

Divorce in Contemporary Vietnam: Prevalence, Patterns and Effects

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In the last several decades, marriage and family in Vietnam experienced a significant transition from the traditional style to more modern and liberal characteristics. Traditional patterns of arranged marriage, gender inequality, strong patriarchy, and having many children under the Confucian cultural heritage significantly declined. The models of the extended family, strong son preference, the important roles of the kinship system, dominant male household head, and etc are transitional substantially.

While divorce has long been culturally discouraged and limited, divorce has been rapidly increasing after the renovation policy in late 1980s with alternative causes, consequences and etc. However, very few empirical studies, which are based on statistical analyses of individual data on the association between socio-demographic factors and divorce in Vietnam, have been published. Using the results of the existed data, which include Vietnam censuses 1989, 1999, and 2009; the annual statistics on divorces at the Vietnam Supreme Court; and especially, the whole divorce cases granted at two district courts in ten years 2000-2009 in the Red River Delta (i.e. 2033 divorced cases, of which 499 divorced couples in a rural district and 1534 divorced couples in the urban district); this study attempts to examine the prevalence, patterns and how the reported reasons of divorce varied with structural factors, such as gender, cultural and demographics (i.e. rural/urban residence, living standard, living arrangement before divorce), life course (i.e. presence of children, birth cohort, age at marriage, duration of marriage, and age at divorce) and socioeconomic status (education, and wealth rank) as well as effects of divorce in contemporary Vietnam. In addition, among divorcees in these two districts, 21 case studies were conducted to collect information on the family background and childhood memories, mate selection; wedding experiences, living arrangement after marriage, the birth of the first child, the sequences of the marital conflicts, divorce procedures, decision, and effects. The findings show that divorces in Vietnam report both traditional and modern styles, and some of them are competing between the transitional processes. Due to socio-structural and legal changes under the increasing modernization process, individuals perceive more liberal values in marriage, family and divorce. Familialism remains significant but individualism is increasing.

The Role of the Community in Elder Care Diamond in China

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This paper try to examine the role of the community in China's shifting elder care diamond over the last three decades. The change of China's elder care diamond is an important research since this country has undergone the low fertility rate and ageing in old people. China's population is ageing more rapidly than those in most developing countries. The meanwhile, socioeconomic changes, such as stringent birth control and massive rural-urban migration, have made family not able to provide old age care as before. And the women who are the major role to care for elder people, are now too busy with jobs and raising children. So the governments are forced to take all kinds of measures to solve the elder care. One of the ways is home-based eldercare, with the government as the service supporter, and the other preferred model is community-based eldercare which encourages family, friends, neighborhood and volunteers to look after the elder people. And between the state and the family, China pays much attention to the role of community include the volunteer groups which can have all kinds of recreational activities and other forms of social life. This kind of active participation in group activities can bring the social happy to elder people but the state or the family does not provide. And many people point out that China is now in a transformation from family care to community care. So the role of the community is playing an increasingly important role in elder care. However, how important the role of the community palys, is it really decrease the burden of the family, and what position the community is in elder care diamond in China.

In this paper, I begin with literature review on welfare pluralism and try to explain analytical dimensions of the four sectors of the elder care diamond in China. It will be important in understanding the China elder care system. In the second part I will analyze the policy on community elder care which is published by the government of China. Then I will examine how it influence the care diamond. And I also try to explore the change in the state's overall expenditure on the community elder care. In the following, I will examine why the role of the community is playing an increasingly important role in elder care and what is the relationship with the other three sectors. Then I aim to explore with the increasing role of the community, is it really reduce the burden of the family and the state. The last part I will conclude this paper with a summary of all changes in the China elder care diamond and discussion of the important role of the community and how it impact the other three sectors . Based on the changes of care diamond, I aim to explore what kind of policy about community elder care can we employ.