

MAI VAN HAI

Symbolic culture in a sociological approach

After dividing the concept culture into three main areas: political, economic and symbolic culture, the article is especially confined to discussing the third area. Then the article further divides this area into three chief sub-fields: production, distribution and consumption of values. Placing the subject matter in a context of the renovation, the author has proposed not only working hypotheses, but also different approaches in each sub-field. One may regard these issues as arising for sociological research in one aspect of cultural life in our country nowadays.

MAI QUYNH NAM

Features and characteristics of mass communication

The article regards mass communication as a social process that includes senders, audience, messages and channels. Audience-orientation, comprehensiveness, timeliness and periodicity are regarded as the features of the information contents transmitted on mass media. The article analyses the social orientation, organizational character and collectivity in mass communication. Nowadays, in globalization, mass communication has intensified. This tendency has had impacts on the features and characteristics of mass communication, and set some new requirements in organizing and managing mass communication activities.

BUI QUANG DUNG

Methodological origins of sociology

The article explains the so-called methodological origins of sociology.

One of the basic methodological concerns in history of European thought from the XVIII century in that great importance is attached to experiment and experience. Empirical philosophy in the XVIII century developed an epistemology, which laid the foundation of knowledge in experience and the basis of science in experiment, induction, and observation. And the XIX century's positivists proclaimed that scientific knowledge is common because they wanted to expand methodology of natural sciences to social sciences.

Having developed in this situation, the XIX century's sociology was evidently influenced by spirit of natural sciences. And experiential and inductive methodology of contemporary sociology is only a continuation of this tradition.

DO NGUYEN PHUONG

Current health situations of the elderly in Vietnam

After giving an overview of health situations of the elderly in the world and in Vietnam, the author has pointed out the features of the old age, and analyzed the health status and diseases of the elderly in Vietnam. This issue is viewed in three fields:

- Health and diseases of the elderly in their communities through epidemiological surveys;
- In hospitals and health care stations with the elderly patients;
- Through operations of dead bodies in order to assess pathological causes that lead to deaths of the elderly.

The article has proposed some solutions to improve the elderly's health in present Vietnam.

NGUYEN DUC TRUYEN

Physician-patient relationship and impacts of socio-economic factors

During the recent years, socio-economic factors have had more and more impacts on our health system. It is necessary to understand and regulate negative consequences of these impacts in order to improve the quality of our health services. In this article, the author analyses some of these impacts in the relations between physicians and patients in a hope to find the more effective solutions that are of strategic character for this problem.

LE MANH NAM

The rural family's role in job-searching for children in the Red River Delta

Deriving from a new role of the family as an economically independent unit, the author has analyzed possibilities for the family to perform its occupational orientating role. It is noteworthy that over the last ten years of renovation, wishes of sending children away from agriculture to the state sector are still prevalent in many families. These wishes influence their children's schooling, occupational training and job-searching for children. This has been creating social problems. Causes of this situation can be seen in a lack of occupational orientation, occupational training and a low level of economic and occupational development in countryside, and a maintenance of occupational conceptions and values that result from the long-lasting village traditions as well as the central-planning economy.

NGUYEN HONG QUANG

Informal sector in Hanoi: social aspects of development

The article has pointed out the specific traits of the informal sector in history of Vietnam, analyzed job-labor aspects and social problems in both positive and negative terms. The article aims to contribute to finding management solutions for the informal sector in a context of the current market economy development.

TON THIEN CHIEU & TRAN VIET TIEN

Workers and activities of the Trade Union in Hanoi

The renovation of economic management has presented great challenges to the Trade Union - the representative of legal interests of laborers. To perform its functions, the Trade Union has changed its acting ways and measures in the recent time. Do the changing activities of the Trade Union create laborers' active participation and how do they evaluate those activities' effectiveness? The article has shown some results of the Trade Union through evaluations of Hanoi workers and laborers. The article has not only offered data to illustrate the success and failure, but also pointed out the causes and conditions that may help the Trade Union's activities in meeting the wishes and desires of laborers.

TRAN THI MINH DUC, NGUYEN PHUONG THAO, BE QUYNH NGA

Issue of children in difficult circumstances

Child labor and assistance to handicapped children are discussed in sociological and socio-psychological analyses by Tran Thi Minh Duc, Nguyen Phuong Thao and Be Quynh Nga. The analyses show that social relations have impacts on this group of children. The authors promote the role of the family and society in improving the living conditions of children in difficult circumstances. The authors regard this as an important factor to implement effectively the law on protection, care and education of children and the United Nations convention on children's rights.