

Erasmus+ Project: “Monitoring Trends in Vietnamese graduates’ Employment” – MOTIVE

Call for papers: Graduates and labour market

Topic:

***"CAREER INTENTION OF UNIVERSITY FINAL-YEAR STUDENTS
IN VIETNAM IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19"***

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Outline



- Introduction
- Main Contents
- Conclusions and Recommendations



INTRODUCTION



Graduates and labour market

"Career intention of university final-year students in Vietnam in the context of COVID-19"



Rationale

- COVID pandemic: making people suffer from some problem which can cause manpower issues in some industries in the future
- There are previous research about career decision making for a particular sector such as Tourism and Public Health, however, there is hardly any research presenting this change of final year students in different majors, especially in Vietnam.



Research questions

- How do the final-year students' career intentions in Vietnam change during the COVID and their attitudes towards those changes?
- What are the factors influencing university final-year students' career intention in the situation of the COVID-19?
- How is the support from the university in the final-year students' career intention under the effects of COVID-19?



INTRODUCTION

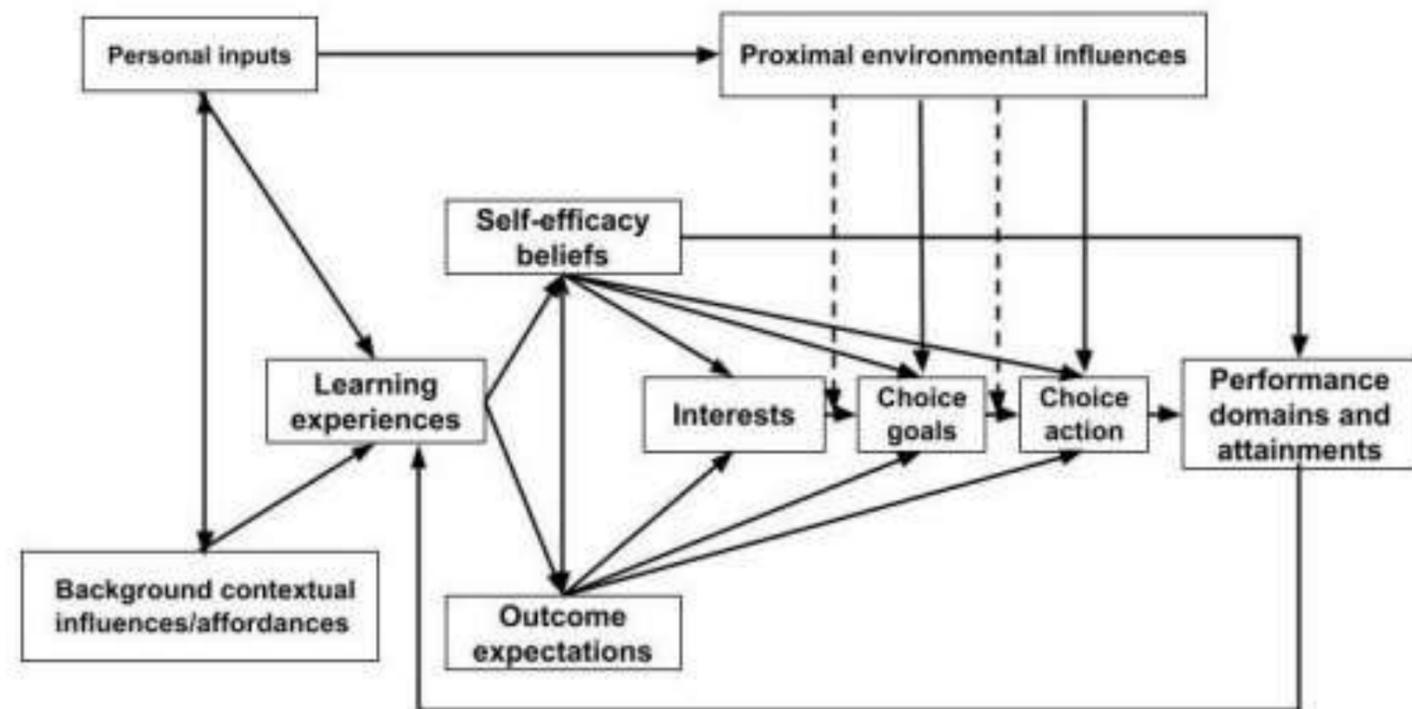
➤ Subject

Senior students

➤ Scope

Final-year students enrolled in different universities across Vietnam among 3 majors: Business & Management Industry, Health Industry, and Tourism & Hospitality

➤ Theoretical basis: Social Cognitive Career Theory (SCCT) Choice Model - the way educational and career choices are made



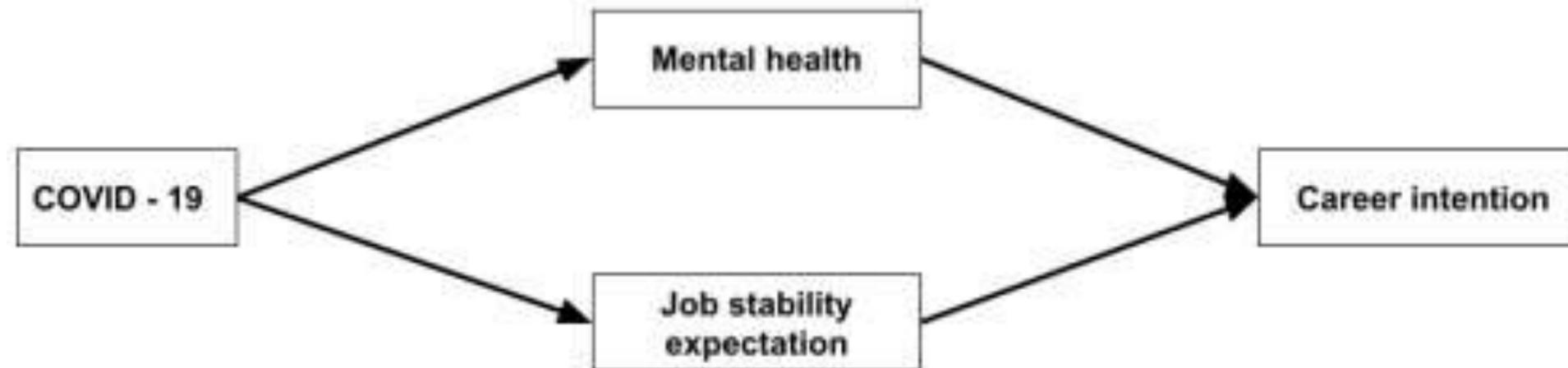
SCCT's Choice Model

MAIN CONTENTS



Conceptual Framework & Methodology

🔍 Conceptual framework for the factors



MAIN CONTENTS



Conceptual Framework & Methodology

Methodology

- ◆ Empirical research method
- ◆ Quantitative method:
 - e-questionnaire (MCQs, short questions, Likert scale)
 - a simple random sampling technique
 - SPSS & Microsoft Excel
- ◆ Qualitative method: experience surveys



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Conceptual Framework & Methodology

Hypothesis tests

- H1: The COVID-19 pandemic significantly affects the mental health of university final-year students in Vietnam.
- H2: The COVID-19 pandemic significantly affects the field's stability expectation of university final-year students in Vietnam.
- H3: There is a difference between the two genders in the influence of job stability on career intention change during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- H4: There is a difference between the two genders in the influence of mental health on career intention change during the COVID-19 pandemic.



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Results & Discussion



Results

◆ Qualitative data & Quantitative data

✓ *“How do the final-year students’ career intentions in Vietnam change during the COVID ?”*

- **Before Covid-19: most of the students did not differ much in their major intention when working by major**
- **After Covid-19: there are changes in career intentions of final-year students in universities in Vietnam in the context COVID-19 pandemic. Covid-19 is considered a worrisome issue, an opportunity or a challenge to students**

Examples: They tended to apply to Foreign joint ventures and Private cooperation companies. They change to another industry which has many similarities with their major industry



MAIN CONTENTS

Results & Discussion



Results

◆ Qualitative data & Quantitative data

✓ *Factors influencing final-year students' career intention in the situation of the COVID*

- The time to face COVID-19 would be prolonged and hard to predict --> They feel they can not work in the industry in a long term
- Inconvenient working space and be attracted by other industries with higher income

However:

- Some industries are more developed in the pandemic and they expected to gain the higher salary
- Some students understand the importance of their industries during the Covid-19



MAIN CONTENTS

Results & Discussion



Results

◆ Qualitative data & Quantitative data

- Job stability was affected the most significantly (58.68%) of students rated “Significantly affected”
- Mental health factors affect 42.15% of the respondents.
- Lack of practice activities, internship and wages (40.5%)
- The welfare regime also had a high impact on 38.02% of the students.
- Family support and changing career decisions of other people did not have as much influence as other factors



MAIN CONTENTS

Results & Discussion



Results

◆ Qualitative data & Quantitative data

 *Support from the university for the final-year students' career intention under the effects of COVID-19*

- It seems that universities have not focused on this issue enough and even specialized seminars are not attractive enough for students

--> A student suggests: "the universities can give some suggestions and orientations related to the nature of the studied industry, which is the Career Orientation Counseling Program"



MAIN CONTENTS

Results & Discussion



Results

◆ Qualitative data & Quantitative data

- 75.42% of the students perceived that universities had programs to support for changing their careers, while only 24.58% chose “No”.
- However, these programs were rated "Inefficient" by 40%, "Normal" by 27%
- Expectations:
 - The support programs, expanding the curriculum (24.41%)
 - Career orientation programs (22.8%).
 - Career workshops and trial lessons of desired subjects (16.1%,)
 - Scholarships to study abroad (11.15%)
 - Practice opportunities (9.91%).



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Results & Discussion



Results

◆ Hypothesis results

- *Hypothesis 1:* There is a significant influence of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of final-year students in Vietnam's universities
- *Hypothesis 2:* There is a significant influence of the COVID-19 pandemic on the field's stability expectation of university final-year students in Vietnam
- *Hypothesis 3 and 4:* There is no difference between two genders (male and female) final-year students in the assessment of the influence of job stability and mental health on career intention change due to COVID-19.



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Results & Discussion



Discussion

◆ Similarities to previous studies

✓ *Mental health (internal factor)*

- a lower mood during COVID-19 but not to the extent of psychological illnesses (<10%)
- affecting students' daily life along with preventing students from going to practice and internships => delay graduation
- students' anxiety and feeling

✓ *Issues of salary*

✓ *Family support and decision to change major: not affected significantly*



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Results & Discussion



Discussion

◆ Further findings

- ✓ *Students tend to work in places with great potential and economic development*
- ✓ *Students keep going on their major due to interests, long study time & potential industrial development.*
- ✓ *Number of students having a specific plan & beginning to act dominated in the level of action connect to time they change career intentions*
- ✓ *Both students changing majors & students not changing majors mostly report that quality of program support to students is ineffective*





CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENSATIONS

➤ Conclusions

There are changes in career intentions of final-year students in universities in Vietnam in the context COVID-19 pandemic. Even for those who do not alter their majors, there are still changes in job positions intention.

➤ Recommendations for universities

- Better support on students' mental health
- Updating job market situations
- Creating more orientation programs to compensate for the lack of practices
- Further studies about supporting policies for students who want to change their career intentions from the perspective of educational specialists



Thank you for listening!