

The Social Deviance of the Vietnamese Young toward Values and Lifestyles, Gender, Communication, and Family Customs



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Abstract: This study report is an analysis result of a quantitative survey on attitudes of Vietnamese youth both male (M) and female (F) who are civil servants, workers, young urbanites, rural youth, Pupil, Student, the young violated the laws about living styles, gender, communication, and family. The findings show that young people have opposite tendencies. Some of them advocate things have been traditionally named, while others are looking for and living in new ways which are being labelled as a kind of social deviance.

Keywords: Social deviance, the Vietnamese young, lifestyle, gender behaviours

I. INTRODUCTION

Social deviance has never been studied as much as in recent years around the world that relative to the schools (Zaykowski & Gunter, 2012), on diverse aspects of deviance (Heitzeg, 1994), parental wrong communications (JA, KL, MJ, EH, & JE, 1981), peer pressure (Mara Brendgen, 2000), family factors (Roberts, Seward, Eve, & Member, 2002), (Roberts và c.s., 2002), workplace wrongdoings (Bennett & Robinson, 2000), (Chirasha & Mahapa, 2012), (Thau, Bennett, Mitchell, & Marrs, 2009).

In Vietnam, it has experienced the same research trend with topics such as school deviance (S. Hà, 2004), (Thuong, 2008) (Song, 2012), homeless teenagers and deviance (Phuong, 2000) (Phiên., 2012), family issues and deviance (Anh., 1986), (Khoa, 2000), (Ngô Thị Ngọc Anh, 2004), (Phạm Thanh Bình, Lê Phong, Trần Thị Hương), violating the laws (Ích, 1996), the survey SAVY III (Ministry of Health, 2009), (Dương, Vũ Ngọc, Ngô Lê Thủy, 2009), (Mai Sơn, 2012), (Ngô Thị Lê Thủy, 2010), peer pressure (Mạc Văn Trang, 1979), (Điềm, 2003), (Hoa, 2004), (N. T. Quý, 2011), drug abuse and prostitution and deviance (Lê Thị Mộng Phương, 2001), (Hương, 2005), (Yêm, 2002) (Phúc, 1993), (Tiệm, 1993) and (L. T. Hà, 2003),

(Hữu, 1993), (Hồng, 1992), (Đỗ Tiến Khang, 1995) (Trần Anh Châu, 2000), (Đắc, 2004), (Mai Ngọc Diệp, 2007), (Brenda Y Hernandez, 2008); (Trung Nam Tran, Roger Detels, H T. Long, 2005); (Mai., 2008); influencing factors to the young' deviant offences (L. T. Quý, 1999), (Lê Thị Quý, 2007); (Thịnh, 2010)", (Lê Thị Hồng Thắm, 2009), (Tung, 2011), and (Uân, 2013), the Internet (Tung, 2011), (Thanh, 1995), (Hậu, 2013) and others. In fact, getting along quite well with social and economic developments of the nation, the Vietnamese youth has proved competence and contributed to the country. These young behaviours towards living styles, gender, communication, and family issues are no longer the same as they had been five years or a decade ago, that lead them to has their new ways of behaviours that are commonly considered as some kinds of social deviance.

II. METHODS

Participants and recruitment - Sample comprised the 2420 young people: (1) those broke the laws; (2) civil servants, workers; (3) living in rural and urban areas; and (4) pupils and students, belongs to 8 provinces including Hanoi city, Quang Ninh province, Lao Cai province, Hue province, Khanh Hoa province, Dak Lak province, Ho Chi Minh City and Kien Giang province. (See Table I)

Measure and procedure - The questionnaires are designed to realise and measure the behaviours of the young within two aspects, which one is their awareness and the other is their activity relevant to living styles, gender, communication, and family issues. These represented by four scales (Never-N), (Seldom-Sel), (Sometimes-S), and (Frequent-F) and three scales (Disagree- D), (Partially agree- P), (Agree- A) measurements. The awareness and activity of the young are commonly regarded as making troubles for other people and organizations.

Ethics- Participants were asked to give consent and were informed that they could deny any private-influential information. Their contact information was coded and ensured to be confidential.

Table I: Characteristics of Study Participants

Characteristics	Total	
	N	%
Total	2420	100.0
Age		
U18	482	19.9
18-24	861	35.6

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25-30	1077	44.5
Male	1443	59.6
Female	977	40.4

¹ (Accessed 2nd November 2016) available from <https://www.gso.gov.vn/default.aspx?tabid=411&cidmid=4&ItemID=4150>

Social background		
Civil servants	242	10.0
Workers	238	9.8
Urban	720	29.8
Rural	240	9.9
Pupil	197	8.1
Student	283	11.7
The young violated the laws	500	20.7
Living areas		
Rural	980	37.5
Urban	1292	62.5

III. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

A. Values and lifestyles

The notions of friendship, love, marriage have been changed in the past few years because the young agrees with same-sex love and marriage, divorce and cohabitation. In addition, the new living styles of those are a bachelor or marriageable ages are getting marriage latter to compare to previous generations. Approximately 47.9% of them consider that it is acceptable to be bachelors if the marriage is disadvantaged and about 36.1% of those think that it is better to get married in the middle ages.

For the case "A friend reveals that she/he is homosexual," more than 70% opinions of these young considered it is normal and will advocate that person comes out his/her sex secret. This also reflects the young have become more open-minded to accept the sexual differences and homosexual marriage (56.6% and 54.1%). The majority of those agree with being a bachelor, divorced if there is no love. Disagree with having extramarital relations is (56.7 %) and making a scene of jealousy is 60.7%. They almost think (54.5%) that unhappy marriages should be ended in divorce. (see Table II).

The young have a high opinion of the freedom of love and of choosing the companion for life and opposes arranged marriages (71.9%). In another aspect related to love and sex, losing of virginity and premarital sex are more likely accepted with (34.7%) and (36.2%) respectively, and cohabitation is (48.6%). This represents two opposite viewpoints of the young, which one is more open, and the other is to keep respect the traditionally married norms.

Table II: The attitudes toward individual values and lifestyles (%)

	D	P	A	Mean
1) A lots of money is decisive	69.9	20.7	9.4	1.39
2) Close friends can share lovers	77.7	13.5	8.8	1.31

3) To remain virginity unimportant	25.4	39.9	34.7	2.09
4) Cohabitation is acceptable	23.0	40.8	36.2	2.13
5) Cohabitated without marriage	48.6	31.7	19.7	1.71
6) Living as a bachelor is fine	17.0	35.1	47.9	2.31
7) Married in the late years of 30s is the best	13.9	49.9	36.1	2.22
8) Who we marry to is decided by our parents	71.9	19.8	8.3	1.36
9) Extramarital relations can be accepted	56.7	28.5	14.8	1.58
10) Extramarital relations are illegal	60.7	26.2	13.1	1.52
11) Unhappy marriages should be divorced	12.5	33.0	54.5	2.42
12) A well-to-do family has more than two children	36.9	30.3	32.8	1.96
13) Homosexual is normal?	12.9	30.6	56.6	2.44
14) Homosexual people can get married ?	15.8	30.1	54.1	2.38

Children are one of the most important values in a happy family. Today, the number of children of a family is decreased because the young agrees that each family should have one or two children. The fertility rate has decreased and can be explained by many reasons, one of which is the financial security for the children's growing up because education and healthcare are being turned into the kinds of services while these sectors were regulated as the social warfare. That is why the young no longer interest in "more children mean more fortune", and they advocate the kind of nuclear family. They consider the statement that "it is acceptable that a well-to-do family has more than two children", which means they think carefully about how many children they should have.

From a gender perspective, compared to their opposite sex, young women are still stricter with some views, values, and lifestyles, for example, 40% of young men think that "virginity is not as important as it was", more than one-third of women opposed this view (31.4%). Moreover, female youth tend to be more strongly opposed to the notion that "it is normal that lovers have premarital sex" with (31.4% and 15, 6%) respectively or the cohabitation without marriage (55.4% and 42.8%) respectively. These young women advocate the marriage ages should be older than previous generations unless having had favourable conditions (around 56%).

B. Gender

Table III: The attitudes toward gender discrimination (%)

Aspects	Scale	Total	M	F	Mean
1) Insult is inappropriate for women	D	19.5	18.9	20.1	.000*
	P	31.7	28.0	35.9	
	A	48.9	53.1	44.0	
2) It is normal that the male defrays expenses	D	48.9	45.6	52.7	.005*
	P	44.1	46.4	41.5	
	A	7.0	8.0	5.8	
3) Generally, men are more intelligent than women	D	65.4	62.0	69.2	.003*
	P	25.7	27.8	23.4	
	A	8.9	10.2	7.4	
4) Sons should be more encouraged to study further than daughters	D	76.2	71.2	82.0	.000*
	P	17.4	21.3	12.9	
	A	6.4	7.5	5.1	
5) Football is inappropriate for women	D	67.8	63.0	73.3	.000*
	P	24.0	27.3	20.2	
	A	8.2	9.7	6.5	
6) A girl can be beaten if making her boyfriend jealous	D	70.5	64.3	77.6	.000*
	P	21.0	24.9	16.7	
	A	8.4	10.8	5.7	
7) Men superior to than women educationally	D	57.4	49.8	66.1	.000*
	P	30.9	35.7	25.4	
	A	11.7	14.5	8.5	
8) Father should be more powerful than mother	D	55.2	50.4	60.7	.000*
	P	30.2	30.7	29.6	
	A	14.6	18.9	9.6	
9) Men focus on career and women on chores	D	52.0	43.5	61.9	.000*
	P	34.4	40.3	27.6	
	A	13.6	16.3	10.5	
10) Male leaders better than female once	D	56.3	50.7	62.6	.000*
	P	30.2	33.2	26.7	
	A	13.5	16.1	10.6	
11) Men are free but women	D	67.8	64.1	72.0	.000*
	P	21.1	25.0	16.8	
	A	11.0	10.9	11.2	
12) Domestic and couple violence are acceptable	D	63.5	59.2	68.5	.000*
	P	26.0	29.4	22.0	
	A	10.5	11.4	9.5	

*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0,05 level.

There is no different in the perspectives of both sexes on values and acceptable behaviour, such as gender equality in the family, in education and employment. The information shows that female are more advocated to represent their individuality to do the kinds of employment that had been frequently done by a male. The roles of the male in the family remain unimportant as they were (see Table III).

Both of the sexes think that insult is inappropriate for women about 48.9%. This somehow represents the high

expectations on language in communication is higher than men in using language. Generally, there are likely the same perspectives of both sexes on values and moral norms (see Table III). In communication, women represent their opinions clearer than the opinions of men with all the items mentioned in the questionnaires approximately 10%. The female response oppose the limit of the freedom of women compared to the freedom of men is quite high with 72%.

C. Communication

Table IV: The social deviance of the young in communication (%)

Aspects	N	Sel	S	F	Mean
1) Speak directly the content	6.9	10.5	40.7	41.9	3.17
2) Over-praise	20.3	39.1	35.8	4.8	2.25
3) Pretend to respect other's opinion	35.0	32.7	27.9	4.4	2.02
4) be biased the opposing opinions	18.9	29.5	39.8	11.7	2.44
5) Criticize opposing opinions	35.1	36.5	24.5	4.0	1.97
6) Use rude words	65.1	21.7	10.2	3.0	1.51
7) Using bad gestures	68.9	17.7	9.9	3.5	1.48
8) Verbally intimidate people with opposing opinions	77.6	12.6	7.6	2.2	1.34
9) Assault in tense argument	79.0	10.6	8.0	2.4	1.34
10) Uphold the rightness of the issue better than ages	26.8	17.0	2.0	32.2	2.62

In communication, young people prefer to go straight into the key content, and they have certain communication skills. Communication deviances are not regularly made by just part of the young people. For example, on the one hand, young people sometimes either do not speak frankly on the nature of the topic (40.7%) or pretend to praise others' ideas (27.9%). On the other hand, their behaviours in facing contradictory opinions are sometimes expressed negatively with dissatisfied and biased behaviours.

Findings from our survey revealed that the four options are mostly ranked "never done are: (i) Assault intense argument (79%); (ii) Verbally intimidate the people of different viewpoints (77.6%); Use ill gestures in communication to express dissatisfaction (68.9%); Use rude vulgar words to express dissatisfaction (65.1%).

For these four options, only 2% to 3% of respondents chose to rank them “regularly” done. (see Table IV).

Age is not a matter that is well defined by the young in their communication. However, the trend is that young people often focus on the rightness of issue that they are communicating better than paying attention to which behaviour they should have in communicating with their counterparts regarding age. Other findings revealed other causes of communication deviances, which are over-using of vulgar words (the language of @ generation) by pupils and students, lack of listening skills in communication, and inappropriate reaction to different ideas on the topic of discussion.

D. The family

Table V: The attitudes toward the family and relatives

Aspects	D	P	A	Mean
1) Listen to parents in all circumstance	36.5	46.3	17.2	1.81
2) Give money to parents	34.4	36.6	29.0	1.95
3) Married, live with parents	29.3	57.4	13.3	1.84
4) The elder have the right to decide the important issues	53.2	32.4	14.4	1.61
5) Maintain family meetings in Lunar New Year	5.7	15.2	79.1	2.73
6) Talk to your parents and relatives in need only	54.0	29.5	16.5	1.63
7) Remain close relationships only?	56.1	30.8	13.1	1.57
8) Be get together in the clan activities	7.8	29.9	62.2	2.54

The findings from survey results continue to affirm that the young people still uphold the traditional values of family and family cohesion. This is reflected in their agreements to a main family meeting in the Lunar New Year (79.1%), and their willingness to participate in activities of their clan family (62.2%). They also oppose to such options as "The only talk to your parents and relatives when you need it" and they also disagree to the idea that "should maintain relationships with close relatives not those with distant relatives". Changes are also identified between the thoughts of the young people surveyed by compared with the previous generation regarding the role of young people in the family's work. More than 50% of the young got surveyed express their disagreement to the idea that “only elder people in the family can contribute to important work of the clan or the family” (65.4%). Regarding other issues, about 50% of respondents still have their idea unidentified clearly, i.e. whether the young should spend their life after marriage with their parents or not (57.5%), the young people are obliged to obey to their parents’ ideas in all circumstances. The hesitations of the young people when encountering the issues of responsibilities to family and clan

can originate from the interference between the traditional and modern culture. (see Table V)

Regarding concepts on family’s happiness, the young upholds the current common social standards, such as equality, democracy (41.5%), respect, love (78.0%); cohesion among family members (81.7%). Their role and responsibility for parents are about 25.8%, family, and clan (60.6%). The nuclear family is much chosen by young people (21.5%).

IV. CONCLUSION

Through the multi-dimensional approach in the study on social deviance in Vietnamese youth now, findings show that in all aspects of social life, there are manifestations of social deviance among the youth. The social deviance exists in a number of specific areas of social life such as political deviations, behavioural deviations in values, ethics, lifestyle, behavioural deviation in the learning, working and living environment.

There are plentiful of deviant behaviours among youth across different areas, though it is not commonly mentioned in the media and their behaviours represented in their awareness, attitudes and behaviours. Although the majority of young people are aware of the current values and norms, there are still young people who are misleading, especially in the way of life and communication. Most of the young people are well aware of the degree of influences of deviations, especially the severity of violations of the law. However, they tend more likely to violate the behavioural standards, which are less serious, which are the rules and regulations of the organization/community. That explains the remarkably high of the deviance classified as "violent but acceptable" compared to other groups of deviations.

New trends are found in the young’s perceptions toward the definition of standardized behaviours, the norms of young people. In general, young people show the standard actions that are consistent with accepted views in society today. However, some new norms need further evaluation before accepted. In each of the different spheres, though there are not much-deviated behaviours, more emphasis should be put on education, direct the young people towards proper living values, love, marriage, study and work. Additionally, the social environment and living conditions are one of the most important factors affecting youth deviations. Therefore, a control mechanism is essential to create a healthy environment for young people to practice.

The picture of the young's social deviations of depicts the need for proper attention and investment into education on ethics, lifestyles, and value orientation for youth as Vietnam is on its rapidly international integration.

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