

TO DUY HOP

***Sociology and Vietnam's rural development - challenges and prospects***

The greatest challenge for Vietnam's rural sociology is that its desires and ambitions are numerous, but its capacities at both individual and collective levels are limited. However, its prospects are good thanks to firm determinations of sociologists of many generations, the state's encouragement, the people's support and the international aids.

Theoretical and methodological bases for enhancing the researching, teaching and consulting capacities are the changes of theoretical and methodological paradigms. The changes are to a comprehensive, dialectical and systematic viewpoint that may distinguish, regulate or alter its emphasis and none-emphasis. This is to serve the rural development of Vietnam in the direction of urbanization, industrialization and modernization.

Applied to the case of Vietnam's rural development, this change is a theoretical and methodological shift from an one-sided, extreme and inflexible approach to a comprehensive, flexible one that attaches great importance to improved quality, effectiveness and especially the sustainable rural development in social, economic and environmental terms.

To serve the training course "Vietnam's rural development today", the article has proposed a conceptual framework and a correlation scheme of variables in sociological research, teaching and consultation.

MAI QUYNH NAM

***Media and rural development***

Starting from the role of agriculture and rural areas in socio-economic structure, from the aims of rural development, the article has analyzed media as a main agent of goal achievement of rural development. Such issues as media and human beings' associating mechanism, development as a concern of social sciences, relations between media and rural development, media's affecting mechanisms, etc. have been addressed. The author has emphasized that it is not enough to study media and rural development at a general level; it is necessary to deepen our analysis of relations between media and rural development in concrete fields and areas of media activities.

NGUYEN HUU MINH

***Urbanization and Vietnam's rural development - some issues of research interest***

The article has dealt with some issues about relations between urbanization and Vietnam's rural development. There are socio-economic consequences of urbanization for both rural and urban areas. Flows and waves of migration to urban areas may make housing shortages and unemployment acute. Great changes also occur in rural areas, especially in land usage, demographic and occupational structures, environment and life styles. Based on a general analysis of urbanization's impacts, the author has pointed out some issues that are of research interest: 1) More attention should be paid to migration and its impacts on rural development in terms of not only economic life but also changed rural life styles; 2) Economic ties between rural and urban areas: what have urban areas contributed and been contributing to rural development? What is the contribution of rural areas to urbanization? 3) Suburban development: what is the role of the suburbs in rural and urban development? What are the management aspects that are of concern in suburban development processes?; 4) Cultural changes: What parts of culture are actually preserved during urbanization processes and continue to contribute to rural development? What values have no longer played their role in rural development?

NGUYEN DUC TRUYEN

***The formation and development of the village in the Red River Delta, a view from the household economy***

The formation and development of the village in the Red River Delta in particular or in the Vietnamese country in general is a long historic process and reveal the interaction of many economic, politic, social and cultural factors which make up it. In this process, the household economy with its various forms and levels in different historic moments hold always a central role who determine the formation and the development of this entity of village in itself.

A society which is essentially formed by the family, kinship and village relations is not able in outside of its fundamental form of economic organization, that is the household economy. However, the household is not immutable. It can maintain its self-sufficient logic as one of fundamental characters or participate on the market relations to become the units who produce and exchange its commodities. In this case, it function in accordance with production of commodity or market logic. From these changes of the household economy, we can find their impacts on different social, politic and cultural dimensions of this village entity which connect closely with it.

TRUONG XUAN TRUONG

***Some socio-economic changes of rural areas in the Red River Delta at present***

The article has analyzed and explained some socio-economic changes in rural areas of the Red River Delta. The changes include transformations in daily life, in peasants' income, in labor and occupational structures, in social stratification, in institutions and rural landscape.

The article has evaluated the changes of the family's role, kinships and village institutions. Due to media, new values have appeared and co-existed with traditional cultural models that are gradually transformed.

BE QUYNH NGA

***Peasants' economy development movement and poverty alleviation***

The article has analyzed four main issues: social change and some social problems of rural areas; economic development activities and poverty alleviation; agents of the above-mentioned movement; and phases of the movement. The author has offered a deep analysis of such issues as diversification of income, shifts of raised animals and plants, aid to poor households and economic development of the well-off. On the other hand, the author has also pointed out the main agents of poverty alleviation, namely local authorities, co-operatives, socio-political organizations.

BUI MINH

***Clean water and strategies of poverty alleviation in remote and isolated areas***

The article is based on the results of an evaluation study carried out by the institute of sociology in collaboration with UNICEF. The article has analyzed such topic as the poor, clean water and poor groups, people's participation in carrying out different projects and further orientation toward the poor. The author argues that supplying the people in remote and isolated areas with clean water is one of the key points of the poverty alleviation strategy; it helps the state and international organizations in Vietnam to mobilize human resources. Based on the study's results the author also has argued that there are still a lot of difficulties and challenges in supplying the population, especially the poor, with clean water.