

## Determinants of Success of University Students in Vietnam: An Empirical Study

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### Abstract

This paper investigates the determinants of students' success in Vietnam through conducting online interviews and surveys with 2,500 Vietnamese students at eight famous universities in Vietnam. By applying both SPSS 22 and STATA software, the study is to evaluate the impact of four driver factors, which affect GPA, language efficacy, and personal achievement. These factors are psychological perspective, home environmental, student demographic, and school environmental. The research results emphasize a positive effect of psychological and home-environmental determinants, but the negative effect of school environmental factors on the students' success. Besides, the relationship between demographics and student success was tested and indicated that male students have a better language learning ability, but a low level of academic achievement than female students. The results also point out the impact of religious affiliation and ethnicity on personal achievement. Non-religious students are better achievers than those having a religion or those in minority ethnicity. Moreover, accumulated schooling years are negatively associated with students' success. The more working experience students accrued, the higher possibility they are successful. Finally, the finding provides an insight into students' success that might be useful to government authorities and other universities in designing policies for enhancing the quality of education.

**Keywords:** Student Satisfaction, Academic Achievement, Education Quality, Higher Education

**JEL Classification Code:** M10, M12, I20, I21

### 1. Introduction

Nowadays, the students' success plays an important role in producing the best-qualified graduates who will become great leaders and human capital for their country, thus being responsible for the national economic and social development. The students' success in universities should be a concern, not only to the administrators and educators, but also to corporations in the labor market. Recently, while the number of students attending universities has been

increasing sharply, the educational outcomes determined by the human capital quality in developing countries has declined gradually (United Nations, 2019). As a result, the number of unemployed graduate students has been raising by approximately 287.000 per year, accounted for 3,09% of the number of unemployed people (Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, 2019).

Based on statistics from Vietnam Works (2019), the workforce shortage in enterprises is nearly 80%, and the reason behind that is the lack of professional skills, specialized knowledge, and practical experience to be employed. Thus, it is clear that the number of graduate students in Vietnam has increased, but their quality has not corresponded with the business requirements. Also, the demands for required skills are becoming expansive because these skills, such as technical skills, communication skills, customer handling, and team working, are irreplaceable in any organization (Green, 2003; Hillage, 2002; Nguyen et al., 2019). Hence, identifying the key factors influencing students' success is very necessary to design an effective learning environment to improve education quality before enhancing labor productivity and attaining sustainable development in Vietnam.

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