



## LEARNING NEEDS AND EDUCATION OF PUBLIC SECTOR ACCOUNTING IN GLOBAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AN EXPLORATORY STUDY AT VIETNAMESE UNIVERSITIES

PHAM QUANG HUY, M.E.

University of Economics HCMC  
(UEH)

**D**uring any period in history, the education and training have always played an important role for the development of each individual, group, community, nation and all humanity. It will provide the effective human resources for improvement all fields in the society, such as finance, banking, tourism, accounting as well. In the world, many countries do the researches about new teaching methods, new training tools and the new curriculum for development the nation's education system. Besides that, they have examined in some areas as business accounting, corporate finance, business administration, trading, tourism, etc. However, in the world, from the past to present, very little research has been conducted to examine the benefits of training's essential with public sector knowledge. With above reasons, the main purpose of this paper is to identify and perceive the requirements of learning and education of public sector accounting major in international economic integration stage.

The aim of the present study is to do the survey about the students' demand about the learning public sector accounting. Total sample comprised of 1,016

students from the five major universities in Ho Chi Minh City, the biggest city in Vietnam. The survey is based on the students from accounting major, finance major together with banking major. The result showed that public sector accounting is a major which is needed to teach in the university in Vietnam because the public sector organizations require getting staffs that have more special knowledge at accounting than common information. Moreover, this paper also will give five groups of solutions for implementing and satisfying students' requirements about studying the public sector accounting in Vietnam. If the government bodies have specialized accountants, the State's information which contributed to the society will be transparency and accountability. However, this exploration has been done in one of the biggest city in Vietnam. More researches are therefore can be performed in more provinces in this country or other areas in the world.

**Keyword:** Public sector accounting, education, learning need, accounting, economic integration.

## Introduction

Education policy has always been considered a top priority and should be taken up first in all matters of any country. Many commented on the need of education in the world. According to Mr. Nelson Mandela, education is a most powerful weapon that could change the world. In Vietnam, in the process of national history, Ho Chi Minh President has clearly emphasized that education can be affected on many parts in the social activities. Therefore, a national education system is seen as a unified whole body and be a perfect process for formation of personal integrity, held with purposes, plans, through the relationships between the learners and trainers. With this importance, the nations of the world are always searching, studying the system as well as teaching methods that can meet those goals.

In many countries, the education system focuses to a lot of field in the society, such as finance, business administration, financial mathematic, banking, information technology, accounting, language, etc. Among these areas, accounting is one of the best famous major that chosen in Vietnamese students. To the accounting, there are many a lot of special courses which they prefer. They are financial accounting, corporation accounting, accounting and auditing, etc. However, the academic content concentrated to non-business and administrative accounting has not been widely appreciated. Hence, this paper will do the survey for researching the need for learning the accounting in public sector at Vietnamese universities. From that, it gives

some solutions to Government body for development the new major in Vietnam in the future.

## Literature review

In the commercial world, accounting is one discipline of study that all people, regardless of job position, should have some knowledge of. Its concepts can be applied to all job specialties, its significance has been promoted in recent years, and it is useful in people's everyday lives. Accounting is the most basic framework of business. Without an accounting education, students would be unprepared for the real world. Furthermore, the need for change in education with a model for accounting education as well as examples of how to improve accounting education have been taken care of that (French & Coppagare, 2011). Furthermore, according to government accounting, it is important for accountants to educate the public and public officials about the social value of government accounting. The accounting system is in effect the "nerves of government" - to use Karl Deutsch's phrase (Deutsch, 1966) - because it is the core of a government's financial command and control centre. A government accounting system can be rudimentary or sophisticated. As in business (Simon, 1954), a good government accounting system at the minimum keeps accurate financial scores; a better government accounting system directs the attention of policy makers and managers to problem areas; and at its best, a government accounting system provides information useful for decision making. Thus it takes a certain

amount of foresight and insight to make investments in government accounting reform: the foresight to anticipate the consequences of bad or no accounting and the insight to link accounting to government performance and eventually the achievement of societal goals.

Government accounting can contribute to a country's socioeconomic development by providing information to public managers and those who hold them accountable to perform the fundamental functions of the state. As a support function, accounting does not have values of its own, and does not decide the allocation of resources. About this field, American professors (Bobbie, Gupta & Annette, 2007) examined the survey 490 accounting teachers who specialized in governmental and nonprofit accounting as noted in the Accounting Faculty Directory. The findings reveal that there is widespread agreement among professors regarding the perceived importance of many topics. The findings offer insight into curricula development and teaching strategies.

However, once these decisions are made, the accounting system performs the critical function of following the money. As such, accounting and its allied functions - including information system design, internal control, pre and post-audit, revenue administration and public expenditure management - ensure that resources are used for their intended purposes. If the purpose is socioeconomic development, accounting can help meet this goal by ensuring legal and contractual compliance, facilitating financial management,

and promoting transparency and accountability (Pham, 2011). With the researched papers, a lot of professors have carried out their job for accounting education as well as state accounting. The typical case is Australian education in public sector. According to Nick & Robert (2008), the authors conducted to examine the perceptions of accounting academics as to barriers to public sector accounting education in Australia and identify strategies for making the accounting curriculum more public sectors inclusive. Nevertheless, the studying of public sector accounting has not yet done in the world, especially in Vietnam.

## Research methodology

Through this study we develop a quantitative research in accounting education of public sector, in a logical approach, starting with the role of accounting in running business and continuing with the accounting education. In the other hand, the purpose of research is to discover answers to questions through the application procedures of learning public sector accounting in Vietnamese universities. The main aim of research is to find out the answer about the essential matter for studying new accounting system which is hidden and which has not been discovered as yet.

## Sample

The objects for survey are the students in some universities in Ho Chi Minh City, one of biggest city in Vietnam. There is much kind of students with more learning types. In this sampling, there are students from various training curriculums, such as formal system, in-service system, second-degree system as

well as inter-connection system. The samples of the study comprised of 1,500 students in 5 universities. The sample was collected from the University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City, Open University, University of Industry, Tôn Đức Thắng University and University of Finance and Marketing. The quantity for response is 1,016 students aged from 20 to 30.

## Tools

The author used Microsoft Excel and SPSS as tools for statistics. Through this software, paper will illustrate by the results and charts about the learning needs of students about public sector accounting. Descriptive statistics will be analyzed using SPSS software. First, we will examine our data looking for outliers and data. Next, we will run one tail t tests to verify the manipulations are in the direction orientations and if the results are significant. Excel will enable us to partial out the explanatory variances explained from multiple independent variables. This test will be performed to analyze which comparisons among groups have significant differences.

## Results

For adapting the information needs for the subjects, the units used in the public sector must organize accounting work in accordance with the legal provisions of the relevant authorities. Accounting activities are considered one of the important activities of operations management in an organization in the public sector, is a direct effect on the quality and efficiency of public sector management and the national economy. After the conducting this study, some

important results are expressed and the solutions related with above outcomes as following:

About the level of interest: Most of students (80.32%) want to perceive and be interest in training public sector accounting because they believe that they will receive a good job if graduated this major. There are a lot of demands in learning and working in public sector; but, no universities have this major.

About the level of understanding: most of answerers (91.24%) argue that the training of public sector accounting is the significant issue to our society. They think that academic knowledge from company accounting is various with non-business accounting (69.19%). Hence, the student should understand this special field. If trainees learn public accounting, they are able to be in work in any public entities in Vietnam of 84.94% reply.

About the demand of learning: most of returns (68.01%) claim that they and others will register new major about public sector accounting if the universities open this major in the future. Especially, this new field is more suitable in the Vietnamese provinces and many public entities (93.01%) require training their employees with key in public accounting.

About the necessity of learners: most of questionnaires (80.41%) demonstrate that the public sector accounting will provide them a widely knowledge about academic accounting. In addition, they indicate that they are able to earn for their life with a stable career after graduation.

About the teaching scale: most



of learners (87.59%) suggest that the public sector accounting major need to open with a lot of type of training approach, i.e. distance learning, open learning, in-house learning, second degree, etc.

## Conclusion and implication

Globalization is the process of integrating economies, societies and cultures through communication, transportation and trade. Among the important fields, accounting is evaluated one of primary subjects which many people select. Accounting is predominantly known as the profession that analyzes the past, but because of globalization it is important to look into the future. As a result, it is important to educate the accounting field on the standards of other countries. The authors' efforts prove that the demand of studying public sector accounting is high and necessary. The aim of accounting education is to assist accountants in acquiring the knowledge and the practical experience for performing at the highest quality level. In this sense, professional bodies, which provide professional knowledge for practitioners, play a particular role on the one hand and, on the other hand, universities, which provide modern education curricula.

With the importance, the training in accounting, especially to new field, is necessary for improvement the quality the reports or statements provided to the users. With above consequences, it is said that the Board of Universities should commence public sector accounting major in their curriculum for students' selection. In Vietnam, the public goods and

services have developed for recent years. Public sector accounting is an accounting method applied to non-profit pursuing entities in the public sector - including central and local governments, and quasi-governmental special corporations. Therefore, the Government needs to have the special program for public accounting to supply effective human resources to the



society because of the international economic integrations. If having these relevant solutions, Vietnamese education will develop further in coming years. In the future, the researches are able to continue to analyze in more indicates in details together with convey in different provinces in Vietnam or any foreign countries. From that, public sector accounting in the world will be expanded and opened at -education and training system in the nations ●

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