



## A Comparative Analysis of Social Work in Vietnam and the United States

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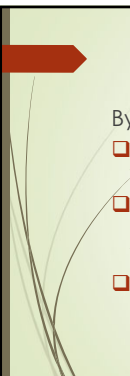
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### Objectives

By the end of this session, you will be able to

- understand the development of the social work profession in Vietnam;
- discuss how political ideology, culture, and traditions shape the development of social work;
- compare and contrast the similarities and differences between social work in Vietnam and the United States.

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- I. The development of social work profession in Vietnam**
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# I. The development of social work profession in Vietnam

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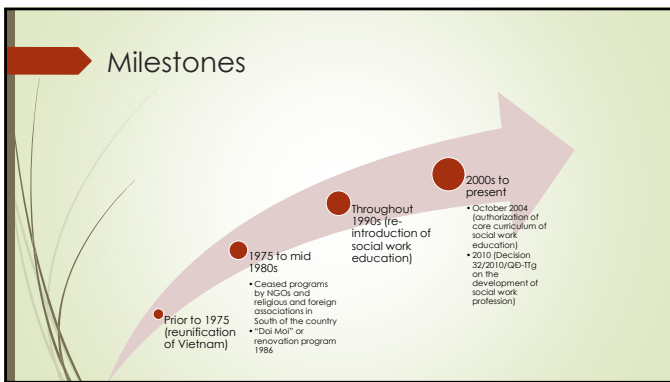
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# Prior to 1975

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➤ Prior to 1954 (colony of France)

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Social Work in Vietnam was in the form of a charity commonly seen in western countries at the time. It was basically the domain of religious institutions.

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Social work profession and practice had a French orientation

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➤ 1954 to 1975 (North Vietnam)

North Vietnam did not develop professional social work.

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➤ 1945 to 1975 (South Vietnam)

**South Vietnam established and developed professional social work:**

- 1947: Establishment of Caritas School of Social Work in
- 1968: Establishment of the National School of Social Work
- 1970: The Vietnam Association of Social Work was set up and became a member of the International Federation of Social Work (IFSW)
- Creation of social welfare department;
- Social work training programs were provided by Da Lat University and Van Hanh University in Sai Gon

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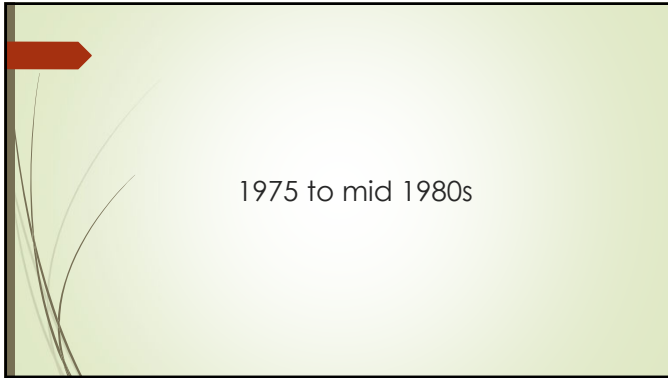
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1975 to mid 1980s

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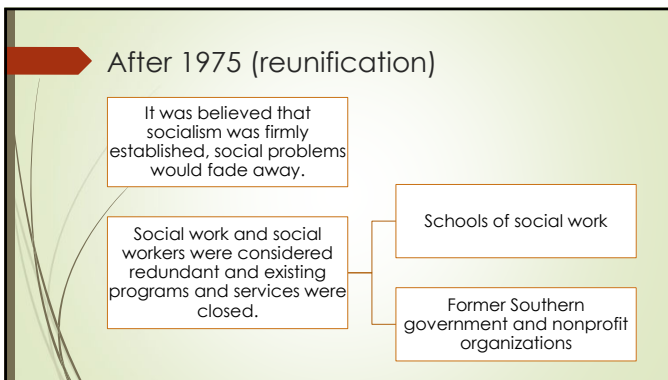
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After 1975 (reunification)

It was believed that socialism was firmly established, social problems would fade away.

Social work and social workers were considered redundant and existing programs and services were closed.

- Schools of social work
- Former Southern government and nonprofit organizations

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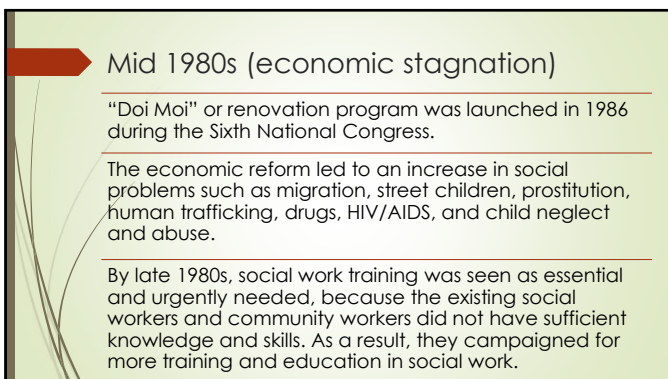
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Mid 1980s (economic stagnation)

"Doi Moi" or renovation program was launched in 1986 during the Sixth National Congress.

The economic reform led to an increase in social problems such as migration, street children, prostitution, human trafficking, drugs, HIV/AIDS, and child neglect and abuse.

By late 1980s, social work training was seen as essential and urgently needed, because the existing social workers and community workers did not have sufficient knowledge and skills. As a result, they campaigned for more training and education in social work.

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Throughout 1990s  
(re-birth of social work education)

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1990s – active participation of international organization

<p>Social work was gradually accepted in both North and South Vietnam, with great efforts from professionals and local NGOs and support from international organizations</p>	<p>The Social Development Research and Consultancy in Ho Chi Minh City, the Child Welfare Foundation, the Social Worker Training Group in the North</p> <p>UNICEF, Save Children UK, Save Children Sweden, World Concern, Holt International, and importantly the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)</p>
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1990s – re-introduction of social work education

Social work education was established at various schools in North and South Vietnam

- 1992: the Women's Studies Department of the Open University in Ho Chi Minh City was the first to provide diploma training in social work
- 1996: The Hanoi National University began its social work training
- 1997: The University of Labor and Social Affairs (UOLSA) in Hanoi began to offer 3 year social work program with the support of UNICEF and CIDA

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2000s to present (the development of professional social work)

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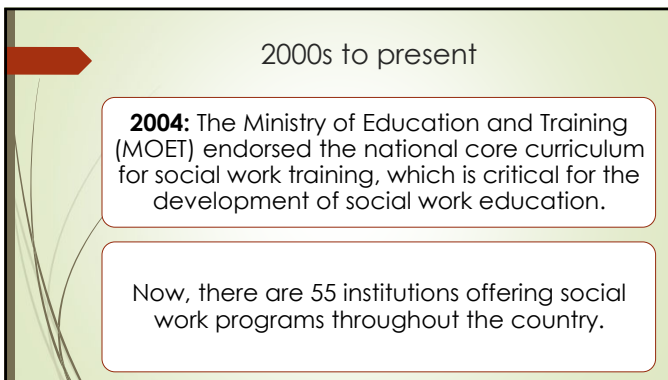
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2000s to present

**2004:** The Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) endorsed the national core curriculum for social work training, which is critical for the development of social work education.

Now, there are 55 institutions offering social work programs throughout the country.

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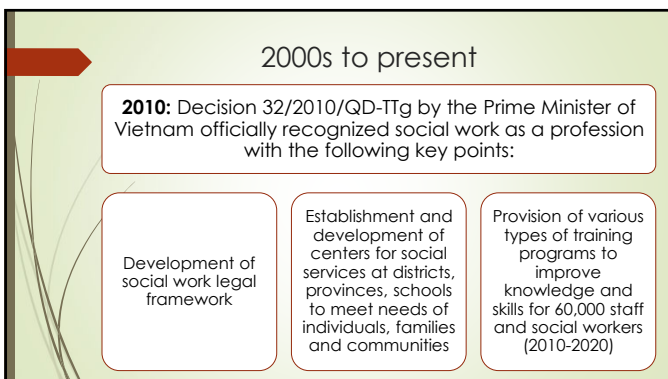
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2000s to present

**2010:** Decision 32/2010/QD-TTg by the Prime Minister of Vietnam officially recognized social work as a profession with the following key points:

- Development of social work legal framework
- Establishment and development of centers for social services at districts, provinces, schools to meet needs of individuals, families and communities
- Provision of various types of training programs to improve knowledge and skills for 60,000 staff and social workers (2010-2020)

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## II. Social work in Vietnam and the United States

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### Fun Facts

<p><b>Vietnam</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Socialist- Central Government</li> <li>▪ Developing economy</li> <li>▪ Homogenous society</li> <li>▪ Family and communitarian values</li> <li>▪ Buddhist philosophy</li> <li>▪ Education by memory and rote learning</li> <li>▪ Obedience to authority</li> <li>▪ Social problems caused by non-conformity</li> <li>▪ Early social work influenced by French</li> <li>▪ Charity orientation</li> </ul>	<p><b>The US</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Federal and State Governments</li> <li>▪ Developed economy</li> <li>▪ Multi-cultural society</li> <li>▪ Individualism and Self-sufficiency values</li> <li>▪ Judaic/Christian philosophy</li> <li>▪ Education by experience and critical Thinking</li> <li>▪ Free thought values</li> <li>▪ Social problems caused by social isolation and structures</li> <li>▪ Social work developed from multi-theoretical models</li> <li>▪ Human rights and social justice history</li> </ul>
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### Training and Accreditation

<p><b>Vietnam</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administrated by the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET)- (2004)</li> <li>▪ 55+universities offer social work training</li> <li>▪ Accreditation by independent institutions licensed by MOET agencies – Every 5 years for all professions including social work</li> </ul>	<p><b>The US</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administrated by colleges/universities</li> <li>▪ 1300+ colleges/universities offer social work training</li> <li>▪ Accreditation by Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)</li> </ul>
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### Service Provision

<p><b>Vietnam</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Top down – planned and implemented by the government</li> <li>▪ Government agencies/institutions are key service providers funded by the state budget</li> <li>▪ Private organizations/institutions are self-funded or by donors</li> <li>▪ Services are limited – especially in rural and remote areas</li> </ul>	<p><b>The US</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bottom-up – based on the needs of communities</li> <li>▪ Social Work services are provided by Non-profit/ private organizations funded by the government, donors and from service provision</li> <li>▪ Services are diverse and accessible</li> </ul>
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### Field Education

<p><b>Vietnam</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ BSW students do not spend a lot of time in practice (195 hours):             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 9 credits (135 hours) for individual, group, and community development practice – 45 hours each</li> <li>▪ 4 credits (60 hours) for graduation</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Students move from agency to agency.</li> <li>▪ A lack of qualified field supervisors trained in social work (No social work degree or BSW)</li> <li>▪ Limited field agencies</li> </ul>	<p><b>The US</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ BSW I and II (generalist): At least 450 hours</li> <li>▪ MSW I (generalist): At least 425 hours</li> <li>▪ MSW II (clinical): At least 600 hours</li> <li>▪ Field supervisors – MSW degree</li> <li>▪ A variety of field agencies to meet students' needs</li> </ul>
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### Social Work Values

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