

BUI THE CUONG

***Social welfare and social work in Vietnam in the 1990s***

The article has discussed the situation of social welfare and social work in the 1990s in Viet Nam under the conditions of Doi Moi. The author identifies three models of social welfare in Viet Nam: the traditional social welfare, the social welfare of the central planned socialist economy and the social welfare of the socialist-oriented market economy. These models replaced each other over time, but also mix in some way in a complicated reality of social welfare. The author has discussed the major characteristics of current social welfare and social work, their contributions and weaknesses.

TO DUY HOP

***Vietnam's rural sociology: its formation process and development orientations***

The formation history of Vietnam's rural sociology started from studies of K. F. Walker, Vu Quoc Thuc (1963), F. Houtart and G. Lemercinier (1980). The most prominent feature is that Vietnam's rural sociology grows rather rapidly although it has just come into being during recent several decades. In the 1990s there appear many rural sociological works that have covered a wide-ranging variety of issues and combined many different methods and techniques. It has fulfilled different major functions of an academic discipline: scientific research, teaching and training, and scientific consultancy. Its development orientations have become clear: it has been following closely the renovation process, urbanization, industrialization and modernization of agriculture and rural areas so that it can improve itself and better serve the needs of socio-economic development.

VU CAO DAM

***Sociological research in the development of environmental thinking***

Environmental sociology is regarded as a completely new field. It is necessary to examine the development of environmental thinking in order to improve this new field. The article argues that environmental thinking has developed rapidly during the last decades. It has come into being and gradually improved itself in human-nature relations. It has become a field of special interest in development strategies. Theoretical improvement of environmental sociology based on environmental thinking is regarded as a necessary need of sustainable development.

MAC DUONG

***Researching poverty in Ho Chi Minh City from a social science viewpoint***

Poverty alleviation is one of the tasks that are of strategic character in our nation's development. It requires social science's concerns and interests. The article has analyzed social impacts of urbanization and market economy on poverty, and regarded poverty as a result of many combined socio-economic reasons. The author emphasizes the role of social science, especially sociology and ethnology. This role finds expression in carrying out surveys at community and family levels in order to know the poverty situation, its causes and to predict its tendencies as well as prospects of the implementation of the poverty alleviation policy in Ho Chi Minh City in the current renovation context.

TRAN HUU QUANG

***Social functions of the press in Sai Gon's history during the French colonial rule***

Two social functions of the Sai Gon press during the French colonial rule are largely recognized: the dissemination of the Vietnamese romanized script and the forum for the anti-colonial struggle. The article has added two social functions that must be historically stressed: the function of economic information and the function of introducing and publishing new ideas about social reform. These functions had contributed to laying the ideological and social bases for the later social and revolutionary movements. The press is a pioneer of a new social institution, i. e. mass media. This new institution had created a social space, an open information space to which everybody could access. Therefore historically it is one of the social bases for social progress.

DANG NGUYEN ANH

***Migration and management of migration in a new stage:  
some reflections from a research viewpoint***

This article examined the issue of migration and population management which has been treated as one of the main objectives of Vietnam's new national strategy for population and development for the 2000-2010 period. Although increased population mobility is an integral part of the on-going process of development, in the eyes of government policy-makers and planners, spontaneous migration remains unwanted and should be limited.

Along with this tendency, a number of drawbacks have emerged in policy formulation and implementation, directly or indirectly affecting migration and migrants themselves. The government's striving for poverty alleviation and social equity have excluded the migrant poor who are not considered official residents at the places of destination. In a growing bureaucratic system wherein societal management is based on official residential status, spontaneous migrants have

become vulnerable with increasingly unmet needs. This situation has, in turn, exposed the negative images of migration to the public life.

As market reforms in Vietnam continue to reinforce sectoral and regional disparities whereby accelerating population mobility, migration should not be managed by administrative measures. The conventional way of directing population and family planning programs is irrelevant for migration that is of socio-economic essence. In order to achieve the ultimate goal of social equity, opened viewpoints and renovating approaches regarding migration and population management are to be sought. In conclusion, the article outlined some principles for addressing migration and population management in the new phase of national development.

MAI HUY BICH & LE THI KIM LAN

*Women's status in some fishing villages in the central part of Vietnam*

The article has examined the status of women in two types of fishing villages: sea fishing and lagoon one. In the sea fishing communities, it is men who go sailing and fishing; women stay on shore and fulfill preparations for sailing, fish-processing and selling. Great emphasis is placed on a lagoon fishing village, where women themselves take an active part in fishing. In both types, women's contributions to income-generating activities of their families are essential, but their status is low compared to that of men. The article has analyzed how women's status is disconnected from their economic contributions, and how men hold their dominance positions. It also argues that in addition to fishing communities' social norms and values that women internalize, we need to take into consideration some structural arrangements that influence women's status to a large extent.

**Sociological Forum**

NGUYEN MINH THANG & NGUYEN QUY NGHI, NGUYEN DUC CHINH,  
NGUYEN LINH KHIEU, PHAM QUYNH HUONG, BE TRUNG ANH

*Issues of reproductive health*

Reproductive health has become a common concern of entire society, especially medical experts and sociologists. These issues are discussed by analyzing:

- some preliminary results of promoting gender equality and male involvement in reproductive health;
- some social problems of maternal mortality and women's reproductive health;
- reproductive health aspects of love and sexuality among school adolescents;
- adolescents' needs for reproductive health;
- sexuality and the role of communication within the family;
- health-seeking behaviour and reproductive health-seeking behaviour of the Tay in a remote commune (Yen Ninh, Phu Luong district, Thai Nguyen province).