

**PHẠM KHUE: Care for the Elderly**

The increase of the aged proportion of our country's population is a new experience, resulted in a complicated problem which should be solved adequately in very broad aspects, political, economical, health and social. The paper of Prof. Pham Khue, Director of the National Institute of Gerontology, gave out abundant data on the aged situation all over the world. Care for the elderly includes health care, housing and environment, the family and social security system, cultural life and job provision. The author put his emphasis upon the fact that elderly group is a precious resource for human society, requiring a high quality-life in order to bring into full play their positive contribution to the society.

**TUONG LAI: Issues raised for the Elderly and the Social Security System**

Under the country's renovation course, along with our efforts to draw on a line-up of younger managers. It is an urgent need for Vietnamese sociology to have thoroughful understanding about the elderly-a particular social group whose quantity is increasing and who currently occupies an important social position. The author made a profound analysis of the roles played by elderly in Vietnamese society, bearing its traditional Oriental culture and civilization as well as carried its peculiar socio-economic conditions. Some scientific recommendations were put forward to the social security system for elderly. Firstly, creation of the social environment respecting and caring for the aged to enable them to bring into full play the accumulated experiences in the construction of the new society. Secondly, special attention should be paid to the strengthening of the family – the most closed social institution and environment for the aged. Thirdly, effective and appropriate social policies should be issued directly aiming at the formulation of an adequate social security system for the aged and the elderly in Vietnam.

**FIELDWORK GROUP: The Aged in An Dien and their Socio-Demographic Characteristics**

The author analysed the sociological survey results under the research project "The Elderly and the Social Security System" carried out in An Dien hamlet of Cong Hoa village, Nam Thanh district, Hai Hung province. The article contained following main parts: 1/Sociological and demographic characteristics of An Dien's elderly; 2/The roles played by them in the family and the community; 3/The social security system they enjoyed. In the end, the author gave out his remarks on social roles of the aged in Vietnam; social welfare benefited in rural areas, and social policies for the aged under Vietnam's changing conditions towards the market economy.

**BUI THE CUONG: The Female Aged in the Rural Areas**

Particularities on gender differential among the aged have been paid acute attention in the project 91-L-061 "The Elderly and the Social Security System in Northern Vietnam". In

this article the author put forward some remarks about the rural female aged, drawn up from the 1989 Population Census data analysis, from the survey undertaken in Hai Hung province under the project and from several available studies as well. These remarks related to the social position of the female aged in rural community, their marital status and living arrangements as well as socio-cultural orientations.

**DO THINH: Old People-Retired-Exhausted**

The retired and the exhausted occupy a considerable force in Vietnam society, requiring our due concerns. However, so far research studies on this group have been very few in number. This article is an initial effort to outline the current status of the retired and the exhausted in Vietnam. On the basis of the 1989 Census and secondary data sources, the author provided various statistical figures on the retired, the exhausted, their population distribution and growth rate over the nation's historical periods, as well as their income and living situation. Finally, the author put forward some conclusions and recommendations to social policies aiming at the support for the retired the exhausted, and timely mobilizing their positive contribution to the society.

**NGUYEN CHI BINH: Some Remarks on a Social Gerontological Survey in a Mountainous Commune.**

In April 1992, the National Institute of Gerontology sent out a research team containing gerontological doctors to a mountainous commune (Nong Ha village, Phu Luong district, Bac Thai province) in order to take a survey applying standard formats provided by the World Health Organization (WHO). The target group of this study included 157 old people aged 60 and above, covering some minority groups. In this article, the author focused his analyses on the demographic data, family relations, income, occupational situation and social participation of the elderly. The survey results have partly shown the elderly's vivid colourful features of the minority groups in Vietnam.

**Sociological Forum.**

The Sociological Forum of this issue introduced some opinions and viewpoints contributed from the scholarly discussion on "The Elderly and the Social Security System". This is a research project undertaken by the Department for Social Structure and Social Policy of the Sociology institute with financial support from the Toyota Foundation. The opinions and viewpoints were originally formulated from a set of papers presented in the workshop organized by the Sociology institute on January 4, 1992. Many theoretical concepts have been established through the examination of different aspects of the rural elderly's everyday life. They were summarized as follows: The aged situation in the given social security system (Mac Van Tien); The elderly in some rural communities (Phi Van Ba);

Care for the aged (Nguyen Van Tuan); Social position, roles and interests of the aged in present rural society (Dang Vu Hoa Thach); Social problems of some ageing groups in the countryside (Pham Van Phu); etc...