

## DOCTORAL THESIS IN BRIEF

DOCTORAL THESIS IN  
PHYLOSOPHY

PHẠM XUÂN HOÀNG. *The market economy and human development in Vietnam today*

*Major: Dialectical materialism and Historical materialism*

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The market economy was considered an important role for human development in many aspects, but it still has many defects that limits human development. In Vietnam, socialist-oriented market economy has had great achievements; however, in terms of human development, it has weaknesses related to the nature of market economy. The achievement in human development today is a great leap in comparison with those before Đổi mới. However, if those achievements are compared to market economy countries of the same starting point as Vietnam, the progress of Vietnam human development is limited. Therefore, it is theoretically and practically essential to evaluate achievements and limitations as well as identify urgent issues in human development in the context of market economy in Vietnam. For these reasons, the author chose “market economy and human development in Vietnam today” as his PhD. thesis project.

Apart from introduction and conclusion, the main content of the Thesis is discussed in 4 chapters, 11 sections.

Chapter 1 presents *an overview of related studies*. The author has done a survey of all theoretically basic and fundamental documents related to market economy and human development from different views and in different fields. In general, all works think highly of and assert the power of market economy, as well as recognize the limitations, defects, conflicts of market economy and harms of market economy to human development. At the same time, the Thesis also points out the main findings of these studies.

Chapter 2 focuses on *key concepts of market economy and human development*.

Market economy is a multi-tiered system of relations, which establishes a complex mechanism to specify and decide the movement of the whole market economy. However, market economy is not only a method to operate the economy but also a method to operate society. In which, commodity exchange and circulation take place nowhere else in the market and operate based on the market principles. Market is the place that determines the production as well as the profit of economic actors; at the

same time, specifies the mechanism of the existence and operation of other aspects in society.

Market economy was formed when private ownership developed and when market relationship played a decisive role in production and social life. Since it was formed, there have been three main models of the Vietnam market economy including: Free market economy, social market economy and socialist-oriented market economy.

Market economy plays a major role in developing the productive forces of society and is an effective mechanism promoting social development. Although the positive and subjective role of market economy cannot be denied, market economy still has defects which limit social development.

*In terms of human and human development*, the Thesis has systematized concepts of Marxism, Vietnam Communist Party, President Hồ Chí Minh and UNDP.

Marxism gives the prominence to human position, pays attention to comprehensive human development and provides solutions to human development, liberate human, especially labourers. Marx and Engels asserted that "the free development of each person is the condition for the free development of all people."

Concepts of Vietnam Communist Party and President Hồ Chí Minh on economic development and human development are increasing concerned

and applied widely and deeply in the society. These views emphasises in the comprehensiveness in human development. A person characterized with a combination of good morality, wisdom, health, and aesthetics is "both revolutionary and industrious" and is one who is capable and qualified to meet the higher and higher requirements of the modern society.

The main concepts of UNDP are to center human in socio-economic development, which is the core of human development philosophy. In the report on human development 1990, UNDP asserted that human development is about developing people's abilities and giving them a chance to use them; creating fair opportunities and choices for all people. National report on human development (2011) asserted that "basic abilities of human development are able to have a long and healthy life, educated and to access to necessary resources for an adequate standard of living and be capable of participating in community life".

The influence of market economy on human development is shown in the fact that market economy facilitates human development in some aspects: Develop productive forces, promote economic growth; improve possibility and capability of being autonomous; provide a better health care; promote education and training... Meeting the requirement for these benefits means extending opportunities of choice and improving people's capabilities of

making choice. However, the negative impacts of the market economy on human development is that market economy also has the potential to degenerate personal characteristics, increases the gap between rich and poor, deepen social stratification, and increase inequality between people and people. Market economy might bring about social problems which are not resolved itself. The requirements for human development in market economy are shown in the fact that the cause of human development offers improving the quality of human resources to meet the demand of economic development; while demands for human development play a significant role in overcoming the disadvantages of market economy. The requirements for human development are also a basis for the government to have better implementation of socio-economic development policies, improve capabilities of government, mobilize the participation of the people in economic development and promote social advancements.

Chapter 3 generalizes *the development of Vietnamese people under the impact of market economy since Đổi mới (1986) up to now*.

In 1986, the Sixth Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam with a determination to innovate socio-economics and get the country out of crisis, the Party and the Government decided to follow the model of socialist-oriented market economy.

However, as it had no precedent developing a market economy with full requirements of international conventions and meeting the requirement of human development is limited.

The formation of socialist-oriented market economy in Vietnam was a demand derived from the reality to adapt to the changing international politics and economics, and to better meet requirements of the people. Market economy was gradually formed, which is acknowledged and asserted by amended and supplemented Constitution 2013.

Over the past 30 years, having received achievements and theoretical progress of the human kind, Vietnam has step by step integrated into market economy and resulted in great achievements for human development in all aspects. Particularly, the people's living conditions have been improved; GDP growth rate has increased year by year; poverty reduction has achieved positive results; human development index (HDI) in education, health, and ownership has been enhanced; solving social problems for the purpose of human development has made advances. Vietnam has actively participated in human development reports by UNDP since 1995. Human development measured by HDI has been continuously implemented in Vietnam. Those achievements have shown significant progress in human development in Vietnam under the impact of market economy. Neverthe-

less, socialist-oriented market economy in Vietnam remains a lot of limitations because of subjective and objective reasons (or direct or indirect reasons). *Therefore, solving well the relationship between economic development and human development always promote the society towards sustainable development.*

Based on the practical view of human development in Vietnam under the influence of market economy, the Thesis has pointed out 6 issues about the impacts of market economy on human development in Vietnam in current period, including: 1/ market economy has not ensured the stability for human development; 2/ Differentiation between the rich and the poor and social inequality tend to increases; poverty is still a big problem in Vietnam; 3/ There are a lot of shortcomings in education and training; human resources quality is still low; 4/Social evils tend to rise; morality decreases; 5/ There is an emergence of new human security and human right problems; 6/Policies on human development and democratic practices are insufficient and weak. These problems require effective solutions and great determination from Communist Party of Vietnam, Vietnam government in the incoming stage.

In chapter 4, the Thesis proposes some solutions to human development in

Vietnam in the context of market economy at present, aiming at overcoming influences of negative aspects of market economy in the market economy itself as well as in the social life for a comprehensive human development. In which, three groups of solutions are proposed in the following aspects: 1/Economics; 2/Health, science-technology and education - training; 3/Culture - Society.

The author emphasized: Solutions to promote economic growth in the same line with social advances and equality should take the lead for solutions of economics, health, education-training and culture-society. During implementation, the Government should prioritize some fundamental and practical solutions which can solve negative impacts of market economy on human development, at the same time, promotes the positive aspects of market economy to human development and social advances. Even, it is necessary to “sacrifice” short-term economic benefits for long-term sustainable human development.

The thesis was successfully defended at the institution-level committee at the Institute of Social Sciences, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences in 2016 □

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