

Some Basic Perspectives of the Party and the State of Vietnam on Human Development

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ABSTRACT: The author analyzes three basic contents in the basic viewpoint of the Party and State of Vietnam on human development: Firstly, the theoretical basis of the Party and State of Vietnam in building a human development perspective; *Secondly*, human development is seen from the perspective of people as both the goal and the driving force of socio-economic development; thirdly, exercising human and civil rights, creating conditions for people to grasp development opportunities.

Keywords: People, human development, views of the Party and State of Vietnam, human development index.

I. LITERATURE

People and human development are one of the basic issues of Marxism-Leninism that Ho Chi Minh absorbed and creatively applied to the specific historical circumstances of Vietnam, closely linked to the strategic revolution outlined by him revolved around two great goals: liberation and development. That is national liberation, class liberation, social liberation to liberate each individual, bringing Vietnamese people to the position of master - master of the society that they create, build and control yourself, and decide your own destiny. "It is to develop a comprehensive human being, with all his creative abilities, to exercise basic sacred human rights - the right to live in independence, freedom and the pursuit of happiness" [1]. In Ho Chi Minh's thoughts on human development, one can find relatively complete views on the comprehensive development of humans in all aspects of virtue, mind, body, and beauty. In the process of renovating old society and building a new society, people always play the most decisive role, being the subject of all social construction processes. Comprehensive human development is both a goal and a product of development. Ho Chi Minh especially emphasized the institutionalization of humanistic goals through social policies, in order to create conditions for human development in reality. Imbued with the views of Marxist philosophy on human development, Ho Chi Minh, when considering the premises for development, always emphasized meeting the most basic needs of the people, which are: *1- Make the people fed 2- Make people dressed 3- Make people have a place to live 4- Make people educated*" [2]. Considering people as the goal of the socialist regime and of all construction programs, Ho Chi Minh determined that building socialism means building a society so that material life increases, living standards increase. Spiritual life is getting better and better, society is becoming more and more civilized and progressive; towards liberating people, making them develop all their creative abilities, perfecting their humanity in the harmonious development of the society.

The fundamental views of Marxist philosophy and Ho Chi Minh's thought, along with the era's progressive ideas about humanity and human development, have been inherited and creatively applied by the Communist Party of Vietnam in the process of building and developing Vietnam's technology from innovation until now. Along with the Party's change in thinking about socialism, about the path to building socialism in Vietnam, about the economic model and social development, the human factor and the role of human resources is also recognized by our Party in a more fundamental and more practical way. Documents of the 6th Congress affirmed: "Concern for people and mutual respect must become an ethical standard in all economic, cultural and social activities, especially in services serving the people" [3]. However, until the late 80s, despite the shift, people were still not considered the center of socio-economic development. It was not until the early 90s that Vietnam truly responded to UNESCO's "International Decade of Culture in Development" campaign (1986 -

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1997) and only participated in the Human Development Reports in 1994. (Human development report - HDR) of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

UNDP affirmed: "The development process – human development – should at least create an environment for people, individually and collectively, to develop their full potential and to have a reasonable opportunity to a life and creativity that they value" [4]. The three foundations for human development that UNDP offers are, living a healthy and creative life, having knowledge, and having access to the resources necessary for a decent standard of living. Once the basics of human development are achieved, they open up opportunities for progress in other aspects of life. Amartya Sen - the initiator of the first HDRO - in his interview, he used an example in Japan to talk about this issue. In Japan, right after the Meiji reform period, the government determined that what they were lagging behind compared to the West was education. They then expanded public education impressively, then improved universal health care. They realize that a healthy and educated population serves very effectively the goal of economic growth, thereby bringing people increased income and increasingly guaranteed living conditions. This lesson was later applied in Korea, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. *The achievements they have achieved in all fields originate not from economic growth but from the development of human capabilities*, both physical and intellectual as well as the living standards of the population, which, in essence, it is aimed at the quality of each field. As A.Sen says, "human capacity development is also a classic Asian approach to achieving sustainable economic growth" [5].

II. PEOPLE ARE BOTH THE GOAL AND THE DRIVING FORCE OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In the *Strategy for socio-economic stability and development 1991 - 2000*, our Party affirmed: "The main goal and driving force of development is for people, by people"; "The interests of each person, each group and the whole society are organically linked together, in which personal interests are the direct driving force"; "put people at the center of socio-economic strategies" [6]. The Party's perspective of putting people at the center of development is consistent with the general trend of the times, not absolutizing economic growth, science, technology or any other factor, but people themselves, human development is considered the goal of development. In the *Platform for building the country during the transition period to socialism*, our Party has determined that the socialist society we are building is a society in which "The people are rich, the country is strong, democracy, fairness, civilization... People have a prosperous, free, happy life, with conditions for comprehensive development" [7]. At the 5th Central Conference, Session VIII, our Party clearly stated that the mission of the Vietnamese revolution is "all for people, for happiness and the rich, free, and comprehensive development of people" [8]. That shows the human nature of the regime we are building; freedom, happiness and comprehensive human development become the criteria to evaluate the development of society.

In the 10-year socio-economic development strategy 2011 - 2020 approved at the 11th Party Congress (January 2011), our Party emphasized: "People are the center of the development strategy and at the same time the subject of development. Respect and protect human rights, associate human rights with the rights and interests of the nation, the country and the people's right to mastery" [9, pp.76-77]. Considering people as the goal of development is set by our Party on a large scale, associated with the responsibilities of each different area of social life; from economics and politics to education, health care, culture, information, etc. Regarding politics, the most obvious expression is the political regime that we build, which is the people's democracy. The socialist-oriented market economy has created dynamic development of the economy and production and business entities. Per capita income has continuously increased over the years, material life has improved, creating practical conditions for people to access other social services, especially health care and education, enjoy cultural and spiritual values. Over the past decade or so, cultural issues have been given special prominence, and cultural development has been placed in a correlation with human development. The 9th Resolution of the 11th Party Central Committee (May 2014) on culture and people affirmed this: "Caring for the comprehensive development of Vietnamese people, focusing on fostering patriotism, national pride, ethics, lifestyle and personality" [10]. Culture is a large social field, culture is expressed in all spiritual activities of the people, from investing in education, raising people's intellectual standards, building and developing art and culture, and eliminating superstition, etc. to moral culture and lifestyle.

People are the driving force of development, understood as people being the direct factor promoting socio-economic development. Besides the human factor, there are other factors that contribute importantly to development such as resources, capital, technology, etc. However, these factors can only be effectively promoted through people. As an active subject, with physical and mental strength, people directly or indirectly participate in all areas of social life. There is no field that does not need people. In the past three decades, the strong growth of the economy and the innovation of political, cultural and social institutions have raised Vietnam's position in the world. All thanks to our Party and State's for attaching importance to the human factor - especially building and developing high-quality human resources, it has created a basis for liberating

human potential and promoting internal human resources and effectively use human resources for the process of industrialization and modernization of the country.

When considering people as the goal and driving force of development, we can see that humanistic elements are placed in all areas of the social life. The development is not consistent with economic growth or just stopping at people's income. Economic growth and social development always take comprehensive human development as the target object. This perspective not only guides the activities of industries and fields but also limits the negative impact of those activities on human development. The positive results of poverty reduction and investment in health and education have been recognized by UNDP and the world community as Vietnam's efforts in human development. The 12th National Congress (January 2016) once again emphasized this and considered it the main ideology of the cause of building socialism in our country today: "Building the comprehensive development of the Vietnamese people must become a goal of the development strategy" [11].

III. IMPLEMENT HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS, CREATE CONDITIONS FOR PEOPLE TO GRASP DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

On the basis of considering people as both the goal and the driving force of socio-economic development, in 30 years of implementing the reform policy, many documents of the Party and State, especially the Constitution (amended (change) in 2013, has once again affirmed that human rights and civil rights are always respected and protected. Respecting and protecting human rights, first of all civil rights, is a constitutional obligation, that is, minimum and absolute rights, which must be implemented regardless of local, regional or local characteristics of economic development, cultural, ethnic, religious differences, etc. To ensure that each person has the opportunity to satisfy human rights according to the law, especially in the fields of economics, politics, society, in addition to constitutional rights, there are also relative rights, which are exercised with conditions. In recent years, Party and State documents have also mentioned and implemented specific policies on rights such as living in a clean environment, the right to information and information, the right to satisfy basic cultural, political and civil needs, etc.

The implementation of human rights and civil rights is, in fact, a level of human development. Our Party affirmed: "People are the center of development strategies and at the same time the subject of development" [12]. That means that people are not only the beneficiaries of the fruits of development as the goal of development, but also the subject, the driving force, and the deciding factor of that development. Human development is influenced by many factors in terms of political institutions, the level of socio-economic progress, the diversity of material and spiritual culture, etc., but first of all it is the people themselves shall be aware of and actively participate in that development process. Human rights and civil rights are what ensure that each individual and community understands and exercises the right to participate in the social management process. "Participation here does not only include people as individuals but also needs to consider broader subjects such as state subjects and community subjects" [13]. People's participation, especially the implementation of the policy "people know, people discuss, people do, people check and people enjoy" is increasingly becoming an objective measure of human development.

The level of development of the community depends on many factors, but first and foremost is the aspiration, action, dynamism and creativity of the people themselves who want to rise, from the level of escaping poverty to getting rich, to have a fuller life, more satisfying needs and happier both physically and mentally. In recent years, the subject element in policies has been focused more and more clearly. If these factors are lacking, even if many opportunities are opened, people will not know how to grasp them or not be proactive to grasp and take advantage of the opportunities. In fact, the multi-sector commodity economy has aroused, promoted and helped promote the potential and internal resources of the people and economic sectors, bringing rapid development to the Vietnamese economy since the innovation until now. The passivity and expectation of a part of the people significantly limits the overall level of development of society and achievements in human development. Although our country has achieved great results in poverty reduction, the rate of near poverty and especially relapse into poverty is still high. Economic projects show that when implemented, people do quite well and the economic efficiency is clear, but when support from the state or non-governmental organizations runs out, many population groups that have escaped poverty cannot continue those economic development activities. Of course, this may also be due to limited cultural level, or difficult access to capital sources, but first of all, people still lack initiative and do not really actively participate. This can also be seen in education, when infrastructure is invested and built to become more and more inclusive, and there are more tuition support policies for children from poor families, remote areas, and remote areas, but that does not mean that everyone actively participates in education. A part of people in difficult geographical areas and poor households are not aware of the importance of education for personal development and the job opportunities it brings. In the National Human Development Reports, these barriers have also been mentioned quite deeply. To promote people's positivity in their own development, in addition to raising awareness, the role of state actors is extremely important.

In the Party's documents, the participation of state subjects is seen first of all from the perspective of the State respecting and ensuring human rights and citizen rights; care for the happiness, free development of each person and the conditions for everyone's comprehensive development. The rights and obligations of citizens are specifically stipulated in the Constitution and laws in all areas of social life, from politics to economics, culture and society. The people exercise their right to mastery through the activities of the State, the political system and forms of democracy. The people's democratic rights are respected and fully implemented. In the development process, it is necessary to "improve the mechanism for people to contribute opinions, provide social criticism and supervise the work of the Party and State, especially economic and social policies, planning, important development plans, programs and projects" [14]. The regulation and emphasis on implementing these rights, on the one hand, comes from the tradition of respecting the people in the nation's history, and on the other hand, demonstrates the openness of social institutions, creating conditions for everyone to access opportunities to choose and have the ability to choose for development. Human rights and civil rights are institutionalized through social policies. Documents of the 11th Party Congress emphasized: "Correct and fair social policies for people are a strong driving force to promote all creative abilities of the people in the cause of building and protecting the Fatherland. Ensure fairness and equality in rights and obligations of citizens; closely and reasonably combine economic development with cultural and social development, implementing progress and social justice right in each step and each policy; Harmoniously develop material life and spiritual life, constantly improve the lives of all members of society in terms of food, accommodation, travel, study, rest, medical treatment and physical and mental improvement, linking obligations with rights, dedication with enjoyment, personal benefits with collective benefits and the social community" [14, p.79]. The State's economic, cultural, educational and health policies are aimed at all classes of people, including paying attention to disadvantaged groups in society, in order to promote all the potential of the individuals and create equality in access to development opportunities. For workers, our Party affirms that we create an environment and conditions for all workers to have better jobs and income. Have a salary policy and incentive regime to create motivation for development; "Training, fostering and promoting all potential and creativity of intellectuals to create intellectual resources and talents for the country" [14, p.80]. For women, "realize gender equality and act for the advancement of women" [14, p.80]. For children, "ensuring children's basic rights, creating a healthy environment for children to fully develop physically and intellectually" [14, p.231]. "Caring for the lives of the elderly, lonely, disabled, disabled and orphans" [14, pp.79-80] and "paying due attention to the interests and promoting the abilities of other population classes" [14, p.80]. "Create equal opportunities to access development resources and enjoy basic services and social benefits" [14, p.124].

Vietnam is a country with many ethnic groups and the gap in development levels between ethnic groups and regions is still relatively deep. In the strategy of building and developing the Vietnamese people, our Party always emphasizes disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. In fact, there have been many policies to create equality so that all nations, all classes and all people can access development opportunities, first of all economic development, job creation and organization and participation in social services. Documents of the 12th Party Congress (2016) once again emphasized: "In developing and implementing socio-economic development policies, pay due attention to disadvantaged classes and sections of society, ethnic minorities in highland, remote and isolated areas", "closely linking economic policy with social policy, economic development with improving the quality of life of the people, ensuring that the people can enjoy better and better the fruits of innovating, building and developing the country. All people have opportunities and conditions for comprehensive development" [11, pp. 135 - 136]. This viewpoint of the Party is both an expression of the scientific and humanistic spirit of Marxism and Ho Chi Minh's ideology, as well as the absorption and containment of new content of UNDP on human development. Thus, as an important subject of development, our Party and State have had specific guidelines and policies, creating legal corridors and mechanisms to implement human and citizenship rights in all areas of social life. The openness of political institutions has created increasingly better and more favorable conditions for all people to have the opportunity to participate and access social mechanisms in general and to be able to develop their potential, expand their ability to choose and have a happy life according to their needs.

It can be affirmed that the Party's guidelines, opinions and policies implement human rights and citizen rights, creating opportunities and conditions to promote people's positivity in the process of socio-economic development in recent times, a new trend in human development has been demonstrated. That contributes to constantly improving the level and nature of human development in both the material and spiritual lives of the people, especially of special cases such as people with meritorious services and policy families, disadvantaged and vulnerable social groups. At the same time, the viewpoints and policies of implementing human rights and civil rights, creating opportunities and conditions to promote people's positivity also reflect the nation's humanistic traditions and the nature of the social regime, suitable to the conditions of our country in the current situation. Those achievements are very important factors to create consensus in society, maintain stability and

strength in defense and security, bring the country to further development, and affirm Vietnam's position in the international arena.

IV. CONCLUSION

Human issues and human development in Vietnam have been recognized and resolved by the Party and State of Vietnam in a more fundamental and realistic way from the late 80s until now. People are placed at the center of development and are considered the driving force for socio-economic processes. All micro and macro policy planning takes human development and people's quality of life as the basis. Comprehensive development of the Vietnamese people is thoroughly understood in the Party's Documents and Resolutions and realized by specific State policies. Human development is both a goal and a continuous process. Vietnamese people are advocated to be built as people with comprehensive physical, mental, and intellectual development. Living a cultured and ethical life, as our Party has affirmed, are people who are "rich in patriotism, have a sense of ownership, civic responsibility, have knowledge, good health, good labor, and live a cultured life, gratitude, and a true international spirit" [14, p.40]. Implementing the above strategic perspectives, UNDP's quantitative criteria for measuring human development have also been given due attention in Party documents. Vietnam's achievements and limitations in human development and the results of implementing Vietnam's millennium goals (MDGs) have been clearly shown in the National Human Development Reports and in the UNDP Global Human Development Reports. United Nations experts have recognized Vietnam as one of the 40 with achievements exceeding expectations in human development.

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