

PREVENTION OF SOCIAL CONFLICTS

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Prevention of social conflicts is much more important than solutions to social conflicts. Therefore prevention of social conflicts should be considered as an important priority. The paper presents 3 aspects of social conflicts, namely (1) general view points about prevention of social conflicts, (2) legalizing social conflicts in order to prevent social conflicts, and (3) legal mechanism for regulations of social conflicts. As the result of their research on prevention of social conflicts, the authors propose a view to develop a legal code that reflects high moral standards to deal with social conflicts. Such a code would bring positive impacts on prevention of social conflicts. At the same time, social conflicts as a social science discipline would also contribute to prevention and solution of social conflicts.

HOUSES FOR RESETTLEMENT AND RELATED SOCIAL ISSUES

Trinh Duy Luan

The analysis presented in the paper shows that resettlement is not just a simple move, but a complex issue with multiple aspects of social life that requires harmonious solutions in order to ensure social consensus and sustainable urban development. Together with construction of houses for resettlement, other socio-economic issues must be addressed to ensure that the resettled people will have good and stable living environments. The paper provides analysis on a range of socio-economic issues related to resettlement, such as criteria for resettlement, relationship between impacted people and government and enterprises, reality and needs in post-resettlement period, and resettlement of low-income people. The paper presents a number of feasible measures to address important issues in resettlement in Vietnam today.

PERCEPTIONS OF PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT GENERATIONS ABOUT FAMILY CONFLICTS AND RECOMMENDED SOLUTIONS

Le Thi

The paper is a result of a study on perception, knowledge of people from different generations about marriage and families in Vietnam, which was conducted in 4 communes/wards in Hung Yen and Ha Noi during 2007-2008. The author presented analysis and findings in the following 4 aspects: (1) forms of family conflicts, (2) the most serious forms of conflicts, (3) causes of conflicts, and (4) measures for dealing with family conflicts. Based on the analysis, the author suggested that in order to overcome family conflicts, the wife and the husband need to co-operate with each other in many aspects, not just in economic or domestic works. They need to have a consensus in living style, in everyday activities, and to have common language. The consensus and harmonious relationship between the husband and the wife do not require them to have the same thing every thing, but require that they know how to give in to each other, to make compromise, to sacrifice short-term personal interests for the long-term benefits of the family.

SEX RATIO AT BIRTH IN VIETNAM TODAY: LEVEL AND IMPACTS

Nguyen Duc Vinh

Data used for analysis in this paper are from Population and Family Planning Changes Survey carried out by General Statistical Office in April 2007. Sex ratio at birth is estimated from the most recent births by women in age group 15-49 and number of children below one year old in the survey households. Bivariate and regression analyses are used to examine associations between sex ratio at birth and knowledge of the fetus sex and other socio-demographic variables. Logistic regression model is developed to examine the impacts of socio-demographic variables on (1) sex ratio at birth, and (2) degree of knowledge of sex of the fetus in rural areas. The author comes to the conclusion that although sex ratio at birth in Vietnam is not at an alarming level, the analysis in this paper shows an early warning about it. It is especially important in the context of strong son preferences while access to advanced technology for diagnoses of sex of fetus becoming more readily available. Policies to prevent illegal early diagnoses of sex of fetus and sex-selective abortions should be implemented more effectively.

Education and communication for gender equality and population policies need to be strengthened to raise awareness of general population about these issues to avoid future prospect of "lack of men and surplus of women" in Vietnam population.

COMPLEXITY OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHANGES AS EVIDENT FROM HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS IN POOR RURAL AREAS

Nguyen Thanh Liêm

Data used in this paper are taken from the multi-round surveys of "Impact Assessment of Rural Electrification". The paper shows complexity of the process of socio-economic changes and its impacts in some poor rural areas in 7 provinces. The analyses presented in the paper focus on comparisons of the observations in 2002, 2005, and 2008. The household socio-economic changes under consideration include changes in the house and housing conditions, living conditions, health status, time use for work and leisure, economic status and conditions of the households. The findings show that households in poor rural areas had undergone both positive and negative socio-economic changes. Living conditions and spiritual life of people have been improving from a very low living standards, and there are risks of instability. The analyses show multi-faceted impacts of socio-economic changes, which require careful assessments from different angles. The paper calls for development policies that pay more attention to specificity of stage of development as well as long-term possible policy impacts.