
**PROMOTING THE ROLE OF FAMILY IN EDUCATING CHILDREN IN VIETNAM
TODAY**

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ABSTRACT

Family has a particularly important position in the real life and that of in many scientific disciplines. Research topics on the family and its roles in the education of children have always attracted the attention of scientists not only in Vietnam but also researchers around the world. This article begins with some concepts of family from different perspectives of philosophy and sociology and analyzes the roles of the family in upbringing children. The study ends with some solutions to further promote the vital roles of the family in educating children in Vietnam today.

Key Words: Family, roles in education, children's education, Vietnam.

1. INTRODUCTION

Family is strongly connected with every person in their society where they are born and raised, where children are cared for physically, intellectually and morally, and where they can integrate their personality into the social community. In social institutions of any certain society, family has specific roles in protecting, taking care of, and educating children. Therefore, it can be affirmed that family is the first environment, plays a decisive role in shaping children's personality, intellectual, cultural, physical and aesthetic education, and has lasting effects on individuals throughout life.

2. A REVIEW OF RELEVANT LITERATURE

2.1. The role of the family in educating children

Some concepts of family

From a sociological perspective, family as a social group is usually formed based on the basis of relational types including marriage, blood or the process of being nurtured by family members. People in the same family are bound together by responsibilities and rights (economic, cultural, emotional) among them. The legal relations are recognized and protected by the State with clear regulations including the rights and prohibitions in relations among family members (Nguyen, 2006).

From a philosophical perspective, family is a social group with close relationships in marriage or blood, psychophysiology, with common material and spiritual values and stability in historical times. Family is the smallest unit of society that has a close relationship with society and that reflects all achievements as well as social conflicts.

Generalizing the above contents, author Le (1997) implied that the concept of family is used to refer to a social group formed on the basis of marriage and blood arising from that marriage and living together (parents, children, grandparents, paternal and maternal relatives). Family can raise people even though they are not biologically related by blood, family members are connected to

each other with responsibilities and rights (economic, cultural, emotional) with legal obligations which are recognized and protected by the state (clearly stated in our country's marriage and family law)

The roles of family in educating children

Family has basic functions such as reproduction, economics, consumption, education, and satisfying physiological and emotional needs among members within a family. Among those functions, education plays a particularly important role in forming new generations of citizens who will be helpful to his or her family and the society and may become successors of the predecessors and the future owners of the country (Nguyen, 1998). Marx asserted that: man is an entity existing in and between the beings and the society. After birth, if a child does not live in the social environment, he or she does not receive proper tentative education from his or her family and the society. At that time, he cannot become a true human in accordance with the current social rules. Scientific achievements have proven this point to be correct. Therefore, it can be affirmed that the process of transforming a child into a real person takes place in the social environment, in which especially the care and education of the family.

The educational role of the family can be expressed through some following basic contents including intellectual education, labor skills education, moral and lifestyle education, physical and aesthetic education, behavioral education which take place in all stages of human life and are carried out through all activities of organizing material and spiritual life for family members. Family education is a part of social education, education in the new family requires much efforts and scientific and psychological understanding of parents and all other members, closely combined with the educational environment (family, school, society) to advance towards the important goal of improving human's knowledge, training resources, fostering talents for the country (National Center for Social Sciences and Humanities, 1995).

Intellectual education

Intellectual education in the family is different from the process of training and educating learners at schools as well as in other settings. Intellectual education in the family is the process in which previous generations, most directly parents, then grandparents, siblings, aunts and uncles teach children basic knowledge to help them recognize the world, early, adapt to and integrate with the outside reality.

Attitudes and labor skills education

Labor is the top criterion for evaluating human morality and talent in any society. Without individual labor, sooner or later humans will lose his inherent values and lower his dignity to the level of non-human beings. The good nature of labor and of working people is to feed themselves, not to exist as a parasite that clings to the family and society.

Fostering human's attitudes, skills, and work habits is extremely important and that process should start from the early childhood. Work attitudes, skills, habits, and the love of labor are the original personality factors that families need to pay special attention to.

Moral behavior education

Morals involve social standards on which people are willingly and voluntarily to adjust their morals to their interests in accordance with that of the community and others.

Grandparents and parents who are the oldest members in the family have worked hard and contributed to building a career and raising their offsprings. Therefore, it is necessary to teach respect and filial piety for grandparents and parents. When they are old, have difficulty in walking and even get sick, it is essential to educate children to regularly help them in all aspects of life without reluctance. To respect grandparents and parents, children must speak politely, not get angry or show disdain when grandparents make mistakes or intend to prevent their unobvious thoughts and actions; in any case, even when parents draw wrong conclusions and impose inappropriate things on them, they must keep calm to analyze situations clearly and rationally, and should not say something rude back (Van, 2011).

Physical and aesthetic education

The development of the body takes place from early childhood to adulthood including middle age to old age. But the physical development of adolescence is particularly significant. It is the age of most rapid growth of all organs, parts and physiological functions of the body. It has a very powerful influence on later stages of life. For physical education at home, parents first must pay attention to eating because eating is the way to not only provide adequate nutrients for children but also to easily cause illness among adolescents. Therefore, it is crucial to educate children about healthy eating, regularly showering, and encourage them to exercise and participate in sports in accordance with individual interests and needs. Teaching children about physical education is also associated with organizing recreational activities, resting, sightseeing... according to the different circumstances of each family.

The educational role of the family can be highlighted and promoted only when grandparents and parents are always good role models for kids to follow. The effective education methods of grandparents, parents, siblings... will make a great contribution to training young Vietnamese generations to develop comprehensively and meet requirements of the country's renovation cause.

2.2. Some solutions to promote the role of the family in educating children

Stimulating economic growth, especially household economy, creates a basis for enhancing the role of the family in child protection, care, and education.

In order for families to perform their functions well, our Party and State always pay attention to families, usually create conditions to improve the material, cultural, and spiritual living standards in each family, have a policy of enhancing the role and good morals of the Vietnamese family tradition in protecting, caring for, and educating children.

The socio-economic development strategy of our country in 10 years is to bring our country out of the situation of underdevelopment and lagging behind, significantly improve people's material, cultural and spiritual life, and lay a foundation for Vietnam to turn into a modern industrialized country soon (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2021). Human resources, scientific and technological competence, infrastructure, economic potential, national defense, and security are enhanced; the socialist-oriented market was basically operated, and so was our country's position in the international arena.

One of the highlighted solutions to socio-economic development in general and household economy in particular is to urgently complete the sync process, specifically administrative reforms from the central to local levels. Conditions for people have been created to promote production and business capacity. All business forms have been encouraged to cooperate with industrial production, agriculture and services. Conditions for economic sectors have been facilitated to call for investment in different material areas, provide vocational trainings to develop handicraft production industries, and rapidly develop household economic models, farm economy, economic cooperation in animal husbandry, cultivation, handicraft village production, processing and consumption of products and services for production and life, especially in rural areas. Different models of hunger eradication and poverty alleviation have been developed and attached to other production models with division of labor, household formation, and units of concentrated goods production on a reasonable scale with a stable market.

Household economy is an economic part of society, socio-economic development will create favorable conditions for the household economy to promote the potential and strengths of each family, each region, and each locality. Along with raising living standards in society, it also prepares the most direct conditions for the implementation of child protection, care and education. At the same time, through legitimate production and business activities, children who have access to production activities should have opportunities to practice, foster a sense of labor, honour the fruits of their labor. Thereby, they can best contribute at work, boost independence, creativity, self-mastery and confidence in life to firmly step into life.

Building a cultural family

Building a cultural family is a central campaign of the movement "Uniting all people to build a cultural life" that gathers a large number of classes to respond to and spread the movement throughout the country at all levels, sectors, mass organizations, which leads to an increase in the quality of the movement. Cultural families have always been at the forefront of engaging in movement-building activities such as: the model of a comfortable, equal, happy, progressive family with few children; families overcome difficulties and strive for success; families for children; multi-generational families live in harmony, unite, love, care for and help each other, promoting good neighborliness. The movement for building a cultural family is increasingly rich and diverse through integrated programs of agencies and departments, typically the movements: Building a "cultural farmer family" of the Farmers' Union, the "cultural and exemplary veterans family" of the Veterans' Association; the "sports family" of the Culture, Sports and Tourism industry; "a comfortable, equal, happy and progressive family" of the Women's Union; the "cultural family of teachers" of the Education and Training sector; The "healthy cultural family" of the Health sector. This is the basis for enhancing the role of the family in educating children.

To build a progressive and happy family, members live happily together, abandon backward customs and practices, consciously prevent social evils and superstitions together, implement the direction and policies of the Party, and laws of the State well (Nguyen, 2011). Building a progressive family must be associated with the implementation of family planning, planned births, the protection of the health of mothers and children, the improvement of family life quality, and at the same time the ways how to create a cultural environment for nurturing internal and external relationships. A happy family is the one that each member always loves and respects each other,

members live in harmony, relationships are carried out according to lofty standards. A happy and sustainable family shows equality, respect and love, in which a husband and wife share responsibilities, strive for success together in family affairs as well as in society, concur in the goals, content and methods of parenting, not interfere violently and force children. The happy and sustainable family is reflected in responsibilities, obligations and rights among family members which everyone jointly build and implement (Ngo, 2014).

Strengthening the relationship between family, school and society to create a unified environment for protecting, caring for and educating children

Children's development cannot be separated from the social environment in which they live. Therefore, a healthy social environment is the leading factor to make sure the full physical, mental, spiritual, and ethical development of the children. They should, have a happy life and it should be ensured that the sustainability of child protection care, and education.

Humans not only are raised by their families but also must go to school to acquire cultural knowledge. Therefore, in the education system of our country, especially at the primary and secondary levels, we should combine the school, family and society in the process of educating pupils so that each of them can develop comprehensively in morals, mind, body, beauty, and labor. If children study, play, and engage in social age-appropriate activities, they can improve their intelligence, creativity, and communication skills, which may prevent the influence of depraved cultural products, social problems such as drug addiction, gambling, sexual abuse, and child labor exploitation.

Broadening understanding, improve the content and methods of educating children in the family

In order to raise awareness for parents about protecting, caring for and educating their children, beside parents' efforts, the society and the state also need to have a policy related to the programs to provide future parents, or families with basic issues in the fields of healthcare, accident and injury prevention, psychology, law, and reproductive healthcare.

Taking care of children's health should be a continuous process from the moment of conception to the end of adolescence, but each stage of a child's development has specific priorities and solutions such as the period of mother's pregnancy, the period of infancy, children under 6, middle children, adolescents... Healthcare methods need to combine families, medical clinics, and schools in which families are the most direct and most important environment. It is important to promote awareness about proper nutrition, education on green, clean and beautiful environmental hygiene, use of clean water in daily life, and so on for families.

The learning content and methods of the family also vary according to the educational-instructional content and methods of society. Therefore, parents need to encourage children to study so that they can be well-educated to meet the development needs of the society.

It is necessary to regularly maintain basic methods of education in the family including:

- The modeling method: in order to raise good children, help them form and develop good personalities to become future true citizens, parents must fulfill their roles as role models in the family and society for kids to follow. The examples of parents and adult family members must be reflected in their words, voices, gestures, actions, and behavior with people in the family and society according to certain standards which are benevolence, fairness, fulfilling responsibilities, duties, and obligations of citizens. Parents' examples in daily life have directly affected children's awareness, feelings, beliefs and actions. In early childhood, children will imitate their parents, during middle childhood and adolescence, they can distinguish between right and wrong, so they will always admire their parents as role models and self-discipline. This is extremely important because in the current market economy situation, many families are so focused on finance that they forget to perform other family functions, leading to the gap in family education.

- The advising and persuasive method: It refers to using words to interpret and analyze to enlighten understanding of morals to help children realize their meaning and the need to perform moral behaviors in everyday life. To advise and persuade children, parents need to pay attention to children's ability to endure according to their age and the right time. They should grasp their children's thoughts and aspirations in order to understand the situations, and realize the right and the truth to direct individual behavior and activities.

- The habit training method: actions that are repeated many times will become habits. Training good habits for children to break bad habits is a process. However, if they are regularly guided, requested, and persuaded by their parents, they will gradually change their routines and habits.

- The reward method: reward is a form of expressing agreement and appreciation for efforts and achievements of individuals or groups. The general tendency of the rewarded person is to feel happy, believe in their own abilities, and wish to perform the behaviors more. However, it is worth noting that the reward aims to require children to keep practicing and make more efforts in performing their obligations and responsibilities. Parents need to reward them timely and properly to avoid causing arrogance and complacency.

No perfect educational method is the best in family education. It is necessary to have a synchronous combination of the methods to suit the circumstances of each family to raise children to be good people.

Child protection, care, and education can be assumed as a science and art. The part of the strategic caring and cultivating people, and involving many fields. It requires the participation of the specific sciences, and cannot be done arbitrarily and spontaneously. The content of protecting, caring for, and educating children requires maintaining systematization, objectivity, and is determined according to the laws of formation and development of people and children in society. Different methods of child protection, care, and education must be appropriately applied to each region, each family situation with characteristics of different ages and diverse needs.

3. CONCLUSION

The family is the best protection system, ensuring a safe environment for children to develop. Parents are the guardians, the first to be responsible for protecting, caring for and educating children. Although family forms change in accordance with the development of society, the important role of the family, especially the roles of education, never changes. The role of the family in general and the role of educating children in particular is based on blood, love, and

responsibility. Education in the family includes the following comprehensive contents: intellectual education, cultural and labor skills education, moral education, physical and aesthetic education. The method of educating children must be inherited and promote the good values of the traditional family with unique and good identities and absorb selectively the cultural quintessence of human education.

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