

PHAN XUAN BIEN

Socio-economic Dynamics of Mekong River Delta During the Last Decade of the Twentieth Century

During the last decade of the XX century - the decade of implementation of Reform, Vietnam had gained spectacular achievements in agriculture, especially food production and rice export. In this success, the Mekong River Delta region played the most important role.

The author analyzes impacts of policies, regional economic structural changes, demand-supply factors and competition in commodity production, living standards and rates of GDP growth, and the impacts of these factors on agricultural production and economic development.

The paper points out serious challenges in the process of balancing economic growth and social and cultural goals for creating strong impetus for rapid and sustainable development in the Mekong River Delta.

HA HUY THANH & LE CAO DOAN

Social Relations Influencing Environment

Based on theoretical analysis of the nature of the relationship between society and environment, the authors indicate the development evolution, the relationship between nature and society, and potential conflicts in this relationship. The logic of the analysis shows that sustainable development is a necessary requirement of re-establishing the balance between human being, society, and environment.

The authors also indicate issues of social sciences and humanities in exploitation and rational use of natural resources and environment protection in Vietnam.

BUI THE CUONG

***Election Of People's Council In Northern Villages:
From A Rural Rapid Assessment***

The article presents the major findings of a rural rapid assessment on election of commune People's Councils, which were held in November 1999. A group of senior researchers of the Institute of Sociology conducted the assessment in 4 communes in the Red River Delta during the process of the election in 1999. The research focus was on the participation of people in the election, roles of various social and kin groups, views of officials and people on the election. As the first sociological research of this topic, the assessment provides 11 concluding remarks for consideration for policy-making and future studies.

BE QUYNH NGA

Elderly People in Central and South Vietnam in 2000 - Findings from A Qualitative Research

Using data from a qualitative study conducted at the end of 1999 and early 2000 in Vietnam, the author analyzed following topics:

- Work of elderly people
- Family arrangement
- Social participation of elderly people
- Elderly people and social security system

The analysis demonstrates the differences between the lives of elderly people in the South and in the Central Vietnam. The author proposes further comparative studies to develop a more comprehensive explanation which would contribute to the improvement of elderly people's living standards and making better use of their social roles in the context of on-going social changes.

NGUYEN QUY THANH

Social Impacts of Unofficial Hospital Fees

The paper provides analysis of unofficial hospital fees in provision of health services, the relationship between providers and clients, and negative as well as positive social impacts on this relationship. The paper presents economic analysis, income situation of households, cultural issues, health issues, and health care system analyses.

The author keeps the point that lum-sum fees administered at health facilities are necessary to improve transparency of health care spendings.

SOCIOLOGICAL FORUM

Workshop "Adolescent: Health and Development"

Workshop "Adolescent: Health and Development" was organized in Hanoi on September 12, 2001, by the Institute of Sociology in collaboration with the World Health Organization. In this issue, Sociological Review highlights key points of selected papers presented in this workshop:

1. Dang Nguyen Anh: Adolescent in Vietnam: From Characteristics To Policy Orientation
2. Pham Thi Minh Duc: Adolescent Reproductive Health
3. Pham Thi Le Mai: Meeting the Needs of Adolescents, the UNFPA Program for Vietnam Adolescent Reproductive Health and Development.