

THE GRASSROOTS POLITICAL SYSTEM – A KEY FACTOR IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ETHNIC MINORITY AND MOUNTAINOUS AREAS IN VIETNAM AT PRESENT

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Abstract

The sustainable development of Vietnam's ethnic minority and mountainous areas is a developmental process based on economic growth associated with progress and social justice, this contributes to use reasonably the natural resources and protecting the ecological environment, it also is a key factor for improving quality of life for the ethnic minority communities. However, the state of sustainable development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas of Vietnam is still inadequate and limited which is main cause of these problems due to lack of fully promoting the role and responsibility of the grassroots political system for sustainable development of ethnic minority and mountainous areas. Therefore, the key factor that need to recognize properly about the role and implement all of comprehensive solutions to promote the role of the grassroots political system in the sustainable development of ethnic minority and mountainous areas in Vietnam at present, thereby improving the quality and developing the sustainable social economy in this area.

Keywords: *Sustainable development; The grassroots political system; Ethnic minority and mountainous areas.*

1. Introduction

The sustainable development in Vietnam's ethnic minority and mountainous areas are a major strategy that throughout the developmental process. In developmental process follow the socialist-oriented market mechanism, the sustainable development of ethnic minority and mountainous areas has not only gained the enormous achievement but also confronted many challenges. Specially, Industrial Revolution 4.0 and the fierce resistance of the hostile forces have affected strongly on the facets that need to find the realizable solves to determine the roles, functions and tasks of the Political System at all levels in the sustainable development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas, this is a fundamental requirement in the current period.

There are many scientific studies on sustainable development, especially sustainable development of ethnic minority and mountainous areas such as: The State study by Nguyen An Ninh (2018): Studying state management models about the ethnic policies in some countries around the world and lessons have learned for Vietnam; Management of social

development in ethnic areas and ethnic minorities in our country by Nguyen Lam Thanh published in the Legislative Research, March 2018; Organizing the political system - the central issue in building fast-growing, sustainable institutions in Vietnam of Ta Ngoc Tan, published in The Journal of Political Theory, January 2019... However, lack of the specific studies on the role of the grassroots political system in the sustainable development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas in Vietnam, this article is the basis for clarifying the theoretical and practical issues of sustainable development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas; thereby proposing the significant solutions to promote the role of the grassroots political system in the sustainable development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas in Vietnam.

2. Method

This article used a comprehensive approach to collecting and summarizing the recent studies and reports related to this topic. All data was collected base on the second-party data provided by state management agencies such as: General Statistics Office of Vietnam; Committee for Ethnic Minorities; Party ministries and local governments to shed light on the role of the grassroots political system in the sustainable development in Vietnam's ethnic minority and mountainous areas.

3. Results

3.1. State of the sustainable development of Vietnam's ethnic minority and mountainous areas in recent years

Vietnam's ethnic minority and mountainous areas account for three-quarter of the country's area that is key residence where have 53 ethnic minorities with over 14 million people. This is an essential area of defense, security and external affairs; that is the place where there are many mineral resources, diverse dynamic and plant ecosystems; there are over 14 million hectares of forests which are aquatic water sources associated with national hydropower projects that both providing electricity and providing production and living water at the lower land. Sustainable development in Vietnam's ethnic minority and mountainous areas is part of the country's sustainable development, it exists inseparably and basing on the national sustainable development strategy. This is the development process which is based on the economic growth associated with progress and social justice, using reasonably the natural resources and protecting the ecological environment contribute to establish and protect the fatherland.

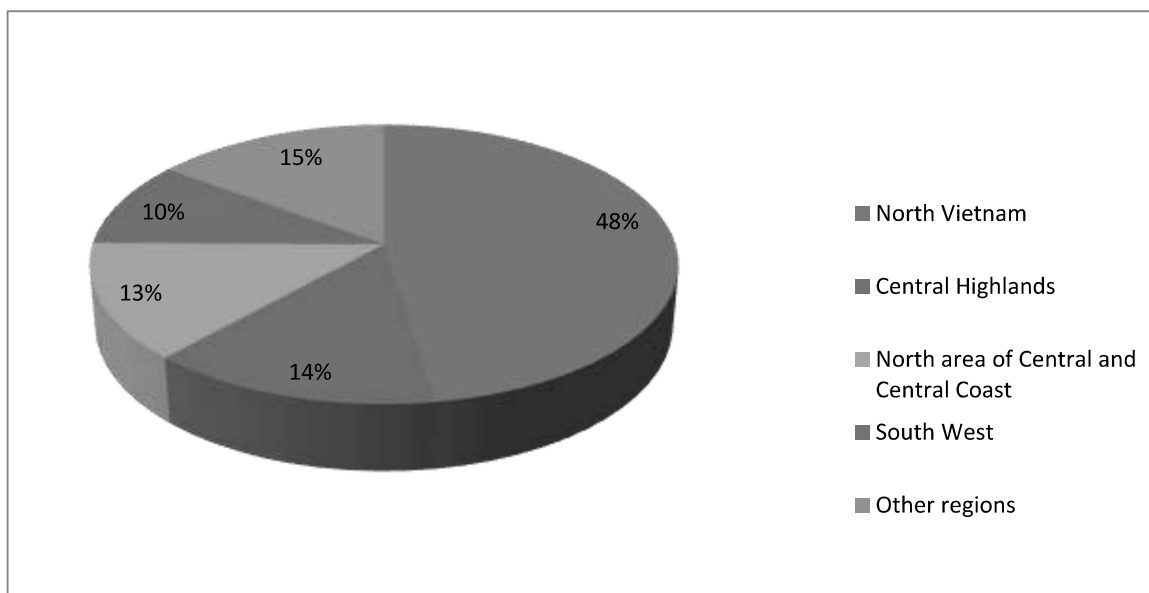


Chart 1: Distribution of Vietnam's ethnic minority population by region (Unit:%)

Source: Committee for Ethnic Minorities - General Statistics Office, Results of investigations to collect information on the socio-economic situation of 53 ethnic minorities in 2019, Statistics Agency, Hanoi, 2019

Perceiving precisely about the position and importance of the sustainable development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas. In recent years, Vietnam's the Party and State have had many comprehensive strategies and policies link to solve problems that are both basic, urgent and significant to create the sustainable socio-economic development in this area. The opinions and guidelines of Vietnam's the Communist Party determined: "Developing comprehensively all of facets such as the politics, economy, culture, society and security - defense at the ethnic minority and mountainous areas; attaching economic growth to solving social problems and implementing effectively the national policies; caring about training and fostering human resources, especially the ethnic minority cadres; preserving and promoting the traditional values and cultures in the common development of the Vietnamese ethnic community"⁹¹. Implementing this policy, the Vietnam's Government has promulgated the specific policies and plans for each period such as: Orientation of Vietnam's Sustainable Development Strategy (2004); Ethnic work strategy to 2020 (2013); The Millennium Target for ethnic minorities associated with the goal of sustainable development after 2015 (2015); National target program for sustainable poverty reduction for the period 2016 - 2020 (2016); The National action plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development (2017) has promulgated with aims: "Maintaining the sustainable economic growth link to implement the progress, social justice and ecological

⁹¹ Communist Party of Vietnam (2003), Documents of the 7th Conference of the IX Central Committee, National Politics Publishing House, Hanoi.

environment protection, effectively natural resources use and management, proactively respond to climate change; ensuring that people expose their potentials, participating and enjoying equally the developmental achievements; building a peaceful, prosperous, democratic, just, civilized and sustainable Vietnamese society"⁹². In order to successfully achieve this overall goal, the 2030 Agenda has identified 17 specific goals, therein 15/17 goals related to ethnic minority and mountainous areas including 5 economic goals, 6 socio-cultural goals and 4 ecological environment goals.

In recent years, Implementing the Party and the State's guidelines and policies about sustainable development, Vietnam's ethnic minority and mountainous areas have developed comprehensively and solidly. The economic growth rate of ethnic minority and mountainous areas is quite high, reaching an average of 7% and increasing gradually every year that higher than the national average, therein the Northwestern provinces increased by an average of 8.4 % per year, the Central Highlands increased by an average of 8.1 % per year, the Southwest increased by an average of 7.3% per year⁹³. The economic structure shifted in the right direction, initially forming agricultural - forestry production areas such as coffee, tea, rubber, pepper, medicinal plants, trees for timber and out-of-wood products... The infrastructure of ethnic minority and mountainous areas gradually completed and associated with the socio-economic development of each region lead to meet the needs of the people. Number of poor households in poor districts and the difficult communes decreased rapidly, people's quality of life markedly improved in recent years. The grassroots political system of ethnic minority areas is strengthened, and promoting effectively. The National defense and security maintained, it ensured the social and political stability. The national unity is increasingly reinforced and strengthened. The ecological environment was protected and developed harmoniously. However, Vietnam's ethnic minorities and mountainous areas are still the most difficult areas where are the lowest quality of human resources and the slowest socio-economic development. This is place that can access to the lowest basic social services, the high rate of poor households. Therefore, the effectiveness of the sustainable development process has represented significantly challenges for the political system at all levels. Specifically:

In the domain of economics, although this domain has gained many achievements but the economic scale in ethnic minority and mountainous areas in Vietnam has been still limited and the fundament of agricultural production still depends on natural characteristics; transferring of economic structure is slow, many developmental sectors are not

⁹² The National Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Promulgated together with the Prime Minister's Decision No. 622/QĐ-TTg on May 10, 2017).

⁹³ The overall plan on socio-economic development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas for the period 2021-2030 (Promulgated together with Resolution No. 88/2019/QH14 on November 18, 2019 of the National Assembly)

commensurate with the potential. The cost of producing and circulating the goods is large that should be very difficult to attract social resources to invest in socio-economic development affect to the sustainable development. According to the results of the database about the state of the socio-economic of 53 ethnic minorities in 2019, there are 5,266 communes in ethnic minority and mountainous areas, therein 1,957 communes in zone III and 20,139 villages outside communes in Area III are difficult. The proportion of employees work in the agricultural sector accounts for over 80%, technical infrastructure was still low and it did not meet the needs of socio-economic development. In 2019, there are still 54 communes without roads connecting to the commune center and the district center; 9,474 villages without hardened roads; 3,400 villages without electricity; 4,355 schools have not been solidification; 1,148 communes without marketplaces; 1,749 communes without cultural houses; 7,072 villages do not have cultural houses or community activists. The ethnic minority and mountainous areas of Vietnam are having the highest of poor households in the country, the average income rate of ethnic minority households in many places is only 40-50% of the average income in the region; the proportion of population is 14.7% but the poverty rate accounts for 55.27% of the total poverty households of the country. There are 9 provinces with a poverty rate of over 90%; 4 provinces have a poverty rate of 70% - 90%. There are some ethnic minority groups that the high percentage of poor households up to 70-80% such as O Du, Co, Kho Mu, Xinh Mun, La Ha, Khang, Mong and Xo Dang.⁹⁴

In the domain of socio-culture, the ethnic minorities have approached and enjoyed the basic socio-cultural services lower level than the national average, there are about 21% of ethnic minorities over 15 year old who could not read fluently the Vietnamese and about 30% of ethnic minority pupils have not yet attended school hat the right age; The level of access to medical services is still difficult, the rate of issuance of health insurance cards is high but the rate of medical examination and treatment is still low, the percentage of pregnant women who received regular examinations is 71%, the rate of childbirth at home is 36.3%, the proportion of malnourished children are 32%; nearly one-third of ethnic minority households have not approached to sanitation water; 15.3% of ethnic minority households stay in temporary homes, especially 14 ethnic minorities have a temporary housing rate of nearly 50%; 2/3 of ethnic minority households do not have sanitation factories.⁹⁵

In the domain of natural resources - environment, Vietnam's ethnic minority and mountainous areas are mainly alpine, border, divided terrain and harsh climate. This is the place where is the worst infrastructure in the country and affected by the climate changes and environmental incidents such as landslides in the provinces of Uncle Central and Central

⁹⁴ Committee for Ethnic Minorities - General Statistics Office, Results of investigations to collect information on the socio-economic situation of 53 ethnic minorities in 2019, Statistics Agency, Hanoi, 2019.

⁹⁵ Committee for Ethnic Minorities - General Statistics Office, Results of investigations to collect information on the socio-economic situation of 53 ethnic minorities in 2019, Statistics Agency, Hanoi, 2019.

Coast; floods, flash floods in northwestern provinces; droughts in the Central Highlands...These are taking place seriously and unpredictably. The root of these problems was the decrease of forest resources because of the excessive logging and deforestation for industrial land, the nomadic habits of the ethnic minorities. The illegal mining of some minerals such as gold, tin and building materials has polluted the environment. The development of under-calculated hydropower works has had the negative effects on ecological environment issues, disrupting ecological balance, changing the flow and affecting the social stability, labor, employment, life and living space of villages in ethnic minority and mountainous areas.

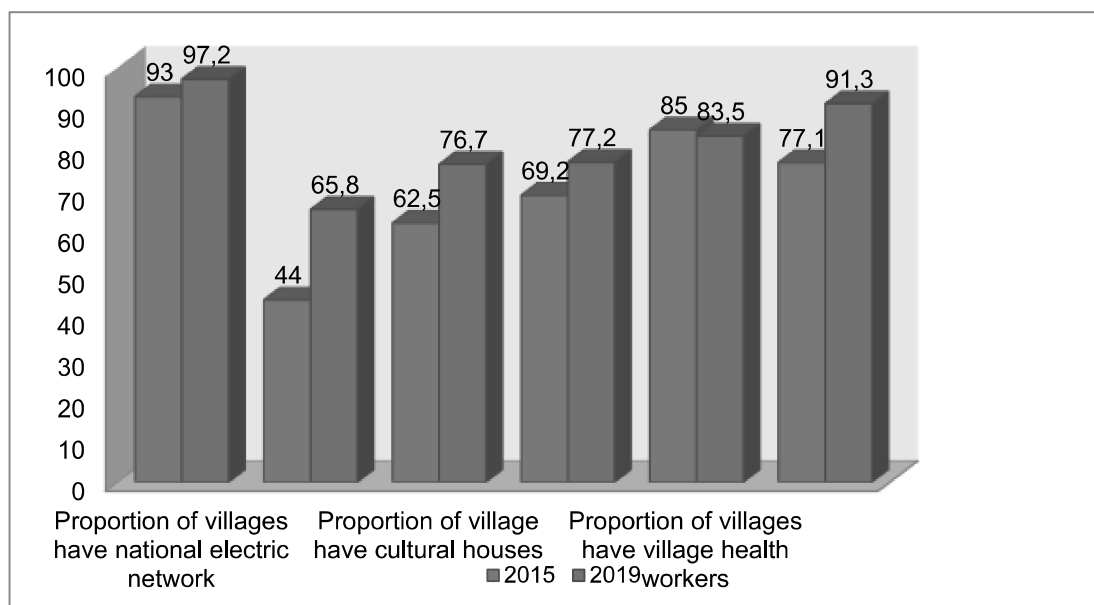


Chart 2: Some indicators about state of the socio-economic of 53 ethnic minorities in 2015 and 2019 (Unit: %)

Source: Committee for Ethnic Minorities - General Statistics Office, Results of investigations to collect information on the socio-economic situation of 53 ethnic minorities in 2019, Statistics Agency, Hanoi, 2019.

The results showed that the situation of sustainable development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas in Vietnam in the recent years. Although the important results have achieved but there are still many difficulties, challenges and disadvantages about economy, culture - society and ecological environment. There are many causes that lead to this situation, but the subjective causes are the main. It is: establishing, managing and monitoring the policies to support socio-economic development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas are overlapped; the resources are scattered; lacking of determine clearly about responsibilities of all levels and sectors lead to use the low investment that impacted to exploit inefficiently the local's potentials, advantages and the internal forces in ethnic minority and mountainous areas. In particular, the role of the grassroots political system

about sustainable development at the ethnic minority and mountainous areas has not really been fully promoted; the leader, organizer and supervisor's ability is still weak and inevitable; staff's awareness, responsibility and qualifications is still limited and not meet the practical requirements; there have not been many significant measures to promote the role of elements (party organizations, governments and socio-political organizations) in sustainable development that greatly affected the quality and efficiency of sustainable development at ethnic minority areas and mountainous areas in Vietnam at present.

3.2. The grassroots political system and its role in the sustainable development of Vietnam's ethnic minority and mountainous areas at present.

The political system in Vietnam is a socialist political system consisting of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and socio-political organizations. All of organizations are operated according to the mechanism and relating with each other in order to strengthen the leadership role of the Party, managing effectively of the State and ensuring the power belongs to the people. Vietnam's political system holds the entire system of practical social powers from the political power, the state power to other powers in society including the establishment, organization and supervision's powers to perform the developmental system in general and the sustainable development institutions in particular. Therefore, the effective implementation of sustainable development can only occur when there is a good, reasonable and effective political system.

In the political system of Vietnam, the grassroots political system is the last level that is established in communes, wards and towns. The whole apparatus of the grassroots political system includes: The Party at grassroots level; the government at grassroots level; The Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations of the people at grassroots level. These elements are closely tied together and forming a political system in each administrative unit, operating according to the principled functional relationship: The Party leads, the administration manage and the people master. Accordingly, the Party at grassroots level lead comprehensively by the resolutions, orientating the central tasks, selecting the staff, inspecting and supervising the implementation of resolutions of the People's Councils and People's Committees and examining to conduct the State's policies and laws. The government at grassroots level (People's Councils and People's Committees) where implement the State's legal policies according to the statutory jurisdiction, directly managing and managing the society to maintain security and political stability, organizing the performance of socio-economic tasks, improve people's quality of life. The Fatherland Front and other socio-political organizations at grassroots level participate in managing in their localities and supervising the implementation of policies and laws of the people's councils, people's committees, party members and staff; propagating and mobilizing people to comply with the Party's guidelines, the State's policies and laws.

In ethnic minority and mountainous areas, the grassroots political system is established in commune-level administrative units. According to the Prime Minister's Decision No. 33/2020 on November 12, 2020 about the criteria for the division of ethnic minority and mountainous areas in the period 2021-2025, commune-level administrative units of ethnic minority and mountainous areas are communes with the proportion of ethnic minority households in the total number of households living in communities from 15% or more. Accordingly, there are 5,468 commune-level administrative units (51 provinces, cities and 548 districts) belong to ethnic minority and mountainous areas in Vietnam. Currently, the grassroots political system in ethnic minority and mountainous areas is being built and solidly consolidated. On average, each commune has 20 cadres and civil servants, of which more than 90% of commune-level cadres and civil servants are ethnic minorities. All commune-level cadres and civil servants have professional qualifications, leadership capacity, and management capacity up to standards as prescribed.

Table 1: Number of communes in ethnic minority and mountainous areas in Vietnam (Unit: Commune)

	General	Urban, agricultural		Area	
		Urban	Rural area	Border	Other
NATIONWIDE	5468	696	4772	424	5044
Norther midland and mountain	2422	228	2 194	212	2210
Red River Delta	283	47	236	17	266
North area of Central and Central Coast	1213	70	1143	110	1103
Central Highlands	726	127	599	36	690
South East	361	115	246	32	329
Mekong Delta	463	109	354	17	446

Source: Committee for Ethnic Minorities - General Statistics Office, Results of investigations to collect information on the socio-economic situation of 53 ethnic minorities in 2019, Statistics Agency, Hanoi, 2019.

The grassroots political system plays a very important role that decide the success or failure of the implementation of the Party's guidelines and policies and the State's laws. The grassroots political system directly leads, directs and organizes the implementation the objectives of socio-economic, defense and security at the locality. The study about the role of the grassroots political system in the sustainable development of Vietnam's ethnic

minority and mountainous areas is essential that contribute to clarify the functions, tasks, powers and effects of Party organizations, governments and socio-political organizations in performing the tasks about the economic and social sustainable development and environment in ethnic minority and mountainous areas in Vietnam at present.

According to the opinion's Marxism - Leninism, there is anything or phenomenon that exists in reality, it has a certain connection and playing the important role in the movement and development of one or another group of things or phenomena. As a result, things and phenomena reveal attributes, establishing their existence and distinguishing between them and other things and phenomena. Thus, the role is objectively established by the social position of each subject in the system of social relations and specific activities. The same subject, manifesting its role will be different when the social relations, the domain of activity and purpose are different.

The role of the grassroots political system in the sustainable development of ethnic minority and mountainous areas was formed based on the socialist legal relations, it was established by the Party and the State of Vietnam base on the system of opinions, guidelines and policies of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the Constitution and laws of the State. The Communist Party of Vietnam always determines and implements the sustainable development of ethnic minority and mountainous areas as the responsibility of both the political system at all levels and branches, especially the political system in the area where inhabited by ethnic minorities. Vietnam's Constitution 2013 also clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of the Party organizations, governments and socio-political organizations in the country's economic-social development, environment and defense-security as well as ethnic minority and mountainous areas. In addition, the Law on Government's Organization and the local's organizational rights; the directives and recommendations of the Party; The National Assembly and the Government also defined the roles and responsibilities of the political system about sustainable development at all levels. On that basis, it stipulates the functions, tasks and powers of the grassroots political system, creating the objective legal position to perform the tasks of sustainable development in general and sustainable development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas in particular. The role of the grassroots political system in the sustainable development of specific ethnic minority and mountainous areas will be represented below as follows:

Firstly, the grassroots political system is a force to directly propagate to increase the cadres, party members and people's awareness about the guidelines and policies of the Party and the State of Vietnam in the sustainable development of ethnic minority and mountainous areas. This is an important role of the grassroots political system in the sustainable development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas, because the sustainable development's policies of ethnic minority and mountainous areas can only be achieved effectively when the staff, Party members and people have perceived exactly about the

sustainable development's role, importance, content, requirements and measures in developing the locality's economy, socio-culture, environment and defense and security. Therefore, the cadres, party members and people should be propagated to increase their awareness through the activities of the grassroots political system, especially propagating and mobilizing the people. Accordingly, all of the Party and the State and organizations' opinions, guidelines and policies about sustainable development will be fully communicated to each cadre, party member and people that help them to properly realize to identify clearly responsibilities in performing the sustainable development goals in their localities.

Secondly, the grassroots political system is the subject of the sustainable development goals' leadership, management, direction and organizing the implementation in ethnic minority and mountainous areas; taking care of improving the quality of life for ethnic groups in the area. This is the most important role that decide on the quality and efficiency of the sustainable development process in ethnic minority and mountainous areas. In fact, promoting the role of the grassroots political system in the sustainable development of ethnic minority and mountainous areas is the process that change the policies, directions and measures related to the sustainable development's core contents into the practical results through the state apparatus's organized activities and the widespread participation of organizations, units, families, individuals and the whole society to realize the goals and policies set. In this process, the grassroots political system plays the significant role that both as the subject of leadership and management as well as a key force in the implementation of economic, cultural - social, environmental and defense and security objectives in the area, contributing to improve people's quality of life and developing a comprehensively and sustainable locality

Thirdly, the grassroots political system is an important force in coordinating and participating in the implementation of the sustainable development's programs and projects of the central, local and other organizations in the area belong to their managerial scope. This is an important role of the grassroots political system in the sustainable development at Vietnam's ethnic minority and mountainous areas at present, because the real implementation of sustainable development's policies shows that there are many Ministries, branches and political systems at all levels participating in the establishment, management and monitoring sustainable development's policies in ethnic minority and mountainous areas. This leads to the majority of policies being formulated and implemented according to the requirements and responsibilities of each Ministries and branches that lacking of general coordination, thereby creating the duplication, dispersion and lacking of connection between policies. While the sustainable development policies are implemented at the specific locations. Therefore, the participation and coordination of the grassroots political system is essential, especially supervising the implementation of economic, social and environmental developmental programs and plans in the area belong to the managerial scope. From

there, ensuring sustainable development policies are implemented in the most effective direction and contributing to improve the practical benefits to the Party, government and local people.

Fourthly, the grassroots political system is the nuclear of national unity, creating the social consensus; maintaining the social and political stability; establishing the prosperous areas to create the foundation for the process of the economic and social sustainable development, environment in ethnic minority and mountainous areas. Maintaining the social and political stability, enhancing the social consensus and uniting the whole people is both a goal and a prerequisite for the sustainable development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas in Vietnam. This shows the important role of the grassroots political system in the sustainable development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas in Vietnam at present. Through the performance of functions and tasks of the grassroots political system, especially the leadership and management of the Party, government and people's organizations; propagating and mobilizing people to organize the production, preserving and developing of national cultural characteristics, solving social problems that arising in the area, especially ethnic and religious issues; organizing the struggles with the hostile forces. This will contribute to maintain the social and political stability, strengthening the solidarity of the whole people and making the socio-political establishment stronger and stronger. Moreover, this will also create the favorable conditions for the process of the economic and social sustainable development, environment at the ethnic minority and mountainous areas in Vietnam at present.

Thus, the grassroots political system plays an important role in successfully deciding of the economic and social sustainable development, environment, defense and security in ethnic minority and mountainous area. In fact, the construction, consolidation and promotion of the role of the grassroots political system in ethnic minority and mountainous areas has achieved many important results. People's lives of ethnic minorities have had positive changes. However, the role of grassroots political system in ethnic minority and mountainous areas has not been effectively promoted. Its has not yet made a fundamental and breakthrough change in the rapid and sustainable development of the economy, society and environment. In the current context, facing to the high requirements of the sustainable development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas and impacting of the Industrial Revolution 4.0. Besides, the fierce resistance of hostile forces and the complexity of the ethnic minority issues that need to find the comprehensive solutions to promote the role of the grassroots political system for the sustainable development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas, contributing to The Socialist Republic of Vietnam's solid protection in the current situation.

3.3. A number of solutions to promote the role of the grassroots political system in the sustainable development in Vietnam's ethnic minority and mountainous areas present.

In the development orientation to 2030, the Communist Party of Vietnam determined: "Continuing to strongly innovate about thinking, establishing and perfecting the regulations of the economic and social sustainable development, environment, the social and political stability, promptly removing the difficulties and problems; promoting all potentials and resources create the new motivations for the fast and sustainable development of the country"⁹⁶. Besides, considering the strengthening and promoting the role of the grassroots political system at the ethnic minority and mountainous areas is an important solution for the sustainable development of ethnic minority and mountainous areas.

At present, promoting the role of the grassroots political system in the sustainable development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas in Vietnam is the comprehensive policies and measures. In order to improve the quality and efficiency perform the functions and tasks of each element in the grassroots political system in ethnic minority and mountainous areas. Accordingly, promoting the role of the grassroots political system in the sustainable development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas in Vietnam, the basic solutions will be represented below as follows:

Firstly, Increasing awareness and responsibility of the grassroots political system for sustainable development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas of Vietnam at present. In order to implement this solution, it is necessary to strengthen the propagating and education of Marxism - Leninism, Ho Chi Minh Ideology, the Party and the State's opinions, guidelines and policies about sustainable development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas for cadres and party members in the grassroots political system. Establishing the right motivations, attitudes and responsibilities for staff, especially the key staff in the grassroots political system in the sustainable development of ethnic minority and mountainous areas of Vietnam at present.

Secondly, establishing and consolidating regularly the powerful grassroots political system in the ethnic minority and mountainous areas. Focusing on strengthening a pure grassroots Party, enhancing leadership's ability for the organizations in the grassroots political system; strengthen the State management, improving the organization's capacity to implement the tasks of the economic and social sustainable development, the social and political stability; promoting the role of the Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations in propagating, and mobilizing people participate in implement the sustainable development policies in the area.

Thirdly, coordinating closely between the grassroots political system and the upper political system and other locality's forces for the sustainable development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas in Vietnam at present. Accordingly, the political system at

⁹⁶ Communist Party of Vietnam, Documents of the 13th National Congress of Delegates, episode 1, National Politics Publishing House, H.2021, p.114.

all levels from districts, provinces and central levels must perform their managerial functions, tasks and powers. Moreover, promoting the advantage conditions about all aspects perform effectively the grassroots political system's policies about sustainable development at ethnic minorities and mountainous areas. Especially, promoting the role the district-level political system in directing and operating the tasks that should link to reality.

Fourth, finalizing the legal prescribes about the functions, tasks and powers of the grassroots political system for the sustainable development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas of Vietnam at present. Accordingly, it is necessary to review the system of relevant laws and regulations, adjusting and finalizing the current regulations, focusing on research and promulgate the regulations about the functions, tasks and powers of the grassroots political system for sustainable development. Especially, coordinating to implement and supervise the programs and projects in ethnic minority and mountainous areas.

4. Discussion and Conclusion

Sustainable development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas is an important mission of the Party and the State of Vietnam. In fact, the sustainable development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas has achieved the positive results by the efforts of all levels, contributing to changing the aspects in ethnic minority and mountainous areas. However, the grassroots political system is coping with the great challenges that have to find the appropriate solutions face to these issues. Therefore, promoting the role of the grassroots political system for sustainable development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas is objectively required, it is necessary to implement synchronically the solutions such as increasing awareness and responsibility of the grassroots political system; strengthening and establishing a powerful political system in ethnic minority and mountainous areas; closely combining the grassroots political system with the upper political system and other forces in the area; finalizing the legal prescribes about the functions, tasks and powers of the grassroots political system are important solutions contribute the sustainable development of Vietnam's ethnic minority and mountainous areas.

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