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## TRADITIONAL CULTURAL VALUES OF THE VIETNAMESE NATION

**Abstract.** Traditional cultural values of Vietnam are unique and good cultural identities that have been formed and handed down from the time of national construction to the present day. The researchers assessed that the traditional cultural values of the Vietnamese people have emerged three basic characteristics, including: Firstly, ethical values occupy a prominent position. Secondly, patriotism is affirmed as the core value, the value oriented other values. Thirdly, common values of Vietnamese people such as solidarity, sense of community, kindness, tolerance.

**Keywords:** Traditional culture, Vietnam, values, nation.

### 1. Introduction

The cultural values of the nation are the achievements of the nation in relation to nature, society and in the development of oneself; The cultural values of the nation are attitudes, responsibilities and codes of conduct in social and natural relations; The cultural values of the nation are also the symbols for truth – good – beauty. We should think that “Only those activities which manifest the intrinsic human forces, the forces that symbolize truth – good – beauty, are present as cultural values”.

Traditional cultural values of Vietnam were formed through many different historical periods, which were created during the process of national construction and defense. The traditional cultural values of Vietnam have affirmed its intense vitality and it is like a sharp weapon, creating an extremely large wall, contributing to the history of thousands of years of building and defending the country.

In the history of Vietnam, they have repeatedly exchanged, accultured and integrated with other cultures, through wars against foreign invaders. The traditional cultural values of Vietnam were not only preserved but also grow richer. Traditional cultural values

have formed unique traits in the Vietnamese people, creating an extraordinary power, able to “resist” and vigorously fight against all invading enemies.

Traditional cultural values of Vietnam include: patriotism, self-reliance will, solidarity, kindness, tolerance, affection, studiousness, hard work, optimism. These values not only play a great role in survival but also affirm the intense vitality of the nation in the past, present and future.

### 2. Overview of traditional cultural values

The cultural values of the nation are formed and affirmed in the process of survival and development, always present in the action program of the nation, expressing the essence of a nation. It can be said that the cultural value of the nation is what makes up the unique, traditional, identity of the nation. We can base on that to compare and comment on the culture of one nation with another.

Tradition is a succession of valuable social heritage passed down from generation to generation. According to Professor Tran Van Giau, “traditions are virtues or customs that last for generations, have many historical periods and have many effects, that effect may be positive, may be negative” [1]. We can understand that

there are two types of traditions: backwardness needs to be overcome; what create values and identities need to inherit, promote and develop.

Traditional values are traditions that have been acknowledged, assessed, rigorously appraised by time, it is chosen and recognized by the community through historical periods. However, such an appraisal is not a subjective opinion but must be based on an objective evaluation. Traditional values are good things with positive meanings. It is these values that create the identity of each nation, which is passed down to the next generation and will be protected, maintained, supplemented and developed.

Traditional value is relative, it may change over time, it changes quickly or slowly depending on many factors, most importantly, social and economic conditions. Traditional cultural values of the people are not inherent from the nation's establishment but are created by successive generations. The traditional cultural value is a lasting one, undergoing many challenging times while its core value and nature are always upheld. It are good values and represent the nation, creating its identity.

### **3. Traditional cultural values of the Vietnamese nation**

Many cultural researchers have summarized the valuable traditional cultural values of the Vietnamese nation. According to Professor Tran Van Giau has the seven most common values of the Vietnamese nation, including patriotism, hard work, heroism, creativity, optimism, and compassion for the people [1].

According to Professor Nguyen Trong Chuan said that the traditional cultural and spiritual values of the Vietnamese people should be mentioned "intense patriotism, a strong sense of community solidarity and national solidarity, thriftiness and independence, resilience, the will to overcome all hardships, hard-working spirit, creativity in combat and labor, flexible behavior and quick adaptation to new and unusual fluctuations. In particular, respect for families and a sense of sustainable family building and maintenance is a long-lasting value along with the ups and downs of the country and the nation" [2, P. 764].

Although there are different views, the researchers agree on some basic traditional cultural values of Vietnamese people the following.

#### **3.1. Patriotism and national willpower**

Patriotism is the traditional value of the Vietnamese nation and of all humanity. Among the traditional cultural values of the Vietnamese nation, patriotism has always been ranked first. It became "the focus of the focus, the value of the values, it is the greatest emotional motivation of the national life, and at the same time is the highest ladder in the system of moral values of the Vietnamese people" [1].

Patriotism is rooted in a sense of community that connects individuals – families – society – the country. Patriotism is expressed in aspirations and actions always put the interests of the country and the people first, dedicated to building the homeland of the country, ready to fight the aggressors, protect the integrity of nation, preserve and promote the culture of the nation.

#### **3.2. solidarity, awareness for the common good of the community**

The spirit of solidarity, a sense of community's common interests stemming from patriotism, is an expression of patriotism. In the context of always having to fight foreign invaders with much more economic and military potential than Vietnam, this tradition was formed and strengthened. Vietnamese proverbs have a saying that expresses deeply that "United we stand, divided we fall".

The spirit of solidarity is a great source of strength for the Vietnamese people to defeat all foreign forces. The history of the Vietnamese nation shows that when they do not unite the entire people, the strength of the country weakens. For example, the failure of the Ho Dynasty in the early 15<sup>th</sup> century in the resistance against the Ming army is a typical case. When the Vietnamese people unite their nation, they always win. It was summarized by President Ho Chi Minh through the sentence "Solidarity, solidarity, great unity; Success, success, great success".

The spirit of solidarity and awareness for the common good of the community is a cultural tradition of

the Vietnamese nation, from the past until today, it still needs to be preserved and promoted. President Ho Chi Minh affirmed “solidarity is an extremely precious tradition of the Communist Party of Vietnam and of the people of Vietnam” [3, P. 622].

### **3.3. Kindness, tolerance, love peace, desire to live in peace**

Kindness is a very prominent traditional cultural value of the Vietnamese nation. Kindness means loving people. Kindness is formed and developed among the Vietnamese people from the daily life of hardships and difficulties. In difficult circumstances, tribulation, love, support and sharing have helped them overcome difficult situations.

Vietnamese proverbs already have sayings “When a horse is ill, the whole stable refuse to eat the grass”, or “Love your neighbor as yourself” has long become a way of thinking, behavior, philosophy of Vietnamese people, dominating the relationship between people and people in Vietnamese society. Kindness is tolerance, selflessness for those who have done wrong, they desire to do good things to become good people, to return to righteousness.

Vietnam has experienced many wars against foreign invaders, so they want to peace, love peace and desire to build friendship with other peoples. The Vietnamese are clearly aware of the war, whether losing or winning, must suffer heavy losses, with the Vietnamese people having a tradition of kindness, they do not want war to occur. Following that tradition, the Vietnamese State is implementing the foreign policy “Vietnam wants to be friends with all countries in the world community, striving for peace, independence and development” [6].

### **3.4. Hard-working, optimistic, humble, honest**

Vietnamese people are always diligent in working, optimistic and honest living is an outstanding cultural value. Vietnam is an agricultural country, if they do not work hard, they cannot survive. Hard work is both a condition to ensure the needs of human life, as well as a sense of responsibility of the Vietnamese people in the cause of national construction and defense.

Although Vietnamese people have to live in difficult circumstances, coping with natural disasters, they are always optimistic and believe in the good things ahead. According to Professor Tran Van Giau, optimism is “a great virtue dating back to ancient times” [1]. It is that optimism that helps them overcome difficulties that seem impossible to overcome.

### **4. Discussion**

Today, the values of traditional culture of the Vietnamese nation are still being continued and developed. However, due to the negative impact of the market economy, international integration, the requirements of the times, the traditional cultural values of the Vietnamese people are changing in a positive way polar and negative.

Educating the traditional values of the nation helps people to realize the value and meaning of life of humanity, profound humanity, those values make people better. On that basis, people choose values and form beliefs, ethical ideals, guide all their thoughts and actions, and strengthen and develop good personality values.

Along with raising the awareness of traditional ethnic values, we need to overcome the outdated, standard deviation views, fight to eliminate the signs of degradation, metamorphosis and build standards and qualities ethics in line with new historical circumstances.

The education of traditional values of the nation also contributes to the formation of an advanced aesthetic sense in the Vietnamese personality. Ethical rules and standards become criteria that guide the personality and direct human activities, thereby building a healthy, humble, solidarity, love, and mutual help lifestyle.

### **5. Conclusion**

Each nation needs to protect, maintain and develop its traditional cultural values as a fulcrum to create new cultural values, which is the basis for international cultural exchange. Therefore, traditional cultural values are always sustainable; become the great moral principles that the nation must rely on

to unite society, create the strength to build and society; It is a reliable support and a solid fulcrum protect the country, for the progress of people and for the nation.

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