

HA HUY THANH

Allocation of public finance for social development: the current situation and issues

The article has discussed the current situation and issues of allocation of public finance for Vietnam's social development. It has shown the government's concern about dealing with relations between economic growth and social development. This issue is very significant as Vietnam has up to now been still one of the poorest countries in the world.

The article has analyzed the allocation of public finance for educational services, health care services and poverty alleviation. At the same time the author also has shown some imbalance between demands and supply of resources for social development. The article has emphasized the importance of public financial investment in social development in a context of Vietnam's integration into international community.

MAI VAN HAI

Representations and representation culture in sociological thinking

Reviewing the positions about representations and representation culture of M. Weber, E. Durkheim, F. Tenbruck, Jean Chevalier, Emily A. Schultz, L. Ionin and Doan Van Chuc, the article has pointed out that representations and representation culture play an important role not only in social life, but also in sociological thinking. In life, representations and representation culture exist as a way of social thinking, and have impacts on behavior, especially on socialization of human beings. In sociology, the two concepts lay basis for the formation of a whole research tendency: that of cultural analysis. The objectivist tendency regards social facts and phenomena as independent of human consciousness. Unlike the objectivist tendency, the cultural analysis tendency, though recognizing the objectivity of social facts and phenomena, does not identify it with the objectivity of "things" in natural world. Instead, the cultural analysis tendency identifies it with the objectivity of artifacts, i.e. cultural products. Therefore social approach is dissimilar to natural scientists in seeing their subject matter. Social approach should be like cultural research approach; therefore sociology is a science of culture.

MAI HUY BICH

Some issues of knowledge sociology raised from E.W. Said's Orientalism

The well-known work *Orientalism* by Said has been translated into Vietnamese and published. In an attempt to offer a reading of the book to Vietnam's sociologists, the article has reviewed its main arguments. The article also has presented some issues that are raised from the influential book and important to sociology of knowledge.

TRUONG XUAN TRUONG

An examination of peasants' reproductive attitudes in the Red River delta nowadays

Based on data of sociological surveys in the Red River delta in the 90s, the author has made clear some major transformations in three research aspects. In the first aspect, the author has demonstrated that during the *doimoi* period, with regard to knowledge and reproductive behavior of peasants, the most important change is their improved knowledge of the children's number. In the past, having many children was regarded as a value; nowadays it is considered unfavorable and to be obstacle to upward social mobility.

In the second aspect, the author supposes that the children's value has changed remarkably. Less importance has been attached to children's economic value and their role in social security. However, up to now, care for old parents and continuum of descents are still the long-lasting and common values. Therefore the status and value of sons are promoted in the eyes of peasants.

Concerning the third aspect, peasants' knowledge and attitudes towards health care for mothers and children have been undergoing significant transformations. These transformations include their increased knowledge, changing conceptions and behavior with regard to prenatal care, birth-giving, care for newborn babies and their mothers.

NGUYEN HONG QUANG

Social factors that affect health care and nutrition in minority ethnic communities

Health care and nutrition are not only a technico-medical, but also social issue. In 2000, Center for development research and consultation carried out a nation-wide study in ten minority ethnic groups in ten communes. This article is a part of the above-mentioned research's results.

The author has shown that geographical, economic and cultural factors, the state health care system and family health care, education and knowledge levels, etc. have impacts to different extents on health care and nutrition in minority ethnic communities.

The motto "Combination of family, local and state resources in health care and nutrition for communities" is inseparable from a strategy of long-term and sustainable community development. That is the article's main conclusion.

MAI QUYNH NAM

Messages about children on visual and printed media

The article is a part of an international analyzing study "Children's images in the press" carried out in 1999 by Asian Media Information and Communication Center (AMIC) in cooperation with the Institute of Sociology.

The article has examined the following issues

1. Visual and printed media and the reporting of children-related issues
2. The ways visual and printed media report children-related issues
3. Children who are in difficult circumstances on visual and printed media.

The author has demonstrated that content-analysis methods are very significant in describing children's images in the press.

In conclusion, the author has made some recommendations as to what managers and reporters should do in order to enhance the social efficiency of visual and printed media in giving messages on children and to serve children's main interests that are defined and specified in the International convention on children's rights.