil servants, and officials regarding the education of a culture of integrity.

Thirdly, enhance the positive and proactive role of cadres and party members in self-cultivation, training, and practicing a culture of integrity

The new era demands that cadres and party members possess specific competencies to organize and implement the Party's new strategic directives (especially new economic models such as the sharing economy, circular economy, artificial intelligence-driven digital transformation, green transformation, development of strategic infrastructure, and administrative procedure reforms) into the practical operations of each department, ministry, sector, and locality. Every cadre and party member must fully and profoundly understand their roles, responsibilities, and duties towards the nation's and people's destiny in the new era. They should consistently engage in self-cultivation and training to strengthen their political resolve, uphold ethical virtues, maintain a pure lifestyle, and firmly uphold and respect their honor. Cadres and party members must dare to think, act, take responsibility, innovate, and make breakthroughs for the common good. They should wholeheartedly and diligently serve the Fatherland and the people. Specifically, they must build their own resilience and strong determination, dare to take the lead and confront challenges, and courageously strive to eliminate the old and outdated practices. Additionally, they should work to remove bottlenecks, resolve impediments, and alleviate blockages in practice, thereby achieving high efficiency in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities.

On the basis of a clear, comprehensive, and profound understanding of their responsibilities and duties, each cadre and party member must translate this awareness into practical and appropriate requirements aligned with their assigned roles and responsibilities. They must demonstrate integrity, diligence, dedication, and full commitment to their work, embodying the principle of being "competent in their roles and proficient in their tasks," persistently and resolutely carrying out their responsibilities. They must not lose heart or give up in the face of difficulties, nor should they seek positions of power, wealth, or engage in wastefulness, showmanship, or superficiality. Particularly, every cadre and party member must value the practice of integrity and develop a concrete and practical plan for self-cultivation and training in the culture of integrity. This plan must be comprehensive, aligned with the general standards

for cadres and party members as stipulated, and closely tied to their specific roles and responsibilities. It should have clear focus areas, address weaknesses decisively, and define specific criteria, content, methods, measures for self-cultivation, training, timelines, and expected outcomes. The process of self-cultivation and training in the culture of integrity for cadres and party members must be conducted regularly and continuously, at all times, in all places, under all conditions, and through various approaches. The content of self-cultivation and training in the culture of integrity should focus on building ideological firmness, steadfastness in political will, and resilience against external influences. It should also emphasize moral purity to fulfill responsibilities and obligations to the Party and the people, personal integrity in lifestyle to maintain steadfastness and avoid selfish individualism or temptations of fame and fortune, and dignity and honor to feel shame and steer clear of petty, disgraceful, or unethical actions.

Fourth, resolutely and rigorously handle unethical and improper conduct by cadres and party members

This measure holds particular significance in reinforcing the Party's discipline and order, creating a deterrent effect and a warning for cadres and party members, urging them to uphold their spirit of responsibility in self-cultivation, maintaining political and moral integrity, and exemplifying responsibility in their duties. Agencies, units, and localities must strengthen administrative discipline, workplace culture, and public service ethics. Effectively implement measures and management tools for cadres and party members, focusing on efficient management of political and ideological conditions, social activities, and relationships; manage party activities and ensure the quality and effectiveness of cadres and party members' work. Intensify monitoring and supervision, especially focusing on those with inappropriate words or actions, signs of political, moral, and lifestyle degradation, or tendencies of "self-evolution" and "self-transformation." Employ effective inspection and supervision methods to reinforce strict discipline and legal compliance. Resolutely address cases of abuse of power, misuse of authority for personal gain, corruption, wastefulness, and negativity; strictly handle negligence and irresponsibility. Strongly promote the role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations in supervising cadres and party members; create favorable conditions for the public to monitor and provide constructive criticism openly and honestly (both at workplaces and residences), particularly regarding integrity, ethics, a disciplined lifestyle, responsibility, exemplary leadership, and efforts to combat bureaucracy, corruption, wastefulness, and other negative behaviors. Pay attention to self-inspection and supervision within party committees and organizations, proactively identifying internal shortcomings and violations for timely correction and resolution to prevent minor infractions from accumulating into major errors. When violations by cadres and party members, especially regarding discipline, administrative regulations, public service ethics, or professional ethics, are detected, the party committee or leaders of the agency, unit, or locality must take strict disciplinary actions per the law. In cases of evasion, shirking responsibilities, or negligence that affect the organization or unit or cause serious consequences, collective and individual accountability must be clarified and addressed decisively, adhering to Party and State regulations.

Alongside strengthening discipline and order, it is necessary to foster a healthy, progressive, and civilized cultural environment that allows cadres and party members to fulfill their public service responsibilities with confidence, uphold their sense of duty, and firmly oppose individualism. This approach addresses political, moral, and lifestyle degradation and the manifestations of “self-evolution” and “self-transformation.” Timely commend and reward organizations and individuals, cadres, and party members who demonstrate bravery, dare to think, speak, act, take responsibility, innovate, and confront challenges for the common good. Particularly highlight those who courageously fight against bureaucracy, corruption, wastefulness, negativity, unethical behavior, and violations in discipline, ethics, and professional activities.

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