Exploring Learning Agility Strategies in Vietnamese HR Services



Author: Nguyen Viet Phuong Thao & Trinh Quoc Tri

Research Background

Challenge: Vietnam's FDI surpasses US\$20 billion (MPI, 2023), yet a talent gap persists, with 61% of companies struggling to find qualified personnel (Vietnam News, 2023).

HR Services: Traditionally handling onboarding, payroll, and benefits (Kenton, 2023), HR services now strategically bridge the talent demand and organizational success gap.

Key Element: Learning Agility: In today's VUCA world (MPI, 2023), talent acquisition alone falls short. Learning agility is the crucial factor (Burke, 2018).

HR Services as Agility Catalysts: These companies empower employees with learning agility, dealing with new experiences flexibly and rapidly by trying new behavior, getting feedback on these attempts, and making quick adjustments (Burke, 2018)



Problem Statements

Challenges

Limited Training and Certifications: Despite Vietnam's economic growth, only 64.5% of its workforce has received any training, and only 24.5% hold degrees and certificates (VietnamNet, 2023).

Rising Demand for HR Services: Businesses in Vietnam increasingly rely on HR services companies to address talent shortages and navigate complex regulations (Vietnamnews, 2023).

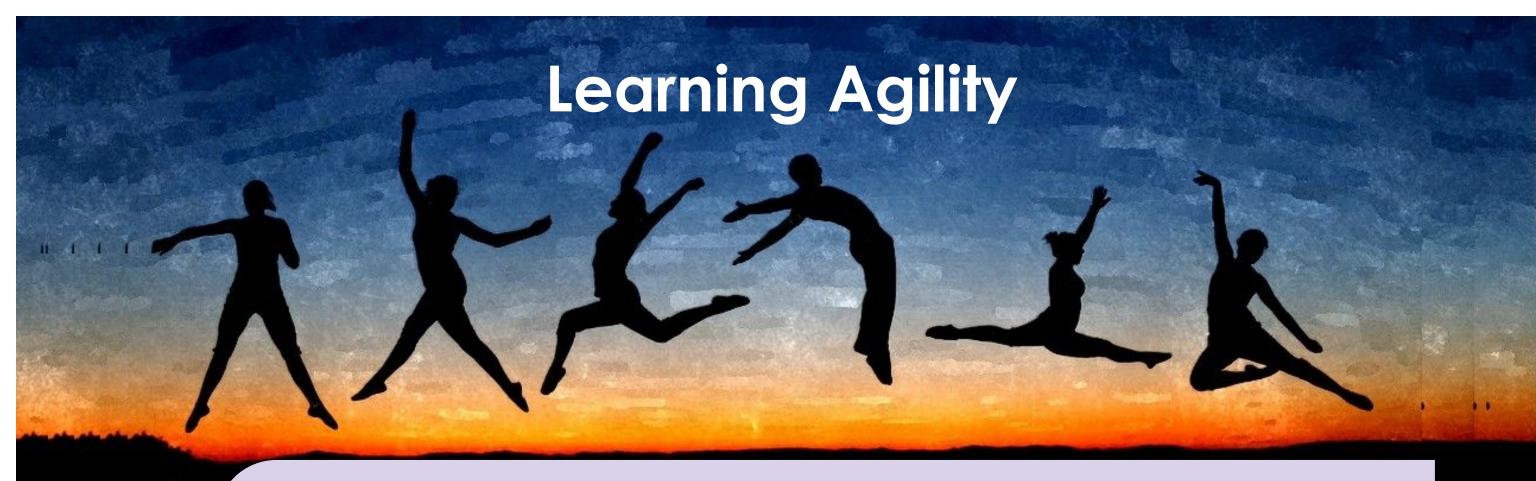
HR's Own Agility Gap:

Agility gap within: HR firms grapple with upskilling their own before advising clients.

Research Gap:

Limited Research on Learning Agility in Vietnam.





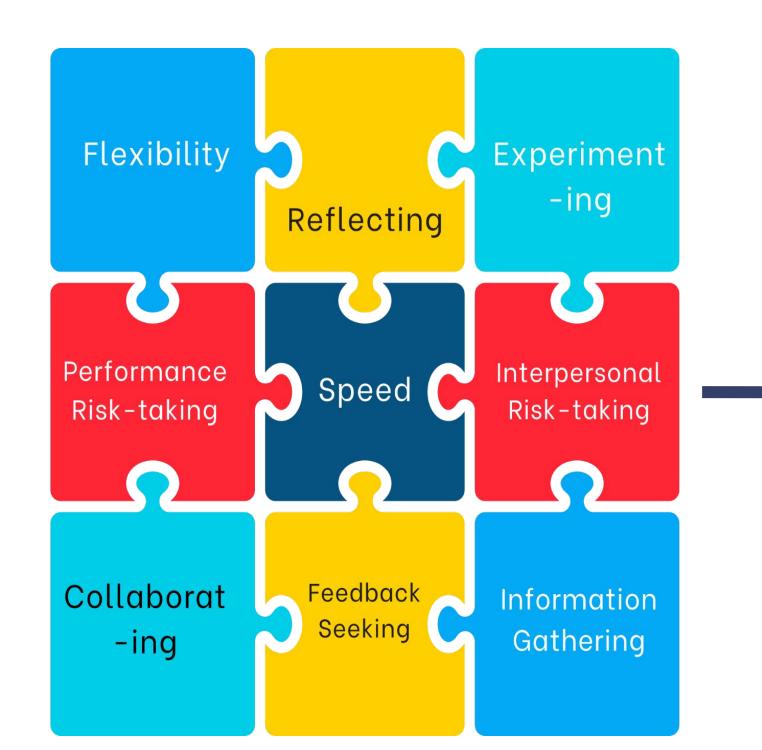
is an individual's willingness and ability to quickly adapt to new tasks and environments (Meuse & Kenneth, 2017)

is the ability of dealing with new experiences flexibly and rapidly by trying new behavior, getting feedback on these attempts, and making quick adjustments (Burke, 2018)



Source: Wahjusaputri & Fadilah (2022); Kalnina (2019); Anseel (2017).

Learning Agility Framework



Learning Agility

Dimension	Description
Flexibility	Openness to new ideas and proposing new solutions.
Speed	Acting on ideas quickly.
Experimenting	Trying new behaviors and approaches.
Performance Risk Taking	Seeking challenging activities for growth.

The study's data on learning agility was collected using the 38-item Burke Learning Agility Inventory (BLAI)

Dimension	Description
Interpersonal Risk Taking	Confronting differences for learning and change.
Collaborating	Finding ways to work with others for learning.
Information Gathering	Staying current in one's area of expertise.
Feedback Seeking	Actively soliciting feedback on ideas and performance.
Reflecting	Evaluating one's own performance for improvement.

Source: Burke (2016) 38 item Learning Agility Inventory (BLAI)



Based on Criteria:

- Market share
- Brand recognition
- Service portfolio
- Client satisfaction (review rating)
- Awards

Source: Talentnet (2023), Topbrand (2023), Incorp (2023), Vietnam News (2023) and The Manifest (2023)

Research Methodology

Sample size: 5 HR service companies

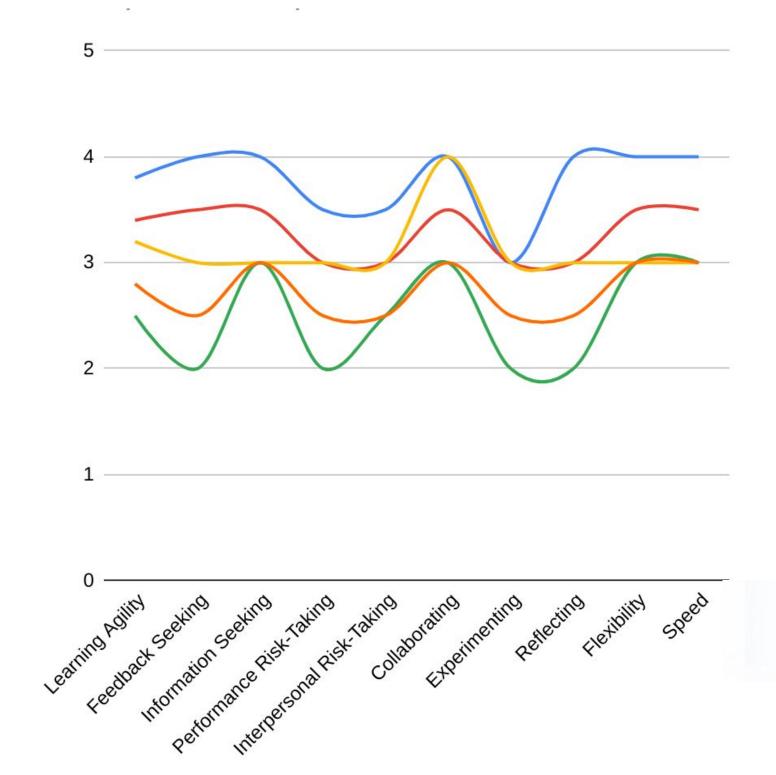
Data collection method: deep interview, descriptive on public information

Data analysis methods: Pearson Correlation

Analysis tool: PSPP open source software



Data Analysis

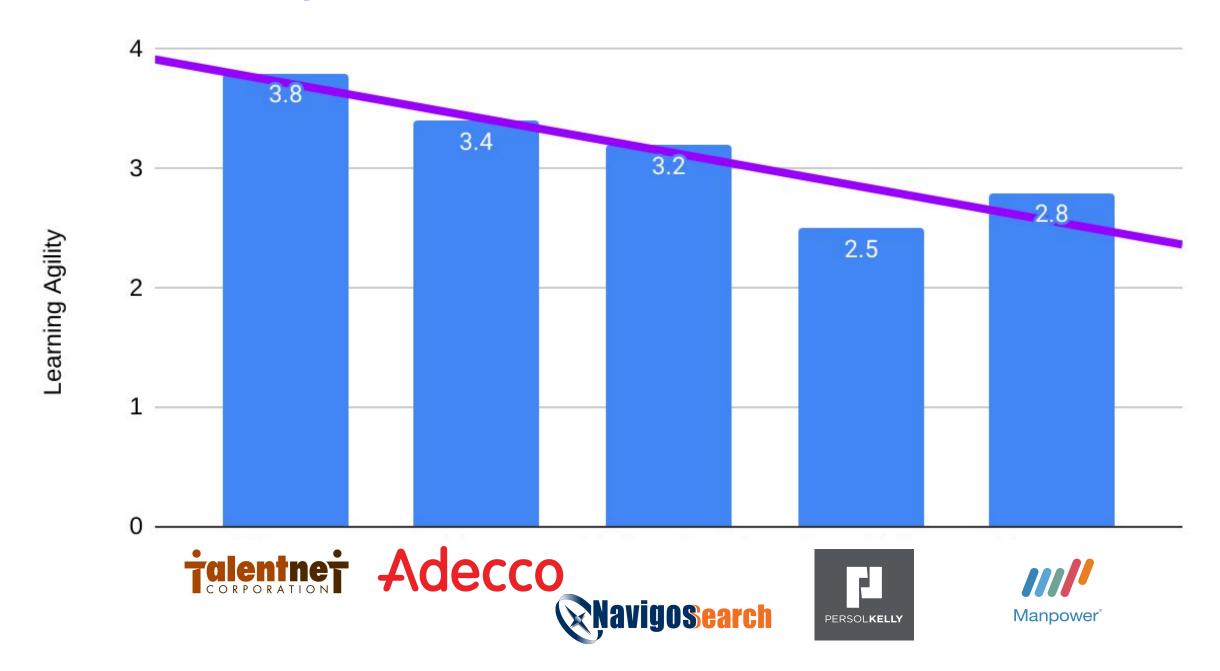


- Talentnet
- Adecco
- Navigos Search
- PersolKelly Vietnam
- Manpower Group Vietnam



Learning Agility

Data Analysis



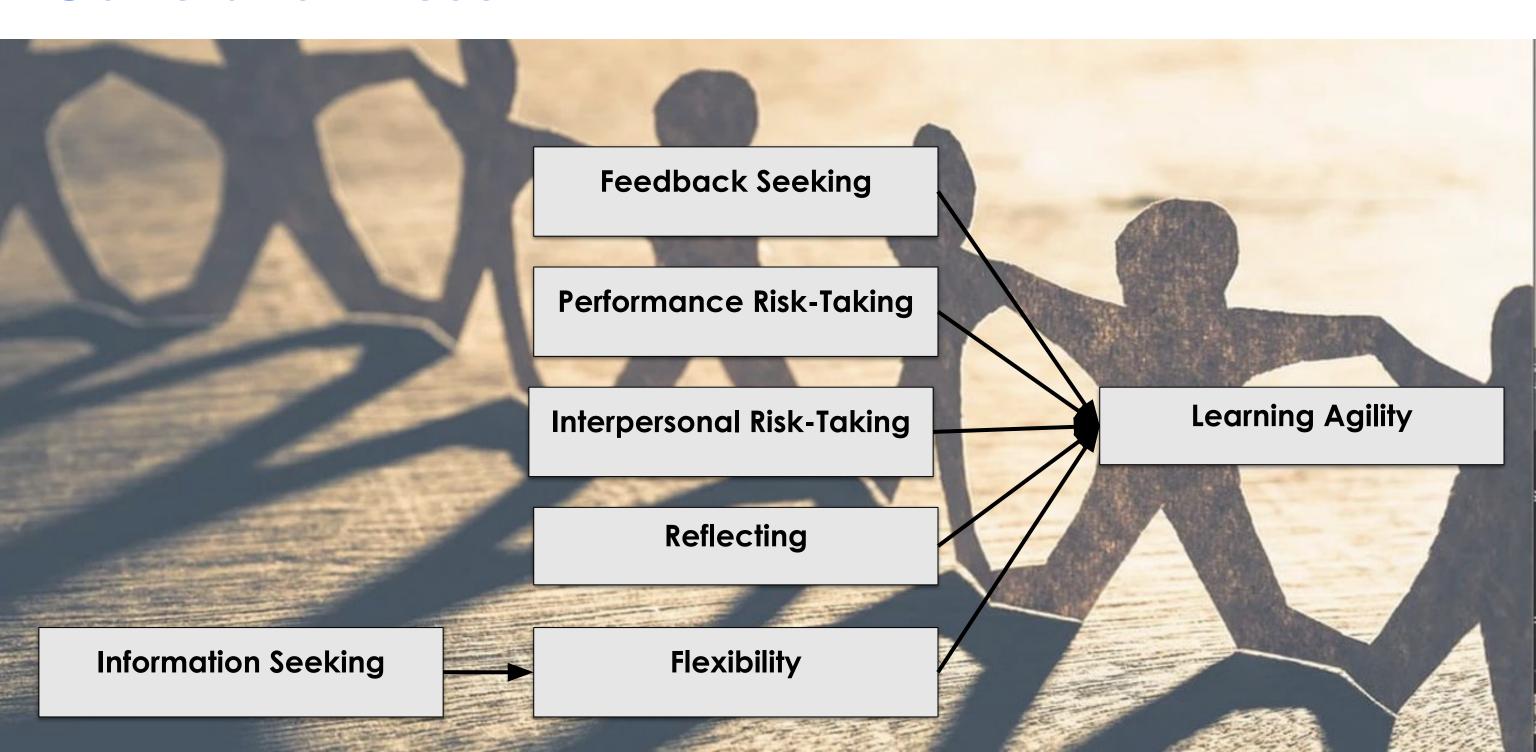
Correlation Result

Strong Correlations:

Overall Learning Agility is strongly correlated with nearly all dimensions, particularly Feedback Seeking (.996), Performance Risk-Taking (.984), Interpersonal Risk-Taking (.965), Reflecting (.976), and Flexibility (.869).

Information Seeking is perfectly correlated with Flexibility (1.000), indicating these dimensions may be capturing very similar aspects of learning agility in this dataset.

Correlation Result







Vietnamese HR services companies foster strong learning agility through interconnected behaviors like **feedback seeking**, **risk-taking**, **flexibility**, **and reflecting**.

Notably, **information seeking** fuels flexibility, showcasing the interdependent nature of agility.

To further cultivate a robust ecosystem of learning agility and bridge the talent gap in Vietnam's dynamic market, recommend further research:

- Addressing the internal agility gap
- Expanding research
- Investing in continuous learning



THANK YOU