

Status of Women in Post-Revolution Viet Nam: The Battle for Parity Continues

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Abstract

The status of women has improved in Viet Nam ever since the communist revolution overran the country in the 1930s. There is a continuing effort by the state to empower women through legislations in line with its international commitments. However, the pace of progress on this front has slowed down paradoxically since the liberalisation of economy, which necessitated greater participation of women in the work force. There has been a revival of gender-stereotypes seeking to limit women's presence to particular areas of socio-economic activity and patriarchal mindset is staging a comeback, even amongst the women. This paper traces the path Viet Nam has taken to realise its goal of gender equality and concludes that women will not be able to attain the equality the state is trying to grant them, unless there is a wholesale transformation of social-outlook recognising women as equivalent of men.

Key Words: Gender equality, Confucian values, Inter-gender relations, Stereotypes.

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