

**DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH CAPACITY FOR LECTURERS AT PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL POLITICAL SCHOOLS IN VIETNAM TODAY**

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**ABSTRACT**

Scientific research is an important and practical activity for lecturers at provincial and municipal political schools, contributing to improving the quality of training and fostering at these schools while serving the requirements of local socio-economic development. Within the scope of this article, the author focuses on analyzing the necessity and current state of developing the scientific research capacity of lecturers at provincial and municipal political schools in Vietnam. Based on this analysis, the article proposes several solutions to enhance the scientific research capacity of lecturers at political schools in Vietnam today.

**Keywords:** Scientific research; Scientific research capacity; Lecturers; Provincial and municipal political school; Vietnam.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

Scientific research is regarded as a crucial duty for lecturers at provincial and municipal political schools in order to fulfill their professional requirements and the functions and tasks of the schools as stipulated by the Secretariat. Engaging in scientific research enables lecturers to master knowledge through independent thinking and creativity, and effective application of knowledge to their lectures and real-life situations. Additionally, it helps them develop a scientific working style and methodology. In the scope of this article, the author focuses on clarifying the scientific research responsibilities of lecturers at provincial and municipal political schools in Vietnam, as well as the necessity of developing their scientific research capacity. Based on the research and clarification of the current situation and the limitations in lecturers' scientific research capacity, the article proposes fundamental solutions to enhance the scientific research capacity of lecturers at provincial and municipal political schools in Vietnam today.

**2. RESEARCH CONTENT**

**2.1 The necessity of developing scientific research capacity of lecturers at political schools in Vietnam today**

*\*Concept of scientific research*

According to Clause 4, Article 3 of the *Law on Science and Technology 2013*, "Scientific research is the activity of exploring, discovering, and learning the nature and laws of things, natural phenomena, society and thinking; and creating solutions for practical application" [1, p.1]. This activity is a shared responsibility of leaders, managers, and lecturers (including full-time, part-time, and visiting lecturers). For lecturers at political schools, scientific research has a significant impact on teaching. The scientific research activities of lecturers at centrally governed provincial and municipal political schools include: Conducting research projects and scientific topics at national, ministerial, provincial, grassroots (institutional-level), and faculty levels; Researching

and compiling training and educational materials for schools and local institutions; Researching and compiling lecture materials on local situations and tasks; Researching and compiling the history of schools, local Party committees, and industries; Participating in national, ministerial, provincial, and grassroots scientific conferences, seminars, discussions, and scientific activities; Engaging in the evaluation and approval of projects, topics, and teaching and learning materials; Writing and publishing articles in newspapers, bulletins, scientific journals, printed and digital magazines, and institutional, local, central, and international websites; Conducting field surveys as planned to support teaching, learning, practical reviews, and research projects and scientific topics; Researching and writing initiatives and experiential reports to serve the management, teaching, and learning activities [2].

*\*The necessity of developing scientific research capacity of lecturers at provincial and municipal political schools in Vietnam*

*Firstly*, developing the scientific research capacity of lecturers at provincial and municipal political schools is essential to fulfilling the mandates set by the Secretariat regarding their functions, responsibilities, and organizational structure for centrally governed provincial and municipal political schools, and regulations on the standard political schools. Regulation No. 09-QĐ/TW, issued by the Secretariat dated November 13, 2018 on the functions, tasks, and organizational structure of centrally governed provincial and municipal political schools, explicitly states that “provincial political schools are responsible for summarizing practical experiences and conducting scientific research on Party building and the political system at the local level” [3]. As such, the tasks of practical review and scientific research are among the foremost political duties of these Schools.

According to Decision No. 6468-QĐ/HVCTQG dated December 21, 2021 of the Director of the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics on the promulgation of regulations for centrally governed provincial and municipal political schools, teaching and scientific research are two equally important responsibilities and go hand in hand for lecturers. “Each lecturer must publish at least two scientific research works per year in books, newspapers, bulletins, journals (printed or electronic), conference proceedings, or research projects at various levels” [4].

*Secondly*, scientific research is one of the two fundamental functions of centrally governed provincial and municipal political schools. It plays a crucial professional role in honing lecturers’ research capacity and writing skills, contributing to improving the quality of training and fostering. Highly appreciated scientific research works presented at conferences or published in journals at various levels will enhance the school’s reputation, serving as powerful attacks against countering false narratives and arguments of forces that sabotage the Party and the State. Additionally, through scientific research activities, lecturers can propose and consult policies for local Party committees and authorities, or they may also evaluate policies on socio-economic development, political system building, and national defense and security at the local level.

Scientific research enables lecturers to expand their knowledge base and apply theoretical knowledge to their teaching practices. It also cultivates a scientific working style and methods, and develops their thinking, analytical, synthesis, comparison, evaluation, independent working, teamwork skills, etc. Moreover, scientific research allows lecturers to learn and update new information and knowledge, making their lectures more vivid, topical, scientific and practical.

## **2.2 Current state of scientific research capacity of lecturers at provincial and municipal political schools in Vietnam**

In recent years, the scientific research activities of the Provincial and municipal political schools have received strong leadership and close guidance from the School administrators, recognizing it as a core task for enhancing the quality of training and fostering. The School administrators of these schools consistently affirm that scientific research plays a crucial role in improving lecturers' qualifications, research capabilities, and teaching quality, enabling lecturers to expand their interdisciplinary knowledge and deepen their professional knowledge in specialized fields. At present, the provincial and municipal political schools have a large number of lecturers with doctoral and master's degrees, as well as main lecturers and principal lecturers, who have favorable conditions to engage in political science research. The number of cadres and lecturers engaging in scientific research projects at the grassroots and provincial levels has been steadily increasing. Some lecturers have been invited to serve as members of evaluation councils for provincial-level scientific projects and grassroots-level scientific projects within the province. Many have contributed articles to scientific seminars and conferences at grassroots, provincial, and regional levels. The research capabilities of cadres and lecturers have been significantly enhanced, with a considerable number of articles published in scientific journals under the list of the State Professorship Council, in proceedings of international and national conferences, bulletins, scientific proceedings, the online websites of Schools and local authorities, and so on. This reflects the significantly growing reputation, research capacity, and scientific evaluation skills of several lecturers.

From 2018 to 2023, Tra Vinh Provincial Political School has actively and decisively implemented various research projects, conferences, and theoretical competitions on defending the ideological foundation of the Party, as organized by the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics with active participation of lecturers: "implementing 02 provincial-level scientific projects (one of which has been completed and evaluated), 13 institutional-level research projects (four of which have been completed and evaluated), 04 regional and provincial-level conferences; 09 institutional-level scientific conferences, and 15 published issues of the "Theoretical and Practical Information' journal". Additionally, cadres and lecturers also participated in writing articles for the theoretical competition on defending the ideological foundation of the Party (25 articles); and participated in various conferences organized by the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics, Academy of Politics Region IV, Emulation Clusters, and other political schools in the region, etc. [5].

During the period from 2016 to 2022, Hoa Binh Provincial Political School "successfully implemented 18 scientific projects at various levels, including 03 provincial-level projects, 07 institutional-level projects, and 08 departmental-level projects; organized 70 scientific conferences, featuring 702 reports. Among these, 02 were provincial-level conferences, while 29 were institutional-level scientific conferences. Regarding the compilation and publication of scientific materials and publications, the Provincial Political School compiled and published 24 sets of training materials on Party-building, governance, and mass organizations, as well as regularly reviewed and updated the content of training programs and materials issued by the Central government. Additionally, the School released 19 issues of the 'Theoretical and Practical Information' journal; and successfully evaluated 14 grassroots-level initiatives, including 8 collective experience initiatives and 6 individual experience initiatives" [6].

From 2022 to the first 6 months of 2024, Hoang Dinh Giong Political School in Cao Bang has implemented research for 12 institutional-level scientific projects, with 03 preliminary outlines currently under evaluation; has registered and received approval for 02 provincial-level scientific projects; has organized 04 provincial-level conferences and 07 institutional-level conferences. The School's online website publishes 02 issues annually while releasing 03 issues of the 'Theoretical and Practical Information' journal per year. 111 articles by lecturers were published on the School's online website and Theoretical and Practical Information journal, 21 articles were featured in ISSN-indexed journals, and 60 articles were published on the online platform of local sector-specific newspapers. Furthermore, the School has consulted the Provincial Party Committee for 01 Project, etc. [7].

Bac Giang Provincial School of Politics has achieved significant results in "Scientific research and seminar organization. From 2022 to present, the School has conducted 03 provincial-level scientific research projects. In 2024, it proposed to charge 01 project, which was advised and guided by the Department of Science and Technology for implementation in 2025 and 2026. Regarding grassroots-level scientific and technological tasks, the School has implemented 15 scientific and technological projects since 2022, with 4 of them consulted and assigned by the Department of Science and Technology" [8]. At the same time, Bac Giang Provincial School of Politics has "advised the Provincial Party Standing Committee and the Provincial People's Committee on issuing 02 projects (achieving 133%), organized 06 provincial-level scientific seminars (achieving 200%), 01 ministerial-level scientific seminar, conducted 28 grassroots-level scientific research projects (achieving 186.6%), and held 19 institutional-level scientific seminars (achieving 126.6%)" [9].

However, the scientific research activities of lecturers at provincial and municipal political schools still face certain limitations and challenges:

*Firstly*, these provincial and municipal political schools have yet to cultivate a strong culture of scientific research among their lecturers and lack motivation for lecturers to develop their research capacity.

*Secondly*, a portion of lecturers at provincial political schools have yet to be fully aware of the role of scientific research and the development of lecturers' scientific research capacity to meet the requirements set by the Secretariat, the functions and tasks, as well as promote the quality of teaching in the provincial and municipal political schools. Some lecturers engage in scientific research perfunctorily and write articles to only meet the regulations on scientific research norms, resulting in articles with limited quality and depth. Consequently, scientific research efforts and practical summaries remain disproportionate to the potential and developmental needs of the provinces and cities.

*Thirdly*, the qualifications, experience, and research capacity of some cadres and lecturers remain limited. Many lecturers have yet to take a proactive focus on scientific research, while young lecturers at provincial political schools often lack the necessary scientific research capacity and skills, as well as knowledge and practical experience in scientific research.

*Fourthly*, the quality of scientific research and scientific activities such as seminars and conferences remains limited effectiveness. The number of scientific research projects across different levels, particularly at the provincial level, remains low. The number of articles published in domestic specialized journals recognized by the State Professorship Council, as well as international publications, especially those in Scopus/WoS remains highly limited. This indicates shortcomings in organizational capacity, scientific thinking, research methodology, and the ability

of scientific research project implementation among some lecturers. Many scientific research works of lecturers are of low quality and fail to approach advanced political science research methodologies. Furthermore, there are relatively few reports, recommendations, or proposals submitted to competent authorities based on research findings of scientific projects and scientific seminars. Research activities, writing, and publication of monographs and reference books by cadres and lecturers are still limited without effective methods.

### **2.3 Solutions for developing scientific research capacity of lecturers at provincial and municipal political schools in Vietnam today**

*Firstly*, it is essential to strengthen the leadership and direction of the Party Committee and the School Administrator in scientific research activities, to cultivate a culture of scientific research within provincial and municipal political schools. The Party Committee and the School Administrator should continue to motivate, encourage, and clarify the significance and importance of scientific research to cadres and lecturers, to make a shift in perception, which should be recognized as a fundamental, ongoing task necessary for enhancing qualifications, cognitive skills, and fulfilling assigned tasks. The Party Committee and the School Administrator should develop plans, set targets of specific research appropriate to faculties and lecturers' capacity and research specialization, and urge and remind faculties, departments, and lecturers to conduct scientific research tasks. Additionally, they should create favorable conditions to support cadres and lecturers to complete their scientific research tasks.

The School Administrator and the leadership of departments and offices must take the lead and set an example in scientific research activities, creating a strong effect and inspiring cadres and lecturers to engage in scientific research activities. Collaboration with relevant sectors should be strengthened to facilitate cadres and lecturers' access to documents from the Provincial Party Committee, the Provincial People's Committee, and various departments, branches and sectors to support scientific research. Departments and offices should identify the research capabilities of their cadres and lecturers, and motivate and encourage them to take scientific research tasks. They must also continuously monitor and grasp the situation, and identify challenges and obstacles to promptly provide necessary support or propose to the School Administrator for guidance, ensuring that scientific research tasks are conducted on schedule and achieve high-quality outcomes.

*Secondly*, cadres and lecturers must actively cultivate and develop their scientific research capabilities. Each individual should view scientific research as a task and a regular, self-motivated activity, avoiding a superficial or obligatory situation leading to low quality. Cadres and lecturers should develop and implement personal scientific research plans, continuously update new knowledge, expand their intellectual horizons, improve their research skills and problem-solving methodologies to explore new scientific findings, actively participate in scientific research capacity-building courses, join strong research groups within the network of provincial and municipal political schools, local departments and agencies, research institutes, and universities to learn, foster and develop their scientific research capacity. Additionally, they should make efforts to improve their foreign language proficiency, thereby increasing the quality of their scientific research works and publishing their studies in reputable academic journals listed by the State Professorship Council and prestigious international journals, including those indexed in Scopus/WoS.

*Thirdly*, provincial and municipal political schools must rigorously implement the Scientific Research Regulations of centrally governed provincial and municipal political schools.



The Party Committee and the School Administrator should ensure strict adherence to the requirement that cadres and lecturers complete their annual research tasks as specified for each lecturer rank in the Scientific Research Regulations. It is emphasized that “cadres, leaders, managers, and lecturers have a responsibility for scientific research activities”. “Any excess research hour beyond the required standard is recognized as an achievement in emulation and can be converted into teaching hours in cases where the required teaching workload is not met. However, it will not be paid as overtime, nor carried over to the following year” [4]. “Scientific research outcomes serve as one of the grounds for evaluating cadres, leaders, and managers annually” [4].

*Fourthly*, the Party Committee and the School Administrator of provincial and municipal political schools should organize training classes and courses to enhance lecturers' scientific research skills, especially equipping lecturers with scientific research capacity and publish in journals listed by the State Professorship Council, prestigious international journals in Scopus/WoS, international conferences, and so on. They should strengthen collaboration with universities or academies specializing in scientific research qualification and skill training, and organize training courses for cadres and lecturers on social sciences and humanities research. Additionally, they should regularly send cadres and lecturers to attend scientific research qualification and skill training organized by other agencies and units. Experts and seasoned researchers should be invited to share their experiences in writing articles, journals, and conference papers, how to implement scientific research projects, monographs and reference books, etc., thereby providing cadres and lecturers with the necessary skills to enhance their research capacity.

### 3. CONCLUSION

The 13<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam affirmed: “Continuing to comprehensively develop human resources, science, technology, and innovation, linked with awakening the aspiration for national development, national pride, self-reliance, and promoting the values and culture of the Vietnamese people” [10, p.220]. Accordingly, for every cadre and Party member today, especially lecturers at centrally governed provincial and municipal political schools engaging in scientific research activities has become an urgent and essential task, significantly contributing to national development. Furthermore, the development of scientific research capacity of lecturers in provincial and municipal political schools is a crucial requirement to improve the quality and effectiveness of training and education for cadres of the provincial and municipal political schools, aimed at upholding and strengthening the reputation and position of centrally governed provincial and municipal political schools in Vietnam today. This article has researched and proposed several fundamental solutions to develop the scientific research capacity of lecturers at centrally governed provincial and municipal political schools, contributing to summarizing practical experiences, building the Party and the political system at the local level, providing policy advice on socio-economic development, disseminating the Party and State’s policies, defending the ideological foundation of the Party, and countering false and hostile viewpoints in the new context.

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