



Promoting Traditional Values in Vietnamese Family Building Today

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Abstract:

Family is where national culture arises and is preserved. In the process of accompanying the nation's history, the Vietnamese family constantly fosters good traditions, a continuous and sustainable flow, creating a very unique cultural appearance. Currently, under the strong impact of innovation and international integration, the value system of the Vietnamese family has been changing, but traditional family values are still always preserved, transmitted and spread, creating a solid foundation for building a modern family.

Keywords: family, traditional values, modern, impact, disadvantages.

I. INTRODUCTION

In any historical period, the family always has a particularly important position and role. The family is a cell of society, a place to maintain the race and an important environment to form, nurture and educate human personality, preserve and promote the fine traditional cultural identity of Vietnam, creating human resources to serve the cause of building and protecting the Fatherland. In Vietnamese society from the past to the present, traditional cultural values, order, and family style in each family may be different, but are generally associated with specific qualities. Family affection and good behavior culture among family members have created traditional Vietnamese family values. Therefore, no matter what era, preserving and promoting family lifestyle and cultural traditions is necessary.

CONTENT

Currently, with the strong impact of the negative side of the market economic mechanism, exchange and integration and cultural diversity, etc., the emotional factor in each family is really facing great challenges, rifts and boredom between relationships in many families are a very worrying

reality. And this fact has also been one of the reasons for fading good traditional cultural values in the new society. Researching families from both theoretical and practical perspectives is a necessary and important issue. That necessity also comes from the reality of the shortcomings and limitations of the modern Vietnamese family. The life of modern society with the strong development of economic sectors has impacted family life, to some extent breaking the traditional family style. The situation of divorce, separation, living together as husband and wife without marriage registration, premarital sex and abortion among young people is increasing, leaving serious consequences in many aspects for families and the society. The increasing trend of marriage with foreigners and after marriage, many women migrate to follow their husbands to live abroad also raise concerns of the entire society. Good traditional family cultural values are showing signs of deterioration and oblivion. Many social evils such as drugs, gambling, alcohol, prostitution, HIV/AIDS, etc. have been penetrating families. Conflicts and conflicts between generations regarding behavior, lifestyle, elder care issues, and domestic violence are on the rise, etc. is posing great challenges for each family and the whole society.

Core traditional family values are always preserved and promoted

Throughout the process of leading the revolution, especially during the years of innovation, our Party has always paid attention to leading the building, preserving and promoting the good traditional values of Vietnamese families. From the 8th Congress to the 12th Congress, our Party continued to affirm: "Promoting good traditional values, building prosperous, progressive, happy and civilized families"⁽¹⁾. Concretizing the Party's viewpoints and policies, *Vietnam's family development strategy to 2020, vision 2030* also identifies: "The family is the cell of society, an



important environment for forming and nurturing and character education, preserving and promoting good traditional culture, fighting social evils, creating human resources to serve the cause of building and protecting the Fatherland⁽²⁾.

Implementing the viewpoints and policies of the Party and State, many traditional values of the Vietnamese family continue to be fostered, preserved, transmitted and spread. Faced with changes in social life, Vietnamese families are in the process of transitioning from tradition to modernity. In today's family, "traditional values are valued and given priority over modern values. In particular, traditional values, those originating from indigenous culture have more lasting vitality than values borrowed from outside"⁽³⁾. Traditional values, especially moral values and behavioral standards in the family and community, continue to be inherited, absorbed and promoted by everyone as well as each family. In particular, *love and sharing* are still prominent traditional values that govern the relationships between members of both traditional and modern families. For Vietnamese families, the highest standard of family happiness is not material wealth, but gratitude, attachment, love, and mutual support. Every Vietnamese person, no matter where they go, old or young, in any position, is oriented toward family, yearning to be loved and shared. Even though life has changes, family is still a loving home, an indispensable sacred part of each person's life, and a great spiritual motivation for each person to strive to overcome all difficulties and challenges in life.

In a husband and wife relationship, *gratitude, fidelity, and harmony* are both moral standards and basic requirements and principles. Couples also always focus on fidelity, considering this to be the top standard and criterion in their marital relationship. At the same time, harmony between husband and wife, "If husband and wife agree with each other, the East Sea will dry up" is also a particularly important factor to maintain family happiness. Although modern life has difficulties and obstacles, every couple focuses on maintaining fidelity, gratitude and harmony, creating great strength for the family to overcome difficulties and thrive in life, building happiness and future together.

In the relationship between grandparents, parents and children, the standards of *grandparents, benevolent parents, and filial children* are cultural characteristics of the Vietnamese family. Loving, caring for, and teaching children and grandchildren are always the feelings, responsibilities, and obligations of grandparents and parents; at the same

time, children's filial piety towards their parents and grandparents becomes an important measure of each person's morality and personality. Grandparents and parents always love and help take care of the future and happiness of their children and grandchildren. To be worthy of the efforts of our parents to give birth and raise us, we must not only respect, love, obey, and take care of our parents and grandparents, but also strive to cultivate ourselves and constantly learn to rise up and bring honor and pride to your family.

In the relationship between brother and sister, *harmony, love, and mutual support* are traditional values of the Vietnamese family. Sibling relationships are long-term, deep relationships that last a lifetime. This is a two-way relationship, brothers and sisters in the family must love, stick together, get along, support and protect each other. In particular, "harmony" is considered the top requirement and standard, meaning to always love, unite, help each other, not to quarrel or compete for interests with each other even when getting married and having private life.

Along with family relationships, Vietnamese families always promote *community awareness*, focusing on responsibilities and obligations to the community and the society. The obligations and responsibilities of each family not only revolve around the needs and interests of family members but also the village and people. Every family always values kinship and clan relationships, respects gratitude, lives in harmony in the village and neighborhood, "we have each other at night", "sell distant brothers, buy near neighbors", "the good leaves cover the torn leaves", etc. The family's close attachment to the community and the Fatherland is a good culture that families have always focused on preserving and cultivating.

In particular, to transmit traditional values and build a family, every Vietnamese family always values education, considering it the first, continuous and long-term foundation that affects the formation and development of personality. Although today's "digital lifestyle" is significantly changing people's needs and lifestyles, most families in our country still pay attention to family education, family rituals, and family ethics. Grandparents and parents always teach their children good and right things, know how to keep peace, love, support and help each other in the family and clan; attached to the village; unite and share responsibility with the community and the society. At the same time, each family always upholds the tradition of studiousness, respecting teachers, and taking learning as the basis for practicing morality as a human being; focus on



educating the virtues of diligence, hard work and the will to overcome difficulties in life. Many families have paid attention to practicing traditional family culture on holidays, maintaining family cultural activities, allowing traditional values of truth, goodness, and beauty to be naturally passed on to younger generation; contributing to forming a healthy lifestyle, building and developing human personality; preserve and promote the essence of the Vietnamese people, preserving national cultural identity in modern life.

Changes under the strong impact of modern life

Social life in our country is undergoing many profound and comprehensive changes due to the impact of the market economy, international integration and the rapid development of science and technology. Faced with that impact, traditional family values cannot avoid changes. In the past, everyone had the same dream of building a "three-four generations-long" family, but now this dream is no longer common. Although fidelity in husband and wife relationships is still emphasized, it does not only stem from the family's survival requirements, but the satisfaction of the individual's psychological and emotional needs is increasingly given importance. At the same time, instead of the previous patriarchy, democracy and equality among family members are promoted, in line with the development trend of modern families.

It is worth noting that, under the impact of the negative side of the market mechanism and the unselective adoption of outside lifestyles, some traditional family values are being eroded and deformed. The relationships between members of some families are becoming loose and lacking cohesion. Faced with the opposite impact of information technology, direct communication between family members tends to decline, leading to a tendency to increase the phenomenon of loneliness in one's own home. There are times and places where the relationship between husband and wife changes in a bad direction; loyalty, affection, and harmony between husband and wife show signs of decline. The marriage relationships of some young families have become fragile, due to being dominated by an open, pragmatic lifestyle, pursuing material benefits, causing the divorce rate to increase rapidly in recent years. The relationship between parents, grandparents and children shows a lack of cohesion, due to the narrowing of living space and family communication, and personal needs and interests are emphasized. Many fathers and mothers do not fulfill their duties and responsibilities, do not care for future generations,

and there are also many adversities in which children lack responsibility towards their parents and grandparents, are filial, and unjust. Sibling relationships also arise instabilities, sometimes just because of money or small, trivial benefits, the brotherly relationship is lost. Due to calculations of greater profits and personal interests, the love of the village and neighbors has somewhat diminished.

Some families do not pay attention to education, or are interested but are confused about both content and methods, causing many consequences, especially the deterioration of family and social morality. In fact, in recent years, the number of murders occurring in families accounts for 18% - 20%, some cases are just for economic gain or small conflicts and frictions. What is worrying is the recent trend of rejuvenating murder criminals, when up to 60% of the subjects are under the age of 30⁽⁴⁾... Rate of crimes committed by teenagers across the country is 5.2% for people under 14 years old, 24.5% for people from 14 to under 16 years old and 70.3% for people from 16 to under 18 years old⁽⁵⁾. These phenomena are ringing a wake-up call for every family and the whole society, because the consequences they cause are extremely painful and painful, seriously affecting the moral foundation of the society and personality of modern Vietnamese people.

Continue to promote the traditional values of the Vietnamese family in the spirit of the Resolution of the 13th Party Congress

Faced with the above reality, to meet the requirements of the new situation, at the 13th Congress, our Party continues to advocate: "Protect and promote good and sustainable values in Vietnamese cultural traditions"⁽⁶⁾ to contribute to building "a prosperous, happy, progressive and civilized Vietnamese family"⁽⁷⁾. To implement the above policy views of our Party and State, and overcome the trends of skewed changes in traditional family ethics, we would like to propose some of the following solutions:

Firstly: We must strengthen propaganda work to constantly raise awareness of all members of the family and society about the position and role of the family and the positive values of traditional family cultural ethics. Make people understand that family is something that exists sustainably in all socio-economic forms, is a cell of society, family must forever be the cradle of nurturing and fostering personality and soul of people from childhood to adulthood.

Family is the first school that nurtures personality and a cultured, ethical lifestyle for



people. Family education always comes before social education. The family's honor and responsibility is to provide society with outstanding citizens in terms of morality, talent and physical ability.

Secondly: Inheriting and selectively promoting the positive moral standards of traditional families and absorbing the advances of modern families in building new families in Vietnam today. Prevent the invasion of unhealthy cultures and foreign lifestyles. In the family, every member needs to rely on each other, comfort, encourage, encourage each other, and share all sorrows and joys with each other.

The family cannot be just a "living unit", much less an "inn" for lonely souls and temporary lifestyles. It needs to be built sustainably, becoming a happy home for every person, where moral values and good traditional family lifestyles are preserved and promoted.

Thirdly: Continuing to promote the movement to build cultural families, we must further specify the criteria to objectively and truly evaluate cultural families. The assessment and classification of cultural families must be closely linked to the assessment and classification of cultural agencies; assessing the clean and strong party organization, strong government and unions; annual evaluation and ranking of officials and party members. Party committees, authorities and mass organizations at the grassroots level need to deeply grasp the specific situation of each household, regularly encourage and help families, ensuring building prosperous and peaceful families, equality, progress, happiness and sustainability.

Fourthly: Strengthen the combination of the roles of family, school and society in family moral education, in order to preserve and promote good traditions of Vietnamese families; enhance the spirit of solidarity, sense of community connecting individuals - families - villages - Fatherland, compassion, tolerance, respect for love, morality, sophistication in behavior, simplicity in communication, life style; selectively absorbing the good and progressive things in ethnic cultures goes hand in hand with combating backwardness and obsolescence in old customs, practices, and habits.

Highlight the exemplary role of parents with their children. Pay attention to integrating the education of traditional moral values and cultural family lifestyle into the daily activities of people, especially young people, from studying, working to playing and entertaining. Besides, we must create a healthy living environment at home and in the society.

Fifthly: It is necessary to pay attention to solving family policies well, paying attention to families with contributions to the revolution, poor households, and families in difficult circumstances. First of all, we must step by step resolve the family's existing conditions such as housing and employment, and at the same time build behavioral relationships that are appropriate for all ages, with the roles and responsibilities of each member.

The traditional values of the Vietnamese family are the crystallization of family culture and national culture, governing the awareness and behavior of each family member, laying the foundation for the family's development now and in the future. In the modern society, traditional family values continue to be fostered and spread, which is an endogenous factor that creates a solid foundation for the process of building a modern Vietnamese family. However, some traditional values have undergone certain changes, some values have been eroded or deformed. Therefore, each family and the entire society need to be fully and deeply aware of this issue, proactively promote good traditional values, contributing to building prosperous, happy, progressive and civilized families, so that the family is truly a healthy cell, making a worthy contribution to the cause of building and protecting the Fatherland in the new context.

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