Capacity Building with Educational Leaders in Vietnam: The Social Work Education Enhancement Project

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The Social Work Profession was recognized by the government in 2010.

The Government issued Decision 32/2010/QD-TTg and National Plan 32 to develop the SW profession in 2010.

BSW programs have grown very fast since 2004 and now is taught in 23 universities and 17 colleges (UNICEF Vietnam, 2014).

Increased international support (UNICEF, USAID) to strengthen capacity for SW lecturers; practitioners; develop teaching materials, curriculum

Collaboration with international universities (US, Canada, Australia, Philippine, Sweden)
Despite rapid expansion of SW education programs, there are limitations in the universities’ ability to provide SW education:

- Lack of social workers with advanced degree to teach in higher education
- Most SW faculty come from other disciplines
- Under-developed curriculum addressing core SW content and practice
- Lack of Vietnamese language texts and training materials
- Very few field training opportunities with experienced supervisors
SWEEP = an international consortium

- USAID
- SJSU
- Vietnam Universities
- Government Agencies
- Private Sector Partner: Cisco Systems, Inc.
- Community Stakeholders

GOAL: strengthen capacity of Vietnam’s higher education social work programs to deliver quality education and prepare trained, job ready social workers
SWEEP TEAM: Vietnam and U.S.
Objectives of SWEEP

1. Develop undergraduate social work management and administration locally and regionally

2. Improve undergraduate social work faculty professional capabilities

3. Implement competency-based undergraduate social work curriculum

4. Create network linking partner universities with each other and with SJSU
Supporting a Shared Vision

- Grounding the project in experience and vision of stakeholders
- Concurrent attention to university-specific and collective planning
Focusing on translation of ideas to Vietnamese context

Mapping out a structure for continued collaboration across universities
Emphasis on relationships and social capital

Emphasis on respectful partnership
Facilitating Discussion

- Use of multiple in-person strategies to facilitate dialog and change
- Use of technology in support of communication and collaboration
Engaging new leaders for continuity and sustainability

Consultation to support initiatives that leverage long-term change
Guarding Against Colonial Practice...
A SW Leadership Consortium was formed to develop and implement national strategies for SW development:

- A national set of competencies was developed and agreed upon from all partner universities
- Beginning discussion on standardization, field education issues.
- Strategies to develop social work program was established at each partner university; TOT for other universities
- Policies for faculty development (research capacity) was developed
THANK YOU!