

SOCIAL SECURITY IN VIET NAM: FACTS AND MODEL RECOMMENDATIONS**Dang Nguyen Anh**

The current social security system subsidized and led by the government has not ensured social consensus, transparency and has not managed to mobilize participation of all social actors; the public-private cooperation is weak. Many policies on social security have been issued but there is a lack of consistency and feasibility in implementation. Quality of social services is widely differentiated across rural-urban dimension; many social groups are not protected from the risks of natural disasters and socio-economic shocks. The out-of-pocket payments for social services are beyond payment capacity of many people and it is linked with many negative practices. In rural and sub-urban areas people have low income and lack of employment while access to social security services is limited. Market and price shocks and illness negatively affect quality of life of poor people. In this context, awareness raising activities for social security have not become a priority of local authorities.

Although social security is one of the pillars in social policies of the Party and the Government, after 25 years of Reform the system has not well developed to meet the diverse demands of people. A social security model for the next 10 years should focus on the overall goal for human development, emphasizing the right to social security while reducing the government subsidy, integrating more to the international practice. It is important to ensure that everybody has right and access to the social security system which emphasizes equality and sustainability, aiming at stabilization of living standards, avoiding the trap to poverty and marginalization.

VILLAGE CUSTOMARY LAW AND RURAL SOCIAL MANAGEMENT TODAY**Bui Quang Dung**

Reviewing major papers of historical, anthropological, legal, and sociological studies on village customary law, the author attempts to present a systematic picture of the roles and impacts of village customary law in the process of development of the "new rural life" ("nông thôn mới"). The analysis is focused on (1) the relationship between the framework of state management and "self management" of village communities, (2) functions of village customary law in the life of village community from historical and anthropological perspectives, and (3) changes in the rural society during the process of Reform and the interaction of formal legal regulations and village customary law. The author observed that village customary law as well as other informal institutional rules have strong impacts on everyday life of village people. Development of a harmonious relationship between the formal legal structures and the informal customary law is critical for ensuring healthy and sustainable rural development.

SECONDARY OCCUPATION AND SOCIAL OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE**Vu Manh Loi**

Using data from the Viet Nam Household Living Standard Survey 2008 and 2010

(VHLSS 2008 and VHLSS 2010) carried out by the General Statistical Office, the author analyzes impacts of secondary occupation on the social occupational structure that stratified by the main occupation. Data of VHLSS 2008 and VHLSS 2010 show that nearly half of the working population having at least two jobs--the main job that takes most of the working time, and a secondary job that takes less working time.

Results of multivariate analyses of expenditure--an important aspect of economic status--show that demographic variables (age and sex) and education have significant impacts on expenditure independent from the stratification by the main jobs. Different impacts of economic sectors, urban or rural residence, and geographical regions are also significant. In other words, occupational stratification by the main jobs is only one of the significant factors influencing the household per capita expenditure. Secondary occupation also has significant impacts and they are independent from the impacts of the main jobs. Most of the secondary jobs are in agriculture, and those who have secondary job in agriculture are not very different from those who work in agriculture as the main job. This result suggests that studying social occupational stratification in Viet Nam should take into account the effects of the secondary jobs.

The analysis shows that after 25 years of Reform the social occupational structure of "two social classes and one stratum" has been disintegrated but a new social occupational structure has yet to be formed. The significance of "farmer factor" appears to be felt in all social strata. Inequality inherent in the social occupational structure between farmers and non-farmers is expected to be increasing.

PROFESSIONALS' VIEW ON URBAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Trinh Duy Luan

The paper presents findings from a small survey on knowledge of 100 professionals on the theme of urban sustainable development. The respondents include a wide range of specialists, such as specialists in urban architecture, construction, urban planning, urban management, economists, environmentalists, sociologists, lecturers of universities, and government officers. Although most of them know well about the general content of the concept of urban sustainable development, they tend to over-emphasize the environmental aspect at the expense of the social and economic aspects of the concept of sustainable development. The biggest challenges for a strategic urban sustainable development, in the respondents' opinion, include institutional weaknesses in urban management, lack of mechanism and tools to monitor and evaluate developmental progress, and lack of human, financial, and technological resources for urban sustainable development. A number of practical recommendations are suggested.

URBAN-RURAL DIFFERENTIATION AND EMPLOYMENT ISSUES IN VIET NAM

Truong Xuan Truong

Job creation is a strategic and emergency issue, especially in the period of "golden population" where young population account for a large part of the labor force. At present time, there are many difficulties in employment and job creation in Viet Nam. Unemployment and under-employment are big challenges, especially in rural areas. There are large gaps between the employment situation in rural and in urban areas. People in urban areas enjoy better employment situation than people in rural areas. Although unemployment in urban areas is higher than in rural areas, urban people have lower rate of under-employment than those living in rural areas. The inequality in employment and job creation depends on many factors, including natural conditions, access to capital, technology, human resource, policy environment, and labor market information system. At present time the world financial crisis has strong impacts on Vietnamese economy in both rural and urban areas. Numerous enterprises are collapsed or scaled down, pushing laborers to the risks of unemployment or hidden unemployment, under-employment, low-paid jobs, making their lives difficult. These challenges should be taken into account in a comprehensive strategy for job creation in the coming years.

MIGRATION PATTERNS OF SEX WORKERS AND ENTRY INTO SEX WORK

**Nguyen Huu Minh, Le Ngoc Lan
Tran Mai Huong**

This paper is based on data from a Survey conducted in Aug-Sept 2011 with 388 questionnaire interviews of sex workers (189 males and 199 females) in Ha Noi, Ho Chi Minh City and Hai Phong. In addition, 7 focus group discussions and 19 in-depth interviews were carried out with sex workers, sex worker peer educators, and government officers responsible for this issue from the provincial Department of Social Evils Prevention.

It is shown that in general migration was facilitated by family responsibility in the context of poor living standards. Family factors affected more to migration decision of women while individual factors were stronger for men. Responsibility and contribution level of migrant women for the family were considerably higher than of migrant men. Only about half of the migrant sex workers had some information about job details prior to their move. The big gap in access to necessary information makes migrants more difficult to get job and have a stable life in the place of destination.

Economic factors are the most important for both men and women when deciding to participate in sex work. Compared to many other jobs, sex work brings a significantly higher income while it does not require a big investment. There are different factors lead men and women into sex work. Men tend to start sex work at a young age and they are more concerned by their individual needs when deciding to do this work. On the other hand, women tend to start sex work at an older age and they are usually ever married people. External factors related to family responsibilities and emotional or spiritual shocks push women into sex work more than men.

TECHNOLOGICAL ADOPTION OF FARMERS IN THE MEKONG DELTA

Vu Ngoc Xuan Anh

The paper provides (1) an overview of the historical process in which new agricultural technologies have been adopted by farmers in the Mekong Delta, and (2) an analysis of recent adoption of agricultural technologies (seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, methods of production) using qualitative and quantitative data from research project entitled "Institutional and Human Characteristics of People in the South in the Process of Sustainable Development for Period 2011-2020" led by Tran Huu Quang. The author presents analysis of creativity, reform-minded mentality, and willingness to take risks of farmers in this area in invention and adoption of new agricultural technologies.