

# FAMILY AND GENDER STUDIES AT THE INSTITUTE OF HUMAN, FAMILY AND GENDER STUDIES AND SOME RESEARCH ORIENTATIONS IN THE COMING TIME

NGUYEN HUU MINH(\*)

**Abstract:** The Institute of Human, Family and Gender Studies (abbreviated as the Institute) was officially established in April 2025 on the basis of a merger from the Institute of Human Studies (established in 1999) and the Institute of Family and Gender Studies (established in 1987). Since its establishment, the topic of family and gender has been the key research content of the Institute. Over the past 40 years, the Institute has implemented many national and international research programs and projects related to family and gender issues. On the basis of a synthesis of the Institute's published research works, this article analyzes a number of research results on the family and gender conducted by the Institute over the past 40 years. The article highlights the Institute's main contributions to the transfer of knowledge as well as its policy advisory role to promote gender equality and strengthening Vietnamese families. At the same time, given that family and gender characteristics in Vietnam are constantly changing under the impact of industrialization, modernization, and recently the process of digital transformation and international integration taking place extensively, the article proposes some directions for research and policy advice on family and gender in the coming time in order to best serve the country's innovation.

**Keywords:** *Family; Family and Gender Studies; Gender equality; Institute of Human, Family and Gender Studies.*

*Date of receipt: 15/9/2025; Date of submission of review: 18/9/2025; Post approval date: 10/11/2025.*

---

(\*) Institute of Human, Family and Gender Studies, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences.

## **1. Introduction**

The Institute of Human, Family and Gender Studies (abbreviated as the Institute) was officially established in April 2025 on the basis of merging from two research institutions of the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences, namely the Institute of Human Studies (established in 1999) and the Institute of Family and Gender Studies (established in 1987). Since its inception, research on the topic of family and gender has been the major theme of the Institute, and this is a significant research topic that continues to be inherited from the pre-merger Institute of Family and Gender Studies.

Over the past 40 years, the Institute has implemented many national and international research programs and projects related to the family and gender<sup>1</sup>. Some examples can be given such as: "Survey of working and living conditions of female workers in the Northern forestry plantations and their families" (1987); "Production, reproduction and family welfare - A study of the situation in households from a gender approach" (1994 - 1995); "Basic investigation of the Vietnamese family and the role of women in the family in the period of industrialization and modernization" (1998 - 2000); Ministerial Research Program "Some basic issues of family and gender in Vietnam" (2009 - 2010); "Overall research and assessment on gender equality for sustainable development" (2022 - 2025).

On the basis of the diverse research activities mentioned above, scientists from the Institute of Family and Gender Studies have published hundreds of valuable research works on the topic of family and gender. The results of the Institute's research on family and gender have also provided scientific arguments for the formulation of policies and laws of the Party and the State.

This article analyzes some of the research results on the family and gender topics conducted by the Institute's scientists over the past 40 years, contributing to the transfer of knowledge as well as advice on policy development to promote gender equality and strengthening families in Vietnam<sup>2</sup>. At the same time, in the

---

<sup>1</sup> Readers can refer to more details at: Nguyen Huu Minh (2017) and Nguyen Huu Minh (2023a).

<sup>2</sup> Due to the very large volume of works, only some works are illustrated in the article.

face of the reality that family and gender characteristics in Vietnam are constantly changing under the impact of industrialization, modernization, and recently the process of digital transformation and international integration taking place, the article raises some thoughts on research orientations in the coming time to best serve the innovation cause of Vietnam country.

## **2. Some research results on the family<sup>3</sup>**

Research results of the Institute (Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, General Statistics Office, Institute for Family and Gender Studies and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) - Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and other agencies, 2008; Nguyen Huu Minh (editor), 2021) shows that family formation in Vietnam has undergone certain changes compared to the traditional pattern, but this trend is not completely broken with the past. In other words, the movement and transformation of marriage patterns in Vietnam shows the intersection of the characteristics of modern life with the preservation of traditional values. Life in a registered marriage is still chosen by the vast majority of Vietnamese people. In addition, there is an increasing trend of cases of cohabitation without marriage or a part of young people who do not want to get married. This hinders the stable development of the population structure, not ensuring the replacement fertility rate.

In the context of globalization and international integration, the Institute has conducted studies focusing on analyzing the phenomenon of women marrying foreigners through brokers, especially cross-border marriages. In addition to emphasizing the socio-economic motivations of insiders, studies have shown many negative consequences of the phenomenon such as the tendency to "bleed" the labor force in localities where many women marry foreign husbands through brokers; the lack of preparation of brides before leaving the country limits their ability to adapt, educate, take care of their children and increase the risk of violence; the risk of trafficking in women; challenges in social development management in border areas; etc. (Nguyen Thanh Tam, 2010; Dang Thi Hoa, 2016).

---

<sup>3</sup> Readers can refer to Nguyen Huu Minh (2023a) in more detail.

The Institute's studies have shown the impact of the market economy on the socialization of children, especially the decline in the educational function of the family due to the lack of interest of some parents; differences in access to basic social services (education and healthcare) among groups of children; social consequences for child education and care in the context of digital transformation. In many cases, parents and families are "khoán trắng" (delegate without supervision) the implementation of the function of child socialization for schools and social networks. The percentage of adolescents who have experienced domestic violence is still high due to the traditional prejudice of "thương cho roi cho vọt" (spare the rod and spoil the child), as well as the lack of knowledge of parents about the characteristics of their children's cognitive and psychophysiological development during adolescence. In addition to pointing out the impact of community and family factors in child education and care, the Institute's research has emphasized the role of the implementation of laws and policies on the comprehensive development of Vietnamese children today (Tran Thi Van Anh et al, 2011; Nguyen Huu Minh et al., 2021).

Aware of the strong trend of population aging in Vietnam, over the past two decades, the Institute's research has paid special attention to the elderly and their relationships with other family members. The characteristics of the quality of life of the elderly in Vietnam as well as the challenges to their care from the family and society side have been initially identified. Studies affirm the important role of the family in caring for the elderly in the current period and in the near future, in the context that the community and society have not really taken on the responsibility of caring for the elderly, and most elderly people do not have social benefits (Nguyen Huu Minh and Le Thuy Hang, 2021). Some studies have warned of the risk of violence against the elderly in the family (Dang Thi Hoa, 2020), because many children and grandchildren are affected by personal lifestyles, due to difficulties and deprivations in families, and family conflicts that arise and accumulate in the process of caring for the elderly who depend on their children and grandchildren. In addition, the Institute's research has shown that the elderly in Vietnam are still an important resource to help their children

with household chores, actively participate in economic development and strengthen good relationships in the family and society. That contributes to affirming the position of the elderly in family life and strengthening the cohesion between the elderly and the generations of children and grandchildren (Nguyen Huu Minh et al., 2019a; Trinh Thai Quang, 2020).

Sibling relations (ACER) are important in Vietnamese family and social life, but the topic has received little attention for independent research in Vietnam. Therefore, over the past decade, the Institute has carried out research on this relationship, first as an aspect of kinship, and then focused on the relationship between ACERs who have built their own families. The ACER relationship is analyzed in many dimensions. Studies have shown that ACER effectively supports the family's economic activities and that creates a bond between members of the extended family and the clan. At the same time, the economic support activities between ACER are "conditional", depending on the characteristics of ACER as well as the actual circumstances at each time in life. The cultural tradition of the ACER relationship is clearly reflected in the issue of sharing obligations and rights in the large family. The eldest sons and sons still play a big role in caring for and supporting their parents, in organizing funerals, sand ceremonies, and offering deaths to their parents, especially in the Northern Delta. Studies confirm the strength of ACER relationships over time whether the manifestations of the relationships change due to socio-economic changes, the characteristics of migration processes, as well as the impact of the market economy. The ACER relationship seems to be more evident in aspects of spiritual and spiritual life than in the material-economic life. At the same time, the current ACER relationship emphasizes fairness in the division of responsibilities and benefits (Nguyen Huu Minh and Nguyen Thi Hong Hanh, 2020a; Nguyen Huu Minh and Nguyen Thi Hong Hanh, 2020b).

In order to provide arguments for scientific policy development, the development and refinement of theoretical issues and research methods on the family is of great significance. The Institute has soon focused on synthesizing and generalizing the theories and methods of family research through international works, clarifying different approaches in family studies such as the study of gender

relations in the family, the study of marriage and family values (Le Ngoc Van (editor), 2006; Nguyen Huu Minh, 2016). The Institute's works are increasingly focusing on the application of family theory in research. For example, the theory of modernization, relative resources, and feminism is applied in analyzing the division of labor and decision-making rights in the family (Le Ngoc Van, 1999; Nguyen Huu Minh, 2016); applying modernization theory, exchange theory to study family relationships of the elderly (Nguyen Huu Minh and Tran Quy Long, 2022); applying the approach to working capacity and social identity theory to research on promoting the resources of the elderly (Trinh Thai Quang, 2020); etc.

The Institute's scientists have paid attention to summarizing the problems of family research methods, especially in the development of tools and indicators to measure the division of labor, decision-making in the family, family happiness, and the participation of the elderly in the family and society (Nguyen Huu Minh, 2016). The Institute is also one of the first social science research agencies to build a statistical database on families in Vietnam (Le Ngoc Van et al., 2002; Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and other agencies, 2008). It can be proudly said that the Institute's research has complied with a strict process of scientific research methods and ensures high scientificity.

### **3. Some results of gender research**

Gender research at the Institute has a premise that stems from the study of women as a social group that plays an important role in the development of the country, but their potential contribution has not been fully realized. Studies have pointed out not only achievements but also gender challenges as well as inadequacies in the implementation of gender equality policies and laws in Vietnam (Tran Thi Van Anh and Nguyen Huu Minh (eds.), 2008). Specifically, pointing out the great contribution of female workers in the transition from a centrally planned economy to a market economy, clarifying the challenges of life and employment of poor women and women in extremely difficult circumstances; the issue of women and girls, domestic workers, etc. Gender and employment issues, especially in the non-state and informal sectors, have shown the need for policy adjustments in the current period of economic restructuring and international integration. Gender studies have provided rich practical data,

proposed solutions, and recommended policies to contribute to improving gender relations and strengthening women's capacity and status in social sectors during Vietnam's transition to a market economy (Le Thi, 2009; Ministry of Labor, War Invalids and Social Affairs and other agencies, 2012).

Population and healthcare studies have clarified the perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors of reproductive healthcare among groups of young women, ethnic women, poor women, immigrants, etc. (Nguyen Huu Minh and Le Phuong, 2001; Nguyen Huu Minh et al., 2012). The research results have contributed to improving the efficiency of planning and implementing reproductive health care policies for women in general and disadvantaged groups of women in particular.

Research on education and culture focuses on analyzing the opportunities and challenges of women's groups in training and improving cultural and spiritual life (Tran Thi Van Anh and Nguyen Huu Minh (eds.), 2008; Nguyen Huu Minh (editor), 2014). The results of the study have served as the basis for specific recommendations to improve the effectiveness of female labor training and the effective use of human resources, improving the level of enjoyment of women's spiritual benefits in some regions of the country. The achievements of gender equality in education in recent years are the result of the efforts of the whole society, including the research results of the Institute as scientific arguments for the guidelines and policies of the Party and the State.

Gender equality in politics is one of the topics that the Institute has been particularly interested in over the years. The Institute's research has contributed to affirming the achievements of gender equality in politics in Vietnam when the proportion of female cadres participating in leadership and management at the Party committees, authorities and elected bodies is constantly increasing. At the same time, the research results point out that there are still limitations in this field, many targets of gender equality in politics set out in the Party's Resolutions and the National Strategy on Gender Equality have not been achieved. A number of structural, institutional, and cultural causes, especially the persistent preservation of traditional gender stereotypes, have been an important obstacle to promoting gender equality in politics. These research results have provided important scientific arguments for the improvement of Party and State policies to promote gender equality in politics (Nguyen Huu Minh, 2020).

Gender equality in the family plays an important role in promoting gender equality in society. The results of the Institute's research contribute to pointing out a worrying fact that the gender-based division of labor is still maintained, although there has been a more balanced sharing between the two sexes in household economic activities and household affairs. The wife continues to be the main one in charge of household chores, managing household expenditures, and caring for children and the elderly, while remaining actively involved in the social workforce. The "double" burden of labor has significantly affected women's development, both physically and spiritually, thus reducing the quality of the husband-wife relationship. The role of men as the head of the family continues to be popular in Vietnamese society even though the State has been making many efforts to improve the role and position of women in the family. The rate of both husband and wife deciding on household affairs has increased, but this change has not been strong and uniform in social groups (Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and other agencies, 2008; Nguyen Huu Minh and Tran Thi Hong, 2019; Nguyen Huu Minh and Nguyen Thi Phuong, 2021).

One of the clear indicators of gender inequality in the family is the situation of husband violence against his wife. The Institute's research contributes to confirming the challenges in this regard. After nearly 20 years of implementation of the Law on Prevention and Control of Domestic Violence (2007), the reality of husband violence against his wife in Vietnam has decreased but not significantly. Studies have highlighted the main groups of factors that cause and sustain husband violence against wives: one is factors that perceive the personal perception of both the perpetrator and the victim of domestic violence as perceiving these behaviors as acceptable; the second is the factor related to the family and the community, the family places too much emphasis on preserving face and the community easily tolerates violent acts, leading to the half-hearted handling of violence; The third is factors related to women's rights, in which the concept of "chồng chúa, vợ tôi" (The husband is the lord/master and the wife is the servant) is the root factor of husbands' violent acts against their wives. At the same time, intervention activities in some localities for violent acts have not been highly effective. These factors are

intertwined, forming many layers and have a complex influence on domestic violence (Nguyen Huu Minh and Tran Thi Van Anh, 2009b; Nguyen Huu Minh and Tran Thi Hong, 2020).

As a leading national research institution on gender equality, as early as the 1990s, the Institute has focused on theoretical and methodological issues of women's and gender studies such as basic conceptual systems, the development of gender theory, feminist perspectives in family studies, etc the combination of quantitative and qualitative methods, a system of gender analysis tools and indicators, the development of a comprehensive index of gender equality, etc. (Ngo Thi Tuan Dung, 2009; Tran Thi Van Anh, 2009; Nguyen Huu Minh and Tran Thi Hong, 2022). The research results have contributed to improving the research capacity of the research and teaching staff on women and gender equality, providing scientific arguments for the development of policies and programs on gender equality, as well as raising awareness of gender issues in Vietnam. At the same time, the Institute has made efforts to apply and integrate gender perspectives and approaches in research, teaching, evaluation, policy advice and development programs and projects in Vietnam. The Institute became the first agency to build a statistical database by gender, opening the way for the construction of the current Statistical System by Gender. On the basis of experience and skills in gender analysis, the Institute has summarized and applied to develop a number of theoretical and methodological documents for gender research, teaching and development, specifically gender issues and poverty alleviation, gender and labor and employment, etc gender mainstreaming skills, etc. for different subjects such as elected deputies, managers, socio-political officials, students and interested people at different levels or fields.

#### **4. Policy contribution and consultancy**

The Institute's research results on family and gender have contributed positively to the development of policies, strategies, long-term plans and direct consultation for community development in many fields.

For the first group of activities, the studies have effectively served the evaluation of the implementation of the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action; providing scientific grounds for the promulgation of Directive No. 49-CT/FOUR

in 2005 on family building in the period of national industrialization and modernization and Directive No. 06-CT/TW dated June 24, 2021 of the Secretariat on strengthening the Party's leadership over family building in the new situation; formulate a National Strategy for the Advancement of Vietnamese Women by 2010; formulating the Law on Marriage and Family 2000 and 2014; formulating the Law on Gender Equality 2006; formulating the Law on Prevention and Control of Domestic Violence 2007; Children's Law 2004 and 2016; develop National Strategies on Gender Equality and Family Development; etc. The results of the Institute's research have provided scientific evidence to help summarize the implementation of the Laws and Strategies and Decisions of the State, as a basis for the correct assessment of the practice of advocacy and transformation of the family and gender relations in Vietnam. thereby proposing recommendations and solutions to develop Vietnamese families as "prosperous, progressive, happy and civilized" and promote gender equality. A number of researchers of the Institute have been directly involved in reviewing and developing policies for central departments and agencies on family and gender equality. Many reports distilling research results have been sent to the Party Central Committee, the Government, the National Assembly, ministries and branches and are highly appreciated.

With the second group of activities, the Institute's research results have contributed to the development of specific action programs as well as the implementation and evaluation of intervention projects in many localities in many fields. For example, consulting activities on improving the role of women in the family and in society; Improving the living standards of households through the provision of clean water and sanitation services; Domestic violence prevention; etc.

### **5. Some orientations to pay attention to research on the family and gender in the new era**

Vietnam is now entering a new era, the era of building a prosperous and prosperous country, with new contextual characteristics. In the world, the Fourth Industrial Revolution continues to develop strongly and have a profound impact on all fields. Domestically, after 40 years of renovation, the country's prospects,

potential, position and international prestige have been raised, which is an important foundation for the country to rise. The revolution in streamlining the organizational apparatus of the political system along with strategic decisions: Renewing, formulating and enforcing laws; breakthroughs in scientific and technological development, innovation and national digital transformation; private economic development; international integration; breakthroughs in education and training development; on caring for and improving people's health; etc., which are opening up historical opportunities for the country's strong development in the new era. However, in the coming time, Vietnam will still face many difficulties and challenges: Socio-economic development is not sustainable; The overarching risk is the risk of falling behind, especially in technology, and falling into the middle-income trap; The aging of the population is faster than forecast; etc. (Draft Political Report of the XIV Congress).

The rapid transformations of contemporary society have created new challenges and opportunities for the family and gender. The family – as the foundational institution of society – is undergoing a profound change in both structure, function and internal relationships. At the same time, gender issues have become more diverse and complex, and the forms of gender interaction are strongly influenced by the digital context.

These changes require the identification of new research issues that can accurately reflect the dynamics of family life and gender in the transitional period, and continue to refine approaches, theories and methods.

Several dimensions of family and gender relations in Vietnam have been studied and have many results as analyzed above. In addition to continuing to pay attention to those topics, placing them in the new context of digital transformation and rearranging the organization and apparatus, it is possible and necessary to analyze more deeply some of the issues mentioned below.

### ***Family Studies***

In fact, some socio-economic policies have not taken into account the impacts on family life in general, and do not fully demonstrate the role of the family as a specific social institution that has a close relationship with other institutions in the overall social system. The implementation and implementation

of family policies still have many limitations (Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, 2018; Nguyen Huu Minh, 2019). The family has not yet been seen as an independent institution, with its own movement and development, and is the object of independent policies. Therefore, it is necessary to study to help more fully realize the important role of the family in the cause of industrialization and modernization in our country, and at the same time promote the role of the family in contributing to the overall development of society in the new era, thereby paying comprehensive attention to the family aspect in socio-economic policies. Studies can focus on analyzing the role of the family in building the Vietnamese human value system in the new era, educating, fostering and protecting children, strengthening the sense of social responsibility, and the sense of respect for the law for children and adolescents in the family.

So far and for the next decade, the family clearly remains an irreplaceable institution for ensuring personal well-being. The problem, however, is that the institution can be overexploited without getting the necessary support. In addition, in the new context with high service costs, a shortfall in the budget for care in general, and the formation of the private sector to provide social welfare services, although the family still plays an important role, the way this institution performs its role in ensuring welfare has also changed compared to before. This characteristic of continuity and transformation should be fully taken into account when researching as well as when proposing welfare policies in general and care policies in particular, including the care of children, the sick, the elderly, etc. At the same time, the linkage between the support system of families and relatives with workplace benefits and the potential of the private and informal sectors, is also an important factor in the coming period.

The phenomenon of cohabitation without marriage is on the rise along with the recognition of individual freedom and the democratization of social relationships. That affects the rights of the child at birth as well as of each member involved when there is a conflict of interest between individuals. The increase in premarital and extramarital sexual relations raises the issue of ensuring sexual safety, including sex education and sexual culture. The trend of decreasing marriages, fewer children and gender imbalance at birth is taking

place seriously, but there are no feasible solutions to ensure the stable development of the population. The trend of increasing divorce (Tran Thi Minh Thi, 2023) reflects the increasing individuality in marital relationships. However, associated with divorce are the consequences that arise on the relationship between children and parents as well as the families of both parties, thereby having negative impacts on the development of children. These issues require further analysis of family and gender studies.

Along with the process of industrialization, a large number of workers migrated at home and abroad to ensure family life. The impact of migrant workers on ensuring functions and cohesion in family relations is enormous and needs to be studied to strengthen and build families. The problem is to arrange and organize the family life of labor migrants in order to ensure the stability and safety of family life, the education of children, and the sustainability of conjugal relations.

The change in the norms of male and female roles in the family also raises new questions about the relationship between gender equality and strengthening family relations in the current context. How to combine women's responsibilities towards the family and other social responsibilities such as career, politics, etc. to ensure the free development of women but at the same time strengthen the warm relationship in the family is a big question that is being asked today.

The relationship between parents and children is becoming more and more equal and democratic in the new period, but this transformation to a certain extent is losing the good values of the traditional Vietnamese family such as the morality of respect above and below, gratitude and respect of children to their parents, etc. Children's duties and sense of responsibility towards their families, parents, etc. Therefore, how to provide scientific arguments to help strengthen the educational function of the family, build a new relationship between parents and children on the basis of absorbing new human values and inheriting the good values of the traditional Vietnamese family, is very necessary.

In the context of digital transformation, with the current huge amount of information, the role and position of parents as the most important source of knowledge and experience for children has been challenged. In the past, parents were examples for their children to follow, with absolute power and prestige.

Currently, much of the knowledge children have is due to learning on social networks that parents do not know or do not match their parents' teachings, which makes parents gradually lose absolute prestige with their children. In the condition that the cohesion between family members becomes loose, other social institutions gradually replace the role of the family in caring for and educating children. This is an extremely important role transformation in the formation and development of children's personalities in the current digital transformation period and needs to be studied further.

Happiness has always been the aspiration of human beings, no matter where they are and in any historical period. President Ho Chi Minh reminded us: "If the country is independent but the people do not enjoy happiness and freedom, independence has no meaning" (Ho Chi Minh, 2011). For comprehensive development, Vietnam needs to move towards a society that is both economically strong, happy and equitable, where the quality of life of its people is improved not only materially but also spiritually. The goal of happiness will become a strong driving force for promoting national development policies, helping Vietnam achieve sustainable and harmonious prosperity. Personal happiness is associated with family happiness and it is a goal to strive for in Vietnamese family building. However, over the years, the topic of research on personal and family happiness has not been promoted. Therefore, this also needs to be a priority topic in the coming years.

### ***Gender Studies***

Studying the characteristics of gender relations in Vietnam's integrated society, ensuring gender equality in all fields, and promoting the role of gender equality in promoting the sustainable development of society is a direction of concern. A topic that also needs further study is how will gender relations in care work at the family and community scale (childcare, the elderly, the sick, the disabled, etc.) play out? What kind of care model is suitable for Vietnam's conditions? How do forms of care relate to women's development? Caregiving, in the form of care services or by family members, also known as the "caring economy" is growing rapidly and diversely, but there is little concrete information

about how it takes place and how it affects the opportunities of female workers. It is necessary to consider the issues posed to female workers from both perspectives, one is the caregiver, the other is the user of care services as well as the issues related to ensuring the quality-of-care services. In the coming time, with the increasing demand for care (especially as Vietnam begins to enter the aging population), issues such as skills training, insurance, contracts, etc. will need to be raised with higher and higher requirements from both sides. In this regard, quantifying the economic contribution of women to household chores as well as analyzing the rationality of the division of labor between women and men in the family are now worth paying attention to.

In the context of the revolution in organization and apparatus, women's participation in leadership and management has new characteristics. The organizational and apparatus arrangement, with the requirement of streamlining payroll, increased work pressure after the merger and the distance to work too far, seem to create more difficulties for female cadres than male cadres due to the traditional concept that women must dominate family affairs (Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics and other agencies, 2025). The great impacts of the organizational and apparatus reorganization process on women's participation in leadership and management need to be studied.

In the current period in Vietnam, with households as production units, the division of labor by gender is still quite common for many different reasons, including the factor of ensuring the optimization of household income and welfare. The question is, what solution can help change this division of labor model in the direction of promoting gender equality? What is the relationship between that division of labor model and the power inequality between husband and wife in the family? There is a need for in-depth empirical analyses of the impact of gendered division of labor on women's status in the Vietnamese family, especially in the context of women becoming more and more actively involved in the social workforce and earning incomes that are not much less than men.

Digital transformation and the Fourth Industrial Revolution that is taking place strongly will bring great benefits to people, while also posing a lot of

challenges. Many studies show that, as technology and machines, techniques, etc., gradually replace human activities, women are among the most vulnerable because they often have lower levels of training and do simpler jobs. Therefore, their ability to adapt to technology and technology will be more limited. At a more general level, the social, institutional and infrastructure changes associated with the Fourth Industrial Revolution will greatly affect the relationship between individuals and society in general, and on family and gender relations in particular. These issues need to be paid attention to by studies in the near future. The issue of including STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) knowledge in the general education curriculum to ensure that people can adapt and respond as quickly as possible to changes in society and life, and at the same time support to reduce the gender gap in occupations in the future also needs to be analyzed in more depth.

#### ***Policy consulting***

Another important orientation is to strengthen family and gender studies that are directly linked to evaluation and policy development advice. Implementing this orientation is very meaningful in order to enhance the role of research organizations in society. Studies directly associated with evaluation and policy development may come from the requirements of state organizations or proactively proposed by the Institute. For example, after nearly two decades of implementation, the Law on Gender Equality is currently being amended and supplemented by the Government of Vietnam in the direction of a deeper approach to human rights, in order to further improve gender inequality and ensure synchronization with international standards. In this regard, the Institute's research should pay attention to the evaluation and completion of the Law on Gender Equality, the Law on Marriage and Family, the Law on Prevention and Control of Domestic Violence, etc., and other laws and national target programs related to the field of family and gender. Another topic is to continue further research to provide scientific arguments for the formulation of a new Resolution of the Central Committee in place of Resolution 11/NQ-TU (2007) or to continue to complete the Resolution on women's work in the new era of the country.

Another example is the study of a model of coordination between families and communities to care for and promote elderly resources in an aging society. The Constitution, laws and policies in recent times have been helping the elderly become active subjects of enjoying their rights instead of being passive recipients of care from the previous law-making point of view. However, the legal system on social security of the elderly in Vietnam still has gaps in many fields, affecting the full implementation of the basic rights of this particular social group. For example, the Law on Social Insurance 2024 stipulates that Vietnamese citizens must be 75 years old or older to enjoy social pension benefits. However, the specific roadmap for implementing this regulation in the coming time is currently unclear, especially when Vietnam enters the period of population aging (in 2049) and very old (in 2069). The research results need to closely follow this fact in order to provide a scientific basis for the development of a clear and predictive legal framework to ensure long-term and stable retirement benefits for the elderly.

## **6. Conclusion**

Over the nearly 40 years since family and gender studies have gained attention in Vietnam, many studies have been conducted by the Institute of Humanan, Family and Gender Studies, covering a wide range of issues related to family life and gender relations in Vietnam. Within the framework of an article, the author cannot mention all of those research results, but only suggests some main contents. The Institute's research has contributed significantly to improving knowledge in the field of research as well as policy consulting activities to build a prosperous, progressive, happy and civilized Vietnamese family, while promoting gender equality. However, family and gender research is facing many challenges in the new context to better contribute to building a strong and prosperous Vietnam. The process of industrialization, modernization, international integration and deep digital transformation in the coming years will have a strong impact on all aspects of family life and gender relations in Vietnam. Attention to the issues related to family and gender studies as mentioned above is essential in order to respond promptly to the great socio-economic changes in Vietnam in the future.

## References

1. Blood, Robert. B.; Wolfe, Donald. M. (1978). *Husbands & Wives: the Dynamics of Married Living*. Westport: Greenwood Press.
2. Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs, United Nations Vietnam, MDG Achievement Fund and the Institute for Family and Gender Studies. (2012). *Decent employment for domestic workers in Vietnam: A research report*. Nguyen Huu Minh is the editor-in-chief of the content. Social Labor Publishing House. Hanoi.
3. Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism. (2018). *Report on the implementation of policies and laws on domestic violence prevention and control in the period of 2008 - 2017*.
4. Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, General Statistics Office, Family and Gender Research Institute and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). (2008). *Report on the results of the 2006 Vietnam Family Survey*. Hanoi.
5. Dang Thi Hoa. (2016). *Cross-border marriage and social development*. Social Sciences Publishing House. Hanoi.
6. Dang Thi Hoa. (2020). *Domestic Violence in Vietnam - Current Situation and Impact Factors*. Social Science Publishing House. Hanoi.
7. Ho Chi Minh City. (2011). *Complete Volume*, Volume 4. National Politics Publishing House. Hanoi.
8. Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics, Vietnam Sociological Association and the United Nations Development Programme. (2025). *Increase the participation of female cadres in government agencies at all levels in Tuyen Quang and Vinh Long provinces*.
9. Le Ngoc Van (editor). (2006). *Family Studies: Feminist Theory, Gender Perspectives*. Social Science Publishing House. 245 p.
10. Le Ngoc Van, Nguyen Linh Khieu, Do Thi Binh. (2002). *Basic survey data on Vietnamese families and women in the family in the period of industrialization and modernization: Northern region*. Hanoi. 196 p.
11. Le Ngoc Van. (1999). "Changing the division of labor by gender: Some problems". *Journal of Women's Science*, No. 2, pp. 17 - 22.

12. Le Thi. (2009). "Women, Family and Gender Studies: From Outcomes to Orientation". In: Nguyen Huu Minh and Tran Thi Van Anh (eds.) (2009). *Family and Gender Studies in Vietnam*. Social Sciences Publishing House. Hanoi, pp. 18 - 27.
13. Ngo Thi Tuan Dung. (2009). "Gender and Development Studies - Some Theoretical Issues". In: Nguyen Huu Minh and Tran Thi Van Anh (editors). (2009a). *Family and Gender Studies in Vietnam*. Social Sciences Publishing House. Hanoi, pp. 148 - 162.
14. Nguyen Huu Minh (editor). (2014). *Cultural life of Hanoi residents*. Social Science Publishing House. Hanoi. 291 p.
15. Nguyen Huu Minh (editor). (2021). *Marriage and marriage experience in Vietnam*. Social Sciences Publishing House. Hanoi.
16. Nguyen Huu Minh and Le Phuong. (2001). "The current situation and awareness of women's reproductive health care in poor communes in the northern mountainous region". *Journal of Women's Science*, No. 2 (45), March, pp. 50 - 56.
17. Nguyen Huu Minh and Le Thuy Hang. (2021). "The role of social organizations in implementing social security policies for the elderly in Vietnam". In: Detlef Briesen & Pham Quang Minh (editors). (2021). *Vietnam Report: Vietnam as an Aging Society*, No. 1. Youth Publishing House. Hanoi, pp. 197 - 212.
18. Nguyen Huu Minh and Nguyen Thi Hong Hanh. (2020a). "Sibling relationships in economic activities and influencing factors". *Journal of Psychology*, October issue, pp. 3 - 15.
19. Nguyen Huu Minh and Nguyen Thi Hong Hanh. (2020b). "Sharing family obligations of married siblings: A case study in two areas of Ninh Binh province". *Journal of Family and Gender Studies*, No. 3, pp. 23 - 36.
20. Nguyen Huu Minh and Nguyen Thi Phuong. (2021). "Gender-based division of labor in the family in Ho Chi Minh City". *Journal of Regional Sustainable Development*, No. 1, vol. 11, March, pp. 99 - 109.
21. Nguyen Huu Minh and Tran Quy Long. (2022). "Traditional and Rational Cultural Factors for Children's Support for Elderly Parents in Family Work in Vietnam". *Journal of Family and Gender Studies*, No. 2, pp. 3 - 16.

22. Nguyen Huu Minh and Tran Thi Hong. (2019). "Factors Influencing Spouses to Decide on Important Family Affairs: New Findings from the 2017 Family Survey". *Journal of Family and Gender Studies*, No. 1 (vol. 29), pp. 3 - 18.
23. Nguyen Huu Minh and Tran Thi Hong. (2020). "Intervention and support activities on domestic violence prevention and control in Vietnam and some issues requiring policy attention". *Journal of Human Research*, No. 1(106), pp. 3 - 14.
24. Nguyen Huu Minh and Tran Thi Hong. (2022). "Some methodological issues in the development of gender equality indicators in Vietnam". *Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities*, vol. 8, no. 4, pp. 467 - 478.
25. Nguyen Huu Minh and Tran Thi Van Anh (eds.). (2009a). *Family and Gender Studies in Vietnam*. Social Sciences Publishing House. Hanoi.
26. Nguyen Huu Minh and Tran Thi Van Anh (eds.). (2009b). *Domestic Violence Against Women in Vietnam - Status, Progress and Causes*. Social Sciences Publishing House. Hanoi.
27. Nguyen Huu Minh, Tran Quy Long, Tran Thi Hong. (2012). "Postpartum maternal and child care in rural Vietnam: Some findings from a health survey in 4 provinces of Thai Nguyen, Khanh Hoa, Phu Yen, Vinh Long". *Journal of Social Sciences* (Ho Chi Minh City), No. 10, pp. 22 - 32.
28. Nguyen Huu Minh, Tran Thi Hong, Le Ngoc Lan. (2019a). "The relationship between parents and children has built families from the results of the 2017 Family Survey". *Journal of Family and Gender Studies*, No. 5 (vol. 29), pp. 17 - 27.
29. Nguyen Huu Minh, Tran Thi Hong, Tran Quy Long & Nguyen Ha Dong. (2021). *Violent Child Discipline in the Family: Findings from Vietnam Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys*. Child Indicators Research (2021). Published 29 August.
30. Nguyen Huu Minh. (2016). *Marriage in Contemporary Vietnamese Society*. Social Sciences Publishing House. Hanoi.
31. Nguyen Huu Minh. (2017). "Scientific Research and Policy Advice - The 30-Year Journey of the Institute for Family and Gender Studies". *Journal of Family and Gender Studies*, No. 1 (vol. 27), pp. 3 - 12.
32. Nguyen Huu Minh. (2019). "Domestic Violence Prevention and Control in Vietnam: Achievements, Key Challenges and Some Policy Issues to Consider". *Journal of Family and Gender Studies*, no. 6 (vol. 29), pp. 5 - 14.

33. Nguyen Huu Minh. (2020). "Women in Politics in Vietnam: Achievements, Challenges and Some Solutions in the New Period". *Journal of Political Theory*, No. 7, pp. 42 - 50.
34. Nguyen Huu Minh. (2023a). "Three Decades of Family Research by the Institute for Family and Gender Studies - Some Initial Achievements". *Journal of Family and Gender Studies*, No. 3 (33), pp. 3 - 17.
35. Nguyen Huu Minh. (2023b). "Domestic Violence Against Women in Vietnam". In: Detlef Briesen, Pham Quang Minh & Nguyen Thi Thuy Trang (editors). (2023). *Women in Vietnamese society* (Vietnamese and English). Thanh Nien Publishing House, pp. 123 - 136.
36. Nguyen Thanh Tam. (2010). *Some social problems of rural Vietnamese women married and working abroad*. General report on ministerial-level projects (2009 - 2010).
37. Tran Thi Minh Thi. (2023). *Divorce in Vietnam Today: Individuality, Family Values, and Cultural Identity (Southwest Case Study)*. Social Sciences Publishing House. Hanoi.
38. Tran Thi Van Anh and Nguyen Huu Minh (editors). (2008). *Gender equality in Vietnam (analysis of survey data)*. Social Sciences Publishing House. Hanoi.
39. Tran Thi Van Anh, Nguyen Huu Minh and Ha Thi Minh Khuong. "The relationship between parents and children is immature". In: *Relationships in Vietnamese families (Some results of an in-depth analysis of the Vietnam Family Survey 2006)*. Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Institute of Family and Gender Studies, UNICEF Vietnam.
40. Tran Thi Van Anh. (2009). "Research on women's rights". In: Nguyen Huu Minh and Tran Thi Van Anh (editors). (2009a). *Family and Gender Studies in Vietnam*. Social Sciences Publishing House. Hanoi, pp. 190 - 202.
41. Trinh Thai Quang. (2020). *Promoting the resources of the elderly in socio-economic development to adapt to the context of Vietnam's aging population*. Ministerial project summary report. Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences. Hanoi.