

PHAM XUAN NAM

Preliminary Sketches About Changes Of Social Class Structure In Our Country In The Transition To A Market Economy With Socialist Orientation

Based on K. Marx's socio-economic formation theory and Ho Chi Minh ideology on diverse relationships between social classes and strata in the process of Vietnamese revolution, the author analyzes changes of social class structure in Vietnam during the transition to a market economy with socialist orientation. The analysis focuses on:

- Working class
- Social class structure in rural areas
- Intelligentsia
- Stratum of Traders and smallholders
- Stratum of Owners of private enterprises
- Some social groups getting rich illegally

The author concluded that during the last 15 years in the process of transition to a multi-components market economy with socialist orientation, the Vietnamese social structure has changed considerably. This structure is no longer fit to the simple scheme of two classes and one stratum as before, but becomes more and more complex and diversified.

The author predicts that in the near future the class structure and the social strata will continue to change to a more diversified ones. The share of peasant class will be reduced, the working class will continue to increase, the intelligentsia will have more and more important roles in the process of industrialization and modernization, the stratum of traders and smallholders will still have indispensable positions in the national economy, the stratum of owners of private enterprises may develop to become national capitalists having impacts as a counter-weight in relation with foreign capitalists.

NGUYEN HUU MINH

Some Approaches to Study of Marriage

In this paper, applications of several approaches on marriage studies such as microeconomic theory, Dixon's sociological framework, the life course perspective, and Goode's modernization theory are discussed. Microeconomic theorists argue that marriage occurs if the benefits from marriage exceed the costs of being married for each of the partners. Dixon's framework emphasizes the importance of three variables that mediate effects of social structure on observed marriage patterns: *the availability, the feasibility, and the desirability* of marriage. The life course perspective states that individual behavior is affected by many different forces such as biological, social, cultural, economic, and demographic forces. Main thesis of Goode's modernization theory is that the social forces of industrialization and urbanization are spreading to every society and moving families in the direction of a conjugal family pattern. The conjugal family pattern can be understood as having a greater emphasis on the "nuclear" family, older age at marriage, and more freedom for young people in marriage matters. It is indicated that these different approaches are not mutually exclusive, rather, they complement each other. To assess the trend of marriage patterns, political and cultural factors for each specific context should be incorporated into the analysis in addition to modern factors. One needs to clarify in each particular context what aspects of modernization have a strong effect on the marriage patterns, and what dimension of the marriage pattern is easily influenced by broader social forces.

MAI QUYNH NAM

On Issues of Studying Effectiveness of Mass Communication

Studying effectiveness of mass communication is an urgent and complex issue. On the one hand, this is because of increasing perception that mass communication has great impacts on social life. On the other hand, the complexity of this study orientation depends on

the multi-functions nature of mass communication for multi-dimensional relationships in the interaction of this system in the reality.

The paper analyzes the issues of studying effectiveness of mass communication since the 1930s up to now, and shows the impacts of communication channels for the audiences to create social effectiveness of the mass communication system.

The paper presents a system of indicators for analyzing effectiveness of mass communication and issues which need to be addressed better in terms of theory and research methods.

The paper presents impacts of Reform on mass media activities in Vietnam today. The extension of participation of public audiences in mass communication has led to the situation where they are not only message-receiving agents but are also agents expressing social opinions through the mass media forum. This is the main condition for reinforcing social effectiveness of mass media communication.

BUI QUANG DUNG

Mediation In Community In The Northern Of Vietnam

This review is a summary of results of a research of institution and conflict solution in a commune in Midland Northern in Vietnam. The author found that the peasants nowadays, like those in traditional society before 1954, still desire to settle conflicts peacefully in a small scope: family, clan and village. Family group, conciliator team and local authority are institutions that resolve conflicts. Sentimental measures are priority and only in the utmost case they have to use legal measures related to local government. Conciliation seems to be a basic reference in resolving conflicts.

The regulations were established to help restrict conflicts which can occur in the village life. According to it, its function is to develop self-management capacity of basic unit. On the other hand, the peasant, as this research shows, still far from legal relationship and concerned institutions (local government). Is it become a problem if we look at from the development of legal relationship in Vietnam today.

ROLF JENSEN AND DONALD M. PEPPARD, JR

Vendors in Hanoi—A Look on Informal Sector in a City

The objective of this paper is to explain in details the economic life of vendors. The paper presents characteristics of vendors, their income and trading habits reflecting their activities.

In the authors' opinion, the source of income of the vendors has a very important role for rural families.

SOCIOLOGICAL FORUM

Studies of Rural Sociology

Analysis of socio-economic changes under the impacts of Reform is a research topic which draws attention of sociologists. In this issue, the Sociological Review presents a number of articles on this topics in the context of rural areas:

1. Le Thi Mai: Village market in the process of socio-economic transformation in rural areas in the Red River Delta (a case study of market Hữu Bằng, Thạch Thất district, Hà Tây province)
2. Nguyen Tuan Anh: Kin Relationships with Rural Household Economic Life in a village in the North-Central Vietnam.
3. Le Manh Nam: Living Arrangement in Households with Elderly People in a Village in the Red River Delta.