

# Preserving and Promoting Vietnamese Family Traditions in the Context of International Integration

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**Abstract**— Family is the place where national culture originates and is preserved. In the process of accompanying the history of the nation, Vietnamese families have constantly cultivated 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 Vietnamese families has been and is changing, but traditional family values are always preserved, transmitted and spread, creating a solid foundation for building modern families.



**Keywords**— Family, tradition, preservation, promotion, international integration, Vietnam.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Throughout the development process, generations of families have formed and nurtured good traditions, creating a unique cultural identity of the Vietnamese family. The outstanding values of the Vietnamese family are love and sharing among family members; affection, loyalty, and harmony in the relationship between husband and wife; exemplary grandparents; kind parents and filial children; exemplary grandparents and filial children; loving, harmonious, close-knit siblings who support each other; patriotic traditions; community solidarity; respect for teachers, studiousness, etc., along with customs and practices in weddings, funerals, death anniversaries, etc. It is the crystallization of family culture and national culture, cultivated through many generations and periods, creating a strong bond between members and generations, making the flow of traditional family culture not interrupted but always having a regular and continuous continuation. Currently, under the strong impact of international integration, the Vietnamese family value system is changing in different directions, but the traditional beauty of the family continues to be passed down, preserved and promoted along with the process of assimilation of new and progressive values of the times, contributing to building a prosperous, happy, progressive and civilized family.

## II. THE CURRENT SITUATION OF PRESERVING AND PROMOTING VIETNAMESE FAMILY TRADITIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL INTEGRATION

Social life in our country is undergoing profound and comprehensive changes under the impact of the market economy, international integration and the rapid development of science and technology. Under such impact, traditional family values are also inevitably changing. In the past, everyone had the common dream of building a family of “three or four generations under one roof”, but now this dream is no longer popular. Although fidelity in marital relationships is still highly valued, it does not only stem from the family's survival needs, but also increasingly values the satisfaction of the individual's psychological and emotional needs. At the same time, instead of the previous patriarchy, democracy and equality among family members are highly valued, 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 acceptance of outside lifestyles, some traditional family values are being eroded and distorted. The relationship between members in some families is becoming loose and lacking in cohesion. Under the negative impact of information technology, direct communication between family members tends to decline, leading to an increase in loneliness in one's own home. The relationship between

husband and wife has sometimes changed for the worse; loyalty, affection, and harmony between husband and wife have shown signs of decline; the marriage relationship of some young families has become fragile, due to being influenced by an open, pragmatic lifestyle, pursuing material interests, causing the divorce rate to increase rapidly in recent years. The relationship between parents, grandparents and children shows signs of lack of connection, due to the narrowing of living space and family communication, and the emphasis on personal needs and interests. Many parents do not fulfill their duties and responsibilities, do not take care of the future generations, and there are also many adversities where children are irresponsible towards their parents and grandparents, unfilial and unrighteous. Relationships between siblings also have instability, sometimes just because of money, small and trivial interests, the brotherhood is lost. Due to calculations of gains and losses, and the pursuit of personal interests, the village and neighborhood relationships have somewhat declined.

In marital relationships, fidelity is always considered the standard and top criterion in marital relationships. Survey results show that up to 41.6% consider fidelity as “important”, and 56.7% consider fidelity as “very important”<sup>2</sup>. At the same time, marital harmony is also a particularly important factor in maintaining family happiness. In the relationship between grandparents, parents and children, the standard of benevolent grandparents, kind parents, and filial children is a characteristic of Vietnamese families.

Grandparents and parents always pay attention to raising their children and grandchildren, helping them take care of building a family, a future, and happiness. Children not only respect, love, obey, and support their parents and grandparents, but also strive to cultivate themselves, constantly study to improve themselves, and bring their parents pride in their children's achievements.

In the relationship between brothers and sisters, harmony, love and mutual support are traditional values of Vietnamese families. In which, "harmony" is considered the top requirement and standard. Brothers and sisters in the family must always love, unite and help each other, not quarrel or fight for interests with each other even when they have their own families and lives. Harmony is not only an intrinsic need of the relationship between brothers and sisters but also a requirement and desire of parents and relatives. Although society has many changes, the harmony, close bond, and steadfastness between blood relatives still hold a very high position in social life. Whether rich or poor in material terms, brothers and sisters still maintain their affection for each other, always in

harmony, close bond, ready to share the good and the bad, and help each other to rise up in life.

Along with preserving and promoting cultural beauty in family relationships, most Vietnamese families today always promote community awareness, pay attention to responsibilities and obligations to the community and society. Most families always value kinship, clan, affection, and live in harmony with village and neighborhood affection... In particular, every Vietnamese family always focuses on preserving and promoting the tradition of patriotism, the spirit of national solidarity, promoting the tradition of studiousness, the morality of respecting teachers and valuing education, taking education as the foundation to practice human morality; focusing on educating the virtues of diligence, hard work and the will to overcome difficulties and rise up in life. Each family not only trains habits, the ability to develop thinking, creativity, and skills in work, but also educates children to appreciate the fruits of labor, to be diligent and hard-working, thereby training children's independence and self-awareness, helping the younger generation to become more mature and have the will to rise up in life. Grandparents and parents always teach their children good things, right things, to know how to maintain harmony, love, protect, and help each other in the family, clan, stick with the village, unite, and share responsibility with the community and society.

Many families have paid attention to performing family rituals on holidays and Tet, maintaining family cultural activities, making the values of truth, goodness and beauty from family cultural traditions naturally passed on to children, contributing to forming a healthy lifestyle, forming and developing human personality and preserving and promoting the character of Vietnamese people, preserving national cultural identity in modern life.

However, the negative side of the international integration process also makes it impossible for families to avoid negative impacts, some traditional cultural features of the family are also lost and forgotten. Some families do not pay attention to education, or are interested but are confused about both content and methods, causing many consequences, especially the degradation of family and social ethics. In the process of international integration, there have appeared manifestations of strange lifestyles, lifestyles, contrary to social norms, seeking personal interests, promoting material values, disregarding spiritual values, trampling on stereotypes, authentic cultural values in a part of the social classes and components. Strange lifestyles and ways of living, contrary to the good standard values of Vietnamese families, have been penetrating the lives of many families, especially young families. Many cultural products are born hastily, chasing after profits and

commercial efficiency or following trivial tastes, turning their backs on noble spiritual values, creating obstacles to raising the intellectual level of the people. Visual culture dominates all space and time, threatens reading culture, word culture, creating inertia and laziness in young people. Many people are tied to screens, digital screens, absorbed in culinary pleasures, new music, fashion... forgetting the rich and diverse spiritual fields with cultural depth. The consequences of these negative impacts lead to a part of the social classes and elements that tend to pursue personal interests, trampling on the patterns and true moral values of society. Many young people today have the mentality of learning a pragmatic, indulgent lifestyle, worshipping money, consuming Western goods, turning their backs on traditional culture and morality. Customs and practices that were considered traditional and beautiful are now considered “old-fashioned” and outdated by the younger generation. The penetration of toxic culture, cultural hybridity, pragmatic lifestyles and other negative aspects of the market economy have been and are affecting and corrupting traditional cultural values, affecting the sustainable development of the country.

### III. SOME SOLUTIONS TO PRESERVE AND PROMOTE VIETNAMESE FAMILY TRADITIONS IN THE FACE OF THE IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL INTEGRATION

*Firstly*, raise awareness and responsibility of agencies and sectors about the importance of promoting and building Vietnamese family culture. Party committees, authorities, the Fatherland Front, and socio-political organizations must be thoroughly aware of the Party's viewpoints and guidelines, the State's policies and laws on the role of the family in the sustainable and stable development of society. From there, promote propaganda work to each locality and each family effectively. Forms of propaganda and education must be rich, with diverse and creative content.

*Second*, focus on building a cultural family based on inheriting and promoting good traditional cultural values, and adapting progressive and modern values. Strengthening the preservation and promotion of good family values to create cohesion in each family, consolidate the community, and link family love with love for the country. At the same time, overcoming and eliminating traditions that are no longer appropriate such as: patriarchy, gender inequality, inequality in relationships between generations, cumbersome and expensive rituals in funerals and weddings; localism according to clans and localities, etc. Selectively absorb

the cultural values of humanity, while preventing the infiltration and spread of lifestyles that are contrary to good customs. In building Vietnamese families today, it is necessary to implement progressive monogamous marriages based on true love between men and women, recognized and protected by law; build a democratic, equal, harmonious, and loving family atmosphere; consolidate and build family traditions, and promote the educational value of the family.

*Third*, perfecting mechanisms, policies and laws on building and promoting the family cultural value system. Mechanisms, policies and laws need to be consulted with people's opinions through direct dialogue. On that basis, competent agencies, departments and branches will resolve people's questions or concerns, and from there, have the right and complete orientation in building family culture in the context of current international integration. Promote policies such as: building studious families; policies for families in especially difficult circumstances, policies for the elderly... The advantages and limitations that still exist in these policies. This is also the basis for building and planning mechanisms and policies to build and promote the system of family cultural values correctly and accurately, meeting the requirements in the new situation.

*Fourth*, society needs to support parents so that they have new methods, measures, and educational content that are suitable for the changes in new family values in the current context of globalization and international integration. A happy family, a prosperous and sustainably developed country, that is the wish and aspiration of the entire Vietnamese people. Family is a sacred nest, a place to nurture and develop people. A fully developed person will contribute to and build a good, civilized society and a strong, developed nation. Therefore, each member of the family must live responsibly for themselves and their family, knowing how to build family cultural values: Prosperity, happiness, progress, civilization, and join hands to contribute to the cause of national development.

### IV. CONCLUSION

The family is the place to preserve and transfer traditional cultural values from one generation to the next, contributing to preserving and promoting the cultural identity of the nation. It is also these traditional values that are endogenous factors that contribute to building a family that truly becomes a warm home, a cradle that nurtures the life of each person. Currently, international integration has created opportunities to preserve and promote the cultural features of Vietnamese families, affirming their value in modern life, but also caused many difficulties and

challenges for this work. Therefore, it is necessary to simultaneously implement many solutions to protect and promote the good and sustainable values in Vietnamese cultural traditions, preserve, transmit and spread the good traditional cultural values of families, creating the foundation for building modern families.

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