

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF TRADITIONAL CRAFT VILLAGES

(case study on carpentry Chàng Sơn, Thạch Thất, Hanoi)

PHÍ THỊ BÌNH^()*

Traditional craft village be considered as the factors cannot be separated in Vietnam's traditional craft village, its include 2 opposite factors is sift supply and close of traditional craft village in rural area and the dynamic, creative of people with opening factors in joining global economic and mordernization. In other words, traditional craft village are non-agriculture that having advantages in number of households, labors and its income percentage to comparison with agriculture. It impacts on traditional craft villages and plays an important role in socio-economic in rural area, make Vietnam's rural areas joint in international economic and fasten in industrialization.

In this article, we study a case in carpentry in Chàng Sơn village, Thạch Thất district, Hanoi where considered as higher speed development and urbanization with other areas and challenge in socio-economic and cuturel.

1. Overview in Chàng Sơn carpentry

Chàng Sơn is one of village with long

tradition in Thạch Thất district. Chàng village establishment, they studied in village history and ancient materials, older people in this village known that Chàng village established in early AD, "Chàng" is one kind of carpentry's instrument. And now there is no writing document about Chàng Sơn carpentry's history.

There is space of cultural diversity training, with the interleaving, harmonic between element of traditional culture and modern culture, and carpentry is the main hand-made. It plays an important roles and impact on Chàng Sơn's socio-economic and cultural. It not only create works, upgrade the living standard but also it is a good traditional craft village that be generated by carpenter artisans. Chàng Sơn now and in the past is well known Chàng Sơn's carpenter created many work of art and sculpture as a Tản Viên temple (Ba Vì), arhat statues in Tây Phương pagoda and some work of art in around Vietnam.

According to the vicissitudes of history, Chàng Sơn's carpentry is certain

^(*) Institute of Vietnamese Studies and Development Sciences.

changed. Firstly, it was the secondary job in free time, now it becomes traditional handicrafts which bring main incomes, solve the unemployment and upgrading the living standard in traditional craft village. In recent years, Chàng Sơn carpentry develops stably and strides outstanding.

2. Opportunities and challenges for development in Chàng Sơn carpentry in recent years

- Chances

Chàng Sơn's background is traditional craft village with many handicraft co-exist and develop in parallel, create the mutual exchange with vocational training, between carpentry with other job in village. Business psychology was established as a commercial talent skillfully trends of Chàng Sơn carpentry, easily to meet with market unstable. Particularly the International economic integration deeper in Vietnam opened up to Chàng Sơn manée opportunities for development. For example:

- Transportation system with path province, inner-communal boundary makes general system of materials and productions in village with other areas and makes advantages for Chàng Sơn's commerce.

- Labor structure in a large proportion (more than 80% in total labor); focus all, ages, sexuality. In that, model of household production is main and utilize the labor of all family member include women and children. Children in village help in production when they were a child, it is an advantage point to remain and develop their job. It is also the way that artisan can hand their experience and secret. More over, with young team

of qualified cultural, and qualification upgrading, they equipped with social knowledge from their school, their life and skillful from old generations. So young team qualification is upgrading and rejuvenates the team. Next to this the legacy, promote and promote creativity, improve to suite with the design, and modern style, and meet the high quality.

- Although, they applied scientific and technical in some part of chain production but it brings greater efficiency of labor, reduce time, and labor force. This model deeply applied in this village. According to incomplete statistic, in Chàng Sơn 2% household produce traditional wooden house, 7% produce worship, 50% produce furniture and fine art and 41% produce normal wooden production. Cause of this specialization makes linkage and cooperation between household in village. In addition, thanks for the modern communication, Chàng Sơn people can open their market by internet, e-commerce, and newspapers online, so their production is well known in domestic and some regional market as Taiwan, China ...

- Government and state issued system policy and orientated to develop traditional craft village, restore the culture value and build new model rural. It also help Chàng Sơn carpentry develop. Borrowing capital policy invest in production be opened in rural areas is a good condition help many households improve their production force, invested in technical and widen production. Specially, when commune collected production household in industrial zone, it is not only widen production area but

also it help reduce polluted environment in village.

- *Some challenges:*

Global economic integration and fast urbanization make Chàng Sơn carpentry quickly changed and impacted on village development.

Vietnam has jointed in WTO, it created opening air market for Chàng Sơn, but it was the economic competitive between Chàng Sơn with other carpentry traditional craft village in areas such as Hữu Bằng, Phùng Xá, Canh Nậu or outside area as Đồng Kỵ (Bắc Ninh) deeper and deeper. Especially, when the connection between households with enterprises is weak, enterprises are locality. Now in Chàng Sơn need an association to collect artisan, skillful and find output way for their production.

While, labor market widens in quantity and quality but it is lack of labor with high technique and qualification, so it is difficult for them to apply technical. The number of high skillful labor to research new style is less. They were not trained, always depend on their experience. Their benefits and protection

Trade mark for Chàng Sơn productions is a big problem. Now in Chàng Sơn, some households produce traditional furniture and fine art, besides households produce modern furniture (made by industrial wood), these production always have lower quality, and do not require qualification, so it made fine art down and down. Moreover, Chàng Sơn's traditional furniture and fine art are not registered of copyright protection, so their goods in opening market it is easy be mixed with other goods that is less well-known in market.

To well understand this problem we know that want to register of copyright protection they need follow some regular in renew technique in production chain and it plays importance role in production. This problem in Chàng Sơn are making but only in some household and in some parts of production. To solve this problem is finding capital to invest in produce, some households use equity or borrow with high interest loan, role of State in preferential loans were too small, and it did not meet the need in village development. Households production is difficult to borrow big loan if they can not show their force, and production scale in future, so it inhibitory household's production and village speed. According to Chàng Sơn's commune statistic, in 2009, the number of household can access to capital were 976, equal to money borrowed was 36.883 billion VND (in which 244 borrowed from credit funds with 10.5 billion VND, 292 borrowed from Bank of Social policy with 1593 billion VND, 429 borrowed from Bank of Agriculture with 24,79 billion VND). It amount did not meet their production need.

Chàng Sơn's materials sources are not available in there, 100% materials have to import outside by system enterprises or Co Ltd in commune, and it pushed up price, and depended on outside sources. It is also disadvantages making pushed up price and lack of competition in open market. In recent year, Chàng Sơn's carpentry productions have been widely sold all over nation but it is difficult to export to oversea, its products only export to China and Taiwan and be impacted by market economy.

Besides, Chàng Sơn is face with seriously polluted environment. Village development is inversely with production area. The average area for production is 144m², production household used all living area to produce as house, garden, and more they filled ponds to widened production areas. It is one of the reasons for noisy polluted, air polluted. Dust concentration measured in Chàng Sơn was 4, 7-8, 3 mg/m³; it is higher than limit standard. The amount of waste per day in Chàng Sơn is 6,6 tons, they can collect 65% and 25% left is still on village, so environment polluted is more severe. It impacts on people living standard.

But, Chàng Sơn's commune can not clearly know this problem and can not find the right way to solve it. How can do to push development economics and protect environment. They found the way to solve the conflict resolution between producing area and living area, but it is so slowly and lack of planning management, using land for improper purposes leaded to more seriously environmental pollution. It needs the solution not only in Chàng Sơn commune, but also upper level. Hanoi need issue policy to protect and develop traditional craft village, mean why still protect environment. It really need right orientation to develop.

Cultural changing is one of challenges in Chàng Sơn. The introduction and continue development of cultural elements have positive impacts and changes to the appearances, upgrading people's living and culture standard. It leads to some cultural value are reborn as worship the village tutelary, water puppet and act...).

Even though, market mechanism creates lifestyle market and deterioration in living concept in some part of Chàng Sơn people. Specially, in young ages, this implication leads to pragmatic way of life. Their lifestyle changed and their way of changed also, produce like "fast food" begin in Chàng Sơn, so quality is down, it effected on Chàng Sơn's reputation. The appreciate money value is the reason why the artisan value decreased and business man value rise on. And it make the community linkage is loosen, can say that the money linkage is tight but culture linkage is loosen. Some social crisis is increasing.

3. Some solution for development in Chàng Sơn

According to this study, we found that to remain and develop traditional craft village as Chàng Sơn need apply solution close to each village socio-economic, and cultural condition to take advantage points and reduce disadvantages in traditional craft village.

- Need diversification way and sources capital collection as banks system, bank of social policy in local to step by step increase effective in using capital.

- Perform synchronization market, need widen market; increase capacity in accessing market for production households, for enterprises and company limited in village, and they can find and promote their market, after that can promote their production in domestic and oversea market by connecting traditional craft village with tourism, push commerce policy and advertise their productions.

- Need concentrate on training and upgrade labor qualification in traditional

craft village such as cooperating with department or collage about art to train about art and architech technique. By the way, training and upgrading the capacity on socio-economic development on planning, culture, scientific and technology, knowledge in economic mechanism for production households and enterprises in training center or business club...

- Establish the tradition village association and its regulation for ensuring cooperation between production household to well access with outside market and develop village.
- To develop traditional village need connect Chàng Sơn's traditional and modern elements. And focus on criterials for economic growth and environmental protection.

For all these articles as above, we want to express on establishing and completing the policy system about traditional craft village. Need improve legal for its development these elements are not only stand on document but also it need practically in life. In order to make is well, need concentration on upgrading the capacity on socio-economic management and planning from State to commune level.

Besides, need know about using children labor and labor protection in Chàng Sơn carpentry village, Chàng Sơn commune should issue clearly criterias for this problem, special for using children labor. Because now in Chàng Sơn use many children labor and it is illegal and need prevent. Environmental polluted in traditional village is very serious and lead to many problems in living and environment standard. To make it well,

need cooperation of all village community and especially widen knowledge for all people in environmental protection. And make planning to collect traditional village in industrial zone to solve solution for production area and need closely manage to avoid using land non-purposed.

References:

1. Nguyễn Duy Bắc (Editor in Chief). Changes of cultural values in the context of building market economy in Vietnam currently. H.: Encyclopedic dictionary Publishing House and Cultural Institute, 2008.
2. Thạch Thất's People's Committee. Thạch Thất's monography .2005
3. Nguyễn Trinh Hương. Environment and community's traditional village health in Vietnam. Ministry of Construction. <http://moc.gov.vn>
4. Nguyễn Kiến (editor). Chàng Sơn village, past and now. Chàng Sơn's village club, 2006.
5. Đinh Gia Khánh, Trần Tiến (co-editor in Chief). Traditional cultural monography of Thăng Long – Đông Đô – Hanoi. H: Hanoi Publishing House, 1991.
6. Nguyễn Hữu Mão. Dexterity of Chàng Sơn village. H: Traditional culture Publishing House, 1994.
7. People's Committee of Chàng Sơn. Socio-economic report from 2001-2010.
8. People's Committee of Chàng Sơn. General report on land using in period 2006-2010 in Chàng Sơn village.