

# SOCIAL STRATIFICATION RESEARCH IN VIET NAM

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## Abstract

Viet Nam is widely recognized as a success story among developing countries owing to the country's rapid rate of economic growth and poverty reduction. The origins of the achievements are found in the set of social, economic and political reforms launched in 1986 under the name Doi Moi (Renovation). As a result of this policy turning-point, Viet Nam's Gross Domestic Product has grown at an average annual rate of 6-7 percent since 1987. The economic growth has raised incomes and improved living standards dramatically for millions of Vietnamese people. The poverty rate has sharply decreased in the urban as well as the rural areas and across most social groups. However, social and economic changes have also deeply transformed the social stratification in the country. The paper begins with a brief introduction on socio-economic context in Viet Nam during the previous decades. Then, an overview on social stratification research in Viet Nam is examined and a picture of the country's social stratification hierarchy is sketched. Finally, the paper discusses policy recommendations for an improved social stratification model.



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