

BUI THE CUONG

Collective actions and social movements in the period of doi moi in Vietnam: an initial study

Initiatives, collective actions and social movements are emerging in Vietnamese society since Doi Moi was started. This reality is result as well as cause of the development of a political and legal frame for the societal sector. However, there is still a lack of professional social studies on this research area. The paper provides a typology of collective actions and social movements in Viet Nam, and analyses the characteristics of the kinds of the different collective actions and social movements. The author also calls for developing a theoretical framework that should be appropriate to offer insight into the Vietnamese reality of collective actions and social movements, and suggests that Vietnamese sociologists pay more attention to this research direction.

TO DUY HOP AND DANG DINH LONG

Environment culture in Vietnam today: the state of affairs and change trends

Sociologically approached, environment culture is regarded as a starting point or important basis for feasible solutions to environment protection and sustainable development. Major issues raised in the article include

1. Bases and the formation of the concept “environment culture”
2. Modernization of environment culture. This section presents norms and behavior patterns related to environment from traditions to modernity. It also discusses the choice of models for modernization of environment culture.
3. Socialization of environment culture. What should be done so that environment culture can come to life, to every inhabitant at different levels and change their awareness and behavior with regard to rational use of natural resources and to protect environment.
4. Institutionalization and carrying environment culture into effect are the third important topic of the article. How can one have a system, organization and institution of environment culture that is both modern and suitable to Vietnam’s present conditions? This question has been discussed, and some preliminary suggestions for model choice are offered.

Through the authors’ proofs and analysis one can describe a picture of the state of affairs of Vietnam’s environment culture. Emphasis is placed on weaknesses in every aspect. In the last section of the article, the authors have suggested some ways to regulate the environment behavior of different strata so that sustainable development can be ensured.

TRUONG XUAN TRUONG

Some theoretical and practical issues in studies of mass communication on population nowadays

The article consists of four parts

1. Toward a unified view of the concept of mass communication and mass communication on population nowadays.
2. A brief overview of studies about mass communication and mass communication on population
3. Issues raised in the studies of mass communication on population in our country at present
4. Some recommendations

The article's context is that Vietnam has shifted the aims in its national population program from narrow aims to wider and more comprehensive ones; i.e. from family planning in the last decades to reproductive health and population quality.

The article has dealt with some basic aspects of theories of mass communication, especially the practical aspects of mass communication activities in Vietnam nowadays. It has argued that mass communication is one of the most important solutions to ensure the population program's success in a new period.

After pointing out weaknesses of mass communication activities on population in current Vietnam, the article has proposed a set of solutions. It has emphasized some basic solutions that may include the strengthening and consolidation of mass communication apparatus; mobilization of all social resources in mass communication activities on population; renovation of methods and improvement of the quality of population messages.

NGUYEN HONG QUANG

Families of minority ethnic groups and child labor

After analyzing child labor in three minority ethnic groups (Tay, H'mong and Dao), the article has examined the relations between the family institution and child labor. The main indicators analyzed include: poverty, working time, gender, children rights and child labor. The analysis has demonstrated that solutions to child labor are influenced by families and social impacts in life of the minority ethnic groups.

DAM KHAI HOAN, NGUYEN DINH HOC AND NGUYEN HUONG NGA

A preliminary identification of some customs that affect the Dao's health in some highland villages

Using methods of community health study with 238 households of the Dao in seven communes, Bac Can province, the authors have identified some customs that affect negatively the population's health.

1. Housing customs: houses are usually made of earth, earthen floors; they are low; there is a lack of light.
2. Hygiene customs: The Dao use gutter water and water from mountain streams; they do not build latrines, but excrete freely. They pay little attention to personal hygiene

in and around their houses. The Dao set free their domestic animals, and build shelters for their animals nearby to their houses.

3. Performance of spirit curing rituals when a family member falls ill.
4. Customs related to marriage and reproductive health: early marriage, giving births soon after marriage, big families and short intervals between births; delivery at home, relatives (instead of midwives) deliver babies; the delay of breast-feeding; early end of breast-feeding.

The authors have offered two recommendations:

1. Health workers in highland areas should step up their efforts at propaganda and health education for the Dao so that they can gradually change their health behavior and customs harmful to health and create new customs favorable to health.
2. The party and government should step up poverty alleviation among minority ethnic groups in general and the Dao in particular. It is only when their economic and cultural life is improved that their customs, especially those harmful to health can change.

TRAN THI KIM

Impacts of education on the participation and decision-making rights of rural women in their families in Quang Ngai province

The article has raised the following issues

1. Education affects the participation of women in some production tasks
2. Education affects women's rights in making decisions in some family issues

The analysis has shown that the higher women's education, the more impacts they have in production and decision making.

The analytical logic has shown that the improvement of women's education is regarded as a key solution to the strengthening of women's role and status in rural areas at present. To overcome gender inequality, this issue is of decisive importance.