

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

National Assembly

No. 43/NA

RESOLUTION
of the
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
of the
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

On the adoption of the law on Education (as amended)

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LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

No 04/NA
Vientiane Capital City, date 3 July 2007

LAW ON Education (As Amended)

Chapter I
General Provisions

Article 1. Purpose

The Law on education determines principles, rules and other measures on educational activities in order to develop human resources, educate people to be good citizens, to have moral and revolutionary attitude, possess capable knowledge, professionals and skills to contribute to protect and develop the nation enabling people overcome the poverty, socio-economic extension and richness.

Article 2. Education

The education is the learning-teaching process on natural scientific, society and theoretical research, to build human resource to full expansion, to have moral and revolutionary attitude, possess capable knowledge, professionals and skills, good health, have spirit of civilization, arts, discipline, spirit of national patriot and love people democracy to serve the need of national protection and development.

Article 3. Interpretation

Terms used in this Law shall have the following meanings:

1. Formal education means an educational form, which organizes on the learning-teaching in the school continuous and systematically, having time schedule of learning and curriculum content that are consistence with the national educational standard.
2. Informal education means an educational form, which organizes learning-teaching outside regular curriculum, including distance learning without limited time, place, age, gender and profession to create condition and opportunity for all citizens to educate and upgrade knowledge throughout lifetime;

3. Voluntary education refers to learning, self-research undertaking in any forms including through different medias without limitation of time, contents and learning places;
4. Informatics refers to information technology (ICT);
5. Person having problem means person who is detained, re-educated and treated;
6. Integrated or continuing curriculum refers to a special curriculum that is integrated or continued from lower to higher levels and will use shorter time than normal course curriculum;
7. Vision refers to teaching knowledge of viewing the people in correct way;
8. Worldwatch refers to teaching knowledge of viewing the world in correct way;

Article 4. Educational Policy

The State regards educational reform as center of human resources development, acknowledge the importance of the development human with revolutionary attitude, vision and world view science and advances as well as build human with knowledge, capacity, with inventive knowledge, possessing of profession, build the society to become learning society creative economy step by step;

The State pays attention for the extension of pre-educational age and endeavor to fulfill goal on implementing of compulsory complex primary education.

The State increases the investment in education and prioritizes in budgetary expenditures.

The State and society actively develop vocational education with quality; create opportunities for people to receive education entirely, especially for the people in

Article 6. Rights of Citizens in Education

Every Lao Citizens, without discrimination on ethnical groups, origin, religion, gender, age and socio-economic status has the right to education.

Article 7. Obligation of Citizens toward Education

The education is mission of the public. Individuals and organizations shall have the obligation in contributing funds, equipments, labors, intelligences to develop education for extension and high quality including educating, assisting the learners, teacher- professors and educational personals.

Article 8. International Cooperation

State promotes the cooperation with foreign countries and international organizations to develop the education by attracting funds, building and upgrading capacity of personals, exchange lessons on expertise, teaching, research, management, administration of education, mutual acknowledgment on curriculum, diplomas, certificate of educational qualification, certificates of learning and others;

Chapter II

National Education System

Section 1

Meaning and Contents

Article 9. Meaning

National education system is unity system which consists of formal and informal education parallel in all levels, at all levels of education that has contents of curriculum and equal status.

National education system is divided into classes and levels commencing from pre-learning ages to high level of education.

Article 10. Contents of Formal Educational System (in the School)

Contents of national education system based on the informal educational form consist of:

1. Pre-educational age;
2. Primary school;
3. Technical school;
4. High education.

The establishment of national education system is to develop human resources, facilitating Lao ethnic people with the condition for learning, seeking capable knowledge in its development aiming at supplying demands in socio-economic development to uplift advancing civilization.

Article 11. Contents of Informal Educational System

Contents of informal education system has the contents and levels of education similar to formal education, but methods, time and forms in arranging of teaching-learning is different from the formal education.

Voluntary (Freely, Discretionary) education is a form of informal education which has broad contents and not scope limits as well self-learning and undertaking research by various methods including communication that is no limits of time, contents and learning places

Article 12. Determining of Educational Period (Term)

In determining term of education in levels, classes, shall ensure objectives, contents and quality of education, of which the state determines based on the proposal of the Ministry of Education.

Article 13. Instruction

Educational sector organizes for the instruction, advices on the learning to learners in each classes and levels to enable the learners extend their learnings as they desires, capacity, talent, actual conditions and labor market demands within country and abroad.

Section 2 Pre-educational Age

Article 14. Meaning

Pre-educational age refers to caring-teaching children in childcare center and in kindergarten. Childcare center accept child from three months to three years, and for the kindergarten accept child from three years to full age for entering to the elementary school.

Article 15. Contents

The content of pre-educational age shall ensure that the children physically and mentally extent and develop, possess primary knowledge of speaking, writing, reading, listening, seeing, drawing, loving with parents, teachers, leaders, nation, nature, cleanliness, creating talents, grow the awareness for children to love learning and prepare for entering primary learning level.

Section 3

Compulsory Education

Article 16. Compulsory Education

The compulsory education is the learning teaching of general knowledge, which consists of elementary education, secondary and high school, and use time for twelve years period.

Article 17. Elementary School

The elementary school is the basic compulsory education having period of five years of learning in order to secure together with general knowledge of natural and social sciences, of mankind, to have knowledge of listening, reading, speaking, seeing, questioning, writing Lao language and culture, to love health, cleanliness, environment and knowing the Lao art and culture, to learn foreign language from the third years of elementary education upward.

Complete elementary school is compulsory education for all Lao citizens and ethnic groups who have six years of age upward.

The government and local authorities have the responsibilities to lay out appropriate measures to ensure that Lao citizens at this age have the opportunity to receive primary education.

Society, communities, parents or guardians shall secure for all children to complete compulsory education.

Article 18. Secondary Education

Secondary school is the education following the elementary school, which has the duties to provide general knowledge and necessary basic knowledge for continuing education and engaging in suitable professions.

Secondary education composes of secondary and high schools

- x Secondary school is the basic education which composes of 4 years of learning, and which have the duties to provide knowledge on Lao language, mathematic, natural, social sciences, laws, informatics, foreign language, technical and professional learning;
- x High school is the education continued from the secondary school which have three years of learning, having duties to upgrade and extend contents that they have learned from secondary school. In addition, it shall specialize in certain subject in order to develop knowledge, capacity and talent of the learners.

The government, local authorities, social organizations, communities and parents or guardians of the learners shall be responsible to provide funds, vehicles, technical equipments, testing tools, learning-teaching media to the secondary education as necessary required.

Section 4

Professional Education

Article 19. Meaning

Professional education is the learning teaching on technical profession that enables the learners with specific knowledge and capacity, to have works, to become disciplined employees in the working place, becoming labor's skills to serve the needs of the socio-economic development, the conversion to industrialization and modernization.

Article 20. Structure of Professional Education

The professional education composes of:

1. Primary professional level: is the education on professional skills for the learner who completed secondary school or equivalent using time from six months to three years;
2. Middle professional level is the education on technical expertise for the learner that completed primary professional level, the high school or equivalent using time two to three years in the regular curriculum and one to two years for professional education by continuing or extending curriculum;
3. High professional level: is the education on technical expertise at the level of university, educational center, university equivalent which accept the students who completed middle professional level, high

school education or equivalent upward using time two to three years in the regular curriculum and one to two years for professional education by continuing or extending curriculum;

Section 5 High Education

Article 21. Meaning

The high education means the education following the high school, middle or high professional level education upward, which has duties to build the experts, scientists, researchers with high level of the knowledge and capacity to serve the society and capable to engage in self-profession.

The high education is from diploma to doctoral degree.

Article 22. Structure of High Education

The high education composes various levels as following:

1. The diploma uses time from two to three years for the regular curriculum and one and half year for continuing or extending course curriculum;
2. The bachelor degree uses time from four years up for the regular curriculum and one and half year for continuing or extending course curriculum;
3. The post-graduate specializes in each expertise using time from one year up;

For student undertaking master degree with less than two years and who specialize in expertise in the post-graduate from three years upward will be determined separately.

4. The master degree is the education follows the bachelor or equivalent using time for education from two years upward;
5. Doctoral degree is the education follows the master degree or equivalent using time for education from three years upwards.

Chapter III Place of Education

Article 23. Place of Education

Place of education is places where learning-teaching taking place including formal and informal education which consist of many class levels from the childcare center, kindergarten, up to high educational institutions including public and private education.

In the levels of kindergarten, primary secondary and high educational and primary professional, secondary professional education shall call school or educational center.

In the high professional education and high education shall call educational institution, which consist of college or university by size, curriculum of learning-teaching and scientific research.

Article 24. Establishment of School, Center and Educational Institution

The establishment of school, center and educational institution is the responsibility of the State, meanwhile the State promotes and encourages the private sector to establishment of school, center and educa

the macro management of the Ministry of Education and approves equivalence certifications within and foreign countries.

Article 33. Language used in Education

The Lao language and alphabets are the language and alphabets used in the learning, teaching in all schools, centers and educational institutions. Teaching in foreign language may conduct only if the Ministry of Education approves it.

Chapter V Students (Learners)

Article 34. Learners

Learners are persons who are learning or studying in all levels, classes in formal and informal schools of the national educational system.

Learners in pre educational ages, compulsory education, technical education at primary profession, middle levels, in professional center, continuing educational center and learners preparing for the university levels referred as learners.

Learners in technical education, advanced profession, colleges, universities, master degree referred as students.

Learners at doctoral degree referred as researchers.

Article 35. Equal Rights of Learners

All learners have equal rights in education, research, and advancing research. All educational schools, centers and institutions and educational administrative bodies at all levels shall ensure the implementation of equality of learners, especially the women, ethnic people and handicap persons.

Article 36. Supports and Assistances to Learners

The State has policy to support learners whose families are poor, disadvantaged persons, especially women, ethnic people and talented persons or outstanding learners. In addition, the state encourages individuals, organizations and society to help those learners in the appropriate form.

Article 37. Supports and Assistances to handicap Learners

The State has policy to support handicap learners. In addition, the state encourages individuals, organizations and society to help those learners in the appropriate form.

Article 38. The Education for the Persons having problems

The State has the duties to establish or create conditions for persons having problems to receive educations and professional training.

1. Following the policy direction of the party, laws of state and regulations of schools, center or educational institutions;
2. Paying attention to learning, completing learning, creating itself to become knowledgeable, revolutionary attitude, loving nation and training itself to become good national citizens;
3. Participating in the learning teaching activities including activities for the public benefits in accordance to the plan of schools;
4. Paying respect, obeying teaching leaders, teachers, professors and guardians;
5. Protecting, maintaining the schools, center or educational institutions;
6. Providing mutual solidarity in the educational learning;
7. Preventing drawbacks in the schools and societies;
8. Receiving consideration of educational funds;
9. Receiving fair evaluation of the results on the learning and attitude;
10. Receiving educational certification and diploma upon completing education;
11. Using educational materials, learning medias and other sources including information of the schools, center or educational institution as regulated;
12. Participating as the member of mass organization as regulated;
13. Proposing of its opinions to teacher-professors and relevant organizations;
14. Skipping classes, shortening learning time for the learners having talents and outstanding;
15. Voluntarily contributing to various social works;
16. Performing other duties, rights and obligations as regulated.

Article 40. Prohibitions for the Learners

The learners prohibit to

1. Violate laws and regulations, regulations of the school, center and educational institution;
2. Relate to any types of narcotic drugs;
3. Relate to intoxicate substances, commit adultery, any type of gambling, addiction in drinking and entertainment places;
4. Relate to illegal adultery, not consistent with good customary practices;
5. Possess any kinds of weapon, explosive materials;
6. Establish group, gang to create violence in the society;
7. Other prohibitions that are defined under the laws and regulations.

Chapter VI

Teachers, Educational Personals and Administrative Management

Section 1

Article 41. Teachers

The teacher refers to person who performs the duty in teaching, educating the learners in the schools and the educational institutions that are different from the general educational personals.

The teacher in the state educational institutions is expertise civil servant that is different from general civil servants.

For the regulation on management, the government shall specifically regulate.

Article 42. Standards of Teachers

Teacher shall have following standards:

1. Have confidence, correct political view, loving and protecting system of people democracy;
2. Have revolutionary attitude, teaching ethics, loving teacher profession, having good human relationship, and being as outstanding sample for the learners;
3. Have knowledge, capacity, technical professionals in teaching in various levels in accordance to standards that the Ministry of Education defines;
4. Have diligence in searching for lessons and continuously self-developments;
5. Have good health.

Article 43. Title and Ranking

Teacher at different levels has expertise, ranks, distinction and honorary.

8. Receive capacity building, upgrading knowledge of expertise that it teach to higher level;
9. Receive the protection of its rights, interests and dignity;
10. Receive various policies based the laws and regulations;
11. Strictly perform duties on the basis of employment, recruitment, transfer, assignment of the organization, higher level, especially to perform duties in remote area;
12. Maintain stability, social order of the schools and society;
13. Engage in outside school and activities of the school and society;
14. Perform such other duties and implement other rights in accordance to laws and regulations.

Article 46. Awarding policy for Teacher

State has duty to create the committee, facilitating the teachers for performance of their duties to increase their living standards and social status, especially to teachers that have excellently performed their work, and have creative ideas, and the teachers working long time in dangerous remote and mountainous area, teachers that teach double classes, teach handicap people, retired teacher. In addition, State encourages individuals, organizations and societies including private sector within country and from abroad to provide supports and facilitating the teachers performance of their duties.

Article 47. Prohibitions for the Teachers

Prohibitions for the teacher include:

1. Omitting the responsibilities in teaching;
2. Abusing of duties, taking bribe for personal benefits, its family, relatives or its related persons;
3. Falsifying of curriculum;
4. Beating or insulting, torturer bias toward learners;
5. Diving solidarity or course violence in the school and in the society;
6. Disclosure sexual obscene;
7. Trading, relating to addictive substances, gambling, having improper sexual relationship with learners;
8. Other prohibitions determined by laws and regulations.

Section 2

Personnel and Administrative Management on Education

Article 48. Educational Personnel

Education personnel refers to persons that has duty to administer, manage, inspect and facilitate the learning-teaching in the school, center, educational institution including public and private and in the different educational administration and management's authorities.

Educational personnel include educational administrator, manager, educational inspector, expert and service provider in the education.

Position and ranking of the different educational personnel shall follow article 43 of this law.

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Article 49. Administrative Management of Education

Administrative management on education is the supervision, leading, planning, implementing, using, inspecting, summarizing, evaluating and assessing on the teachers, personnel, learners, budget, building, vehicles, materials using in the learning-teaching in order to achieve the goal of human resource development in accordance to policy guideline of the party and plane of the state on educational development.

Article 50. Principles of administrative Management on Education

Administrative management on education shall follow principle of central democracy, lower levels depend on higher levels, individuals depend on the organization with the combination between vertical and horizontal line.

Article 51. Prohibitions for Educational Personnel

The prohibitions for the educational personnel include:

1. Lacking of the responsibilities in the performance of duties;
2. Causing difficulties, delaying in documenting;
3. Violating laws and regulations;
4. Engaging in corruption, abuse of power, taking bribe, disclosure of confidence information for personal benefits;
5. Establish group, gang, locality to violate the solidarity or causing violence;
6. Involving in any type of addictive substances;
7. Other prohibitions defined under the laws and regulations.

Chapter VII Society and the Education

Article 51. Obligation of the Society towards the Education

Social organizations, enterprises, communities, collectives and individuals have the obligations to contribute in the development of educations in different forms.

Enterprise units and other business associations have the obligations in cooperation, facilitation and supporting the teachers, learners in the educational research study and training in its business places.

Mass Medias have the obligations to create programs, disseminate on the educations to enhance the knowledge on science, technology, profession and other to the citizens.

Article 53. Obligations of Parents or Guardians

Parents or guardians have the obligation to create conditions, facilitating to their children that are under its responsibility in receiving education, participating in various activities, cooperating with the schools and teachers in educating their children to become good, strong learners, being good citizens of the nation. In addition, they shall have obligations to contribute funds, vehicles, materials, learning-teaching media, construct, preserve and restore the schools.

Article 54. The Obligation of Schools toward Society

The schools, centers and educational institutions have the obligations to provide knowledge, capacity to the learners, coordinate with administrative agencies,

parent associations or guardians to educate the learners become good citizens and to provide service to the communities with various forms as practical.

Part VIII

The Investment in Educations

Section 1

The Investment in Educations by the State

Article 55. Meaning

The investment in the education by state is the provision of budget, funds for the development such as: building the human resources, school building, providing of materials, learning-teaching media, other facilities, implementing policies to the teachers, learners and others.

Article 56. Funding Sources

Primary sources of funding come from state budget; in addition, the funds also come from the contributions of the organizations, individuals within country and from abroad, including assistance from international communities.

Article 57. Budget on Education

The state prioritizes and increases annual budget expenditure ratio to the education reaching 18% upward. The provision of budget for the regular administrative services to the schools, colleges and educational institutions shall calculate based on the number of learners. The government and local administrative authorities have the responsibilities to implement such budget expenditures strictly.

The government and local administrative authorities shall ensure the contributing funds from assist projects, loan within country and from abroad in sufficient and prompt manner to the education.

For the state university shall have its specific budget in accordance to law on the state budget.

Article 58. Funds

The government promotes state organizations, privates, communities and individuals to establish and contribute to funds for the development of education.

For the regulation on the establishment, management and use of such funds is separately regulated.

Article 59. Collection of fees and Service Charges

The state shall determine on the collection of fees and service charges on the education.

The management and use of such fees, service charges shall be in accordance to laws and regulations.

Section 2

Investment of Private Sector in Education

Article 60. Policy of the Investment

The state promotes private individuals, collectives and organizations within country and from abroad to invest into the education by building schools, centers, institutions in various levels, operated learning-teaching in accordance to national educational system and curriculum that the Ministry of Education has approved in order to provide service and receive compensation from the learners.

The investments are in various forms as described in the enterprise law.

Article 61. Administration

The government determines principles, regulations and policies on the establishment, activities, administration toward the school, center and educational institutions of the private sector.

Part IX

The State Administration toward Education, Inspection and Evaluation

Section 1

State Administration toward the Education

Article 62. Educational Administrative Agencies

The state centrally and uniformly administers the education throughout the country by assigning the Ministry of Education for administrative management of education directly.

The educational administrative agencies consist of the Ministry of Education, the educational division of each Province, in Prefecture, the educational office of each district and municipality.

Article 63: Duties and Rights of the Ministry of Education

In the administrative management of education, Ministry of Education has the following duties and rights to:

1. Consider strategic plan, policy, program, educational development projects to submit to the government for approval;
2. Draft laws and other legislations on the education;
3. Disseminate the strategic plan, policy program, educational development projects, laws and other legislations on the education;
4. Create, develop curriculum, materials, learning-teaching media in each period and organizing training on the use;
5. Supervise the alleviation of un-alphabets and upgrade the education in line with the basic level of professional training;
6. Determine the standards and design of the building, places for education;
7. Build, use, train, administer the teachers and educational personnel on the basis of its mandates;
8. Administer, manage the school centers and educational institutions under its scope of responsibilities;

9. Supervise, monitor, encourage, inspect, control, evaluate the educational work;
10. Coordinate with state and local organizations relating the educational works;
11. Administer, use budget on education in effective manner;
12. Cooperate with foreign countries and international organizations in the educational works;
13. Report on the implementation of educational work to the government and the standing committee of the National Assembly;
14. Perform such other duties and rights as regulated by law and regulations;

Article 64: Duties and Rights of Educational Division in Provinces, Prefecture

The educational division in the Province, Prefecture has following duties and rights:

1. Elaborate the strategic plan, policy, laws of the state and legislations of the Ministry of Education, socio-economic plan and converting the legislations of the province, prefecture into its plan, programs and projects and implement them;
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In the administration of education, the educational office of the district, municipality has the following duties and rights:

1. Implement the strategic plan, policy, laws of the state and legislations, socio-economic plan within its scope of responsibilities;
2. Disseminate, monitor, inspect on the implementation of laws and other legislations on the education;
3. Implement the plan on the alleviation of un-alphabets;
4. Build, use the teachers and educational personnel;
5. Administer, manage the school centers and educational

Article 72. Duties and Rights to the Inspected Persons

The inspected person has the following duties and rights:

1. to propose the inspector to not on decision on the inspection;
2. to create conditions, facilitations to the inspector and implementing the decision of the inspection;
3. to correctly, clearly and promptly provide information, evidences on the inspection;
4. to propose to the relevant organizations for the consideration on the decision, views and other acts of the inspectors that it seen as not proper.
5. to demand on the compensation from the inspector in accordance to laws for the incorrect action;
6. to perform such the duties and rights determined by law on the state inspection and other relevant laws.

Article 73. Duties and Rights of External Inspection Body

Duties and rights including the organization and activities of the external inspection body is regulated specifically.

Part X

The Policies on Outstanding Person and Sanctions toward Violator

Article 74: Policies

Any person or organizations with outstanding performance of this law will receive complements and other policies, which the government determines.

Article 75: Measures toward Violator

Any person or organization violating this law shall be educated, warned, imposed with administrative measures or imposed sanctions depending on serious of the case.

Chapter XI

National Teacher's Day and Educational Emblem

Article 76: National Teacher's Day

The state of the Lao People Democratic Republic declares the 7th October as the national teacher's day.

The national teacher's day is official holiday for the teacher, learners and educational personnel.

The state organizations, mass organizations and the society including people are to actively contribute and organize on the celebration of national teacher's day for remembering of the goodness of the teachers-professor.

Article 77: Educational Emblem

The educational sector has its own emblem, ranking signs and uniforms of teacher, educational personnel, the learners that the Ministry of Education determines.

Chapter XII
Final Provisions