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The Role of Social Security in Social Progress in Vietnam

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Abstract--In the process of international integration, the State of Vietnam has always determined that implementing social security is both a goal and a driving force for sustainable development, maintaining socio-political stability. Over the years, Vietnam's social security has contributed to building a people-centered economy in Vietnam. Although the implementation of social security in Vietnam has achieved certain results with social progress, there are still some limitations that need to be overcome in the coming time to continue to improve social security towards a just and progressive society. The article analyzes the current situation (results and limitations) of the role of social security in social progress in Vietnam in the process of international integration; thereby contributing to providing more scientific bases for the decisions of the Government of Vietnam to improve the social security system to ensure social progress nowadays.

Keywords--international integration Vietnam, social progress, social security, sustainable development.

Introduction

In the process of human development, social progress is one of the basic problems of each era, because it is posed together with human existence, associated with dreams and aspirations for people's happiness. Therefore,

determining the true value of development, and at the same time gathering, using, and effectively promoting resources to realize social progress becomes an urgent need ([Cecchini & Martínez, 2012; Tram, 2021](#)).

Vietnam is a developing country with specific conditions and circumstances. Vietnam has been overcoming the consequences of prolonged war and in the period of industrialization and modernization. The process of international integration has brought profound socio-economic changes. The economy has grown rapidly, the economic structure has shifted towards progress, the per capita income has been increasing day by day, the material and spiritual life of the people has improved sharply. However, due to the low starting point, the impact of international economic integration, and other reasons, many new and complicated social problems arose. The gap between rich and poor, the inequality in income, creating the widening income inequality gap are the seeds for social unrest. The process of economic restructuring has resulted in millions of agricultural workers losing their land, moving from rural to urban areas in search of work, and having to accept a life full of risks and precariousness. The risk of unemployment, illness, and sickness is threatening some workers, especially unskilled workers. In addition, climate change has been negatively affecting the socio-economic development of Vietnam, such as drought, desertification in agriculture, coastal erosion, etc. The number of disadvantaged and vulnerable people who need supports in society remains a lot ([Ahmad et al., 1991; Pham, 2009](#)). Therefore, building an appropriate social security system, contributing to the implementation of social insurance is an issue of urgent theoretical and practical significance. The research questions in this study will be:

- What are the achievements and limitations in promoting the role of social security in social progress in Vietnam?
- What are some basic solutions to promote the role of social security in social progress in Vietnam in the coming time?

Method

According to Oxfam, the economy must be designed and built to meet the different needs of everyone, while protecting our planet. Oxfam believes that it is an economy for people with the goal of equality, fairness, and sustainability; social progress benefits everyone without destroying the environment; respect paid and unpaid contributions to the economy. Therefore, in the economy for people, governments must develop policies towards equality and fairness for everyone, including women and children. The economy for people must first ensure equality of opportunities and income, take care of the environment and social values ([Butt et al., 2018](#)).

One of the requirements of the economy for people is to ensure the right to social security with a minimum income and to ensure access to basic social services for everyone. In every person's life, it is not always possible to have a stable source of income to meet living needs. When they are old and weak, when they are sick, have accidents, lose their working capacity or when they encounter natural disasters, crop failures, etc., people have no income or a decline in income. How to ensure life, meet living needs, at least minimally, when such problems occur?

In the past, people often responded to risks by saving and hoarding when they had the income to compensate for their loss or decline in income. They can also get support from each other, between family members, such as parents helping children, children helping parents, brothers helping each other. They can ask for help from relatives, the surrounding community when needed (Tri, 2020; Thakur, 1996).

However, these options are not always feasible. In many cases, accumulated income is not enough to compensate for the decline, loss of income, not to mention many individuals and households are not able to accumulate or save because of low income. The support of family and relatives has also limited if even these people themselves have no income or low income. In addition, along with the development of production and society, the number of workers and hired laborers increased in number, the size of the families became smaller, the relationships between family, relatives, community. The decrease in the income of the labor force leads to a decrease in income support from relatives and relatives, creating a great risk for the majority of workers when they reach old age when they are unfortunately sick or ill. Therefore, social security was born to ensure income for those who unfortunately lose or decrease their income due to health, old age, unemployment, or other reasons (Hoan, 2021; Tram et al., 2021).

According to the International Labor Organization (ILO): "Social security is the protection that society provides to individuals and households to ensure access to health and income security, especially in case of old age, unemployment, sickness, disability, labor accident, maternity or lack of caregivers" (ILO, 2020). According to the concept of the United Nations, the social security system consists of the following components (pillars):

- Social insurance system (retirement, health insurance, pension scheme, short-term social insurance).
- Social support system (poverty alleviation allowance, social support for disadvantaged groups, etc.).
- Universal Social Benefit (family allowance, public health service, pension for the elderly).
- Private Benefit Systems (Dung, 2010).
- At the Preparatory Conference on "ASEAN Social Security" in June 2001 in Singapore, scientists introduced a relatively broad concept of social security. The social security system includes (Tuan & Hoang, 2015).
- The system of social insurance and savings: insurance for industrial accidents, health care, the elderly, unemployment, etc. It is a system with the participation and contributions of parties to create reserves to use for schools in case of old age, sickness, maternity, death, disability, injury, occupational disease, unemployment, etc.
- Social assistance and social services (subsidy). It's the kind of social welfare that comes from taxes and donors.
- Labor market policy (including active and passive labor market): creating job opportunities; forming human resources, developing professional skills; job search (information, job recommendation); retraining; job creation support.

In 2011, the United Nations centered on the ILO and the World Health Organization (WHO), launched the Social Protection Floor – SPF - a set of core transfers and services in the areas of health, water and sanitation, education, food, housing, and information, and relief of people and property. To ensure that the needs and interests of different social security beneficiaries are met, the social security system is organized into a safety net. Typically, social security includes:

Firstly, the job settlement support system. The job settlement support system helps employees get jobs to earn income, thereby, ensuring social security for themselves. Social security is also aimed at providing job opportunities for people of working age, connecting unemployed people with businesses that need labor; training, vocational training, capacity building for employees so that they can search, change jobs or create jobs for themselves. In particular, the social security net focuses on supporting job creation and income growth for the poor, women, and disadvantaged groups. For people of working age who are eligible to work, job support is the most important security support for them to ensure a sustainable income for themselves. In countries, the system of employment support and poverty reduction is often organized at administrative levels from the central to local levels with the participation of many different agencies and organizations, in which, the advisory role The organization is often associated with competent agencies in the field of labor and employment. The job creation support system usually operates thanks to the state budget and contributions from organizations and individuals.

Secondly, the social insurance system. The social insurance system plays the role of a support net if an employee is unfortunately unable to work, loses his/her job due to illness, maternity, labor accident, or retires due to old age. At that time, they need a payment insurance system to ensure their income. The social insurance system plays a central role in the social security network, helping to hedge against the risks of loss or decline in income. The social insurance system is often unified and divided into levels from central to local. The main source of funds for the system is from compulsory and/or voluntary social insurance contributions. In addition, there may be other sources of revenue from support from the state budget, charitable contributions, profit from fund investment. The beneficiaries of social insurance are those who participate in social insurance, that is, have paid contributions social insurance contributions.

Thirdly, the social support system. The social insurance system plays a key role in ensuring income in the event of old age, illness, or loss of income, provided that they must participate in social insurance. However, in many cases, individuals and households do not or have no conditions to participate in social insurance (eg people with disabilities, unemployed, poor people). In addition, the livelihoods of individuals and households may encounter some unusual risks outside the scope of social insurance, such as natural disasters, crop failure, etc., which also cause individuals and households to lose income. enter and fall into poverty. The social assistance system then acts as a third safety net to support individuals and households. Social assistance is direct cash or in-kind subsidies to poor or vulnerable individuals and households, usually provided by the state with the state budget. The social assistance system is often organized in a variety of ways,

including the participation of the state, social organizations, community institutions, etc.

Fourthly, the basic social service guarantee system. Employment, social insurance, and social assistance are all aimed at ensuring income for the population. However, besides income, one of the social security rights of people is to be provided with basic social services, such as health, education, clean water, housing, information... Besides, having access to basic social services also aims to create opportunities for individuals to improve their capacity and develop human capital so that they can have jobs, income, and ensure social security for themselves and their families while contributing to socio-economic development. Usually, when there is a lack of income, on the one hand, people may not be able to enjoy basic social services; on the other hand, in some places, especially in remote, isolated, and economically disadvantaged areas, even with income, it may be difficult for people to access basic social services, or only access to basic social services poor quality service. Meanwhile, this is also an essential need of the people. Access to basic social services is not only a human right, but it is also meaningful to social security and national development in the long term, because people with an education level, guaranteed health care, will develop into qualified, useful citizens who can have jobs with secure incomes and contribute to improving the quality of human resources.

The parts of the social security network are related to each other and interact with each other and work towards performing the function of the social security net, which is to prevent risks, protect people and promote development. Thus, social security is a system towards building an economy for people through ensuring income and accessing basic social services for all people, especially focusing on supporting disadvantaged groups. in society are the elderly, people with disabilities, women, children, and the poor. Building social security to cover the entire population to ensure that everyone can access and enjoy social security is a requirement of the economy for people.

The article is made based on the theory of the ILO, the view of the Vietnamese State on the role of social security for social insurance in Vietnam today. With the methodology of dialectical materialism and historical materialism; combining historical-logical methods, analysis, and synthesis, abstraction, and generalization methods, systematization. At the same time, some other social science research methods are used, such as comparison methods. Compare and analyze data.

Literature Review

The role of social security in social progress is one of the important issues in the development strategy of each country. Therefore, it has been and is a matter of interest and research by scientists in the country and around the world with approaches and studies from many different angles. Major projects include:

Basis of social security in Asia: Mutual aid, microinsurance, and social security, James Midgley was the first to comprehensively study the activities of mutual associations and their microinsurance programs. in Asia where these programs

are particularly well developed. The content of the book can be summarized as follows: Based on providing basic information to identify and basic format of associations affecting each other in different parts of the region, including South Asia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Mongolia, Indonesia, and the Philippines, the book has shown readers important insights into the potential of associations to provide effective income protection and how Their work can contribute to the development of a comprehensive social security strategy and an effective basis in the developing world that makes a significant contribution to the goals of hunger eradication, poverty reduction and improvement of living standards ([Midgley & Hosaka, 2011](#)). Social Security, Medicare & Government Pensions product by Joseph Matthews Attorney. The book discusses in depth the benefits and health care system, social housing, pensions, policies for people who have contributed to the country, and how to ensure the best health insurance ([Attorney, 2012](#)).

In the book, Social Security and Human Resource Development said that social security has contributed to promoting social progress that social development is a process in which economic factors and social factors often affect each other... According to the author, it should be seen that social security does not eliminate poverty but only poverty has the effect of contributing to the eradication of poverty, contributing to the promotion ([Tien, 2005](#)).

Developing Vietnam's social security system until 2020 provided some basic information on the implementation of social security in 2013 and analyzed in depth the limitations and policy orientations to overcome the shortcomings. inequality exists. For the field of social insurance policy, which is one of the main pillars of the social security policy system, the research team gives 5 shortcomings and 5 recommendations for policy improvement. Specifically, the type of compulsory social insurance, with the provisions of the current law, has arisen some shortcomings such as the low level of compliance of enterprises, the risk of large fund imbalance and the extent of pension benefits are still low (only 21% of people aged 60 and over have a pension). With the type of voluntary social insurance, the number of participants is still very low, farmers and young workers are not involved much. With the type of accident insurance, the coverage is still narrow, limited to employees in enterprises with 10 or more employees. To solve the above shortcomings, the research team makes recommendations: with compulsory social insurance, it is necessary to strengthen sanctions; gradually adjust the retirement age to enjoy social insurance; improve the investment and growth situation of the fund. With voluntary social insurance, develop policies to encourage farmers and informal sector workers to participate. With accident insurance, it is necessary to expand the coverage regardless of the size of the business. This is an important document for studying the role of social security in social progress in Vietnam during the doi moi years ([Huong, 2009](#)).

In the article Building and perfecting the social security system - an important tool to implement social justice in our country, the author has argued that a strong social security system is an important tool. contribute to the realization of social justice. The construction and completion of the social security system have a great role and meaning for each individual as well as the community and the whole society. It is an urgent and practical task to realize social justice, ensure a safe life for all people, and stabilize and develop the society sustainably.

Social security policy and the role of the State in the implementation of social security policy in Vietnam, based on the study of the current situation of social security policy in Vietnam in 30 years of implementing the land renewal policy In the country, author Nguyen Van Chieu pointed out that in the past period, many guidelines of the Party, policies, and laws of the State have been implemented effectively, making an important contribution to the process of economic development. with the guarantee of social justice and progress. However, according to the author, our country's social security policies still reveal certain limitations ([Chien, 2014](#)).

In the book Social Security in Vietnam towards 2020, the author analyzed practical issues of social security in our country, including achievements as well as limitations and weaknesses. shortcomings and orientations for building a social security system in Vietnam from now to 2020 ([Phuc, 2012](#)). However, the above works mainly refer to each aspect of social security from the perspective of sociology, economics, jurisprudence, social management, etc., have not been systematically explained and generalized from a philosophical perspective on the role of social security in social progress, the points of view and solutions raised still have certain limitations, which have not fundamentally changed the overall perception, methods of building a model of social security by the requirements of the current social development of Vietnam.

Research Results

Results of the implementation of the social safety net to ensure social progress in Vietnam

Resolution No. 15-NQ/TW, dated June 1, 2012, of the 5th Plenum of the XI Central Committee, On some social policy issues for the period 2012 - 2020, set a determination to develop the system. Social security is suitable for a middle-income country and with international standards, ensuring better and better basic human rights. Then, at the 7th Plenum of the 12th Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the Communist Party of Vietnam clarified the orientation and solutions to reform social insurance policies in Resolution No. 28-NQ/TW, dated May 23, 2018, On reform social insurance policy. The resolution points out the reform contents including i) Building a multi-tiered insurance system with 3 layers: The first tier is a social pension allowance for the elderly without a pension or v monthly. The second tier is basic social insurance, which includes compulsory and voluntary social insurance based on contributions of employees and employers. The third tier is supplementary pension insurance according to market principles so that employees and employers have more options to contribute to enjoy a higher pension; ii) Adjust the minimum period of participation in social insurance to enjoy retirement flexibly, adjust the pension calculation according to the principles of contribution - benefit, fairness, equality, sharing, and sustainability. Expand the subjects participating in compulsory social insurance. Strengthen linkages and support between social insurance policies as well as policy flexibility to achieve the goal of expanding coverage. Increase the number of workers participating in social insurance in the informal sector. Amending regulations on premium rates and payment bases to achieve the

goal of expanding social insurance coverage; iii) Reform in formulating and organizing the implementation of policies to strengthen confidence and increase the level of satisfaction of participants in the social insurance system; iv) Implement the adjustment to increase the retirement age according to the roadmap. Overcome the unreasonableness of the pension insurance regime in the direction of flexible eligibility conditions, stricter regulations on enjoying the lump-sum social insurance regime, increasing the actual average retirement age of employees. Adjust the accumulation rate to reach the maximum pension benefit rate in line with international practices. Adjustment of pension is relatively independent about wages of working people, changing the way of adjusting pension towards sharing; v) Diversify the investment portfolio and structure the investment of the Social Insurance Fund according to the principles of safety, sustainability and efficiency.

Concretizing the guidelines and policies of the Party and State, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has built a legal system and promulgated many mechanisms and policies to better ensure social security for the people. There are general laws and policies on social security as well as separate laws and policies for each pillar and specific content of social security. On that basis, the State has determined that Vietnam's social security net consists of four main pillars: employment, social insurance, social assistance, and basic social services.

From the perspective of subjects covered and the level of social security beneficiaries, Vietnam's current social security network is a multi-layered social security network, similar to the ILO's social security floor model. Accordingly, at the first level, the State ensures the minimum security for the people through social subsidies, poverty reduction, and the provision of basic social services. Vietnam's welfare model aims to ensure people have a minimum standard of living, paying special attention to disadvantaged groups, such as children, the elderly, people with disabilities, women, the poor, and compatriots. ethnic minority ([Vo & Ellis, 2018](#); [La & Xu, 2017](#); [Adger, 1999](#)). However, due to economic development conditions and budgetary capacity, it is still difficult to ensure this minimum standard of living. With the policy of applying the multi-tiered model of social insurance with a social pension at the first tier set forth by our Party in the Resolution of the 7th Plenum of the 12th Central Committee, Vietnam is aiming to ensure minimum security for the elderly. pension or other income. The second layer is social security based on social insurance under the mechanism of payment - benefit, share. Employees who pay insurance premiums are of working age and are entitled to social insurance regimes in the event of illness, disease, accident, or maternity. When they are old, they are entitled to a pension and when they die, they are entitled to a survivorship regime. In addition, there is additional social insurance on the third tier for those who want higher coverage. Over the past years, Vietnam's implementation of social security has contributed to ensuring social progress and building a people-oriented economy in Vietnam. Specifically:

First, the social security net has contributed to job security and poverty reduction. Thanks to that, many workers have jobs, guaranteed livelihoods, and incomes. The rate of poor households in Vietnam has decreased rapidly. The National Target Program for Sustainable Poverty Reduction has been effectively

implemented, focusing on the poorest districts and extremely difficult communes. The emulation movement "The whole country joins hands for the poor - leaving no one behind" has achieved many positive results. The rate of poor households decreased rapidly from 11.76% in 2011 (according to the poverty line in the period 2011 - 2015) to 3.75% in 2019 (according to the poverty line in the period 2016 - 2020), an average annual decrease of more than 1.3% Vietnam's achievements in poverty reduction are highly appreciated by the international community ([World Bank and Ministry of Planning and Investment of Vietnam, 2016](#)).

Second, the coverage of social insurance increases, better ensuring the interests of the insured, especially improving the benefits for women giving birth, sick workers, and unemployed. The proportion of the labor force in the age group participating in social insurance has increased from 21.8% in 2011 to 32% in 2019. In particular, voluntary social insurance in the whole period 2008 - 2018 only attracted More than 270 thousand participants, by the end of 2019, it has increased to 545 thousand people. The proportion of the labor force in the age group participating in unemployment insurance increased from 17.1% in 2011 to over 27% in 2019. The whole country has 85.39 million people participating in health insurance, accounting for 90% of the population. In 2019, covering the entire population (According to data reported by Vietnam Social Insurance)

Social insurance and health insurance become an important social safety net, supporting people to overcome the risks of illness, occupational accident - occupational disease, maternity, unemployment, end of working-age. Currently, the whole country has over 3.1 million people enjoying the monthly pension and social insurance allowance; each year the Social Insurance Fund pays benefits for sickness, maternity, occupational accidents, and occupational diseases for 6-10 million turns of people; due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, only in the first 6 months of 2020, unemployment insurance paid unemployment benefits for over 500,000 people. Health insurance helps to reduce direct out-of-pocket spending on health services, contributing to equity in health care, especially for disadvantaged groups in society. In 2019, the Health Insurance Fund paid for 186 million turns of medical examination and treatment with health insurance (in 2009 it was 92.1 million). In many cases, the Health Insurance Fund covers medical expenses of up to billions of dong during the year ([Bloom et al., 2007; Schmitt, 2015](#)).

Third, social assistance is concerned, contributing to ensuring the life of a part of the elderly and disabled; people affected by natural disasters... contributing to stabilizing the lives of disadvantaged people. The number of people receiving monthly social benefits in cash increased from nearly 1.7 million people in 2011 (accounting for 1.9% of the population) to more than 2.9 million people in 2019 (accounting for 3% of the population). Unscheduled social assistance policies timely support people at risk due to natural disasters such as floods, storms, droughts, extreme cold, harmful cold... and other objective causes. From 2012 - 2019, the Government has supported more than 343 thousand tons of rice (to relieve hunger and prevent hunger and on the occasion of the Lunar New Year every year) to about 18.4 million people who lacked food; supporting more than 3,700 billion VND for localities to support disaster recovery (Reported data of the

Ministry of Labor, War Invalids and Social Affairs). In particular, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic negatively affecting our country's socio-economic life, the Government issued Resolution No. 42/NQ-CP, dated April 9, 2020, of the Government, "On measures to support people facing difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic" and the Prime Minister issued Decision No. 15/2020/QD-TTg, dated April 24, 2020, "Regulations on implement policies to support people facing difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic" with a support package of VND 62 trillion for people facing difficulties due to the pandemic. Quick response solutions to the COVID-19 pandemic are highly appreciated by the international community and unanimously supported by the people. On the other hand, public and non-public social support establishments have met the needs of nurturing and taking care of social protection beneficiaries. Currently, there are 425 social assistance establishments (191 public establishments and 234 non-public establishments) nurturing and taking care of more than 41,000 people nationwide ([Moran et al., 2008](#); [Alonso-Martínez, 2018](#)).

Fourth, the provision of basic social services is concerned and increasingly improved. Expanding access to basic social services, such as education, health care, clean water... Thanks to these efforts, Vietnam is a country with a high human development index (HDI) and poverty reduction. In general and multidimensional poverty in particular, impressive results have been achieved, with health insurance covering more than 80% of the population.

- Regarding education universalization: Completed from preschool to lower secondary school; 99% of children going to school at the right age at the primary level from 2015, over 90% at the lower secondary level since 2014, contributing to the increase in the literacy rate of people aged 15 years and overreaching over 97%. Children in difficult circumstances, children with disabilities are interested in early detection, early intervention, support for community integration. In 2018, 70% of children with learning disabilities had access to inclusive education and learning at schools. Programs and policies to support education for children of poor households, ethnic minorities, and disadvantaged areas have been effectively implemented. In the 2017-2018 school year, more than 520,000 students received rice support and more than 1,800 billion VND in lunch support for students in extremely difficult communes and villages.
- Regarding the vocational training program for rural workers: supported to train over 8.3 million people in the period 2012 - 2019, contributing to improving the quality of rural labor and promoting labor restructuring from agriculture to non-agriculture, from low-yield goods to higher-yielding goods. The proportion of laborers working in agriculture, forestry, and fishery from 48.3% in 2011 decreased to 34.7% in 2019.
- The grassroots health system and preventive medicine have helped to improve the opportunities for people to access and enjoy health services, especially in remote, isolated, and ethnic minority areas: to by the end of 2018, 98.4% of communes had health stations; 96.0% of villages and hamlets have active village health workers, 90% of communes have doctors, 76% of communes meet the National Criteria for Commune Health in the 2011-2020 period, over 95% of communes have an obstetrician or midwife. The network of reproductive health care services has been consolidated and

developed, covering 100% of districts, 93% of communes, and 96% of villages.

- Preventive medicine plays a decisive role in preventing dangerous diseases and preventing major epidemics. The model of military-civilian combination has been promoted and brought into full play. The rate of children under 1 year of age who are fully immunized is very high, from 96% to 98%; the rate of under-5 children underweight, gradually decreased from 16.2% in 2012 to 12.7% in 2018 and is estimated at 12% in 2020.
- Housing for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups has been implemented by the actual conditions of the country: implementing the policy of supporting poor households with housing difficulties, period 2011 - In 2015, 531,000 poor households were supported. In the 2016 - 2018 period, it will continue to support 89,378 poor households with loans to build houses. It is expected that by 2020 it will complete support for about 144,000 poor households to borrow loans for housing. From the mobilization and sponsorship of businesses, communities, political and social organizations, 332,229 houses have been built and repaired for the poor and people in difficult circumstances.
- By the end of 2018, the whole country had completed 198 social housing projects with more than 81,700 apartments with an area of over 4,085,000m² for low-income people. Currently continuing to implement 226 projects, with about 182,200 apartments and an area of about 9,110,000m². The social housing development program for industrial park workers has invested in 100 projects, with 41,000 apartments and an area of 2,050,000 square meters; is continuing to implement 73 projects with 88,400 apartments and an area of 4,420,000m².
- 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.

However, the social security system that ensures social progress has some major limitations as follows:

Firstly, the coverage of the social security system is not high and the target audience is still narrow. The proportion of the labor force participating in social insurance is still low because the solutions to expand the subjects are not effective. This is reflected in the low coverage of social insurance, although it has improved in recent years. On the one hand, the social insurance coverage rate is just over 30% of the workforce. The unemployment insurance participation rate is also quite low; on the other hand, the number of people participating in voluntary social insurance accounts for only a very small percentage of the total number of employees participating in social insurance. After more than 10 years of implementing the voluntary social insurance policy (from 2008 to now), only about 300,000 people have participated. Meanwhile, the informal sector currently has about 40 million workers.

Social allowances only cover a part of those who need support. The new social security mainly covers the poor, the disabled, helpless, unable to take care of themselves, and the elderly over 80 years old; workers in the formal economic sector participate in social insurance. That means that a large part of the workforce has not participated in social insurance and does not receive benefits from social insurance, now and in the future after reaching retirement age. Moreover, a large proportion of elderly people of retirement age do not have social insurance and have not received social assistance. Social support for disabled people and helpless orphans is still limited. People who are at high risk of poverty and near-poverty have not received much attention and support. Thus, there is still a very large proportion of people at high risk of poverty, people working in the informal sector, having unstable jobs, and unstable incomes who have not yet enjoyed social security achievements. This reduces the meaning of social security. Therefore, it is necessary to accelerate the expansion of social security coverage through the expansion of social assistance and social insurance, including compulsory social insurance and voluntary social insurance ([Le et al., 2020](#); [Dincer, 2000](#)).

Secondly, the current model of social security is potentially unsustainable in the context of population aging. If in 1996, 217 people were paying social insurance premiums for a pensioner, by 2011, only 10 people were paying for a pensioner. The difference between revenue and expenditure of social insurance funds is decreasing rapidly. With the current growth rate of social insurance spending, if the model is not redesigned, social insurance spending will soon exceed revenue, leading to the risk of shrinking the Social Insurance Fund. Meanwhile, the status of receiving one-time social insurance tends to increase among employees, especially workers in enterprises and industrial zones, affecting the insurance fund and increasing the number of employees. several people who are not eligible for insurance when they reach retirement age. The financial source for the implementation of health insurance depends too much on the state budget.

The demand for social security increases rapidly due to the aging of the population, due to the increasing awareness of social security; the expansion of coverage of social benefits, social pensions, etc. puts great pressure on the state budget, which is currently the main source of finance for social assistance (and partly social insurance festival).

Thirdly, the level of social security support in the current security model is still low and a part of the population has not yet been guaranteed a minimum standard of living. State budget spending on social security from the central budget accounts for a small proportion of gross domestic product (GDP) and total state budget expenditure. In the period 2012 - 2018, the proportion of spending on social security accounted for 2.44% of GDP and 8.66% of the total state budget expenditure ([Nehru, 2016](#); [Robinson, 2004](#)).

The spending norms for implementing policies are still very low, not enough to ensure a minimum standard of living for the people. While the number of localities with budget autonomy is still low, except for a few localities that can balance their budgets, spending on social security from the local budget is generally quite small. In addition, the efficiency in using resources for social

security assurance is still low due to small resources but spread out investment in many programs and policies. The management and supervision of the allocation and use of resources are still quite loose, leading to loss and waste, negatively affecting the effectiveness of policy implementation.

Social assistance only covers a part of the target audience. The level of financial support is also low, not enough to ensure the minimum living for beneficiaries. Many beneficiaries, such as the lonely elderly, the elderly with no income, have not yet received benefits or social pensions. Access to basic social services is limited in remote areas, ethnic minority areas, and poor households. In many places, there is still a shortage of schools, medical stations or schools, medical stations are far away, and roads are difficult to travel. The percentage of households with permanent houses and clean water is still low. The quality of social service provision in many places is not high.

Thirdly, resources to implement social security policies are limited; the level of support is still low, not meeting the minimum living needs while some beneficiaries still depend on the State's policies. The participation potential of people and businesses has not been fully exploited. Fourthly, poverty reduction results are not sustainable, absolute inequality between the rich and the poor tends to increase; the development gap between regions and population groups has not been narrowed. The poverty rate is high in the ethnic minority group.

New context with challenges posed to the social security strategy for the period of 2020 - 2030

Vietnam in the new development stage has many opportunities, but the social security development strategy for the period 2021 - 2030 also faces major challenges:

- The challenge of the "middle-income trap". Vietnam is a developing country with a middle income, which is an important opportunity and condition for the development of the social security system in the period of 2021 - 2030. But it is also a big challenge to overcome in terms of growth and socio-economic development so as not to fall into the "middle-income trap". The problem is to focus resources and breakthrough solutions to maintain a high and sustainable growth rate, improve the quality of growth, increase the size of GDP and GDP per capita. The basic issues and conditions for implementing a social security policy with a rights-based approach towards universal coverage are provided for by the Constitution.
- The challenge of population aging. Vietnam is in the golden population period, which is a great advantage, but it started to enter the population aging process in 2017 when the elderly population accounted for 10% and very little. quickly becoming a country with an aging population. Thus, it only takes about 15 years for Vietnam to transition from a young population to an aging population right from the time it is not a rich country, while other countries in the world have to go through decades or even years century. The rapidly aging population will put great pressure on the social security policy when the number of subjects who need to ensure social security increases rapidly with an increasing scale.

- Challenges on impacts of climate change. Climate change, especially the trend of global warming and sea-level rise, will lead to an increase in the frequency and severity of these events. natural disasters such as drought, flood, storm, tsunami, followed by disasters for humans, production. Preparing for and dealing with global climate change is very challenging important for Vietnam in socio-economic development, especially in ensuring social security.
- Challenges of international integration. International integration in the globalization trend is an objective necessity and a great opportunity for Vietnam's development. However, in the process of international integration, competitive pressure will be very fierce in the field of human resources, jobs, regional and world labor markets... In that context, the migration process, migration Labor movement, and movement of natural persons are taking place more and more strongly, especially in rural-urban areas and in the international labor market, posing many pressing problems in the social security policy.
- Challenges of institutional reform. The social security policy must be perfected to overcome the current irrationalities, synchronize with other relevant laws and internalize international commitments when participating in international agreements. With the new generation of free trade agreements (AFTA), the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) is a huge pressure placed on institutional reform, institutionalization, and innovation in social security policy design in the 2021-2030 period.
- The challenge of the imbalance between the needs and the capacity of the service system. Along with the process of diversifying social security and increasing the coverage of social security in Vietnam, there will also be an increase in the need to provide public services on social security with increasingly high-quality requirements, which is and will be at odds with the ability to meet these requirements. Very limited response of this service system in the period of 2021 - 2030.

Some solutions to promote the role of social security in social progress in Vietnam

To address the limitations and move towards a sustainable social security system, ensuring social progress and timely response and adaptation to the trend of population aging, Rapid urbanization, unpredictable socio-economic risks, and impacts of climate change, need to focus on implementing the following solutions:

First, strengthen the leadership of the government, promote the role of socio-political organizations and people's participation in the implementation of social security policies. Party organizations at all levels have a deep understanding of and proactively play the core and core role; strengthen coordination between sectors and localities; promote the role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, socio-political organizations, the participation of cadres, party members, and people. To step up the work of information and communication to all levels, branches, and localities. Strengthen the initiative of localities, organizations, and communities in implementation, consultation, criticism, recommendations, and implementation supervision.

Second, continue to improve mechanisms and policies and improve the effectiveness of social security policies towards universal coverage.

- Regarding job creation support: develop a healthy, synchronous, modern, and integrated labor market; decent employment development, accelerating the formalization of the informal sector. Focus on training skilled and high-quality human resources; enhance the role and responsibility of enterprises in training. Strengthen the building of harmonious, stable, and progressive labor relations.
- Regarding sustainable poverty reduction: implement poverty reduction according to a multi-dimensional approach, especially in ethnic minority areas; effectively implement the National Target Program on Sustainable Poverty Reduction comprehensively and inclusively, ensuring that no one is left behind; support people to have sustainable livelihoods through training and job change.
- Regarding social insurance and health insurance: speed up the effective implementation, ensure quality and schedule by the Government's Action Plan to implement Resolution No. 28-NQ/TW, dated 23 May 2018, of the 7th Plenum of the 12th Central Committee, "On reforming social insurance policies". Speeding up the roadmap for implementing universal health insurance and opening the provincial level for people to receive medical examination and treatment with health insurance. Strengthen state management over commercial insurance business to better serve social security.
- Regarding social assistance for people with extremely difficult circumstances: design assistance programs in a flexible manner, meeting the basic needs of people at risk and the community after natural disasters and disasters; to ensure timely support for disadvantaged people, disadvantaged groups, and communities in overcoming risks caused by epidemics and natural disasters; prevent and combat violence and abuse, especially women and children. Paying more attention to the areas of ethnic minorities, mountainous areas, areas affected by natural disasters, and climate change.
- Regarding the assurance of several basic social services: to develop professional social services. Pay more attention to the quality of primary health care and preventive medicine; solve the problem of child malnutrition, sex imbalance at birth. Complete the national education system in an open direction, build a learning society, and improve the quality of education universalization. Increase investment, ensure clean water, and information and communication for ethnic minority areas, mountainous areas, and islands. Promote socialization to ensure safe housing for people, especially migrants and people in areas affected by natural disasters and climate change. In management, the State strengthens supervision of standards and quality of social service provision, creating conditions for the non-state sector to jointly provide services, especially in the form of public-private cooperation.

Third, diversify resources, and at the same time implement integration to improve the efficiency of resource use for social policy implementation. Strengthen and

ensure investment resources of the State with focus, focus, and priority on investment in areas where the percentage of people accessing social services is still low; at the same time, mobilize other social and international resources to solve social problems. Concentrating resources for disadvantaged areas, not subsidizing localities capable of developing socio-economic development.

Fourth, modernize the management system to meet the increasing requirements in formulating and organizing the implementation of social security policies. Promote the review and integration of policies, reduce duplication and duplication; focus on information technology application, unify database digitization. Strongly reforming financial management to improve efficiency and effectiveness based on using science, technology, electronic payment and uniformly deploying on a centralized database platform.

Fifth, strengthen the accountability of policymakers and social service providers. At the same time, strengthen independent research and assessment on policies and implementation results of social security policies

Conclusion

Studying the role of social security in social progress in the process of international integration is one of the necessary jobs. In the process of international integration, the Vietnamese government is always interested in building and organizing the good implementation of social security, considering this both a goal and a driving force for sustainable development, maintaining political and social stability. Social security measures to protect social safety for members in case they face risks leading to loss or reduction of income due to negative events through measures to maintain life. Living a normal life is the right of all people to ensure development with the meaning of being a human being in society.

In the process of international integration, Vietnam has escaped from the group of poor countries, material and cultural life has been continuously improved, and our country's position has been continuously enhanced in the international arena. However, in addition, promoting the role of social security in social justice and progress in Vietnam currently still has limitations and challenges that require Vietnam to implement. Synchronizing the above solutions to promote the role of social security in social progress in Vietnam today has great theoretical and practical significance, contributing to inclusive and sustainable development.

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