

How to Cite:

Hang, N. T. (2022). Social policy - from the perspective of Ho Chi Minh. *International Journal of Health Sciences*, 6(S1), 8586–8595. <https://doi.org/10.53730/ijhs.v6nS1.6998>

Social policy - from the perspective of Ho Chi Minh

Nguyen Thi Hang

Vietnam Aviation Academy, Vietnam

Corresponding author email: hangntcb@vaa.edu.vn

Abstract---Implementing social policies for all people is one of the conditions to ensure sustainable development goals, and it has been recognized and protected by law through international treaties, national practices international law, documents in the international legal system, and the laws of each country. Implementing social policies is one of the important contents of Ho Chi Minh's thought. He always determined that the goal of social policy was to bring freedom and happiness to the people. Therefore, the study of Ho Chi Minh's thoughts on the implementation of social policies has theoretical and practical significance for Vietnam today.

Keywords---Ho Chi Minh's ideology, content, values, social policy.

Introduction

One of the issues of great significance in Ho Chi Minh's ideological legacy is the issue of social policy. Ho Chi Minh's thought on social policy is expressed with very rich, vivid, and profound content. It is both the crystallization of the national culture, the quintessence of human culture, and the vivid practical expression of the Vietnamese revolution as well as the characteristics of the times. Ho Chi Minh's thought on social policy is not only a theoretical basis, a guideline but also a methodological basis for the Vietnamese revolutionary cause under the leadership of the Party in the struggle for people's liberation as well as in the current cause of national renovation and construction. The article contributes to clarifying Ho Chi Minh's thoughts on the implementation of social policies and the current application of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

Research Methods

Subjects and research objectives: The article focuses on studying Ho Chi Minh's ideology on social policy and its value in Vietnam today and its value in Vietnam today. The method used in this research is qualitative analysis, combined with synthesis and inductive methods, and explanatory research. The analysis process

was carried out by using historical information, and with historical and dialectical materialism methods.

Results and Discussion

Contents of Ho Chi Minh's Ideology on social policy

During his lifetime, President Ho Chi Minh affirmed: "I have only one desire, the ultimate desire, to make our country completely independent, our people to be completely free, all compatriots have food, clothing, everyone can study" (Minh, 2011, vol. 4, p. 187). That "desire" has become the goal, the driving force; into certain directional instructions in each of his thoughts, concerns, and specific activities. With the philosophy of living and being a person to love the country, the people, and humanity suffering from oppression, Ho Chi Minh always kept in mind how all of our people could have food, clothing, and education on. To liberate people, bring a prosperous and happy life to the people, in Ho Chi Minh's thoughts on social policies, the policy of hunger eradication and poverty reduction soon received his attention and became the starting point to implement policies. In the Ten Policies of the Viet Minh - a sketch of the social policy system of Vietnam later, Ho Chi Minh pointed out that one of the "benefiting the country and the people" is to do for the people to be "enough". Eat, have enough to wear, don't worry about the cold".

When the government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam was just established, Ho Chi Minh considered hunger eradication and poverty reduction as important and urgent as killing the enemy. He pointed out that poverty is one of the three enemies that need to be eradicated and set out a goal to strive for people to escape poverty, to make everyone have jobs, jobs, warmth and happy life. Along with the fight against "enemies inside and outside". He quickly set out policies to fight hunger and ignorance. These policies were not only a measure to cope with the difficult situation at that time but also a long-term strategy for Vietnam in the process of construction and development. Ho Chi Minh affirmed: "We must immediately: 1. Make people eat. 2. Make people wear. 3. Make people have places to live. 4. Make the people educated" (Minh, 2011, vol. 4, p. 175)

For the poverty reduction policy, first of all, it is to meet and satisfy the essential needs of the people. He pointed out "PURPOSE: Working for the poor is enough to eat. People who have enough to eat are quite rich. People who are quite rich get richer" (Minh, 2011, vol. 5, p.82). This is the premise, the most necessary condition for development and progress. First of all, we have to take care of survival, make a daily living, and solve urgent and pressing things for the people. Next, we have to make the people who have enough to eat be quite rich, the people who are quite rich get richer. Therefore, we must constantly strive to overcome the threshold of poverty and need, progress to being full, affluent, and well-off, step by step becoming rich. At the same time, he also pointed out: "We fight for freedom and independence, but the people die of hunger and cold, then freedom and independence will not do anything. People only know the value of freedom and independence when they have enough to eat and clothe" (Minh, 2011, vol. 4, p 175). Thus, hunger eradication and poverty reduction are the first practical expression of independence and freedom for the people. For the policy

system of the Party and State, the poverty reduction policy is the basic policy, well-implemented this policy is the condition and basis for the implementation of other policies. Because, according to Ho Chi Minh, "If the people have enough to eat and clothe, the policies of the Party and the Government will be easily implemented. If the people are hungry, cold, ignorant, or sick, our policies will not be implemented no matter how good they are" (Minh, 2011, vol. 9, p.518).

To eliminate hunger and reduce poverty, Ho Chi Minh paid special attention to the issue of promoting production and practicing thrift. Immediately after the declaration of independence, he proposed the Government Council launch a campaign to increase production and organize a fundraiser to save hunger. He wrote a letter to compatriots nationwide, exhorting the people to fight against hunger, considering the fight against hunger as well as the fight against foreign aggression. In a letter to Vietnamese farmers, he urgently called: "Increase production! Increase production now! Increasing production too... That's our practical way to maintain our freedom and independence" (Minh, 2011, vol. 6, p. 135). To increase production effectively, the Party and State need to conduct "Leadership must be specific, timely, practical, focused, and typical. Must resist the thought of fear of difficulties, the thought of dependence. Policies to encourage production must be widely propagated" (Minh, 2011, vol. 10, p. 214). As for the people, "We must strive to learn and use new technologies to build a new technical base, and resolutely abandon the outdated way of doing business. Those things are not done in a day or two, but with determination and organization, they can be done". The whole Party and people need to unite with one heart to increase production because "Our country is still poor. If you want to be happy, you must have the spirit of self-reliance and hard work. Must try to produce. Labor is our sacred duty, our source of life, our happiness" (Minh, 2011, vol. 13, p. 69).

Thus, according to Ho Chi Minh, increasing production and saving are the two most basic and important measures to implement the poverty reduction policy. He asserted "Increasing production and saving to improve people's living standards, restore the economy, expand culture, and prevent hunger and fight hunger" (Minh, 2011, vol. 9, p. 519). From his instructions, our people were determined to increase production, work enthusiastically, actively, and effectively; at the same time practice thrift. Thanks to that, hunger was repelled, contributing to helping our country overcome the difficult period of "thousands of pounds hanging by a hair", creating a premise for the implementation of important tasks to maintain independence and unification of the country.

To implement the poverty reduction policy, Ho Chi Minh emphasized the role of officials in charge of guiding and directing the people to implement the policy. According to him, cadres need to "know how to educate, lead, and help people increase production and save money... If cadres are good at leading and practical helping their compatriots and compatriots try to increase If people are productive and thrifty, the people will be happy, everything will go smoothly, taxes are easy to collect, finance is abundant, if the people are full, the country will be rich" (Minh, 2011, vol. 9, p. 518). During the implementation of hunger eradication and poverty reduction, he realized "the truth is, where people organize to help each other, the results are better than where they are allocated; People are more

enthusiastic, united, and production is stronger" (Minh, 2011, vol. 9, p.519). Advocates, guiding, and directing officers are only assistants, people understand policies, organize and help each other to implement policies are the main and decisive factors for the success of the poverty reduction process.

In addition, Ho Chi Minh always considered education an important and urgent task to meet the top essential needs in the socio-economic life of the country. That is why, besides the poverty reduction policy, he also mentioned education policy as a fundamental and leading job of the Party and State. He stated: "Our government's program is to make sure that everyone in the country can eat, clothe, and study. So our slogan is: 1. Increase production. 2. Fighting illiteracy" (Minh, 2011, vol. 4, p. 14).

Stemming from immense love for people, from communist humanitarianism, aiming at national independence and socialism, Ho Chi Minh condemned the "folk policy" of the invading colonialist's comb; founded the new education system of Vietnam right after independence day. The new education in Vietnam, which is oriented to develop by the people, is the education to improve the people's intellectual level; is the education of the whole people; is a comprehensive education; is an advanced and modern education; The purpose of education is to train new socialist people for the country. He considers people as the most precious capital, the decisive factor of the revolutionary cause: "For the sake of ten years planting trees, for the benefit of one hundred years cultivating people". It was from there that he launched the popular education movement with the policy that the literate teach the unilliterate, the more literate teach the less literate so that everyone can read, write, and improve their feelings revolutionary ideas for themselves. Raising people's intellectual level must start from being able to read and write to understanding other areas of life. In extremely difficult circumstances right after the August Revolution, besides the two tasks of eliminating hunger and foreign invaders, he set out the task of eradicating ignorance. At the first meeting of the Council of Government, on September 3, 1945, he proposed to launch a campaign to combat illiteracy: "...ignorance - It is one of the cruel methods used by the colonialists to rule us. More than ninety percent of our compatriots are illiterate. But just three months is enough to learn to read and write our country according to the national language rhyme. An ignorant nation is a weak nation. Therefore, I propose to launch a campaign to combat illiteracy" (Minh, 2011, vol. 4, p.7). On October 4, 1945, on behalf of the Provisional Government, he issued an appeal to the entire people to combat illiteracy. Launching the anti-illiteracy movement, he wanted every citizen to "learn and write the national language" to "improve people's knowledge", "stay independent" and make the people rich and the country strong. Thanks to that, from 95% illiteracy, our nation has risen to become a culture, science, and ability to protect and build the country.

The goal of education is to perform the three functions of culture by teaching and learning: to train new people who are both virtuous and talented; learning to work, to be a person, to be an officer; "reform old intellectuals", "train new intellectuals"; "intellectualization of agrarian and agrarian", "intellectualization of workers and peasants", building an increasingly large number of intellectuals with higher and higher qualifications; training classes of successors to the

revolutionary cause of building a rich, strong and civilized country; Expanding people's knowledge from eradicating illiteracy, fighting against illiteracy, combining popularization and enhancement, putting Vietnam on a par with the great powers of five continents.

Ho Chi Minh also considers health care for the people to be the goal and noble task of health policy, an issue that has always been of great concern and importance to Ho Chi Minh during his lifetime. As early as 1941, under the leadership of President Ho Chi Minh, the Viet Minh program clearly stated that it was necessary to encourage the national gymnastics, make the race stronger and stronger, "establish more hospitals and maternity homes "nursing home" (Minh, 2011, volume 3, p. 632). In the following years, he wrote many articles and letters to the health sector, war invalids, and society, stating the basic views on the treatment of wounded and sick soldiers, combining military and civilian medicine, combining traditional and western medicine, and other work of the health sector. Ho Chi Minh affirmed the role of health and the position of health in the resistance war and national construction. The mission of health is to take care of and ensure the health of the people. It is a noble and extremely important task. Because every weak citizen means the whole country is weak, every healthy citizen means the whole country is healthy. "If the people are strong, the country will be prosperous". "When the health of cadres and people is ensured, the spirit is more enthusiastic." And when "the spirit and health are complete, the more victories the resistance will have, the quicker the national construction will succeed". Health is not only an individual property but also a community property.

For President Ho Chi Minh, people are the central position of all activities and the right to life is the highest human right. He taught us to preserve democracy, build our country, create a new life, everything requires health to be successful. Therefore, even when the revolution still had many difficulties and hardships, the people's life was still difficult, but President Ho Chi Minh attached great importance to the position of the health sector and made policies to solve these problems issues of care and assurance for the people's health. People think that, if you are healthy, you can do things, if you can do things, you can eat. At the same time, he also affirmed that the Party and Government must be responsible for ensuring the healthy life of the people. The Party and Government carry out that task by formulating guidelines and policies to ensure and improve the quality of health care workers. He stated: "So the policy of the Party and the Government is to take great care of the people's lives... if the people are sick, it is the Party and the Government's fault" (Minh, 2011, vol. 9, p. 518).

Even in the years before the revolutionary government was established, Ho Chi Minh clearly stated in the "Ten policies of the Viet Minh": "Soldiers defend the country with merit, respect and love from the people" (Minh, 2011, vol. 3, p. 632). (21). After the August Revolution of 1945, the young Vietnamese State faced many difficulties and challenges, together with facing the problem of anti-virus, anti-striking, and anti-scratch. In that predecessor, President Ho Chi Minh always paid attention to the topic and led the implementation of policies towards those who sacrificed their blood and blood for the Fatherland. In a letter to the wounded battlefields in the early days of the national resistance war, he emphasized:

"Soldiers sacrificed their blood to defend the country... The soldiers deserved the Fatherland, and the Fatherland. The nation will never forget such beloved children" (Minh, 2011, volume 3, p. 564). He considers that the work of wounded soldiers and martyrs' families is not one's duty, but the responsibility and duty of the entire Party, people, and army.

Based on specifying the role of people with meritorious services to the country and the responsibility of each person and society for those with meritorious services, Ho Chi Minh also clearly stated practical actions and measures to carry out the work reciprocal act of gratitude. Before returning to the world of sages, he advised: "For those who have bravely sacrificed a part of their blood and bones (cadres, soldiers, militiamen, guerrillas, young volunteers...), the Party, Government and people must find ways to make them have a safe place to live, and at the same time, they must open suitable vocational training classes for each person so that they can gradually "self-reliance". For martyrs, each locality (city, village) needs to build flower gardens and commemorative steles to record the heroic sacrifices of the martyrs, to forever educate our people on patriotism. For parents, wives, and children (of war invalids and martyrs) who lack labor power and are destitute, the local government (if in a rural area, the commune government and agricultural cooperatives) must help them with suitable jobs, determined not to let them go hungry" (Minh, 2011, vol. 15, p. 616).

Ho Chi Minh's views on association policy are profound instructions and sketches for our country's social policy system right from the early days when the people's government was just established. It has made a great contribution to bringing the Vietnamese revolution through challenging journeys. Entering the period of accelerating industrialization and modernization of the country, Ho Chi Minh's views continue to maintain the role of scientific and methodological views with oriented values for the Party and State and the Vietnamese people in the planning and implementation of social policies.

Ho Chi Minh's point of view that the poverty reduction policy is the foundation and starting point for the implementation of other social policies has remained intact to this day. Because, as society develops more and more, many policies are introduced to more effectively serve the increasing needs of the people's material and spiritual life, we also face great challenges such as the gap between regions, the difference in the quality of life among segments of the population... Therefore, solving hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies has created conditions for other policies to be implemented effectively and at the same time is what is needed to overcome the challenges that are posed. In the current process of hunger eradication and poverty reduction in our country, increasing production and saving are still the two main and basic measures.

In the field of education, President Ho Chi Minh's policy of comprehensive education for the entire people (physical education, education, aesthetic education, and virtue) are values that are deeply oriented for educational reform education in our country. Especially when the general education program is aiming to form and train students with 5 main qualities (patriotism, compassion, hard work, honesty, responsibility) and 10 competencies (including core and special competencies). On the other hand, the issue of education socialization,

close cooperation between family - school - a society to well realize educational goals is also based on a deep understanding of the view that "education is the cause of the masses" of President Ho Chi Minh.

Regarding health, the motto "to build a whole-people health care system", which comes from the people, by the people, is consolidated and developed, serving the people wholeheartedly is always the goal in the planning process and implementing current policies on people's health care. In particular, his admonition of "medicine like a mother" has been, is, and will always be thoroughly understood to the staff of the health sector, becoming one of the standards of caregivers' health care for the people.

Inheriting President Ho Chi Minh's views on policies towards people with meritorious services, over the years, our Party and State have always paid attention to, perfected, and implemented policies towards this group of people. Programs, plans, and projects for today's people with meritorious services always need to be implemented with a profound spirit, showing gratitude to those with meritorious services, helping them overcome difficulties and disadvantages, creating conditions for them to rise, improve and enhance their material and spiritual life.

With profound theoretical and practical significance and value, Ho Chi Minh's thought on several social policies needs to continue to be researched and applied creatively to continue to contribute to improving the effectiveness of planning and implementing social policies in our country today; making a great contribution to the cause of building a richer and stronger country.

Applying Ho Chi Minh's ideology on social policy in Vietnam today

In the renovation process, our Party and State have always been loyal to Ho Chi Minh's thoughts and implemented his thought on social policies. Implementation of social policies is a consistent, cross-cutting policy and becomes an indispensable part of the country's strategy for sustainable development and socio-political stability. The 10th Party Congress (2006) stated: "Building a diversified social security system; strongly develop the system of social insurance and health insurance, moving towards universal health insurance. Diversifying forms of social relief" (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2006, p. 202). At the 11th National Party Congress, our Party determined that "Fast development is associated with sustainable development, sustainable development is a cross-cutting requirement in the Strategy" (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2011, p. 98), therefore, the implementation of social policies is the basis for sustainable development between economic growth, socio-political stability, and environmental protection.

Implementing the Resolution of the XI National Congress, the 2013 Constitution (amended and supplemented) affirmed for the first time the right to social security as a fundamental right for the people. Article 34 of the 2013 Constitution stipulates: "Citizens have the right to social security" and Article 59 stipulates: "The State creates equal opportunities for citizens to enjoy social welfare, develop a social security system". This is an important legal basis contributing to the

implementation of social security for people according to Ho Chi Minh's thought. Laws (newly introduced or amended or supplemented) have been implemented to improve the effectiveness of the implementation of social security policies for the entire population, such as the Law on People with Disabilities (2010), and assistance for the disadvantaged access to social services; The Labor Law (amended in 2012) has additional provisions to strengthen the State's support for disadvantaged workers in the market through policies on training, career guidance, and job creation. The Employment Law (2013) expands opportunities for employees to participate in unemployment insurance (employees working in enterprises with labor contracts of 3 months or more are required to participate in unemployment insurance). The Law on Health Insurance (amended in 2013) expands the subjects supported by the State to participate in health insurance. The Law on Social Insurance (amended in 2014) expands the scope of participation in compulsory social insurance for employees working with a contract of 1 month or more; improve the voluntary social insurance regime towards flexibility and suitability with the employment and income conditions of workers in the informal sector; encourage informal sector workers to participate in social insurance...

In particular, the implementation of Resolution No. 15-NQ/TW, dated June 1, 2012, of the XI Central Executive Committee "Some issues on social policy for the period 2012 - 2020" has made an important contribution to the implementation of Resolution No. attach importance to improving the material and spiritual life of people with meritorious services, ensuring that their families have a standard of living equal to or higher than the average living standard of the population in the area.

The 12th Party Congress in 2016 continued to affirm that the implementation of social policies is one of the key tasks in the new period. The Party's policy at the 12th National Congress is: "Create opportunities for people to have jobs and improve their incomes. Ensuring wages, fair income, living conditions, and reproduction of labor power. Mobilize the best human resources to serve the construction and development of the country. Focus on creating jobs for redundant laborers from the agricultural sector due to the accumulation and concentration of land or the acquisition of land for industrial, urban development public works. Encourage social investment to create more jobs and improve the quality of vocational education. Building and perfecting the system of policies on salary and wages, basically overcoming irrationalities. Adjust vocational training policies, associate training with use. Adjust labor export policies reasonably. Completing and implementing the labor protection policy" (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2016, p. 136 -137). In 2019, to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development set out by the United Nations, Vietnam developed a set of Statistical Indicators for Sustainable Development, which comprehensively reflects economic characteristics - the society of the country. The specific objectives in the Set of Indicators (including many indicators in the social field such as groups of indicators on hunger eradication, poverty reduction, equality...) serve ministries and branches to assess the actual performance of the project implementing the criterion of "leaving no one behind", especially for the weak, demonstrating Vietnam's efforts in implementing social policies, clearly showing the humane nature of the regime socialist.

With the efforts of the whole Party and people, Vietnam has completed the Millennium Development Goals, which are highly appreciated by the world, such as the program of hunger eradication and poverty reduction, care for the elderly, disabled, and young people children, women, ethnic minorities, remote and isolated areas, take care of the health of the entire people... At the same time, they have done well in propaganda, advocacy, and creating conditions for people to take initiative in prevention prevent, reduce and overcome risks in economic, social, and environmental life.

In 2020, Vietnam has successfully implemented a "dual item": Disease prevention and control, people's health protection, and socio-economic recovery and development. With the goal of "Leaving no one behind" in the fight against the Covid-19 epidemic, promulgating policies to support the poor, the disadvantaged, and freelance workers is of great significance security to ensure security and contribute to maintaining social stability. The Vietnamese government promptly banned the operation of a series of social security services to support people, such as support packages worth 62 trillion VND, which were directed to 20 million target groups supported by the budget. Vietnam's model of fighting Covid-19 associated with the goal of "No one is left behind" is highly appreciated by the international community.

Looking back at the results of 5 years of implementing the Resolution of the 12th National Congress, our Party has commented that despite the Covid-19 pandemic and flood disaster in the last year of the term, Vietnam still achieved a GDP growth rate, the average period of the 2016-2020 period is about 6%/year (in 2020 alone, GDP growth will still reach 2.91%, which is the highest growth rate in the world). The XIII Congress affirmed that, in the 35 years of renovation, Vietnam has ensured social security, paying attention to improving social welfare for the people; implementing better policies towards people with meritorious services; continuing to improve salary policy; expanding social insurance; health insurance rate reaches over 90%. The medical organization system continues to be consolidated. The scale, capacity, and quality of preventive medicine, medical examination and treatment, epidemic prevention and control, and people's health care have developed, accessing many advanced technologies in the world, achieving many results especially in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. People's living standards improved significantly; the rate of poor households according to the multidimensional poverty line decreased to less than 3%; social housing is concerned. This is an achievement of great significance in the general context of the world with many complicated developments. The grassroots information and communication system has helped shorten the gap in ensuring people's access to information between regions: from 2017 the target of 100% mountainous, remote and mountainous communes has been completed, borders and islands are covered by terrestrial radio and television. By 2018, 90% of communes in the mountainous, remote, border, and island areas will have commune radio stations, which is expected to reach 100% by 2020 (Tri, 2021).

The 13th Party Congress affirmed, in the coming years to continue: "Implement well social policies, ensure social security and welfare, human security, create strong changes in development management social progress and social justice; improve the quality of life and happiness of the people" (Communist Party of

Vietnam, 2021, p. 47). This has once again confirmed that social security and human security are identified as cross-cutting factors in the development of the country. This goal will be realized with the participation of the whole political system and the whole society under the leadership of the Party, for the happiness of the people.

Conclusion

The more society develops, the more practical the content of social policy becomes. In the current conditions, it can be said that Ho Chi Minh's thought on the implementation of social policies is the foundation, the theoretical basis for perfecting the policy system to ensure material and spiritual life for the people in Vietnam. In other words, President Ho Chi Minh's thought on the implementation of social policies is an extremely valuable legacy and the task of the entire Party and people is to turn those values into reality to promote the right to work human master in the development process.

References

- Communist Party of Vietnam. (2008). Document of the Seventh Conference of the 10 Central Executive Committee. Hanoi: National Politics.
- Communist Party of Vietnam. (2011). Document of the 11th National Congress of the Party. Hanoi: National Politics.
- Communist Party of Vietnam. (2016). Document of the 9th National Congress of the Party. Hanoi: National Politics.
- Communist Party of Vietnam. (2021). Document of the 13th National Congress of the Party. Hanoi: National Politics.
- Giap, V. N. (1994). Historical journeys. Hanoi: National Politics.
- Minh, C.H. (2011). Complete set, 15 volumes. Hanoi: National Politics.
- William, J. D. (2001). Ho Chi Minh: A Life. New York: Hyperion.
- Peters, M. A., Jandrić, P., & Hayes, S. (2021). Biodigitalphilosophy, technological Conv, and post digital knowledge ecologies. *Post digital Science and Educaergencetion*, 3(2), 370-388.
- Tri, N. M. (2020). Impact of Economic Growth on Social Security in Vietnam. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 10(3), 66-71.
- Tri, N. M. (2021). The Role of Social Security In Social Progress in Vietnam. *Linguistics and Culture Review*. DOI : 10.37028/lingcure.v5nS1.1311.
- Smail, J. R., Steinberg, D. J., Taylor, R. H., Woodside, A., Wyatt, D. K., Chandler, D. P., & Roff, W. R. (2021). Part Four: Social Change and the Emergence of Nationalism. In *In Search of Southeast Asia*: University of Hawaii Press.