

Original Paper

Ho Chi Minh's Ideology on Poverty Reduction and Applying in Vietnam Today

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Abstract

Poverty reduction is a subjective social and economic phenomenon. They exist alongside the development of human societies as a big challenge to all economies. For Ho Chi Minh, poverty reduction is solving problems directly related to people, thereby improving people's material and spiritual life. Therefore, right from the founding of the country, he paid great attention to the development of policies on hunger eradication and poverty reduction to manage the country and serve the revolutionary cause. Ho Chi Minh's ideology on hunger eradication and poverty reduction is a system of viewpoints on the purposes, objects, contents, requirements, and forces for poverty reduction. His Ideology on hunger eradication and poverty alleviation is a valuable spiritual asset, paving the way for the revolutionary cause of the Vietnamese nation to achieve great victories. In the cause of renovation in Vietnam, carrying out the task of building and defending the Fatherland, the Party and State have applied and developed Ho Chi Minh's thought on hunger eradication and poverty reduction to suit the new situation, contributing to victory in the revolutionary cause.

Keywords

Ho Chi Minh's ideology, poverty reduction, social security, Vietnam

1. Introduction

It is common knowledge that the poor are a society that needs help so that they can get out of poverty. Therefore, the measure of poverty must be accurate to describe poverty. This is because it will provide a clear understanding related to poverty so that the policies that will be formed are believed to be able to solve the problems of poverty faced (Alkire & Foster, 2011). In 1997, the Human Development Report and the 2000 World Development Report stated that poverty was a multidimensional phenomenon. While the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs began discussing the issue of poverty in multidimensional since 2000.

One of the multidimensional poverty measurement methods is to use the Alkire and Foster Method (AF Method). Poverty measurement using this AF Method contains the poverty dimension, the dimensional separating line to determine who is poor in that dimension, and the poverty separation line is used to determine who is suffering enough to be classified as multidimensionally poor. This method is believed to be able to identify who is poor and, in turn, will be able to solve the problem of poverty faced (Alkire & Foster, 2011). Santos and Ura have applied the AF Method in their study on Bhutan. The study was conducted in rural and urban areas. Five dimensions have been used, namely income, education, number of available rooms, access to electricity, and drinking water. Two additional dimensions are only analyzed in rural areas, namely, access to roads and land ownership (Santos & Ura, 2008).

Mussard and Alperin introduced a new methodology to measure the imbalance in multidimensional poverty between population groups and dimensions. The study was conducted in Argentina in 1998 on 28,511 households. The variables studied were: type of occupation and location of household residence, type of household, household size, toilet characteristics, flowing characteristic, total household income, level of education, stable employment, social contribution, and the ratio of the number of households to total income. The findings of the study indicate that the main dimensions that contribute to poverty imbalance are toilet characteristics, household size, stable employment, and flowing characteristics (Mussard & Alperin, 2008).

World Bank's point of view: Poverty is a shortage in many ways. Limited income or lack of opportunities to generate income, assets to ensure consumption in times of difficulty and vulnerability to adverse mutations, inability to communicate needs and difficulties to those people who are capable of dealing, feeling insulted, not being respected by others... that's the aspect of poverty. At the conference on hunger eradication and poverty reduction in Asia - Pacific region organized by ESCAP in Bangkok - Thailand in September 1993, the Asia - Pacific Economic and Social Committee introduced the conception: Poverty is the situation in which a population segment does not enjoy and satisfies basic human needs, but this need has been inherited by society depending on the level of socio-economic development, habits, and customs of the locality. From this it can be understood: Poverty reduction is to make a part of the poor population raise their living standards and gradually get out of poverty. In other words, poverty reduction is the process of moving a part of the poor population to a higher standard of living.

More than half a century ago, Ho Chi Minh mentioned poverty alleviation. This shows the infinite love and love that He dedicates all to the working people. Expressing that spirit, our Party is always interested in solving poverty through economic construct developing culture, and making social management methods and tools more reasonable, more perfect according to economic growth goals associated with progress and social justice; harmony of needs and interests between individuals and society. But the fact is that, with the establishment of social ownership of production materials, the people's right to social mastery, poverty will not automatically disappear, not that society will

immediately reach prosperity and everyone becomes rich. Therefore, in the process of innovation, it is necessary to have the management and control of the State by law, policies, and plans to address poverty, ensure the implementation of progressive goals and social justice.

2. Research Method

2.1 Method and Data

Subjects and research objectives: The article focuses on studying Ho Chi Minh's ideology on poverty alleviation and the current application of our Party. Thereby, people see more clearly the superior nature of socialism and the path to socialism in Vietnam is right, in line with the country's reality and the trend of the times.

Method: For this article, the author uses the Marxist philosophical method; at the same time, it also uses the method of analyzing documents, observation methods, methods of combining history - logic.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Content in Ho Chi Minh's Ideology on Poverty Reduction

The most core point in the Ho Chi Minh ideology is national independence associated with socialism. Only socialism will bring independence and freedom to the nation, completely eradicate all forms of oppression and inequality, and bring a life of true warmth and happiness to people. One of the deep and consistent points in Ho Chi Minh's thought is that the true value and meaning of free independence must be expressed in the daily lives of the people. They must have meals, clothes, must be eaten, live happy lives. Conception, socialism is alien to poverty, impoverishment, backwardness. Socialism must prove its superior nature in bringing more and more, better and better benefits to the people such as eating full, dressing warmly, having clean housing, learning to progress... that is, satisfying more and more reasonable and just needs for the comprehensive development of man.

What is particularly new and precious in Ho Chi Minh's thoughts on hunger eradicating and poverty reduction is shown in his instruction: "to promote increased production, associated with the practice of saving; make a lot, spend less, do it quickly, slow down, i.e. enough. Thanks to that, "poverty becomes enough, enough to become rich, rich, richer" (Minh, 2011, p. 283). He pointed out: "making the poor enough to eat, people to eat is quite rich, people are quite rich, everyone is ill rate, everyone knows the solidarity of the country" and "bring talents and people to benefit the people" (Minh, 2011, p. 122).

The above thoughts of Ho Chi Minh shine a light on our current awareness and practical work of poverty alleviation. Eradicating hunger must move towards poverty alleviation and increased wealth. Poverty is a gateway to overcome, moving toward wealth, wealth, wealth forever. It is necessary to build socialism as a wealthy, economically prosperous, culturally, and socially healthy society. It contains the idea of liberating production capacity, freeing up thoughts and all social potentials, towards a dynamic development of the whole society for the well-being of all workers.

To eradicate poverty, production must be developed, economical practice. Therefore, it is necessary to fight resolutely to eliminate waste, corruption, bureaucracy, and all social evils. President Ho Chi Minh's guidance sheds light on what we care about today: relief, social protection only to eradicate hunger and fight poverty in early situations, with a particularly difficult part of the population (in the event of natural disasters, diseases, accidents). It's just a measure of support, mostly of humanitarian significance. Only production development is a basic, proactive and positive measure to thoroughly overcome poverty and move towards wealth. It is the development support for poor and poor households according to the motto for fishing canes, fishing instructions, not fish. The instructor: "In wanting a wealthy society, each individual, every family to the whole country must increase production and practice savings. That's the path to happiness. Growth is the right hand of happiness. Saving is the left hand of happiness".

Ho Chi Minh President has always viewed poverty as a historical socio-economic phenomenon and his instructions are based on system views and points of view of development full of rhetoric. Attendees feel a fear: "not afraid of lack of just fear of unfairness, not fear of poverty just fear of the people's uneasy hearts" (Minh, 2011, p. 185). In his conception of social justice, there are principles of distribution of benefits based on the reasonableness between labor and enjoyment, leverage to stimulate development by material and spiritual interests, there is a justified unity between the economy and society. Strangers with simple, unimaginable, subjective views of will, treating fairness as evenly divided, are average. That old notion used to suppress the motivation of development, tolerate habits of rejoicing, laziness, eating in a small part of the social population.

Economic hunger eradication does not separate the eradication of spiritual cultural poverty. How sensitive President Ho Chi Minh is to associate hunger with ignorance, it stifles society in poverty and backward. According to Him, an ignorant person is a weak person. Therefore, eating full, wearing warm must go hand in hand with progressive learning, society must be progressive, material is increasing with increasing spirit. Thus, while focusing on eradicating economic poverty, it should not be forgotten that cultural poverty and mental barrenness are also a great risk, a significant obstacle to development. The tophy, the times, the human values in Ho Chi Minh's thought are there.

3.2 Applying Ho Chi Minh's Ideology on Poverty Reduction in Vietnam Today

In line with that thought, first of all, the work of hunger eradicating and reducing poverty in our country must now ensure the following basic principles:

Firstly, poverty alleviation must be considered a pressing issue of society, placed in the attention center of the State and society, becoming the focus of the government in the administration of the country's socio-economic programs. Poverty alleviation is a condition for economic development, a measure of social progress, and aims to achieve humanitarian goals like socialism.

Secondly, poverty alleviation and increased wealth require continued expansion, development of the goods economy, market expansion, and exploitation of positive sides, limiting the negative side of the market economy. Eradicate hunger and reduce poverty by total socio-economic and cultural policies.

Thirdly, poverty alleviation-based economic development must be associated with the struggle for social health, strengthening the strength and effectiveness of state control over corruption, with tricks of illegal, non-economic, and northern moral enrichment with the main tool being the law.

Fourthly, there is a system of control policy tools to ensure that the State has tremendous material resources to implement social protection and relief; at the same time stimulate and regulate economic topics towards poverty alleviation, legitimate and legal increase of riches.

Through many congresses, our Party has determined to promote poverty alleviation, encourage people to rise to just enrichment, help others out of poverty, and gradually become more decent than an important, regular, and long-term task. This view comes from the socio-economic development strategy for the highest goal of people, making progress and social justice right in every step and each development policy. Economic growth goes hand in hand with social, cultural, health, education, and training development... Good solving of social problems creates conditions for people to develop. To implement the above guiding view well, it is important: “Encourage people to get rich under the law, effectively implement poverty reduction policies in the direction of creating conditions and opportunities for equal access to development resources, enjoying basic social services, rising out of solid poverty in poor areas and poor parts of the population. Overcoming the ideology of rehabilitation and rejoicing”.

Our Party and State always encourage people to get rich justly, while combating impoverishment in all its for justified enrich is by the rules, by the people’s hearts. The view of our Party is that a part of the population is rich first is necessary for development, but at the same time, it must provide relief to poor households, creating conditions for them to rise to enough food, good, get rich later. For the common good of the community, those who become wealthy through success and promotion in society are subject to the reasonable control of the State to contribute to the common welfare. For the humanitarian purposes of society, those who face difficulties and fall into circumstances where they cannot maintain a normal life are supported by society. Society creates conditions for people to have better material and spiritual life with their labor and abilities. Do not let the situation of people being economically exploited, mentally oppressed, stifled by the possibilities of development. All talents are used, evaluated and well-compensated, personality is respected and promoted, there is mutual development between individuals and society. It is social justice by the nature of socialism, all aimed at the goal of human happiness and human development, with results:

First, the positive impact of economic growth on poverty reduction is uneven among population groups and ethnic groups. Vietnam’s economic growth in recent decades has had a positive impact on poverty reduction in general. However, this effect is not equal among the population groups, the rich groups benefit more from the fruits of economic growth than the poor. This is reflected in the growing income gap between the richest 20% of the population and the poorest 20% of the population, and the proportion of the income of the poorest 40% of the total population is getting smaller and smaller.

During 1995 - 1999, the income gap between these two groups was lower than 8 times (i.e., inequality in low-income come distribution). From 2002 to 2008, the gap was in the range of 8.1 - 8.9 times (i.e., is below the moderate inequality in income distribution). From 2010 to 2016, the gap increased to 9.2 - 9.8 times (ie, near upper mod upper-moderately in income distribution). In 2018, this gap increased by 10 times, which is a high level of inequality. Considering the World Bank's "standard 40", in the period 2002-2006, the income share of the poorest 40% of the total income accounted for > 17% (corresponding to low inequality), since in 2008, the ratio was between 12% -17% (i.e., moderate inequality) (Thao, 2020). This shows that the gap between rich and poor increased, the poor benefited less as a result of economic growth than the rich.

The positive impact of economic growth on poverty reduction is uneven among ethnic groups. In general, the positive impact of economic growth on poverty reduction for ethnic minorities is lower than for the Kinh people. In 2017, the proportion of poor ethnic minority households accounted for 52.66% of the total poor households nationwide and accounted for 27.55% of the total ethnic minority households. Some poor districts of 30a have a poverty rate of over 60%. In 2018, poor ethnic minority households accounted for 62.51% compared to the total poor households in 51 ethnic minority and mountainous provinces (Nguyet Ha, 2019). There are 10 ethnic minorities with high poverty rate from 45.7% to 83.9%, namely: La Hu (83.9%), Mang (79.5%), Chut (75.3%), O Du (66.3%), La Ha (47.7%), Co (65.7%), Kho Mu (59.4%), Xinh Mun (52.4%), Khang (46, 1%), Mong (45.7%) (Thao, 2020).

Second, the ability to access production factors of the poor is limited, many poor rely on the support of the State, reducing the motivation for economic growth. According to the 2016 Living Standards Survey, the proportion of poor households receiving credit support in recent years has been declining. In 2010, this ratio was 9.9%, in 2012 it decreased to 9.1%, in 2014 it was only 3.4% and in 2016 it was 1.0%. The proportion of poor households supported with residential land and productive land has also decreased, from 1.2% (2010) to 0.8% in 2012, 0.5% (2014), and 0.3% (2016). The rate of ethnic minority households allocated land and forests is very low, accounting for 11.5% of ethnic minority households; In 2018,303,578 households were lacking productive land; 96,256 households lack capital and need to borrow capital to develop production (Thao, 2020).

In addition, many poor households rely on the support of the State, not consciously rising out of poverty is also an obstacle to economic growth. This situation occurs in many communes of 135 where the poverty rate is over 60%. In many La Hu villages, people mainly cultivate upland fields and go to the forest to gather for the seasons. This is also the community that always maintains a poverty rate of more than 80% in Lai Chau province. Over the years, food, shelter, seedlings, and livestock have been provided by the State, but many households have not been able to escape poverty (News Department, 2019).

Third, poverty reduction is not sustainable, and the risk of falling back into poverty is high. Despite impressive achievements, poverty reduction in Vietnam has not been truly sustainable. For example, in the two years of 2016 - 2017, the rate of households falling back into poverty accounted for an average

of 5.17%/year of the total number of households escaping from poverty, particularly in the Northwest mountainous region, the rate of people falling back to poverty reached 26.86% (period about 12% per year in advance). Notably, the proportion of poor households arising is relatively large, equal to 22.98% of the total households escaping from poverty. In 2017, a high proportion of newly arising poor households (compared to households escaping from poverty) focused on ethnic minority and mountainous areas such as the Northeast mountainous region (24.67%); Northwestern mountainous region (39.21%); Central Highlands (31.74%). Some provinces have a very high rate of arising new poor households every year, such as Ha Giang (28.25%); Cao Bang (25.44%); Bac Kan (59%); Son La (52.31%); Dien Bien (41.5%); Dak Nong (44%); Kon Tum (41%) (Cao, P, 2019). By March 2018, although 8/64 districts 30a escaped from poverty; 14/30 districts enjoyed the 30a mechanism to escape the difficult situation but added 29 districts to the list of poor districts from 2018 to 2020. In particular, 12 provinces have seen a significant increase in the rate of falling back into poverty, increasing by 0.03% or more, including some provinces with favorable socio-economic development conditions such as Vinh Phuc, Khanh Hoa, and Kien Giang; the number of households falling back into poverty will be about 1/20 households escaping from poverty; the number of newly arising poor households is about one-fourth of the households escaping from poverty; Many provinces in areas affected by natural disasters and severe floods have a very high rate of generating new poor households every year (Vu, 2018).

To strive no more hungry households, sharply reduce poverty households, rapidly increase the number of rich households, gradually build prosperous families, communities, and society, the Party clearly states: “It is necessary to diversify resources and methods to implement poverty alleviation in the direction of promoting internal resources and combining effective use of international assistance. The State focuses on investing in building economic and social infrastructure and assisting in production conditions, improving knowledge so that the poor, poor households and poor areas can rise out of poverty and sustainably improve living standards; combining the State’s policies with the direct and effective help of the whole society, of well-off people for the poor and poor households, especially for especially difficult areas prevent re-poverty”.

To well implement policies on hunger eradication and poverty reduction, the State of Viet Nam has had policies that have positive and effective impacts in life, especially for ethnic minorities. The Government approved Decision 135/1998/QDTT dated 31/7/1998 called Program 135 for short focusing on 4 key tasks:

- Develop production and life planning in residential areas, ensuring that the stable compatriots meet the conditions for production, infrastructure, cultivation, and long-term stable settlement.
- Implement poverty alleviation, take care of the material and spiritual life for the people, ensure the urgent requirements of eating, dressing, living, healing, and studying.

- Building essential infrastructure, creating a basis for economic and social development, improving and improving production efficiency and quality of life of compatriots. The focus is on expanding roads, irrigation, small power sources, schools, health stations, communications, and communications.
- Build commune cluster centers into socio-economic gatherings, thereby bringing civilized light to villages. Building rural markets, stimulating the dynamic development economy, attracting economic activities there to produce goods, awakening the potentials and strengths in the region. Building facilities for information - culture - arts, radio, television, libraries, infirmary... into a local cultural brightening point.

4. Conclusion

Poverty alleviation in Vietnam is deeply rooted in the ideology of President Ho Chi Minh and is consistently expressed in the views and ways of our Party today. Poverty alleviation aims to gradually address poverty and socio-economic development in Viet Nam. A country that wants to rise to integration and development, first of all, the life of the people in the country must be full and increasingly prosperous, satisfying the essential needs of people. Therefore, the view and policy of poverty alleviation of our Party are now ethical, in line with the trend of the times, for the purpose: rich people, strong countries, fair society, democracy, civilization.

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