ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SOCIAL PROGRESS IN VIETNAM: THEORY AND PRACTICE

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Abstract: This research aims to analyze the theoretical basis and the reality of the relationship between economic growth and social progress in Vietnam after 30 years of renovation. In the past time, Vietnam has achieved great achievements in implementing economic growth with social progress. However, the conflict between economic development and social progress is also acute. Based on analysis of the achievements and limitations, the article has introduced the directional solutions to further promote the implementation of economic development and social progress in Vietnam in the coming time.

Keywords: Economic growth, social progress, Vietnam.

I. Introduction

In more than 30 years of renovation, Vietnam has escaped from a group of poor and backward countries and entered the threshold of a middle-income country, people's lives have improved markedly. However, Vietnam still has limitations that need to be overcome in the implementation of economic growth and social progress, such as not closely linking economic growth and social progress leading to the situation of the rich-poor gap, inequality in income and living standards are increasingly evident, ... have been negatively affecting socio-economic development goals as well as the process of economic growth and social progress in Vietnam today. Therefore, the study of theoretical basis and the situation, from which proposed the main solutions to promote the implementation of economic growth and social progress, is a matter of deep theory and practice.

II. Theoretical relations between economic growth and social progress

In economics, economic growth is an increase in gross national product or an increase in gross national product per capita over a given period (usually a year). The content of growth is expressed in scale and growth. The scale of growth reflects the increase more or less, while the growth rate is used with relative comparative meaning and reflects the rapid or slow increase of the periods. In terms of the economy as a whole, income is often expressed as value, measured by value indicators such as gross domestic product (GDP); gross national income (GNI); total production value (GO); income per capita (GDP/person/year) ... If the scale and growth rate of the indicators reflect a high total income and per capita income, it is a positive sign in terms of economic growth. (TranTho Dat, 2010: 2-3).

Social progress appeared quite early in the history of human thought, depending on the characteristics of the times, as well as the approach, so there are many different views, but can be understood: social progress is a category of philosophy. The study reflects the society's path of progress from low level to higher level, bringing practical and material values to people. The nature of social progress is the liberation of people, making them more and more comprehensive. Accordingly, the society that has the ability to promote the power and creativity of people, perfect human nature, that society is considered social progress. Social progress is usually measured by indicators such as human development index (HDI), human poverty index (HPI), inequality index, level of satisfaction of human’s basic needs... (Pham Xuan Nam, 2015: 153).

Economic growth and social progress are an indispensable rule of social development. In the history of social development, there are many views on the relationship between economic growth and social progress.

First, the view of economic growth at all costs. This view argues that economic growth is a determinant of national survival, so all resources for economic growth should be concentrated. The distribution of profits from economic growth in favor of investors is a factor that guarantees capital accumulation for economic growth. All efforts to solve social problems for the people can affect the economic growth. This view was
applied mainly in Western countries, Japan and developed countries along the capitalist path, then selected by most countries in South America, and some countries in Southeast Asia like Hong Kong, Indonesia, Philippines... also followed this model (Ha Van Hien & Pham Hong Chuong, 2013: 60). In fact, the countries that chose this path have achieved rapid economic growth, but have paid for it by social distortions, such as unemployment, poverty, increased inequality...

Second, the view emphasizes fairness and social progress. This view argues that prioritizing social progress is a key to economic growth. This view was applied in the former socialist countries, including Vietnam. The impetuous and widespread implementation of social security policies (medical examination and treatment, free education, unemployment benefits...) despite the level of economic development has been achieved; quickly conduct the nationalization of all production means; implementing the regime of distribution of average nationalism (Ha Van Hien & Pham Hong Chuong, 2013: 64). The results of this model show that in addition to social progress and equality, the economic growth momentum is abolished, the burden of public budget spending is too great while the economy is underdeveloped, making this model gradually fell into a state of stagnation, severe socio-economic crisis, even in countries where social regime breakdown occurred. This model actually achieved quite impressive results on social security indicators, containing humane ideas in line with people's wishes but without a solid and long-term economic base.

Third, the viewpoint of attached economic growth and social progress. In this view, the market economy inherently contains inequality and injustice and it always reproduces and expands the impoverishment of society. In order to achieve the goal of equity, social progress requires rapid economic growth, equitable income distribution through the system of social security policies and social welfare in order to improve the material and spiritual life of the people. Typical for this view is the social market economy model in Northern Europe such as Sweden, Switzerland, Finland, Denmark and some countries in East Asia such as South Korea and Taiwan has achieved significant socio-economic results. The quality of life of the people improved with generous social welfare system. In the first few decades, many people thought that this was the ideal model, but with the big welfare policy, the majority of people easily abuse social benefits, while capital owners are looking to transfer the foreign investment capital to avoid high progressive tax on income (Ha Van Hien & Pham Hong Chuong, 2013: 66). As a result, the domestic market economy was in recession and the state of social welfare also showed signs of "exhaustion", exceeding the economic capacity of the nations. These countries are now reforming their social security and welfare policies in line with their inherent economic potential.

From studying the views and models of implementing economic growth with social progress in the world, it can be said that for sustainable socio-economic development, it is necessary to promote rapid economic growth, creating abundant material wealth from productive capacity, and at the same time resolving social issues in the direction of equity and progress for the integral development of the person. Methodologically, therefore, it is necessary to harmonize economic growth with social progress. If the "blind" economic growth target is absolute, not because of people, economic growth does not make sense; Conversely, if the absoluteization of social security policy in the development process can lead to the elimination of economic growth drivers, the results of both social goals and economic goals are not achieved.

By acquiring, inheriting and developing theories about economic growth and social progress together with summarizing practical experience in Vietnam and other countries in the world, in leading the Communist Party revolution Vietnam has affirmed: “Economic development level is a material condition for implementing social policies, social goals are the purpose of economic activities... On the basis of production development, increasing national income, gradually expanding the social consumer fund, making it an increasingly large position in the development of education, health care, culture and social welfare careers” Communist Party of Vietnam, 1987: 86). After the Sixth Congress, the renovation process became more and more in depth. Faced with life-changing changes arising from life, with a view of putting people at the center of the development strategy. The XII Party Congress stated: One of the great relationships that need to be continued to be thoroughly understood and handled is the relationship "between economic growth and cultural development, implementation of social progress and justice" (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2016: 80).

Accordingly, there is a dialectic relationship between economic growth and social progress, in which economic growth is a condition, a basis and a foundation for continuous improvement of material and spiritual life. God for the people, making social progress, is a measure of social progress; Social progress is a driving force for high and sustainable economic growth; social progress and justice are manifestations of economic growth; In the light of it, making appropriate social progress becomes the driving force of high and sustainable economic growth.
III. Current situation of economic growth and social progress in Vietnam

*Achievement*

Regarding economic growth. After 32 years of renovation, from 1986 to 2018, Vietnam's economy achieved an average GDP growth of 6.6%, the highest period of growth was from 1991-1995 with an GDP growth rate of 8.2%. Compared to some countries with the fastest economic growth in the world in the past 32 years, Vietnam's average GDP growth is second only to China (9.4%), above Korea, Malaysia (5.9%), Thailand (5.2%), USA (2.6%), Japan (1.7%) and Germany (1.8%) (Lan Anh, 2018). With a stable economic growth, Vietnam has gradually brought the economy out of crisis situation, becoming more and more effective and dynamic; people's lives have been increasingly improved, and the country has not only maintained political stability against major world changes but also made progress.

The achievements of economic growth have created a favorable basis for Vietnam Party and State to distribute products through a system of welfare policies to ensure fairness and social progress.

Regarding social progress, the Party and the State of Vietnam have actively and proactively developed plans and action plans to basically ensure the principle of distribution mainly based on labor results and economic efficiency, distributed according to the level of capital contribution. and other resources in production, business and through social welfare to link economic development with implementation of social progress and justice, ensuring that all people are equitable in accessing education, health, culture, enjoying the development achievements of the country. Paying attention to building harmonious, stable and progressive labor relations in the enterprise. Promote sustainable poverty reduction measures, shorten the rich-poor gap between the population classes, between urban and rural areas. Improve the quality of life of the people, support the disadvantaged, lonely people, bring a safe and happy life for all people for a civilized, modern and progressive society.

Firstly, about the average income of the employee. From 2007 and earlier, Vietnam was a low-income country with an average per capita income of less than 1,000 USD/person/year. By 2008, Vietnam became a low-middle-income country, with an average per capita income of 1,154 USD/person/year and increased to 2,540 USD/person/year in 2018 (General Statistics Office, 2018: 816). Increasing income of people over the years has contributed to improving the expenditure on life per capita at the current price increased from 705 thousand VND (2008) to 2,016 thousand VND (2016) (General Statistics Office, 2018: 833). Thus, with a high growth rate, stable jobs and increased income, living expenses in households are increasingly improved, the next year is higher than the previous year, contributing to improving the quality of life.

Secondly, regarding job creation, under the leadership of the Party, the administration of the Government through programs effectively integrate with the Socio-Economic Development Program, implementing employment credit projects with preferential interest rates from National fund for employment (The national fund for employment is the national reserve fund set aside for employment creation and employment service support. The national employment fund is made up of the following sources: State budget; assistance from domestic and foreign organizations and individuals in support of employment) has contributed to promoting economic restructuring, labor structure, linking vocational training with job creation, thanks to that, employment opportunities are increased and labor relations are improved. Looking back over the past years, the job creation and labor market development have obtained positive results: in the period of 2010-2015, jobs were created, jobs were created for about 7.8 million, of which 469 thousand people work abroad (Vietnam Communist Party, 2016: 238); Along with that, vocational training has gradually developed, contributing to raising the percentage of trained workers from less than 10% (in 1990) to 51.6% (in 2015) and 56% (in 2017); The unemployment rate decreased to 2.24% (General Statistics Office, 2018: 153). Employment sessions, labor market information system that engage workers and employers.

Thirdly, on hunger eradication and poverty reduction. In the process of socio-economic development, our Party and the State attach great importance to people, especially the poor, and are considered by the international public opinion as one of the typical countries in the implementation of the Millennium Goals on hunger elimination and poverty reduction. By national standards, the percentage of poor households has decreased from 30% in 1992 to 5.8% in 2016; According to the multi-dimensional poverty line, the poverty rate has decreased from 14.2% (2010) to 7.9% (2017), the poor districts alone decreased by 4% (GSO, 2018: 853). According to the Government's report on the results of implementing the 2017 socio-economic development plan; Socio-economic development plan in 2018, up to now, most of social policy beneficiaries, children under
6, the poor, ethnic minorities in disadvantaged areas have had health insurance. International; issuing health insurance cards for over 34.3 million people, supporting the purchase of health insurance cards for over 15.1 million people. The political determination in the struggle to reduce poverty in Vietnam has created conditions for all people to enjoy the achievements of economic growth, thereby rising out of poverty to improve their material and spiritual life.

Fourthly, regarding education and training, education and training development not only plays a role in promoting economic development, but also affects the basic development of people to ensure fairness and sustainable social progress. The 2010 Education Law states: “Educational development is a top national policy… all citizens have equal rights to study opportunities, priority to help the poor, children of ethnic minorities, particularly difficult socio-economic conditions to study; universalize pre-school education for children under 5 years old, universalize primary education and lower secondary education”. In order to create opportunities and conditions for children in poor households, children of ethnic minorities in disadvantaged areas, children without support… to access basic education, the Government has issued many books of tuition exemption, reduction and other preferential policies. In recent years, education and training have developed a new scale, diversifying types of classes from preschool, elementary school to college and university. In 2000, the whole country met the national standards on illiteracy eradication and primary education universalization; By the end of 2010, most provinces and cities will have achieved the standard of secondary education. The proportion of high school graduates from 2016 - 2017 school year accounted for 97.94%; The percentage of the population aged 15 and older nationwide literacy is 95.1%; 100% of provinces and cities meet the standard of preschool education for 5-year-old children (General Statistics Office, 2018: 120). Thus, the implementation of social progress in education has improved, especially creating many opportunities and learning conditions for ethnic minorities, remote areas, children of poor families and disable children. The education system has initially been diversified in terms of types, modes and resources, gradually integrating with the general trend of world education. From an education system with only public schools and mostly formal education, there are now non-public schools, many non-formal schools, open schools, distance education, method of joint training with foreign countries.

Fifthly, the protection and care for people's health have made progress. The mortality rate among children under 5 has decreased from 81‰ (1990) to about 21.5‰ (2017); The percentage of malnourished children has decreased from 50% to about 13.4%, respectively; 96.4% of children under one year old fully vaccinated (General Statistics Office, 2018: 802). The average life expectancy of people from 63 years in 1990 increased to 73.5 years in 2017. Compared to the health care work of countries in the region, this is clearly a huge achievement of the policy. Vietnam health (Thailand life expectancy is 72 years; Malaixai infant mortality rate is about 16% and the average life expectancy is 73.3 years). By 2017, the whole country had 13,583 medical examination and treatment facilities (General Statistics Office, 2018: 98), organized the complete health apparatus from grassroots level to provinces and cities in the direction of universalization, advance and modernity, improved the quality of health workers. The rate of participation in health insurance covers 83% of the population (equivalent to 75915.2 thousand people). This has facilitated better health care for all strata of society, promoting social progress.

Sixthly, about the human development index (HDI). Along with the achievements in job creation, increasing income, rapid poverty reduction, people's health care, there are positive changes in the HDI index in Vietnam, which is constantly improving, ensure equity and social progress in the development process. According to the United Nations report (UNDP, 2011): HDI increased from 0.683 (in 2000) to 0.728 (in 2011) and 0.775 (in 2012), ranked 128/187 countries, belonging to the high average group of the world gender. In 2011, Vietnam has completed 6/8 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set by the United Nations for developing countries by 2015 and the HDI continues to improve from 0.695 in 2016 to 0.700. 2017 (General Statistics Office, 2018: 776). This has proved that the connection between economic growth and social progress in our country is constantly spreading and converging among people, step by step ensuring more and more the material and spiritual needs of the people.

* Limitation

From the results of the analysis and evaluation above, the implementation of economic growth and social progress in Vietnam over the past time has contributed to a clear improvement of the material and cultural life of the people, such as Unemployment rate decreased over the years, income increased, HDI index increased,
education and health developed, thereby improving the quality of human resources for socio-economic development and sustainable development. However, the implementation of economic growth and social progress in Vietnam is still limited, such as: Vietnam is still a country with low average income per capita. The internal restructuring of the economic sector is still slow, the proportion of industries and high-value services is low, the industry is still heavy; business environment is not clear and unfavorable to attract investment, start-up and develop supporting industries slowly; Scientific and technological investment is still low, the effectiveness is not high... (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2016: 119). Therefore, productivity, quality, efficiency and competitiveness of the economy are low. Limited physical resources for addressing social problems.

About social progress. The organization of implementation of the coherent view between economic growth and implementation of social progress has not yet been comprehensive and comprehensive. Due to pressures on economic growth, some localities pay little attention to cultural development and social progress. While planning and building programs and projects of socio-economic development, many places have focused on economic benefits, not paying enough attention to social progress and justice. At the same time, the policy system for implementing economic growth and social progress is not suitable to reality but it is slowly revised; The system of cultural institutions is inconsistent and incomplete, leading to many cultural heritages, both tangible and intangible, are not preserved and embellished. Social evils and crimes (especially in young people) are worrying. Haven't overcome the weakness in state management of culture. The struggle to prevent harmful cultural products (especially on the internet) is still inadequate.

Although the unemployment rate has decreased from 2.28% (in 2010) to 2.24% (in 2017) (GSO, 2018: 150), rural unemployment due to lack of education, land loss due to urbanization, as well as the "disguised unemployment" in urban areas still exist and tend to increase, causing significant consequences in the process of implementing social security. Poverty reduction is not sustainable, the highest risk of falling back into poverty is in the ethnic minority plains, the deepest and most remote areas are ethnic minorities (in some districts and communes up to 50%) (Party Communist Vietnam, 2016: 256). The greater the difference in living and cultural enjoyment between the urban and suburban people; The rich-poor gap tend...

However, according to the General Statistics Office (2018), Group 1 (20% of the lowest income earners) is 711 thousand VND / month, Group 5 (20% of the highest income people) is 7,547 thousand VND /month. The coefficient of income difference between Group 1 and Group 5 tends to widen 9.8 times (in 1995 it was 6.99 times, in 2006 it was 8.4 times, in 2013 it was 9.55 times) (Total Department of Statistics, 2018: 825). This shows that the average income in Vietnam between the richest and the poorest groups has not improved but tends to increase rapidly.

Contents, programs and methods of education and training have not become the driving force of the process of industrialization and modernization; medical examination and treatment and health care for people are limited. In the field of health care, although the health network has been expanded, its distribution is not reasonable and not convenient for people. The quality of medical examination and treatment has not met the requirements, especially at the grassroots level. Medical ethics of a part of health workers is not good. Overcoming the hospital overload is still slow, especially at the last level. The spare medical work is still present. The implementation of the market price roadmap for health services and autonomy mechanism in public health units is still slow (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2016: 256 -257).

**IV. Some solutions to associate between the economic growth and social progress in Vietnam**

In order to maintain and promote the current implementation of economic growth and social progress in Vietnam, we recommend the following solutions:

Firstly, fully and deeply aware of the objective of implementing economic growth associated with social progress in each strategy and every socio-economic development policy at all levels and branches and the entire population, especially in agencies planning and implementing socio-economic development policies. It is not necessary to forget the need to combine harmoniously with addressing social issues in the planning and implementation of economic policies. Because, according to the principles of Marxist philosophy, in the dialectical relationship between cognition, reasoning and reality, perception and reasoning play a guiding role in all human activities, such as Ho Chi Minh also asserted: "Practices without guiding theory become reality blindly" (Ho Chi Minh, 2000: 468). That means, without proper awareness there will be no right action. Therefore, the first solution to the implementation of economic growth and social progress in Vietnam today is
the cognitive solution. From there, it creates a unity of awareness and action in Vietnam's political system, aiming at the goal of human development.

Secondly, promoting rapid and sustainable economic growth for the purposes of social security and welfare, creating important conditions for social progress, requiring the synchronous implementation of guidelines, solutions, especially focused on perfecting socialist-oriented market economy institutions. Along with that, Vietnam needs to focus on economic restructuring towards service - industry - agriculture, focusing on developing added value industries and modern scientific content. Actively renovate and complete the legal framework, improve the investment environment, remove obstacles on administrative mechanisms, policies and procedures to mobilize all resources for economic development; At the same time, the State must use resources, regulating tools, distribution and redistribution policies to develop culture, implement democracy and social progress.

Thirdly, to promote the formulation, adjustment and perfection of mechanisms and policies to implement economic growth and social progress. It is necessary to identify the social issues that need focusing on solving first, meeting the urgent goals of society. In our opinion, we need to focus on specific solutions:

(i) Good settlement of labor - employment and income of all strata. This is considered the most sustainable way to make social progress in our country. The Resolution of the 12th Party Congress determined: “Creating opportunities for people to get a job and improve income. Ensuring fair wages, income, living conditions and reproduction of labor power” (Vietnam Communist Party, 2016: 136), therefore mechanisms and policies are needed to promote the role of the private sector. The private sector is in the process of development by continuing to create a healthy and equal business environment between the private sector and the state sector under the principles of the market economy. Support the private sector with practical policies, close to practical needs. To attach importance to raising the quality of human resources; Vocational training and job creation for laborers must be associated with socio-economic planning, economic development programs, trades and orientations for economic restructuring of each locality. Mobilizing all investment resources to participate in vocational training. Along with that, perfecting and implementing labor protection policies, promoting labor export is an important solution in creating jobs, meeting practical needs, contributing to increasing incomes and improving workmanship for current workers.

(ii) Implement well the work of hunger elimination and poverty reduction. It is necessary to thoroughly grasp the Party's viewpoint: “In developing and implementing socio-economic development policies, paying due attention to disadvantaged classes and parts of society and ethnic minorities, remote areas, overcoming the trend of increasing rich-poor divide, ensuring stability and sustainable social development” (Vietnam Communist Party, 2016: 135). This is an urgent issue that needs to be addressed to ensure current social progress. In order to accomplish this goal, the Party and the State should drastically incorporate the multi-dimensional poverty reduction goals into the content of the national socio-economic development strategy: Direct the provinces and cities to elaborate detailed plans. Submit annual poverty reduction policies and plans according to specific roadmaps with practical solutions, close to the assistance needs of the poor with specific conditions of the provinces and cities, avoiding phase burning; review and classify poor and near-poor households objectively and accurately to take appropriate support measures. Focus on promoting poverty reduction in rural, remote and isolated areas; pay attention to helping the weak, disabled, frail and lonely people, on the basis of mobilizing all social resources in combination with state resources, ensuring their essential needs.

(iii) Continue to innovate fundamentally and comprehensively the training content and methods according to the country's development requirements, gradually creating a comprehensive development of human resources for knowledge, competence and professional ethics, this has a key meaning in the system of solutions for achieving economic growth and social progress. Specifically: For the general education level, ensuring that all people of school age can go to school; focus on developing intellectual, physical, forming quality, civic capacity, discovering and fostering aptitude, career orientation for students in accordance with the country's economic characteristics; For higher education, it is necessary to strongly change the industries that the market needs and aim to train the industries that the market will need, in which, focusing on human resources for the industries with technological and high value added and ensure the demand for high-quality labor to serve the process of socio-economic development.

(iv) Promote socialization of health, pilot establishment of medical examination and treatment facilities in the form of public-private partnership and hospital management model such as public enterprises; accelerate
the implementation of universal health insurance. Encourage and support creative ideas, promote innovation and development, especially in the fields of economy, society, science - technology, culture, art ... Social Development Management focus on building a reasonable social development model, focusing on low-income social strata on the basis of constantly improving people's lives.

V. Conclusion
In nearly 35 years of renovation, Vietnam has escaped from the group of poor countries, its material and cultural life has been constantly improved, its position has been constantly improved in the international arena. However, the negative side of the market economy and international integration have negatively impacted on the lives of workers, such as unemployment, the gap between rich and poor, income inequality ... Therefore, the good implementation of the relationship between economic growth and social progress in Vietnam today has great theoretical and practical significance, needs to be properly understood and implemented effectively, to realize the goal "wealthy people, strong country, justice and civilization".

VI. References