Social Deviance of the Youth and Its Influencing Factors in Vietnam – A Literature Review and Strategic Solutions in the Years to come

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Abstract: This article provides the changes in the number of the young in Vietnam over the past four years, to reviews existing literature and analyzes some typical studies done about social offences conducted by authors of several countries generally and of Vietnam particularly, also to discovers that the deviance research in Vietnam is updated though few of these internationally published studies. Additionally, it introduces clearer research approaches of these studies and attempts to find some strategic solutions to the deviance in the context of Vietnam.

Keywords: Social deviance; the young; values

1. Introduction.

Deviance has been studied for years, and it could initially come to light by the two revolutionary works “The Division of Labor in Society, 1893” and “Suicide, 1897” (Durkheim 1951) that threw light on the matter with a commonly accepted idea that any society accompanied with these social phenomena. Following that, sociologists McLaughlin and Muncie perceived that “Deviance is a social concept relevant to all aspects of behavior, action, attitude, belief, style or state”. Some original ideas of Durkheim are developed by Merton R (1938); T.Sellin (1938) and Austin Turk (1969) who asserted that the causes of social deviance came from cultural conflicts. At the microscope, some Russia psychologists, (A.G.Kovaliop 1976) for example, think that deviance emerged from the individual socialization (1984), and Quinney, R (1997) advocate that class discrimination is the main cause of deviance, and so on.

Having gone along with living conditions considerably improved by nearly over the 30 years of renovation since 1986, the spiritual life and social interactions represented by social norms of the cultural aspects and value system have no longer as they had been. The youth, who requires attention and recognition, is the future of a nation, both keep assimilating the new cultural styles and remaining traditional values and these opposite requirements turned many of those into making deviance, which does not invariably necessarily imply any crime because these acts can also be examined and resulted from both negative and positive characteristics.

It is noticeable that the numbers of the youth conflicted the laws have increased in recent years. Some crimes, which are deviant in some countries, are frequently regarded as social evils in others. More common is especially for the young’s lifestyles¹ are even recognized to be seriously degraded. In this article the reasons of deviance among youth and its influencing factors in the Vietnam context will be clearly reviewed from some marked studies.

2. In terms of numbers.

Vietnam is presently in its golden population structure, the number of young people (10-29 years old) accounts for 33%, the largest section of the population and this trend is expected to remain to the year 2040². As can be seen from the table, over the past four years, the numbers of male juveniles tend to be higher than the female ones, although its numbers in total experienced a downward trend compared to the total population. The youth (the Vietnam Youth Law)³ includes people of ages from 16 to 30. Up to the first six months of year 2015, the young people in Vietnam(The Young Statistics 2015) is 22,737,423, nearly 24.8% of the total population, in which the male number is 11,526,273 (accounted for 50.7%) and the female number is 11,211,150 (about 49.3%). The numbers of these young people

3. Deviant behavior in school environment.

Initial studies of the adolescent deviance closely go hand in hand with school environment and social circumstances, which can provide concrete evidence to identify whether the young is likely to commit deviant acts or not. The research results drawn from typical studies conducted in Israel and the USA showing that the most common deviant act in schools is school violence. Many reasons established by researchers, one of those is the young people are invariably under an increasing psychological pressure on obtaining high achievements and participating in too many extracurricular activities (Bernd Holthusen, 2008). Quite a few students are out of control of their emotions that frequently lead to sudden and intense actions and then adequate punishments.

Based on conventional norms given. Also, a survey of “Understanding of school violence” (Center for Disease Control & Prevention 2008) providing the concerning results of school violence, threats, and non-lethal and lethal acts. This approach was also carried out (Liang H 2007) in North Africa, England.

Also relevant to schooling deviance, peer-group is identified recognized as an essential role (A. I. Đôngôva 1981); (Mara Brendgen 2000a). A psychologist, (A. I. Đôngôva 1981), assumed that falling in with the wrong crowd promoted selfish motives to commit crimes, felt less irresponsible for their wrong acts on the other side. The wrong peer-group was the main reason leading to illegal acts of adolescence because of having accepted the group norms which are frequently opposite to the conventional ones (Mara Brendgen 2000a). Additionally, in the USA, Australia and Canada, the peer pressure on crime attracted many sociologists who found the root causes, which were structural characteristics and activity of peer-group. They came to the conclusion that socializing with the wrong crowd is coupled with various factors (Zastrow 2005).

The deviant behaviors of teenagers in schools have been studied by the Vietnamese researchers. The research on the deviant behavior of the secondary education’s students in Hanoi, (S. Hà 2004) providing facts on deviance, the students’ understanding of deviance and the significant correlations between deviance and the awareness of these students. A research done on 200 students learning in the two high schools in the Dong Da district, Hanoi, (Thuồng 2008) the descriptions of the levels, ways, weapons used by students for their violent behaviors given. The theories on educational management of the high school students who have deviant behavior and the educational sphere of those was conducted in 2012 (Song 2012).

For the homeless teenagers, the socialization of the deviance was highlighted that have become more common than ever (Phróng 2000). And the adolescence frequently behaves in their ways, which was called “the laws of the underworld”, and invariably at risk of violating the laws. The inducements and incitement are primal reasons leading the homeless teenagers to different deviant behaviors (Phiến. 2012).

Generally, researchers have put a great deal of efforts into elucidating the relations between school violence and dangerous activities of the youth and feasible solutions are suggested also. However scientific these studies may be, many social-rooted causes have not been found.
4. Family issues.

Living in broken families, set out by the psychologists, is the main cause of laws violation in the adolescence. The psychologists, Mary Gifford-Smith, Kenneth A. Dodge, Thomas J. Dishion, and Joan McCord7, (Prior, Margot, Ann Sanson 2000) worked out that children are coddled and have no control were the underlying reasons of the anti-establishment of them.

In the changing circumstances of Vietnam, it seems that the changes of rural family values and standards and its negative impacts on the youth are becoming more serious than they were five years ago, as family values are lost in the process (Anh. 1986). The personality and lifestyle of the parents have a strong influence on the juvenile behavior, showed by two tendencies, one is the lack of care and the other is coddled (Khoa 2000), another roles of family education is to prevent teenagers from various deviant behaviors (Ngô Thị Ngọc Anh 2004).

In a long-term research on the fact and reasons of the poor moral aspects of 115 high schools in central provinces of Vietnam, from the school year 1991-1992 to the 1st semester of the school year 1994-1995, (Phạm Thanh Bình, Lê Phong, Trần Thị Hường, n.d.) found out that the main reasons are problems in educational methods of the parents thus indicating a clear correlations between the parents’ relations and the children’s deviant behavior.

These studies only show the relations, which usually affect the deviant behaviors of the young, between the parents and their children.

5. Violating the laws.

In the ministerial general review on the young committed the laws, which (Ich 1996b) looked back over the situations of crimes and social evils of the Vietnamese youth in recent years. The report shows factors that had impact on the crimes of the youth generally and of the teenagers particularly, and some prevention solutions mentioned also. And the report of the year 1996, (Ich 1996a) the forms, tendencies of the crimes and the social evils of the young is also described.

The survey SAVY II8 (“SAVY” 2009) indicated that 69% of the male teenagers and 28.1% of the female teenagers have used alcohol, the urban rate was 56.9% and the rate in rural area was 46%. These people are often notorious for illegal car racing, premarital sex and making a lot of noise in the public areas. This survey, however, did not give a perfect picture, because it has no samples of the young living in jails, detention centrals, the army and those living far from home. Besides, traffic law violated by the young is rapidly increasing, as investigated by some studies providing the reasons and fully explanations (Đỗng 2009) (Mai Sơn 2012) (Ngô Thị Lệ Thủy 2010).

Falling the wrong crowd and bad peers leads to violating the laws of the young (Mạc Văn Trang 1979), (Điểm 2003), (Hoa 2004), and these young people always have difficulty in Rehabilitating into the community living in detention schools because they are too used to familiar to with what they had done (N. T. Quý 2011a).

Shortly, some behaviors have been regarded as deviance. And according to the current laws, these acts, however, primarily legal violence, according to the current laws.

6. Drug abuse and prostitution.

The youth addiction to drug was carefully reviewed by some authors, (Bailey 1981); (Schinke 2013)(R 2001) giving fully explanations about causes, motives and environment, and they suggested a multi-factor analysis. Based on the data of the Ministry of Labor, War invalids and Social Affairs, (Lê Thị Mộng Phương 2001) went into the reasons of drug abuse in adolescence who are unemployed and semi-unemployed, including: environment, society, peers, workplace, characteristics of their job and income, broken families. Another case study (Hương 2005) shows the aspects of personality and society having great impact on the drug addiction of young people, whilst (Yêm 2002) and other researchers shone a light on school factors and drug use in schools.

There are two ways of explaining female prostitution in young people. The first one, concluded by (Phúc 1993), (Tiệm 1993) and (L. T. Hà 2003), asserted that these female possessed divergence personalities and negative behavior and hobbies. The second explanation is that prostitution is obviously deviance in terms of Vietnamese social and traditional values. Using the same approach, the effects of prostitution on Vietnamese people and offered some solutions to reduce its negative impacts on the social life (Hữu 1993). The author believed that these females’ deviant acts that are so different from social norms, justice, love, ideals of living, are considerably affected by their
Influencing factors to the young deviant offences.

It is commonly accepted by researchers that there are many defects in family and school environment that have a strong influence on the whole process of personality development and value orientation leading the adolescence to social deviance(L. T. Quy 1999)(Lê Thị Quý 2007)(Thịnh 2010). There is a clear correlations between family and school violence(Thoa 2010) of the adolescence with unhappy family. This can also be proved by recent experimental studies on “the school violence in Hà Long city, QuảngNinh province(Thoa 2010)”, “The causes of school violence in the lower secondary school – Le Lai- 8 district- Ho Chi Minh city 2009(Lê Thị Hồng Thắm 2009)” or the survey on “Domestic Violence in Vietnam”6.

Referring to the phenomena rising by the market-oriented economy, the problem should be viewed in the sub-cultural aspects, Dang CanhKhanh (2006, 2008)8 asserted that for the young there is no gap between renovating thought and deviant behavior. And the true causes of these deviances are: the relations of the young culture and common culture and society; the internal change in the young culture. Their deviant behaviors also reflect social deviance that cannot be self-adjusted as it should be like the conventional ones. Typically, the authors give a diagram that can be used for researching and analyzing every single of the young’s deviant behaviors.

More specific, the changes in lifestyles of the young in Vietnam in the first decade of the 21st century, showed four negative tendencies, consisting of: a life of gross self-indulgence; atrocious behavior, violating the laws; irresponsibility; absorb unselctively many kinds of foreign cultures (Tung 2011). Because the young is a vanguard of employing new values, many of their behaviors are not always negative, but regarded as contrast with the traditional norms (Uẩn 2010)(Uẩn 2013).

The Internet is considered as a cause of the young’s deviant behavior (Tung 2011)(Thanh 1995); (Hậu 2013), because of its negative influence on adolescence’s minds. It changes the ways of life of the young, they have their unwritten rules and social norms of their group. Of course, there will be those who seek to break away from tradition and to rebel, or shun mainstream values.

With regard to working environment effects to the young’s deviant acts (Colber 2004); (Mitchell 2007); (Yuksel 2012), the young is on their first stage of career development, while the working places always have deviant offenses and habit that the young easily get involved (Colber 2004). This research aspect has been studied recent years in some countries, but it is brand new in Vietnam and has not received much attention from researchers.

Table 2: The factors influencing the young on making deviant acts in Vietnam

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<tr>
<th>Deviance</th>
<th>Causes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Schooling violence</td>
<td>Peer group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Rebel, the underworld laws. (Huynh 2004)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

For the young who violated committed the laws that has been studies for several decades and these works elucidating social factors, for instances the psychology of personality, (Mạc Văn Trang 1979), (Điềm 2003), (Hoa 2004) the wrong peer or group communication as a decisive aspect leading to personality deviances, forming anti-social behaviors, committing the legal and moral norms. In a typical article, (N. T. Quý 2011b) describing the causes of committing the laws of the young who have experiences in the detention schools after rehabilitation, resulted from a life of gross self-indulgence; material driven; moral degradation. They feel it is hard to keep motivated to do what they have to do for a better life.

8. Conclusion and some suggested solutions.

It can be said that most of these studies representing common approaches, which are based on sociology, culture, psychology, law and social value, commonly used by authors in other countries. These studies, which showed a partially complete picture of how deviance has been conducted in Vietnam, can be viewed in two aspects. Firstly, they focus on the deviant behavior of the young, especially how these activities can be visually expressed, and many of these people had intentions to violate the laws. Second is the deviance in the cognition and opinions of the young. The common point of these 2 aspects, however, is that the concentration on the influencing factors of deviant behavior in a variety of social conditions. In facts, these approaches should be combined in every single study.

If it is necessary that to keep these issues in perspective, several solutions that could be taken to deal with deviant behavior of the young in Vietnam. These are: (1) to strengthen the regulations and policies on developing the young of Vietnam in new circumstances; (2) to improve education, developing the moral and living style norms of the young; (3) to enhance the legal knowledge of the young (4) to prevent the crimes, law violation and rehabilitation for the young who experienced in detention centers; (5) to make means of communications focus on education the young; (6) to improve the methods of social control in order to prevent the deviant behavior; (7) to strengthen the coordination between family, school and some social unions; (8) to make the Youth Union operation efficient and effective.

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