

**VU KHIEU*****The Vietnam family on the way towards industrialization and modernization***

In the light of the 5th Resolution of Central Party Committee Conference, the author has discussed the issue of family role in the course of cultural development in all aspects of the country. The family issue is raised with the general idea for both East and West. This issue is not only urgent at present, but also linked to the past and determines contribution to the future.

The author analyzed and compared of the formation and development of the family in the history of the East, the West and Vietnam; assessed and generalized all the real situation, changes, points of view and solutions for the family and culture issues at the national and the world levels at present. From this point, the author has demonstrated the features of Vietnam family in the long past as well as the issues and the tasks of the Vietnam family at present and future.

The author emphasized that for Vietnam society at present and future, the family continues to play the important roles in the course of country development. The country's traditional morality, including Confucian morality factors, has been useful in some ways. However, it is impossible to take all the rules and norms of the old family. Also, we shouldn't imitate other countries in using Confucian points of view about the family for serving their social regime, for the class interest of ruling classes. The differences between our country and others are the difference between two regimes.

Our people had struggle hardly by sweat and blood for gaining independence and freedom, for building an equal and democratic life. The family should be the foundation of the new society. We must defend the achievements of Revolution, not run counter them.

**VU MANH LOI*****Some theoretical viewpoints on gender in family studies***

Gender study has increasingly attracted attention of Vietnamese researchers many of whom are unaware of recent theoretical and methodological developments in the field outside Vietnam due to language barrier and lack of access to foreign literature. This review is intended to provide Vietnamese readers with a critical introduction to major theoretical tendencies in gender study. The review summarizes and analyzes main points of feminists, economists, socio-biologists, and sociologists on gender roles and relationships, reproduction, employments, power and decision making, access to and control of family resources.

**MAI QUYNH NAM*****Popular culture and family culture***

The article has analyzed the role of mass media as a main catalyst to form the popular culture. There is a close link of popular culture and family culture, especially in urban areas. Communication mechanism, features and functions of the family are analyzed in relation to mass media. The analysis has shown that contacts with mass media in the family environment should be regarded as an indicator of family's cultural patterns.

**NGUYEN HUU MINH**

***Factors that affect the marriage age of population in the Red River Delta***

Data using in this paper are from the Vietnam Longitudinal Survey 1995 which was conducted by the Institute of Sociology (Hanoi, Vietnam) and the University of Washington (Seattle, USA). Results show that age at first marriage has increased in the Red River Delta during the last few decades for both sexes. Education, urbanization, and occupation outside agriculture play a very significant role determining the pattern of age at marriage as it is found in other Asian countries. However, the effect of each factor is not uniform for men and women. Age at first marriage patterns in the Red River Delta are also shaped by military service of men and women during the wartime. In addition, the role of the state, religion, and some other normative factors in shaping the pattern of age at marriage is examined in this study. It is found out that the trend toward later marriage in the Red River Delta is associated with an increase of education, high percentage of military service, and more freedom in mate choice of people in the region. Given the importance of these factors in shaping the historical trend of age at marriage in the last few decades, an expectation would be that age at marriage in this region will continue to increase, but with a slower speed than compared to earlier decades.

**MAI HUY BICH**

***Residence patterns after marriage in the Red River Delta***

The article has pointed out and analyzed some shortcomings of a survey about residence patterns after marriage in Vietnam. It has reconfirmed the existence of patrilocal residence pattern and its variant in the Red River Delta. The article has also made use of a so-called "reproduction pressure" theory to examine the residence pattern and its variant. In order to relieve the "reproduction pressure", the Kinh have not only chosen the pattern and its variant, but also practiced ancestor worship. Furthermore, they have conferred sacred status on their ancestors and parents.

**VU TUAN HUY and DEBORA CARR**

***Division of housework in the family***

By introducing the hypothetical models for analyzing the factors that impact the number of housework which were done by the wife in the family, the authors of the article have discussed the issues of changing tendency in social, occupational and demographic structure on the way towards industrialization and modernization. This trend accompanies the issue of gender equality relationship between husband and wife in all aspects of family life.

The implications of this analysis have also indicated that the increasing awareness and changing attitudes towards traditional gender roles not only have positive impacts on equal relationship between husband and wife, but also reduce the negative impacts of gender role stereotypes in socializing children in the family. The changes in the social services and technology in Vietnam at present also require to refine the measuring of housework. That is suggested by the authors for the next study on this topic.

**DANG NGUYEN ANH**

***The effects of household structure on child health care: some findings from the 1997 demographic and health survey***

This research is the first one examining the relationship between household structure and child health in Vietnam. The importance of a healthy childhood for subsequent development as well as the central role of the household in raising children through the early years of life has provided the rationale for this study. The author explored the possibility that different household arrangements lead to different health outcomes among children, and tried to identify features of household structure that are related to child health practices. Since the households are not homogenous, the variability in their structure and compositions may affect significantly their ability to raise healthy children. Data for this analysis come from the 1997 Vietnam's Demographic and Health Survey (VN-DHS97) which was carried out under the Population and Family Health Project financially supported by the World Bank.

The results suggest that the effects of household structure on children's health vary with household type. It appears that living in a nuclear household constitutes a disadvantage to child immunization. Extended households with mothers appear to be advantaged over other household types with regard to adherence to the preventive health practices. When it comes to curative behavior, however, households with more adult males prove to be disadvantaged as compared to households with more gender balance. The findings challenge our conventional portrayal of the conjugal household of husband, wife and children as the ideal living arrangement today.

**SOCIOLOGICAL FORUM**

***Sociological family studies: a ten-year backlooking***

This is not a comprehensive and systematic evaluation of family studies in Vietnam during the last ten years. However, the presentations on this topic in a seminar held at the institute of sociology, funded by the American Ford Foundation are useful. They have outlined the general characteristics of family studies during the period. Theoretical and methodological issues, achievements and shortcomings of family studies are discussed. Views and opinions expressed in the seminar need to be further discussed.