



The effects of social and economic factors on vietnam family structure and aspects of divorce

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Abstract- Together with fast economic growth and development, and gaps between rural and metropolitan areas, there are social issues appearing in Vietnam families and esp., the number of divorce in Vietnam families tend to increase and different among Vietnam cities and provinces.

This paper mainly use qualitative analysis, analytical, synthesis, inductive methods combined with explanatory methods. It also uses historical and dialectical materialism methods.

The paper figures out among reasons include individual factors, social factors such as lack of life skills and esp. economic reasons including unstable career and income, and economic difficulties that come from husbands or wives in Vietnam families.

Last but not lest research results can be referred for social policies implications.

Keywords: Economic growth, vietnam family, divorce decision, economic factors, social factors.

I. INTRODUCTION

Under impacts from Covid 19, most income of people in our society has been affected and reduced, and affect their family.

In Vietnam society, there is difference in divorce ration among rural and urban areas, as well as among various provinces and cities.

Reasons for divorce come from various sources such as: individual reaons, social factors such as lack of life skills, marriage and family building skills and other economic reasons including unstable income or career affected by Covid 19, etc. Lack of teaching skills for children also threaten the sustainability of family structure and family life and lead to many more divirce decision and cause families to loose concentration on raising children.

The rapid speed of economic growth and development in recent years has also affected the changes in Vietnam families from traditional to modern styles.

Statistics data show that in big cities such as Hanoi, there is higher ratio of divorce and divorce decision in their families.

Divorce decision, when it is made, might have both positive and negative aspects. And we need to propose proper solutions for building the sustainability of Vietnam family structure, its values and benefits for both husbands and wives.

The paper will be structured with introduction, research questions, literature review, methodology, main results, discussion and conclusion.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Divorces and unstable family structure will affect children raising in most of countries including emerging markets such as Vietnam.

First, Mackay (2005) mentioned children raised in lone-parent families have been found, on average, to do less well across a range of measures of wellbeing than their peers in two-parent families, while parental separation has been found to be associated with an array of adverse outcomes for children. Behind these patterns of associations between family contexts and child outcomes, however, lies a

complex web of overlapping and interacting influences, which means that interpreting these results is far from straightforward. It is the aim of this paper to throw some light on the reasons why child outcomes are contingent on family contexts.

Mooney et al (2009) presented that Demographic and social changes in the last three decades have resulted in families that are more diverse and complex in their structure. More couples are cohabiting and becoming parents, though the risk of parental separation among this group is higher than among married parents; divorce rates have remained relatively constant and the number of stepfamilies is growing fast. Children now have a higher probability of experiencing parental separation, having a lone parent, and being part of a stepfamily than was once the case. The impact this experience has on children is a key issue for policymakers since although the government wants to support stable relationships between parents, where they break down there is a responsibility to provide support to optimise positive outcomes for children. Then, Burstein (2007) stated that there are many evidence showing marriage helps to reduce poverty and social ills while divorce increase it.

Next, Anderson (2014) stated that nearly three decades of research evaluating the impact of family structure on the health and well-being of children demonstrates that children living with their married, biological parents consistently have better physical, emotional, and academic well-being. Pediatricians and society should promote the family structure that has the best chance of producing healthy children. The best scientific literature to date suggests that, with the exception of parents faced with unresolvable marital violence, children fare better when parents work at maintaining the marriage. Consequently, society should make every effort to support healthy marriages and to discourage married couples from divorcing.

Last but not least, Jalili et al (2017) found that among the social factors, life skills and communication, family and individual factors had a significant relationship with mental health among divorce applicant women.

III. METHODOLOGY

We use mainly qualitative analysis methods such as synthesis, inductive methods combined with explanatory methods.

This study also uses historical and dialectical materialism methods.

IV. MAIN RESULTS

Divorce Ratio in Vietnam over Past Years

Divorce data from the General Statistics Office of Vietnam.

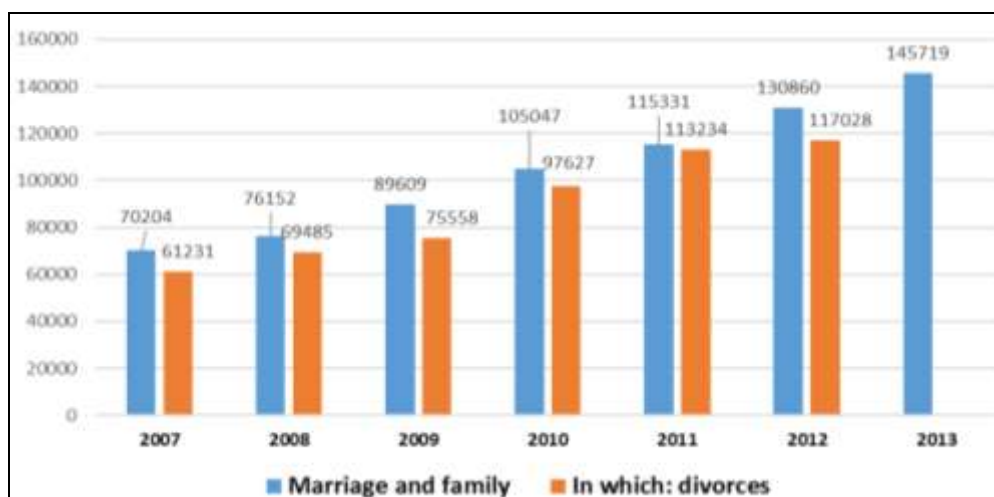


FIGURE 1. Number of marriage and family cases and divorces by year (Data the Supreme Court statistics)

Looking at above divorce table, we can see that the number of divorces tend to increase over past years. It will creates several social issues for Vietnam society, both positive aspects and negative aspects. Divorce regression table relates to the economic contributions of husband and wife.

The following table presents a proportional hazards models of divorce regression model with respect to the length of time in marriage. This model allows to test the impact of socio-economic and cultural variables believed to affect the probability of divorce in the process of social modernization and has been studied in many world and mentioned domestically (Dommaraju and Jones 2012, Friedman 2009, Ha Song Vu et al. 2014, Hirschman and Teerawichitchainan 2003, Jones 1997, Mukai 2004, Phan Thi Luyen 2014, Tran Thi Minh Thi 2016).

The main hypothesis here is that people with modernization characteristics such as: recent marriage cohorts, university education, short dating time, self-determined marriage decision-makers, those whose parents are divorced., those who have sex with someone other than their spouse for the first time, marriages where the wives make more money, living in urban areas are more likely to divorce.

Table 1. Proportional hazards models of divorce with time length in marriage

	<i>Variables</i>	<i>Model 1</i>	<i>Model 2</i>
<i>Cohort married</i>	<i>Before 1990</i>	0,011***	0,004***
	<i>1990-1999</i>	0,073***	0,038***
	<i>2000-2009</i>	0,156***	0,150***
	<i>2010-2016</i>	1	1
<i>Education</i>	<i>Elementary</i>	0,288***	0,103***
	<i>Junior high school</i>	0,697***	0,738***
	<i>High school</i>	0,653***	1,166*
	<i>Colleges/universities</i>	1	1
<i>Time to love</i>	<i>Under 1 year</i>	3,377***	1,632***
	<i>1 - 2 years</i>	2,355***	1,526***
	<i>2 - 3 years</i>	1,990***	1,748***
	<i>3 năm trở lên</i>	1	1
<i>Key decision maker in marriage</i>	<i>Parents</i>	1,426***	0,751**
	<i>Wife and husband</i>	1	1
<i>Place before marriage</i>	<i>Both in urban area</i>	1,307***	0,708***
	<i>Wife urban-husband rural</i>	1,134	1,558***
	<i>Husband urban - wife rural</i>	1,479***	1,430***
	<i>Both in countryside</i>	1	1
<i>Main contributor for family economic</i>	<i>Wife</i>	0,361***	0,424***
	<i>Husband</i>	0,269***	0,331***
	<i>Both are the same</i>	0,281***	0,461***
	<i>Other</i>	1	1
<i>Living standard of wife's house compared to husband's house</i>	<i>Same</i>	0,373***	1,316**
	<i>Husband house's better</i>	0,605***	1,136
	<i>Not know</i>	0,589***	4,716***
	<i>Wife house's better</i>	1	1
<i>Both sides parents who have divorced</i>	<i>No divorce</i>	0,502***	0,530***
	<i>At least 1 divorce</i>	1	1
<i>First time sexual partner</i>	<i>Other people</i>	0,913	1,028
	<i>Wife/husband before marriage</i>	1,035	0,402***
	<i>Wife/husband after marriage</i>	1	1
<i>Conflicts between husband and wife in past 12 months</i>	<i>No conflict</i>		0,058***
	<i>Below monthly level</i>		0,115***
	<i>Weekly/monthly</i>		1
<i>Ghen tuông, ngoại tình</i>	<i>No</i>		0,121***
	<i>Yes</i>		1
<i>Provinces</i>	<i>Hà Nội</i>	3,665***	2,950***
	<i>Khánh Hòa</i>	1,391***	1,397***
	<i>Tiền Giang</i>	1	1

Couples living in a family with which they are economically dependent are more likely to divorce. Couples in which the wife is the main economic contributor is only 36% more likely to get divorced than a couple living in a family with someone other than the couple as the main contributor. Other variables are the same. The probability of divorce for a couple of which husband or both is the main contributor is only 27% and 28% of the probability of divorce of a couple living in a household with another person as the main contributor. These numbers tend to support the argument that when a husband is unable to make a

reasonable economic contribution, marital sustainability can be at risk, but these numbers raise a deeper problem. Divorce is highest among couples who are not economically autonomous. In terms of provincial differences, Hanoi seems to be the place where a couple is most at risk of divorce. The divorce rate of couples living in Hanoi was 3.7 times higher than that of couples living in Tien Giang, and the divorce rate of couples living in Khanh Hoa was 1, 4 times the possibility of divorce of couples living in Tien Giang. Patterns also show that the more recent the marriage, the higher the likelihood of divorce. Those who got married before 1990 were only 11 per thousand as likely to divorce for those married between 2010 and 2016, when the other variables were the same. The likelihood of divorce increases with marriage cohorts, and this overall difference is statistically significant. The effect of education, the regression coefficients show that the higher the education, the higher the chance of divorce. Regarding the impact of dating, the general stereotype is that those with a longer date are less likely to get divorced. The impact of divorce of parents is also hypothetical, a couple with divorced parents are more likely to divorce than those without divorced parents.

Determining some Factors affecting Vietnam Family and Divorce

- A. The higher the modernization level of families, the more modern features, such as living in urban areas, having a job, having high education, high standard of living, the more developed economic areas, the values Sharing and cherishing more and more clearly shown by couples. However, the reality shows that, women are still not really equal with men, reflected in the rate of sharing, listening to thoughts and sharing thoughts by husbands.
- B. The loyalty factor also affects the sustainability of Vietnam families. Husbands or wives do not satisfy with their marriage and not loyal, this is difficult to maintain their family sustainability.
- C. Fast economic growth also affects to the time husbands or wives left for their family. Busy tasks at companies and stress will affect them and they are both tired when leaving home and no energy to serve their family so it will destroy family sustainability and increase divorces.

V. DISCUSSION

Divorces in Vietnam family has both positive and negative sides. On the one side, it helps husband and wife can find their own path of living and more freedom in personal life and find own financial resources. On the other hand, it will influence their children if they do not have a way to support them and each other to raise their children.

Maintaining traditional values of Vietnam families, combined with modern values of families is a good topic to explore. For instance, The family club models developed strongly in many localities, actively working, contributing to the reconciliation of family relationships, reducing violence and conflict, and building up family care skills. For example, the club of happy families in Dong Nai, the club on building a happy family in Hoa Binh.

VI. CONCLUSION

There are many factors that affect Vietnam family and divorces such as: life skills, marriage skills, unstable income or career or economic reasons, lack of loyalty, low education, and other individual or social causes.

Vietnam family need to overcome these above troubles and even tend of increasing family violence in past years.

Under impacts from Covid 19, During the period of social separation, core values in life formed a civilized lifestyle, sharing empathy; from there, showing responsibility to the community to work together to overcome the pandemic.

VII. LIMITATION OF RESEARCH

Though this study has not been able to conduct an in-depth review and exploitation of every aspect relating to divorce in modern Vietnamese society, it has opened up many contents which require further study.

VIII. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Authors want express warm thanks to editorial board, friends and colleagues and brothers.

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