

Building national, cultural, family, and human value systems in Vietnam's ethnic minority regions¹

Construindo sistemas de valores nacionais, culturais, familiares e humanos nas regiões de minorias étnicas do Vietnã

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Abstract

This study deeply analyzes the needs, achievements, remaining limitations and solutions to improve the effectiveness of building national values, culture, family and human standards in ethnic minority areas in Vietnam. These efforts aim to promote sustainable development, preserve cultural identity, strengthen social cohesion, and encourage inclusive human development in the context of globalization and international integration. Through the analysis of policies and socio-cultural theoretical frameworks, the study clarifies the

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important role of state policies, the active participation of the community and education in strengthening these value systems. Although significant progress has been made, challenges such as economic disparities, the risk of cultural alienation, the weakening of traditional family structures, and educational disparities remain. The proposed solutions focus on ensuring equitable development, protecting and promoting cultural identity, promoting gender equality, improving the quality of education and adaptability to modern society while maintaining traditional values. This article is in line with Vietnam's larger goals of national unity, sustainable growth, and enhancing the country's standing on the international stage, and contributes to shaping policies that support ethnic minority communities more effectively.

Keywords: national values, cultural values, family values, human standards, Vietnam.

Resumo

Este estudo analisa profundamente as necessidades, conquistas, limitações remanescentes e soluções para aprimorar a eficácia da construção de valores nacionais, cultura, família e padrões humanos em áreas de minorias étnicas no Vietnã. Esses esforços visam promover o desenvolvimento sustentável, preservar a identidade cultural, fortalecer a coesão social e incentivar o desenvolvimento humano inclusivo no contexto da globalização e da integração internacional. Por meio da análise de políticas e arcabouços teóricos socioculturais, o estudo esclarece o importante papel das políticas estatais, da participação ativa da comunidade e da educação no fortalecimento desses sistemas de valores. Embora tenham sido alcançados progressos significativos, desafios como disparidades econômicas, o risco de alienação cultural, o enfraquecimento das estruturas familiares tradicionais e as disparidades educacionais permanecem. As soluções propostas concentram-se em garantir o desenvolvimento equitativo, proteger e promover a identidade cultural, promover a igualdade de gênero, melhorar a qualidade da educação e a adaptabilidade à sociedade moderna, mantendo os valores tradicionais. Este artigo está alinhado com os objetivos mais amplos do Vietnã de unidade

nacional, crescimento sustentável e fortalecimento da posição do país no cenário internacional, e contribui para a formulação de políticas que apoiem as comunidades de minorias étnicas de forma mais eficaz.

Palavras-chave: valores nacionais, valores culturais, valores familiares, padrões humanos, Vietnã.

1. Introduction

Vietnam is a multi-ethnic country with many different ethnic groups, in which ethnic minorities account for a significant proportion of the population and mainly live in mountainous, remote and remote areas, where socio-economic conditions are still difficult. The development of national values, culture, family and human standards in ethnic minority areas is not only a necessary task but also a strategic one to ensure social cohesion, preserve rich cultural heritage and promote sustainable development in the context of globalization (Thanh, M. V. T., 2023). These value systems are the inheritance and promotion of moral qualities and a good lifestyle of Vietnamese people through thousands of years of history. The goal of this construction process is to help ethnic minorities to properly recognize and act appropriately according to the common values of the country, thereby strengthening moral qualities and civilized lifestyles, and at the same time creating a strong impetus for the development of the country.

In the context of globalization and international integration, ethnic minority communities are facing great pressures from cultural assimilation, the penetration of foreign cultural values and economic disparities between regions (Minh, N. D., 2023). These challenges not only threaten the unique cultural identities of ethnic minorities but also affect the stability and solidarity of communities. The Government of Viet Nam has prioritized the implementation of policies to enhance inclusion, ensure rights and promote inclusive development for all ethnic groups. These policies not only focus on improving economic life but also aim to strengthen cultural, family and human values, thereby building a harmonious, sustainable and just society.

This research seeks to investigate thoroughly the necessity of establishing value systems in the socio-ethnic minority areas and evaluate the situation through both accomplishments and shortcomings in the process. The paper argues from both theoretical and practical perspectives on the discourse concerning the sustainable socio cultural development of multi-ethnic societies and strikes to underpin the policies intended for planning support for ethnic minorities, ensuring those policies are more precisely effective in the future.

2. Literature review

Value systems in multi-ethnic societies have been analyzed within socio-culture scholars in great depth, granting insight for many concerns regarding community cohesiveness and development. Culture can not only dictate social activities, but serve as the glue which holds a community together, providing equilibrium and peace even in complex societies. National values as a whole need to be fulfilled in order to achieve conjunction such as: patriotism, observance of law, and spirit of self-dependence. Cohesive frameworks of different ethnic groups in one multi-ethnic country enhances integration of other ethnic minorities into the nation's socio-political structure. Within this framework, common national values are preserved without dissipating the unique cultural attributes for each ethnic group.

Cultural preservation in the era of globalization is a topic that receives a lot of attention. Globalization often carries the risk of cultural assimilation, putting indigenous cultures, especially those of minority communities, at risk of extinction. Therefore, proactive measures are needed to protect intangible cultural heritage, such as traditional languages, customs, and arts. Cultural preservation efforts not only help maintain cultural identity but also enhance the country's position in the international arena, affirming the value of cultural diversity as a development resource.

Family values are considered the foundation of social stability. The family plays a key role in transmitting culture, educating the younger generations about the moral and cultural values of the community. In ethnic minority communities, the family is not only a unit of kinship but also a cultural space where values such as respect for the elderly, solidarity and community responsibility are maintained and promoted. However, in the context of

modernization and urbanization, traditional family structures are facing many challenges, requiring new approaches to balance preserving traditions and adapting to change.

Human norms, including aspects of education, ethics, and skills, are key to achieving holistic development. Empowering individuals through education and skill development improves the quality of life and the ability to integrate into modern society while retaining cultural identity. In the context of ethnic minority areas, the development of human standards is not only aimed at improving life but also helping people make positive contributions to the development of the country.

3. Research methods

This study applies qualitative methods, focusing on the analysis of documents related to ethnic policies, socio-cultural development and studies on multi-ethnic societies. The analytical approach is organized according to the thematic structure, considering in turn the necessity, achievements, limitations and solutions in building national value systems, culture, family and human norms in ethnic minority areas in Vietnam. To ensure accuracy and science, research is based on reliable sources and a comprehensive analysis of the situation. This method allows research to fully reflect the current situation in Vietnam, and at the same time offer solutions suitable to the actual context.

4. Results and Discussion

The development of national, cultural, family and human values in ethnic minority areas in Vietnam stems from the urgent need to meet national development goals in the context of cultural diversity and globalization (Ben, C. N., 2016). National values serve as an important foundation for connecting ethnic minorities with the broader national community, strengthening the spirit of solidarity and unity in society. The construction of common national values, such as patriotism, respect for the law, and the spirit of self-reliance, not only creates political stability but also supports the process of international integration, helping ethnic minorities to contribute positively to the development of the country. In the context of integration, these values help ensure that ethnic minorities are not left behind, and at the same time have the opportunity to participate fully in the political, economic, and social

spheres (Sculpture, B. G., 2024). Moreover, national values also contribute to building a unified, diverse and strong image of Vietnam in the international arena, where national unity has become an important resource for sustainable development.

The cultural value system plays an indispensable role in preserving and promoting the unique cultural identities of ethnic minorities in the face of the challenges of globalization (Mua, H. S., 2014). Ethnic minority communities possess a rich cultural treasure, including traditional festivals, customs, languages, folk arts, and beliefs. The preservation of cultural values not only helps to maintain valuable cultural heritage but also opens up economic opportunities through cultural tourism activities, handicraft production and cultural-related business forms. These activities not only bring a stable source of income but also help improve the spiritual and material life of ethnic minority communities. However, to be effective, cultural preservation requires a delicate balance between absorbing modern elements and preserving traditional identities, ensuring that cultural values retain their vitality and relevance in a rapidly changing social context.

The family unit, as the basic cell of society, contributes greatly to the stabilization and development of ethnic minorities communities (Thuan et al). The value system within a family serves in preserving culture as well as educating morality, knowledge, and life skills to the children. A peaceful family helps to minimize the social evils like domestic violence, child marriage, gender discrimination, and provides a firm foundation for the sustainable development of a society. In ethnic minority communities, the family serves not just as a unit of blood relations, but as an intricate web of community ties where values such as honoring the elders, unity and responsibility to the community survive and are passed on from generation to generation. However, the traditional family is undergoing serious strain from lifestyle changes, migration, and urbanization which modernization has brought. There is need to find new ways to retain core values while adapting to changes.

The integration of ethnic minorities into modern society is propelled by the uplifting teaching with the help of modern society's innovation technologies in ethics, knowledge, and skills (Kha, N. N., 2015). These social cultural values

that impact most people benefit the individuals in addition to increasing the collective strength of the ethnic minority regions, and developing the country as a whole. Strong investment in education and health along with skills development programs for the socially active participants of ethnic minorities and their socio-economic life advances human standards. In addition, the human norms motivates the ethnic minority communities to preserve their roots and remain innovative by modernizing their culture in line with new shifting requirements of the times.

Vietnam has made impressive strides in constructing the value system in the life of ethnic minorities which indicates the efforts made towards ensuring sustainable development and fostering national unity. At the level of national value system, the policies regarding the ethnicity system have already intensified the sense of patriotism and unification among the ethnic minorities which has laid down a strong base for social development and political stability (Ha, N. N., 2024). There have been visible changes through development programs and the infrastructure such as roads, schools, and hospitals are being built which greatly contributes towards stabilizing the economy of the ethnic minority regions. There is a gradual equal access to education, health, and legal services by the ethnic minorities which helps strengthen social inclusion thereby fostering the spirit of nationalism. The fulfillment of these objectives does not only aid in enhancing the living standards of the people but garner social agreement thereby curtailing the chances of conflict and violence.

In terms of cultural values, many traditional cultural values of ethnic minorities have been preserved and promoted through cultural projects, festivals and educational programs. Education has brought positive results, helping students maintain their cultural identity and integrate into society. Many localities have succeeded in combining cultural preservation with tourism development, creating tourism products based on traditional cultural values, bringing a stable source of economic income and improving the spiritual life of the community. These successes not only help protect cultural heritage but also affirm the value of cultural diversity as a resource for sustainable development.

Regarding the family value system, traditional values such as love, respect for elders and solidarity are still maintained in ethnic minority

communities, playing an important role in preserving culture and maintaining social cohesion (Dinh K. P., 2025). Support programs have brought about positive changes, improving the status of women in families and communities, helping them to participate more in economic, political activities and children's education. These efforts have contributed to reducing social problems and raising awareness of the role of the family in building a sustainable future. The family is not only a place to nurture cultural values but also a foundation to educate the younger generation about social responsibility, independence and national pride.

From a human perspective, disadvantages have been addressed at the appropriate level as ethnic minorities have easier access to education and health services, which improves their quality of life and enhances their ability to develop holistically. There has been significant improvement in educational programs in rural and isolated regions, yielding exceptional results. A number of young people from ethnic minority groups have entered into modern fields which shows self-dependence and a heightened social responsibility. These personal achievements are not only beneficial for the individual but also for strong community development, capable of modern integration into society while preserving their unique cultural identity.

Even with these advancements, the development of value systems in ethnic minority regions is still very challenging. Economically and in terms of infrastructure, less developed remote areas face significant problems. There are still a large number of households living in poverty and the provision of fundamental services such as healthcare, education, and transport is still inadequate in comparison to other developed regions. The implementation of support policies is sometimes unsystematic, late, or poorly monitored which reduces efficiency and weakens the people's attachment to national values. The absence of information and accessibility to policies restricts the ability of the people to fully appreciate their rights which negatively impacts the spirit of unity and responsible citizenship.

In terms of culture, many traditional cultural values of ethnic minorities are in danger of disappearing due to the influence of globalization and the penetration of foreign cultures. Young people tend to be swept away by modern

lifestyles, leading to a departure from traditional customs, languages, and arts. Cultural preservation activities in some places are still formal, lacking cohesion with the actual life of the people, causing core cultural values to gradually lose their vitality. The lack of financial, human and knowledge resources is also a major barrier, limiting the effectiveness of cultural preservation programs and preventing them from spreading widely in the community.

Regarding the family, changes in modern lifestyles, combined with migration and urbanization, have weakened traditional family structures in many ethnic minority communities (Giang, T. N. T. H.). The nuclear family is gradually replacing the extended family, leading to a decline in values such as respect for elders and intergenerational solidarity. Child marriage and gender inequality still exist in some areas, causing negative consequences for the health, education and development of women and children. Counseling services on marriage, family and reproductive health care have not been widely disseminated, especially in remote areas, causing social problems to not be thoroughly resolved. These challenges not only affect the stability of the family, but also undermine the role of the family as an agent of culture and education.

In terms of human standards, although education has improved a lot, the quality of education in ethnic minority areas is still limited, with insufficient facilities, teachers have not met the requirements and the dropout rate is still high. Lack of access to quality education reduces the ability of the young generation to develop comprehensively, limiting opportunities to participate in the modern labor market and building a skilled workforce. In addition, the lack of health, health care and other public services in ethnic minority areas also negatively affects the quality of life, especially for children and women, reducing their opportunities for physical and mental development.

In order to overcome limitations and improve the effectiveness of building value systems in ethnic minority areas, the study proposes a series of synchronous and comprehensive solutions. For the national value system, it is necessary to continue to promote national unity through cultural exchange programs, encourage mutual understanding among ethnic groups and ensure equality in all development policies. The preservation of cultural identity must

be carried out in parallel with the encouragement of the teaching of languages, customs and traditional heritage, creating conditions for ethnic minorities to integrate into modern society while still retaining their uniqueness. Sustainable development requires strong investment in infrastructure, education, and health, while protecting the natural environment of ethnic minority areas, which are an integral part of cultural identity. Education on the law and the role of compatriots in protecting national sovereignty, especially in border areas, needs to be promoted to strengthen the sense of social responsibility. Investing in education is a top priority, with specific policies such as tuition fee exemption, bilingual education development and development of training programs tailored to the characteristics of each ethnic region. Community involvement in the development of national values should also be encouraged, ensuring that policies are built on listening to and respecting the aspirations of fellow citizens. Priority policies on economy, culture and education will help ensure that no community is left behind in the country's development.

In terms of cultural values, the preservation of traditional heritage should be carried out through national language curricula, the organization of traditional festivals and the protection of religious rituals, which are the core elements of cultural identity. At the same time, cultural creativity and innovation should be encouraged, such as the application of technology to preserve and spread cultural values, or the improvement of folk art forms to suit modern tastes while retaining the traditional quintessence. Educating the younger generation is a key factor, with the integration of ethnic cultural content into the curriculum and the creation of conditions for children to participate in cultural activities such as festivals, traditional rituals and art programs. Moral values such as community solidarity, respect for the elderly, and the spirit of mutual support need to be maintained and strengthened, contributing to building a harmonious and sustainable society. The development of community cultural tourism is a potential direction to both preserve culture and generate income for the community, but it needs to be strictly managed to avoid losing the originality of cultural values. The involvement of artisans and communities is the central factor, ensuring that cultural projects reflect the needs, aspirations and identities of each ethnic group. It is necessary to educate

people to consciously select foreign cultural values, protect their own identity while still being open to absorbing positive values from the outside.

In terms of family values, it is necessary to respect and preserve family traditions such as wedding ceremonies, mourning and ancestor worship beliefs, which play an important role in maintaining intergenerational connections. Gender equality is an important priority, with the role of women in the family and society, and educating the younger generation about equal rights between men and women to build a more equitable society. A sense of responsibility and solidarity in the family should be encouraged, not only among family members but also with the surrounding community, thereby strengthening social cohesion. Education in the family should focus on teaching children about national culture, life skills and independence, helping them develop comprehensively both intellectually, morally and physically. Although preserving traditional values is necessary, families also need to be flexible to adapt to modern society, taking advantage of technology to learn, connect and expand knowledge. Developing the family economy through models such as agriculture, handicrafts or cultural tourism will help improve life while preserving cultural identity. Honoring typical families in the community not only creates motivation but also spreads good values, encouraging other families to follow.

In terms of human standards, education is the foundation for the development of knowledge, skills and ethics, with ensuring that everyone, especially the younger generation, has the opportunity to learn and develop. Bilingual education needs to be promoted to both preserve the national language and help people integrate into modern society. Educating pride in cultural identity will encourage people to respect and protect traditional values, thereby strengthening a sense of community and social responsibility. Ethical norms should emphasize values such as gender equality, compassion, tolerance and mutual support, which are the core values of ethnic minorities. Developing labor skills, especially in areas such as agriculture, handicrafts, and cultural tourism, will help improve economic life and preserve traditional labor culture. Environmental awareness also needs to be integrated into human standards, especially in communities living close to nature, to ensure

sustainable development. Compatriots should be encouraged to learn and apply technology to their daily lives, from production and business to learning and communication, but still maintain their cultural identity. Respect for the law and participation in social management activities, from village councils to suggestions on local policy development, will enhance the role of people in the community and enrich the social management system.

Creativity in art and culture is also an important aspect of human norms. Ethnic minorities need to be supported to develop traditional art forms such as music, sculpture, folk dance, and folklore, and combine them with modern elements to create new values. Holistic human development is not only about improving knowledge and skills, but also about physical and mental health. Health care, physical training and emotional support programs should be widely implemented, especially in remote areas, to ensure that ethnic minorities have a healthy, balanced and happy life. The spirit of independence and a sense of dedication to the community are also factors that need to be encouraged, helping each individual not only take care of themselves and their families but also contribute positively to the development of society, thereby creating a sustainable and long-term development cycle.

5. Conclusion

Building a system of national values, culture, family and human standards in ethnic minority areas in Vietnam is a strategic and vital task to preserve cultural identity, promote national unity and ensure sustainable development in the context of globalization. The achievements in improving economic life, preserving culture, consolidating family values and improving the quality of education have affirmed the continuous efforts in ensuring equality and inclusion for all ethnic groups. However, challenges such as economic disparities between regions, the risk of cultural extinction, the weakening of traditional family structures and limitations in education and health still require synchronous, long-term investment and close coordination between all levels of government, communities and social organizations. The proposed solutions emphasize the need for a balanced approach between preserving traditional values and adapting to the requirements of modern society.

These efforts not only benefit ethnic minority communities but also contribute to enhancing Vietnam's position in the international arena, affirming the value of cultural diversity as an important resource for sustainable development. This study provides a theoretical and practical basis for shaping policies that support ethnic minorities, ensuring that they are not only part of Vietnamese society but also active actors, contributing to the overall development of the country. In the future, it is necessary to continue to implement specific, flexible and suitable solutions for each region and each ethnic group, to ensure that these value systems are not only built but also maintained and strongly developed through generations. The successful implementation of these solutions will help Viet Nam build a fair, united and prosperous society where all ethnic groups have the opportunity to develop and shine.

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