

VIET NAM SOCIAL SECURITY POLICY IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC COVID-19

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Abstract:

For a developed country like Vietnam, a strong social security system is the driving force for sustainable economic development, creating political, cultural and social stability. The 4th outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic (August 2021) has greatly affected production, jobs, and people's lives. Facing the complicated and unpredictable developments of the Covid-19 pandemic, besides the prevention and control of the Covid-19 epidemic, the proactive attitude and active implementation of many meaningful and practical measures and activities Taking good care of the people's social security is not only a matter of humanity but also of urgent practical significance in the current period of Vietnam. From the social philosophy approach, through research, document analysis, and the use of secondary data from many sources, this article focuses on researching issues related to social security with the Covid epidemic -19 in Vietnam today. The study shows the role of social security, the basic effects and existence of social security work in the process of coping with the Covid-19 pandemic in Vietnam; Causes of shortcomings and lessons learned from social security work in the process of dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic in Vietnam

Keywords: Social, Social Security, Covid-19, Vietnam

1. Introduction

After 35 years of implementing the doi moi, Vietnam has achieved great achievements of historical significance, strong and comprehensive development. The 4th outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic so far (August 2021) has greatly affected production, jobs, and people's lives, especially the poor and those in difficult circumstances, freelance

workers have to eat every day. To ensure that no one has to go hungry or be left behind during the epidemic season, in parallel with disease prevention and control, focusing on social security work, contributing to helping people overcome Overcoming the Covid-19 pandemic is not only a humanitarian issue but

also has practical significance in the current period of Vietnam.

Research questions

Question 1: The role of social security, the basic effects and shortcomings of social security work in the process of coping with the Covid-19 pandemic in Vietnam

Question 2: What are the causes of the shortcomings and lessons learned from social security work in the process of dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic in Vietnam?

Research purposes

The purpose of the article is to analyze and clarify the role of social security, the basic effects and the shortcomings of social security work in the process of dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic in Vietnam. From there, it points out the causes of the shortcomings, the lessons learned from social security work in the process of dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic in Vietnam in the current period.

Research Methods

- Group of theoretical research methods: using methods of analysis, synthesis, and systematization of theories to identify instrumental concepts and build a theoretical framework for the article.

- Group of practical research methods: The article uses secondary data from many sources, through data collected from reports, articles, presentations of managers and studies.

+ Method of pedagogical observation: Observing the reality of the social security system in Vietnam to point out the shortcomings, causes of its existence and lessons learned from social security work in the process of dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic in Vietnam.

+ In-depth interview method: Get opinions from managers, educators, policy activists to find out the existence, causes of existence and lessons learned from social security work in the process of dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic in Vietnam.

In addition, the article also uses a combination of specific research methods such

as deduction and induction, logic and history, comparison and contrast between theory and practice.

2. Content

Social security, the role of the social security system and basic effects on social security before the Covid-19 pandemic in Vietnam

The term "social security" is commonly used around the world. In Vietnam, because it is translated from many different languages, the term social security also has other names such as social protection, social safety... Therefore, the content of the phrase also has certain differences. From different approaches, there have been several different broad and narrow conceptions of social security. According to the World Bank (WB): Social security is a public measure to help individuals, households and communities cope with and control the risk of impact on income to reduce vulnerability and income uncertainties. According to the definition of the International Labor Organization (ILO): "Social security is a form of protection that a society provides to its members through several widely adopted measures to cope with hardships, economic and social shocks that result in loss or serious loss of income due to illness, maternity, work-related injury, loss of work capacity or death, provision of medical care and allowances for victims' families with children" [11]. The International Security Association (ISSA) believes that social security is a component of a public policy system related to ensuring safety for all members of society, not just workers. The issues that ISSA cares a lot about in the social security system are health care through health insurance; the system of social insurance and old-age care; prevention of occupational accidents and occupational diseases; social assistance [8].

The above definitions show that, in essence, social security is contributing to ensuring income and life for citizens in

society. The mode of operation is through public measures. And in the most general way, we can understand social security as interventions by the State and society by economic measures to limit, prevent and overcome risks for community members due to loss of life or reduced income due to sickness, maternity, work accident, unemployment, injury, old age and death; at the same time, ensuring medical care and subsidies for disadvantaged families [5, 46]. The essence of social security is to contribute to ensuring income and life for citizens in society, creating a safety net consisting of many layers and layers for all members in case of income reduction or loss when faced with other social risks. Social security policy is a basic social policy of the State to perform the function of preventing, limiting and overcoming risks, ensuring income and livelihood security for members of society, economically, socially, and deeply humanitarian.

In the face of the terrible devastation of the Covid-19 pandemic in Vietnam recently, reflected in all relevant aspects: politics, culture, economy, society, foreign affairs, education, health...we see more and more importance and necessity of securing and developing the social security system. The Covid-19 pandemic has reaffirmed the important role of social security in being both a foundation for comprehensive and sustainable growth, as well as a major policy and task, which is very important for the stability of Vietnam's socio-politics in the current process of renovation and integration. This is demonstrated by the following points:

Firstly, the social security system is one of the important components of Vietnam's social programs and is a management tool of the state through the legal system, policies and social security programs. Its purpose is to preserve national socio-economic-political stability, especially social stability, reduce inequality, divide between rich and poor, and

stratify society; create consensus among social classes and groups for the sustainable development of Vietnam in the integration process. From another perspective, it can be affirmed that social security is also one of the basic pillars in the social policy system. It aims to ensure a minimum standard of living for the people.

Secondly, through the application of mechanisms to regulate and redistribute income among economic sectors, economic regions and population groups, social security can be considered as support [6, 52] to ensure people's income is more equal and fair.

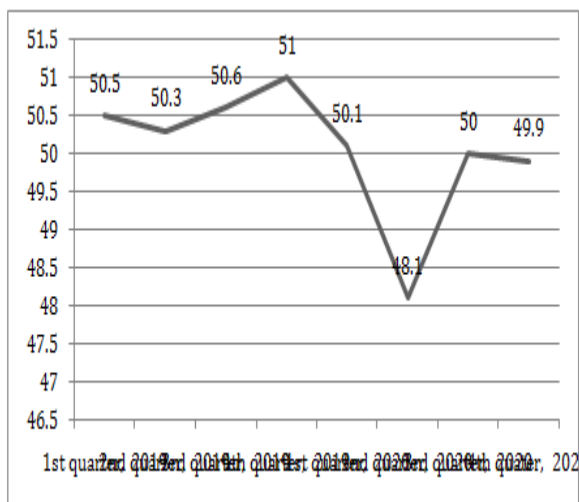
Thirdly, social security will contribute to promoting the social progress of the country. The development of society is a process in which economic factors and social factors often interact with each other. Harmonious socio-economic development sets the goal of ensuring benefits for everyone; ensure a more equitable distribution of income and wealth, moving towards social justice; achieve production efficiency, secure jobs, expand and improve incomes in education and community health, in the context of Vietnam's current integration and development.

Fourthly, the planning and implementation of social security policies allow Vietnam to select effective and sustainable growth targets proactively. A long-term and adequate social security system that can realize all redistributive goals of society and free up resources in the population is one of the necessary and important conditions to help Vietnam be more proactive in this trend integration position.

In 2020, the outbreak of the Covid-19 epidemic has inhibited growth in most industries and fields, and unemployment and underemployment rates have risen sharply in Vietnam. In the period from the end of 2020 to August 2021, most businesses and non-business units cannot arrange workers for work and production, so they have to cut down in the form of a complete reduction or unpaid

leave. Industries such as tourism, restaurants, hotels, commerce, services, transportation, apparel, footwear... are seriously affected. Many businesses operate in moderation, suspend operations, partially suspend production or stop the entire line. Many businesses have reduced revenue, leading to salary debt and delayed deduction of social insurance, health insurance, unemployment insurance, occupational accident and disease insurance, increasing the amount of debt. Until now, when the epidemic situation in Vietnam has tended to be under control, the economic downturn leading to job loss and income reduction has become the most worrying and prolonged issue. According to data from the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, the number of employees working in the first quarter of 2020 decreased by more than 680 thousand compared to the fourth quarter of 2019. The unemployment rate did not increase, but the underemployment rate increased from nearly 590 thousand (1.22%) to more than 970 thousand (2.03%) [7]. Not to mention the decline in total working hours as well as labour productivity due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Number of employees aged 15 and over who have jobs every quarter, period 2019-2021 [9]
Unit: Million people



Although economic recovery efforts coupled with epidemic prevention have somewhat improved the grayscale of the labour situation in Vietnam, in the first quarter of 2021, Vietnam still has 9.1 million people 15 years old and older are negatively affected by the Covid-19 epidemic, in which men account for 51.0% and the number of people between the ages of 25 and 54 accounts for nearly two-thirds [9]. In the first quarter of 2021, the number of employed people aged 15 and over was 49.9 million people, a decrease of 959.6 thousand people compared to the previous quarter and a decrease of 177.8 thousand people compared to the same period last year, of which, decrease mainly in rural areas and men (reducing 491.5 thousand people and 713.4 thousand people respectively over the same period last year) [9].

Besides the negative impact and influence on economic growth, sustainable development, business, commercial activities, family economy, personal income, and people's mental health, the Covid-19 epidemic has also greatly affected essential medical services. According to a WHO survey conducted between May and July in more than 100 countries, critical health services in most countries are disrupted, threatening the lives of people who do not have Covid-19. Low- and middle-income countries are hardest hit. 70% of routine immunization services in the countries surveyed are impacted by the Covid-19 epidemic, followed by family planning (68%), cancer diagnosis and treatment (55%), services emergency (25%) [10]. The practice has shown that hesitancy and delays in any service can lead to long-term negative impacts on the nation's population health. At the beginning of the outbreak, the shortage of medical supplies became quite common. Countries around the world are scrambling to buy Covid-19 test kits. Along with that, the most sought-after items are personal protective equipment (PPE) such as protective suits, masks, ventilators and chemicals used for

testing. The demand for PPE is growing faster than the rate of people getting infected due to the high number and frequency of people using them. Covid-19 also spurred an unprecedented race in vaccine development efforts for countries around the world, especially developed countries.

Basic shortcomings of social security work in the process of dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic in Vietnam

We can generalize the basic limitations of social security work in the process of dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic in Vietnam, namely:

Firstly, the settlement of support regimes and policies to overcome difficulties caused by Covid-19 in many parts of Vietnam's provinces is still slow and has not kept up with the complicated developments of the pandemic. The regimes and policies to support and overcome difficulties caused by typical Covid-19 in Vietnam in the past time that we can mention are Support for meals of 1 million VND/person for employees on the spot", the amount of money to support medical forces to fight the epidemic in 19 southern provinces and cities, additional subjects exempted from paying union dues of the Vietnam General Confederation of Labor; The Government's proposal to suspend and reduce the payment of social insurance premiums until June 2022 for businesses facing difficulties due to Covid-19; 04 groups of solutions to support businesses facing difficulties due to Covid-19 in Ho Chi Minh City; The second support package with a total budget of 905 billion VND helps the poor and workers lose their jobs due to Covid-19; Telecommunications support package of VND 10,000 billion for people, lasting for 3 months...

Secondly, despite efforts, efforts with great responsibility, sticking to the locality and reality, the epidemic situation is still very complicated due to many characteristics of the population and society, especially 4 localities

in the South of Vietnam include Ho Chi Minh City, Binh Duong, Long An and Tien Giang. In society, there is still psychology and expression of negligence and subjectivity of a part of the population in the work of strengthening social distancing and measures to prevent and control the Covid-19 epidemic.

Thirdly, in the process of implementing measures to prevent and control the Covid-19 epidemic, there are also different understandings of local guiding documents, essential or non-essential goods, which partly affects the supply of goods for the people as well as for production activities.

Fourthly, the sudden increase in the number of cases has put great pressure on the health system in Vietnam. There have appeared many patients who tested positive for Covid-19 but were not immediately hospitalized but had to wait for an empty bed. Many people have had to go to social networks to find a way to find a hospital bed for themselves and their family members. Private medical examination and treatment facilities participating in the prevention and control of the Covid-19 epidemic, participating in the reception, emergency and treatment of Covid-19 patients have not been promoted effectively and promptly.

Fifthly, the level of financial sustainability, the linkage between social security regimes and policies is still inadequate, not suitable for the prevention and control of the Covid-19 epidemic. In the process of preventing and combating the Covid-19 epidemic, many pressing and newly arising social security issues have not been comprehensively answered in both theory and practice. The system of policies and laws on social security according to the current model needs to be renewed, supplemented and perfected in response to the requirements of innovation and development, in line with the trend of the region and countries around the world.

The underlying causes

The awareness of the role of social security by a part of officials and the people is not high, not consistent, even considering social security as simply a relief, assistance, and incentive that makes the mobilization of resources as well as incentives. The construction and operation of the social security system are still lacking and inefficient. In general, the coverage of social security is still low, the target audience is narrow, and the social security system is still unequal. Investment sources, as well as management and supervision of the state for the operation of the social security system, have not met the requirements and the efficiency is not high, there are still inadequacies and limitations. In addition, the legal provisions related to payment management and management of beneficiaries of social insurance benefits are not consistent with the requirements of management practice. The work of hunger eradication and poverty reduction is not sustainable, the risk of falling back into poverty is high, social assistance policies and social incentives are still limited. The phenomenon of inequality in income and living standards between regions and population classes is still large and tends to increase day by day in the national area. Propaganda and dissemination of policies and laws, inspection and examination of the implementation of social security policies have not been paid due attention. State management of social security is not good due to too many policies, issued at different stages, applied to many different target groups, so they overlap, lack systematicity, making it difficult to manage social security policies and beneficiaries of those policies.

Lessons learned from social security work in the process of dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic in Vietnam

Firstly, continue to promote the strength of the political system, create a consensus of the whole society in the

implementation of measures to prevent and control the Covid-19 epidemic, programs and policies to ensure social security. Raise awareness and responsibility of staff in direction and implementation; Promote propaganda and law dissemination, raise awareness of officials and people about the position, role, meaning and importance of social security.

Secondly, perfect the legal system, mechanisms and policies to ensure the systematic, synchronous, simple and effective direction of both supporting and encouraging beneficiaries to strive to overcome and overcome difficulties. Restoring dependence on the state, while setting up social assistance policies as the last social safety net, ensuring that social assistance beneficiaries are not overlooked while taking measures to prevent and control the Covid-19 epidemic. . Social objects will be covered more widely than at present, not only the disadvantaged and disadvantaged for social security purposes but also low-income subjects, those who need to be protected and cared for for the sake of social security equitable, equitable and sustainable development.

Thirdly, realize the fundamental problem is that the best solution to poverty reduction and ensuring social security is through job creation to increase income. Therefore, after the epidemic is under control, the Vietnamese government should continue to promote the implementation of policies and projects to support job creation such as preferential credit loans, vocational training and information. The labour market focuses on the poor, the unemployed and the disabled. Implement and well implement the program of poverty reduction, employment, development of human resources for vocational training, plans to assist the elderly, social protection beneficiaries, children with special difficulties, people with disabilities, prevention and control. against social evils. Research to have

a mechanism to attract poor workers to work for public projects such as garbage collection, construction of small-scale infrastructure works in rural areas...

Fourthly, unify the awareness of the policy of renewing the social security system; responsibilities of branches, levels, organizations and individuals. Strengthen cooperation and experience sharing with communities inside and outside the province as well as internationally and selectively apply to specific conditions of Vietnam.

Fifthly, it is necessary to study and propose a plan to support and encourage all employees to participate in social insurance. With the core content, pension insurance is considered the most important pillar of the social security system to ensure that when retired, the elderly can live on their income.

Sixthly, the system of social security and social welfare must be proactive, positive and highly socialized. Accordingly, along with strengthening the role of the State, it is necessary to mobilize all resources of the society, improve the responsibility and self-security capacity of each individual, family and community; timely and effective assistance in ensuring the people's minimum standard of living, while making an important contribution to promoting hunger eradication and poverty reduction and constantly improving the people's material and spiritual life.

Seventhly, building a system of social security and social welfare that is multi-layered, flexible, sustainable, mutually supportive, fair in terms of responsibilities and benefits, sharing risks, towards inclusiveness government, focusing on supporting the poor and poor households, suitable to the socio-economic conditions.

3. Conclusion

Looking back on 35 years of implementing the doi moi, along with the achievements of economic renovation and strengthening of national economic potential,

Vietnam has made great efforts, invested resources and renewed mechanisms, policies to implement social security, to take care of and continuously improve people's lives. In the difficult context of the Covid-19 pandemic, it has created new requirements and created rapid and profound changes to all areas of global social activities, including social security. From new requirements on global socio-economic development to new requirements on social security, it is an objective necessity in the process of movement and development of Vietnam in the context of integration. In the face of the current complicated and unpredictable developments of the Covid-19 pandemic, in the immediate future, ensuring that everyone has a minimum level of income, has the opportunity to have minimal access to epidemics basic and essential social services, such as education, health care, housing, clean water, information, etc., through the improvement of people's self-security capacity and the support of authorities at all levels. The political system is urgent and has profound practical significance. The results of this study also show the role of social security, the basic effects and existence of social security work in the process of coping with the Covid-19 pandemic in Vietnam; Causes of shortcomings and lessons learned from social security work in the process of dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic in Vietnam. The shortcoming of this study is that it has not shown and clarified the factors affecting social security work before the development of the Covid-19 pandemic in Vietnam.

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