

Factors Changing the Role of Vietnamese Women During the Doi Moi and Integration Period

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ABSTRACT

Women have consistently played a crucial role in societal development across nations and historical periods. Vietnamese women, from the legendary era of Mother Au Co to the present day, have made significant contributions to the nation's construction, defense, and development as well. During Vietnam's period of innovation and integration, the country has achieved remarkable progress, emerging as a notable player in Southeast Asia and Asia. In the study below, the group of authors has outlined the current state of national development during the period of Doi Moi and integration, assessed the role of women during this period and surveyed, evaluated and analyzed the factors that changed the role of Vietnamese women, thereby proposing proposals and solutions to promote and develop the role of Vietnamese women in the current period.

Keywords: Factors, role, women, Doi Moi, integration, Vietnam.

1. Introduction

Vietnam initiated its national renovation policy (Doi Moi) in 1986, amid a rapidly changing international landscape characterized by the formation of a new world order. This period saw both conflict and cooperation among nations with diverse political systems. Vietnam holds a strategic position to capitalize on favorable conditions for economic and scientific-technological cooperation, thereby increasing its participation in the international division of labor and cooperation within⁴ "The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance" and beyond.

In 1991, Vietnam adopted a foreign policy orientation emphasizing "Independence, self-reliance, multilateralization, and diversification of foreign relations" with the stated goal of fostering friendships with all nations in the international community while striving for peace,

independence, and development. This marked a significant milestone in Vietnam's engagement with international economic integration in the new era, effectively countering isolationist policies and expanding bilateral and multilateral economic cooperation following the dissolution of the socialist system in Eastern Europe.

By 1996, Vietnam's integration strategy evolved to focus on "Building an open economy, integrating with the region and the world". This shift accelerated the process of international economic integration to support national development, signifying a fundamental change in the perception of the necessity for active and proactive global economic engagement.

Over the past three decades, Vietnam has made significant strides in international economic integration, moving from initial commitments to increasingly deeper integration. Vietnam has demonstrated initiative in expanding its global market presence and gradually asserting its position in the regional and international economy (mof.gov.vn, 2016).

Vietnam's recent socio-economic achievements and deepening integration into the global community across various sectors can be outstandingly attributed to the role of women, who constitute a critical and pragmatic contributing factor. With women representing 50.2% of the population and 47.3% of the workforce, their role and status in all areas of social life continue to strengthen (consosukien.vn, 2020).

In contemporary society, women's roles are paramount. Considering the family as the fundamental unit of society, women can be viewed as the nucleus of this unit. The family environment serves as an arena where gender equality is manifested and women's status is elevated. Modern women are inextricably linked to both family and societal contexts, as these spheres provide the platform for women to express themselves and fulfill their various roles. Consequently, both family and society must create optimal conditions for women to maximize their potential (snv.binhdin.gov.vn, 2023).

Therefore, a comprehensive analysis of the factors influencing the changing role of women during Vietnam's period of Doi Moi and integration is essential. This research aims to provide a holistic perspective, highlighting the value of women's contributions while identifying the driving forces behind their impact on the national economy.

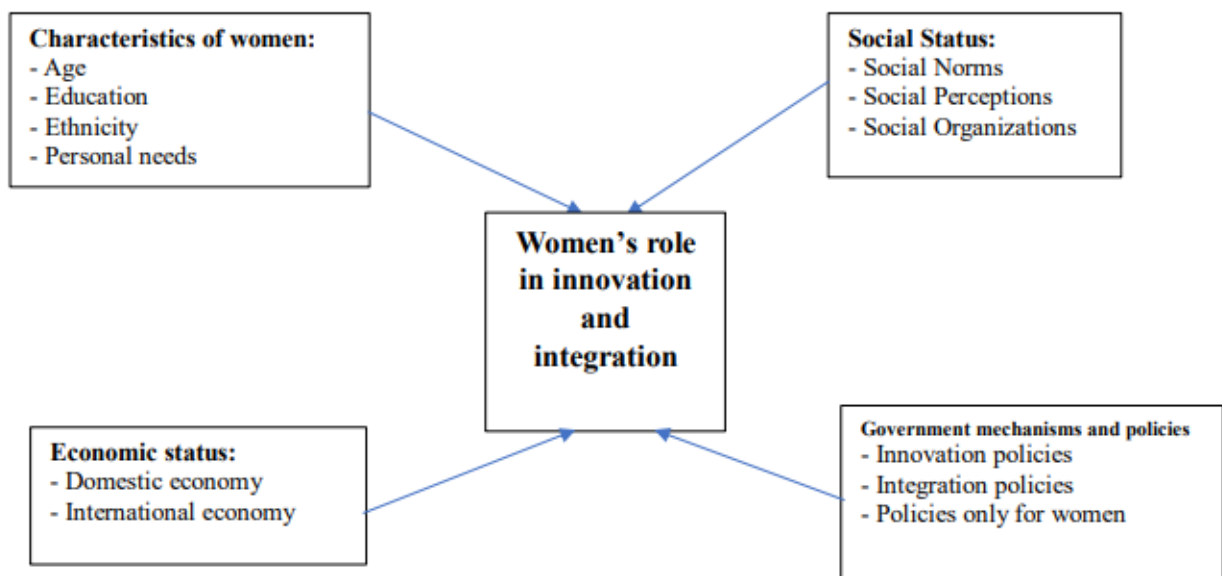
2. Research methodology

To serve the research, the authors used two methods including desk research (reviewing documents published in the media) and conducting sociological surveys (collecting questionnaires with all subjects). The data will be synthesized and analyzed using Excel software.

By using the desk research method, the authors reviewed documents that summarize studies on the role of women in the Doi Moi and integration phase.

To conduct the research, the research team also used the sociological survey research method. Based on the following research model (Figure 1), the research team developed the content of the survey form:

Figure 1. Proposed Research Model



Source: Proposal from the research team

The survey was designed to address the following research questions:

1. Evaluate the role of women during the Doi Moi and integration period
2. Assess how women's inherent characteristics influence their evolving role during this period
3. Analyze the impact of social factors on the transformation of women's roles
4. Examine the economic factors affecting the evolution of women's roles
5. Investigate the influence of state management policies on women's evolving role

The research team employed a convenience sampling method for data collection. An online survey was built on Google drive, conducted via the link:

<https://forms.gle/KvFWdYp7WwMu6tT76> and distributed via social media platforms such as Facebook, Zalo, and email. A total of 107 responses were received, with 105 considered valid for analysis. The survey employed multiple-choice questions and 5-point Likert scale formats.

Data analysis methodology:

The research team processed the survey data by calculating the mean values for each surveyed aspect. The interpretation of these mean values was based on the following scale:

$$\text{Distance value} = (\text{Maximum} - \text{Minimum}) / n = (5-1) / 5 = 0.8$$

Mean value ranges and their interpretations:

1.00 - 1.80: No role/influence whatsoever

1.81 - 2.60: Minimal role/influence

2.61 - 3.40: Moderate role/influence

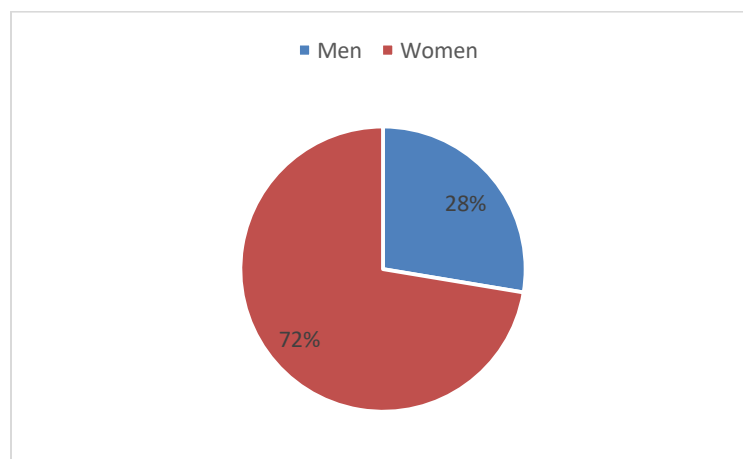
3.41 - 4.20: Significant role/influence

4.21 - 5.00: Crucial role/paramount influence

Additional survey data was compiled and analyzed using Excel software to address the research objectives.

The survey sample comprised 72% female and 28% male respondents.

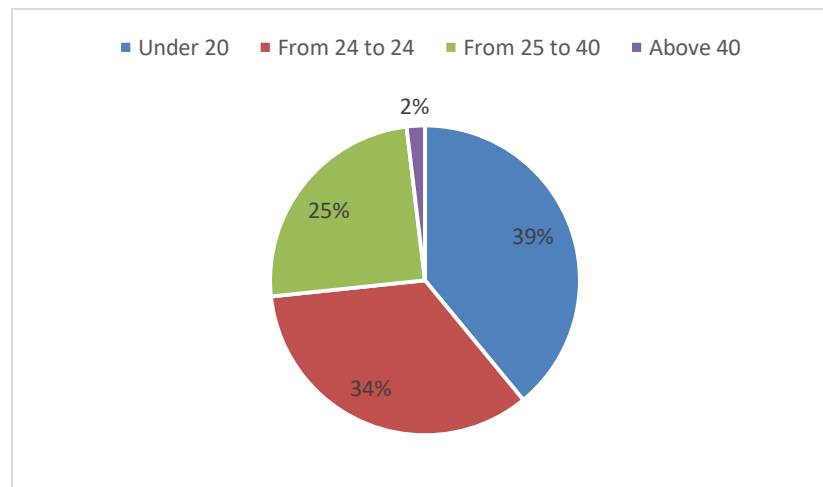
Figure 2. Gender of survey respondents



Source: Survey Results

The average age of the survey subjects ranges from 25-40 years old, with the majority being under 20 years old.

Figure 3. Age of survey respondents



Source: Survey Results

In addition, the survey results will be united by the author team and supplemented with necessary information to evaluate the content of the article.

3. Overview of the roles of women in the period of Doi Moi and integration in Vietnam

3.1. Characteristics of Vietnam in the period of Doi Moi and integration

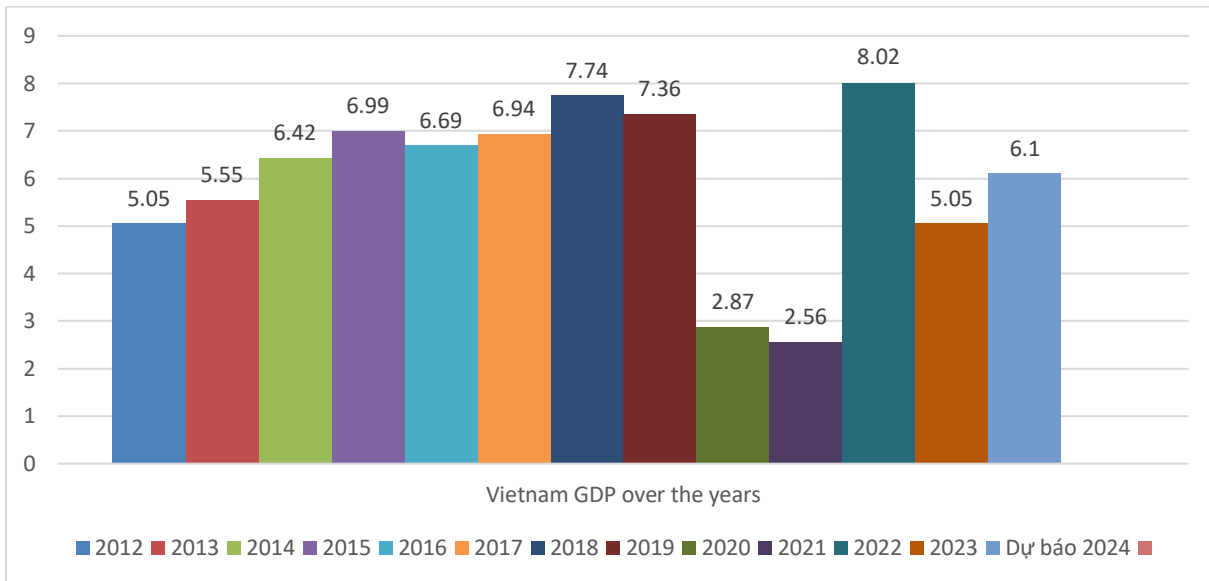
Since 1986, Vietnam has undertaken economic reforms. The country embarked on the path of reform and international integration with a “baggage” of backward and closed agricultural production (qndn.vn, 2023).

- GDP growth: From a poor, backward agricultural nation with a small economic scale and a GDP of 26.3 billion USD in the early years of reform, Vietnam's economic scale reached 430 billion USD in 2023, with GDP per capita rising to 4,300 USD, marking a 58-fold increase since the early reform years; the multidimensional poverty rate stands at 2.9%.

In 2023, the GDP scale at current prices is estimated at 10,221.8 trillion VND, equivalent to 430 billion USD. GDP per capita in 2023 at current prices is projected at 101.9 million VND per person, or approximately 4,284 USD, up by 160 USD compared to 2022. Vietnam's GDP in 2023 grew by 5.05% over the previous year, surpassing growth rates of 2020 and 2021, the period impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Figure 4. Vietnam’s GDP growth from 2011 up to now

Unit of calculation: %



Source: vov.vn, 2023

- Import and Export: Shifting from a closed economy, Vietnam has evolved into a globally integrated economy, becoming the 22nd largest trading partner worldwide, with total import and export turnover in 2023 nearing 700 billion USD. Foreign investment inflows reached 23 billion USD, the highest level ever, even as major markets contracted and global supply chains remained disrupted (vnEconomy.vn, 2024).

- Politics: Political stability remains a key advantage for Vietnam in building peace and prosperity, serving as a foundation for devising economic, cultural, and social development strategies and ensuring cohesive and consistent policy implementation. Since 2000, Vietnam has continued to advance political reforms alongside economic reforms, refining and expanding theories on the transition to socialism and core political theory, thereby shaping strategic policy development during the renovation and integration phase.

- Foreign Affairs: Vietnam’s foreign relations have strengthened, supporting comprehensive international integration. By adhering to an independent, self-reliant, multilateral, and proactive foreign policy, Vietnam has progressively dismantled sanctions and embargoes, expanding diplomatic relations to 192 countries, including 190/193 UN member states. Vietnam actively participates in major regional and international organizations such as ASEAN, WTO, APEC,

IMF, and WB, contributing significantly to socio-economic development, maintaining national security, and safeguarding territorial integrity (qnd.vn, 2023).

- Crucial advancements have been made in education, training, science, and technology, propelling socio-economic growth. Comprehensive reforms have improved human resource quality, while science and technology have increasingly driven economic progress. The development of information and communication infrastructure meets the industrialization and modernization needs of the country.

- Efforts to enhance social progress and equity, improve the material and spiritual life of citizens, and reinforce international and cultural cooperation have been ongoing. National solidarity is bolstered, and socialist democracy is promoted.

- New trends: actively exploring new economic models, such as green, circular, and sharing economies, and new service industries like semiconductors, artificial intelligence, and clean energy. Efforts include promoting private sector growth, financial system reform, national governance, decentralization, and regional development.

3.2. Role of women in economics field

In Vietnam’s process of Doi Moi and integration, women have consistently played a crucial role, with their contributions becoming increasingly evident across all fields (vietnambiz.vn, 2023).

Currently, women comprise 50.2% of the population, with a labor force participation rate of 62.6%, affirming their position in society (gso.gov.vn, 2024).

- Women working in enterprises inside and outside Vietnam

Today, women’s participation in domestic and foreign enterprises is prevalent.

Table 1. Number of employed workers in the economy by gender

Unit: Thousands of people

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	54.282,5	54.659,2	53.609,6	49.072,0	50.604,7	52.400,0
<i>Men</i>	28.370,7	28.792,2	28.324,1	26.238,9	26.918,7	26.095,2
<i>Women</i>	25.911,8	25.868,0	25.285,5	22.833,1	23.686,0	26.304,8
% Men	52,3 %	52,7%	52,8%	53,5%	53,2%	37,4%
% Women	47,7%	47,3%	47,2%	46,5%	46,8%	62,6%

Source: Statistical Yearbook, 2023

In conformity with the General Statistics Office of Vietnam in 2023, the number of female workers decreased sharply during the period when the economy was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, but gradually increased and increased even more during the economic recovery period.

As stated by the Mastercard Index of Women Entrepreneurs (MIWE) 2020, Vietnam ranked 23rd out of 58 countries for the rate of women-owned businesses, with women owning 26.5% of all enterprises.

About 20-25% of businesses in Vietnam in the period 2018-2021 were owned by women, this rate is on par with some economies such as Singapore 24%, Thailand 23%, Indonesia 21%, Hong Kong 20%, France 24%. This rate is also relatively high compared to countries in the world such as France (24%), Sweden (20%). However, this rate is lower than that of countries such as Ghana (36%), Malaysia (31%) and the Philippines (27%).

This is one of the remarkable results in the role and development of the women-owned business community.

Notably, women-owned businesses not only contribute to generating material wealth and an important source of income for the country's economy, but also make substantial contributions to employment generation for the workforce (baokiemtoan.vn, 2023)

- *Women in startups*

Beyond their traditional roles within the family, modern women also pursue their passion, financial independence, and economic autonomy. For women, when starting a business (KN) in the 4.0 era, it is necessary to know how to embrace and apply new technologies, as well as balancing work and family lives.

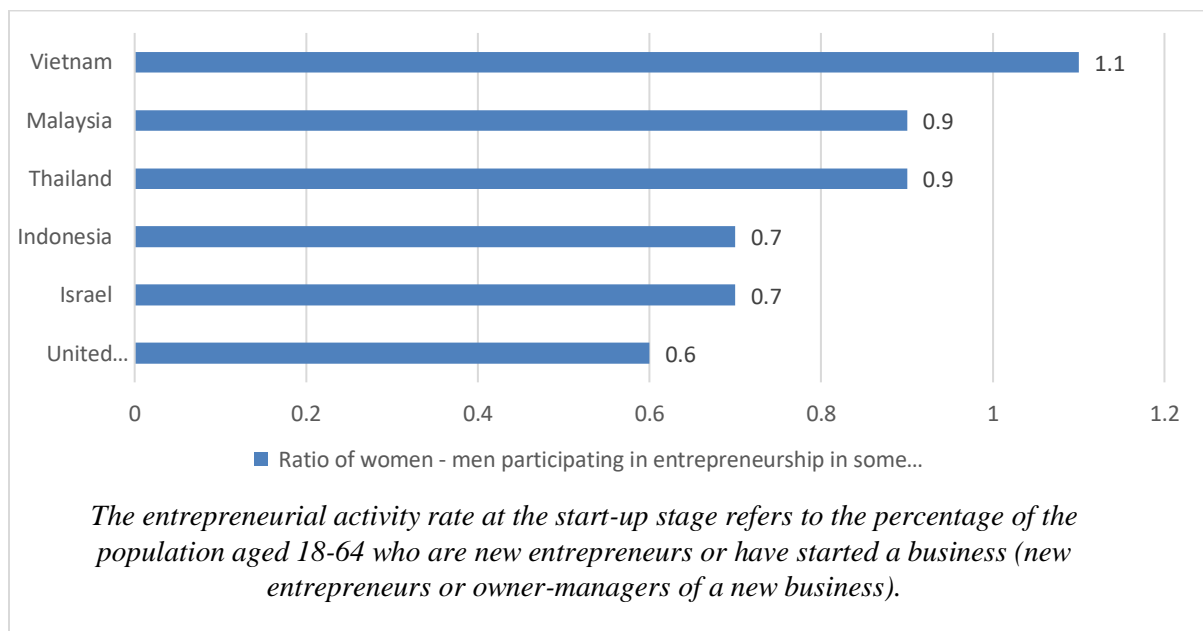
On June 30, 2017, the Prime Minister issued Decision 939/QĐ-TTg approving the Project “Supporting Women to Start a Business in the 2017-2025 period.” The approval of the project not only opens up new opportunities for women to develop their careers, but also contributes to the implementation of the national strategy on gender equality in the 2021-2030 period, with the goal of “The rate of female directors/owners of enterprises and cooperatives reaches at least 27% by 2025 and 30% by 2030”.

Although they are the “weaker gender”, today, in the integration period, reality has proven that women not only perform well in their roles in the family but are also confident and determined to pursue their career passion, find ways to be financially independent and economically self-sufficient.

When deciding to start your own business, you will certainly have to accept the risks as well as the challenges and difficulties that come with it. For women, this difficulty is multiplied when they have too many concerns, especially for women who are married or have small children.

There are more women than men participating in business activities at the start-up stage in Vietnam, the female-to-male ratio is 1.1.

Figure 5. Ratio of women - men participating in entrepreneurship in some countries



Source: Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, 2017

Data on entrepreneurship and business activities show the leading role of young women in Vietnam. There are more women than men participating in entrepreneurship activities at the start-up stage in Vietnam: this rate is higher than in more developed countries such as Israel and the United States (Source: adb.org, 2023)

- Women in Agriculture and Rural Development

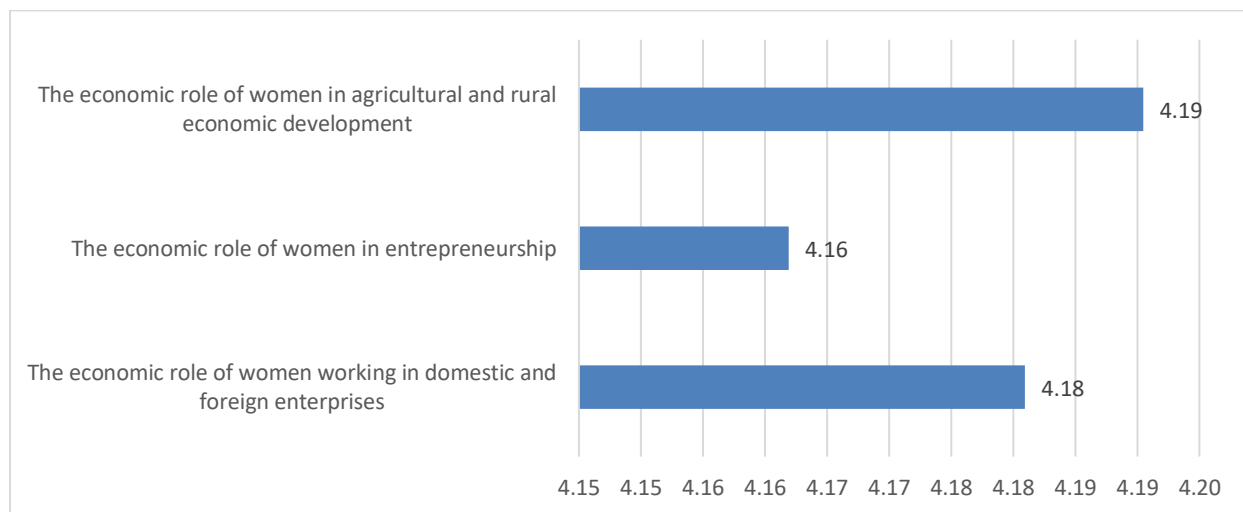
Currently, in rural areas, about 80% of women participate in agricultural production. Of which, about 25% of women participate in the management of agricultural cooperatives; 39% of OCOP subjects are women. In particular, in disadvantaged areas, the proportion of women holding leadership and management roles in cooperatives and OCOP subjects is more common.

It can be seen that Vietnamese women have been playing an indispensable role in agricultural development and rural construction. With a resilient and creative spirit, they have contributed

significantly to the socio-economic development of the country. However, in that process, women also face many challenges and barriers, from gender equality to access to resources and development opportunities. (congthuong.vn, 2024)

According to the survey, when asked to evaluate the economic role of women in the period of innovation and integration, almost all subjects assessed that women have a role in the production and business activities of domestic and foreign enterprises (Average score: 4.18/5.00); in starting a business (Average score: 4.16/5.00) and in agricultural and rural development (Average score: 4.19/5.00).

Figure 6. Summary of assessments of women's economic role



Source: Survey Results

3.3. Role of women in social field

- Women in affirming equality

Throughout thousands of years of history, Vietnamese women have made great contributions to the cause of building and defending the country. Vietnam is also one of the countries that early ratified the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and two ILO Conventions on Equal Wages and Non-Discrimination. Full participation in international conventions on gender equality clearly demonstrates Vietnamese Government's commitment to the international community in promoting gender equality in all aspects of social life.

Today, along with Doi Moi and integration in the economy and society, in Vietnam, women have earned respect from society and many of them have risen up to assert themselves in all fields. (mof.gov.vn, 2008)

Women are not born to be just wives and mothers. That is just a part of life; it is the choice of a noble calling of women, not an obligation prescribed by law, and certainly cannot be forced by any customary law!

Along with the growth of society, modern women are no longer “tied” to the small kitchen or hidden in the family shell, but have boldly stepped out into society, choosing a job to support themselves, take care of their families, confidently strive and reap success in all areas of life. (hanoimoi, 2024)

Women today are no longer limited to the kitchen and housework. It has been proven that there are many Vietnamese women who are “good at national affairs and good at housework”. They take care of their family life and assert themselves in high positions in society. When a woman is happy, joyful, financially independent, and mentally comfortable, she is better equipped to create a positive and fulfilling environment for her family and children.

In the 4.0 era, women are not only confident and independent, but also build standards and measures to affirm their own values, aiming for the model of modern women. They both participate and contribute to areas of social life, and “keep the fire burning” for family happiness. (baophunuthudo.vn, 2022)

As a wife, a woman provides support, companionship, and a steadfast foundation, sharing in life's challenges alongside her husband to build a harmonious life together. As a mother, a woman gives birth and plays a central role in her children's upbringing, nurturing, and education. This work involves a challenging and thorny process, yet it brings immense fulfillment to every woman. Women not only manage household responsibilities—organizing family life, preparing meals, and attending to various needs—but also play a pivotal role in encouraging and supporting their husbands and children through life's difficulties and pressures. They serve as a sanctuary and provide emotional support for their family members after long hours of work and study. It is not for nothing that people say that “behind every successful man is a woman who knows how to sacrifice”. Behind a happy family with obedient, studious children, a successful husband... there is always a devoted, patient and hardworking wife.

In modern society, the role and image of women in the family remains unchanged, even higher than before. They are skillful and sophisticated in harmonizing family relationships and social relationships, taking care of building a “well-off, progressive, happy, civilized” family - the criteria for building a modern Vietnamese family. Modern women are increasingly supported

and empowered, creating paths for them to directly participate in all political, economic, and social activities, building an increasingly equal and independent position compared to men. Therefore, the time they spend with their families is also more limited. (tapchicongsan.org.vn, 2023)

In the field of science and technology, women account for a fairly high proportion, about 42%. In some sectors such as education and training, women account for up to 53.2%. In large universities, the proportion of female lecturers with university degrees or higher is quite high, much higher than in the latter half of the 20th century. For example, by 2015 (before the 2016 promotion), at Vietnam National University Hanoi, there were training units with female staff making up more than 80%. Many of whom had doctoral degrees, associate professor and professor titles while others held high positions such as Institute Director, Center Director, Department Head, and Vice Dean.

In general, at the university level, the proportion of female students was about 50%; specifically, in some majors, female students accounted for up to 70% of the total number of students (Faculties of Biology, Faculty of Environment). However, in all fields, at the higher level, the proportion of women decreased. For example, at Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology - VNU (as of October 20, 2015): there were no female professors. The proportion of female lecturers was 45% out of the total number of lecturers. However, female PhDs only accounted for 15%, and female Associate Professors accounted for 16% of the total number of people with the same academic title. One of the main reasons is that the retirement age for women is 5 years earlier than that of men. In compliance with published studies, women's life expectancy is higher than men's, and the rate of old-age illness after 55 years of age in women is lower than that of men (research by the National Institute of Nutrition) (nhandan.vn, 2017)

- Women in politics, society, and public service

According to UNDP, Vietnam has made exceptional progress compared to other countries in the region in actions to promote women's involvement in the country's political life.

As specified by the World Economic Forum's "Global Gender Gap" report in 2022, Vietnam scored 0.705 points on a scale of 0 to 1 on the gender gap index, ranking 83rd out of 146 countries, up 4 places from 87th in 2021.

The results of the 2021 National Assembly election also showed a rise in the number of female National Assembly deputies and provincial People's Council deputies. The current percentage of female National Assembly deputies in the 15th tenure is 30.26%, higher than the previous term. Similarly, the percentage of women's representation in People's Councils at all levels has also increased. (xaydungdang.org.vn, 2022)

Women today partake more and more in social and public activities such as sports, arts, and charity. Sports activities for women are strongly developed in all provinces and cities with many diverse forms such as badminton, volleyball, aerobics, walking, aerobics, folk dancing, etc., attracting a large number of women to actively participate. Many provinces and cities have widespread and highly developed mass sports movements, including provinces and cities such as Bac Ninh, Bac Giang, Thai Binh, Quang Binh, An Giang, Ben Tre, Tay Ninh, Ho Chi Minh City, Binh Duong, etc.

Playing sports not only benefits women themselves but also has a widespread impact. Numerous studies have demonstrated that women who engage in appropriate practices not only experience a healthier pregnancy but also provide their newborns with a better start in life. Fetuses of mothers who exercise regularly will also have a healthy weight, reduce excess fat, increase the ability to cope with stress, and have a more fully developed and mature behavioral nervous system. The mother's regular exercise habits will have a positive impact on her children as the mother's exercise will create a foundation for forming the child's exercise habits, helping the child grow more healthily and comprehensively. (hoilhpn.org.vn, 2019)

Following the national survey report on violence against women published in 2020, nearly 2 out of 3 Vietnamese women (63.8%) have experienced at least one form of violence and behavioral control by their husbands in their lifetime.

In particular, statistics from the Department of Family, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism show that among the detected cases of domestic violence, 74% of the victims are women, 11% of the victims are children. (dantri.com.vn, 2023)

In the face of the impacts of domestic violence, social workers can provide a number of social services to support victims. Specifically:

- Social workers will build assistance plans for victims and coordinate support services for victims based on the principle of prioritizing and meeting their needs. Ensure that all the difficulties that the client is facing are resolved.

- In the process of understanding and analyzing the victim's problems, social workers will act as the bridge between the victim and the Peaceful House; Central Committee of the Vietnam Women's Union, Social Protection Centers, social houses... to make sure that the victim has safe accommodation during the intervention period; support victims from the beginning and after reintegrating into the community, ensuring safe accommodation.

- Social workers assess the level of psychological damage, determine the method of consultation and therapy, and provide domestic-abused victims with psychological therapy services to recover

from trauma. In cases where psychological issues are beyond social workers' capabilities, they will be connected and transferred to competent and competent agencies and organizations. Many victims of violence are severely affected physically and mentally, and if left untreated, will lead to enduring consequences. Social workers will be in charge of providing physical and mental health care services through partners offering professional health care services. They will connect with facilities providing free medical services so that victims of violence can be examined and treated, and even seek medical assessment centers to assess their disability rate. As mentioned above, most victims of violence have their rights and interests violated. Therefore, the team of social workers will help victims access legal advice support services to ensure the rights of women who have been abused through legal aid offices, law offices and judicial agencies. At the same time, they will seek resources, apply for vocational training funding from vocational training partners, provide personal support and periodic career counseling during the vocational training period, develop a career plan and prepare their luggage, ready to work after support. (congtaoxahoi.com.vn, 2016)

- Women helping each others

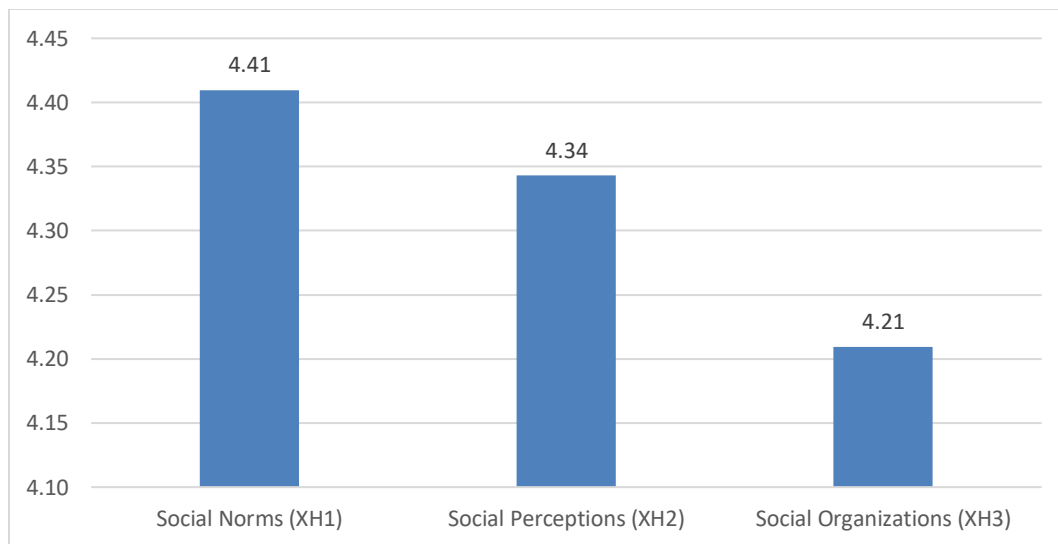
In modern society, the position of women extends beyond the family, increasingly shaping and influencing various aspects of life. They have helped each other to study, work creatively and partake in many dynamic jobs to boost their income and achieve sustainable poverty alleviation.

Building a warm home or establishing and maintaining cultural, artistic and sports clubs are ways that women's associations at all levels in localities aim to improve the spiritual life of members. Therefore, along with the cultural and artistic movement, sports activities to improve health and strengthen solidarity are also responded to by women. In addition to traditional sports such as volleyball, soccer, badminton, rural women have built many new and attractive activities. Physical exercises, folk dancing, yoga are performed in many diverse forms, forming a vibrant and cohesive atmosphere. What the District Women's Union finds most successful is that the activities of the branches are always stable; the village branches also have creative movements, suitable for the conditions of each unit. Not satisfied with the results achieved, the women's unions continue to implement new and more creative movements in the upcoming time. An indispensable dish in the spiritual life of members, rural women is to join women's models and clubs. These include the happy family building club, the trusted address model, the women's flower street model... The unions at all levels regularly innovate the form and content of activities of the models and clubs towards practical activities, suitable for the needs and conditions of members, women in each locality. Particularly, focusing on refining the quality of activities of the models to assist members and women raise their understanding, perfect their skills in the role of wife and mother, promote their important role in building a happy and sustainable family, engage in social activities, create conditions for comprehensive development.

A typical example is the model of a women's family club without domestic violence and law violations. The clubs can have up to 100 members, meeting once a quarter; club members play a core role in grasping the situation, propagating, mobilizing, reconciling, helping families with conflicts and sharing and supporting each other in building happy families. In the new, prosperous, peaceful rural areas today, they are filled with flowers, cultural and sports movements. Cultural development makes people closer to each other, making their spiritual life richer. This serves as contribution from confident - self-respecting - honest - responsible women (hoilhpn.org.vn, 2017)

As per the survey data, when asked about the assessment of women's social role in the period of Doi Moi and integration, the surveyed subjects had the opinion that women have a very important role in asserting equality (Average score: 4.41/5.00) and helping each other (Average score: 4.34/5.00) while the remaining subjects assessed women's role in social and public activities.

Figure 7. Summary of assessments of women's social roles

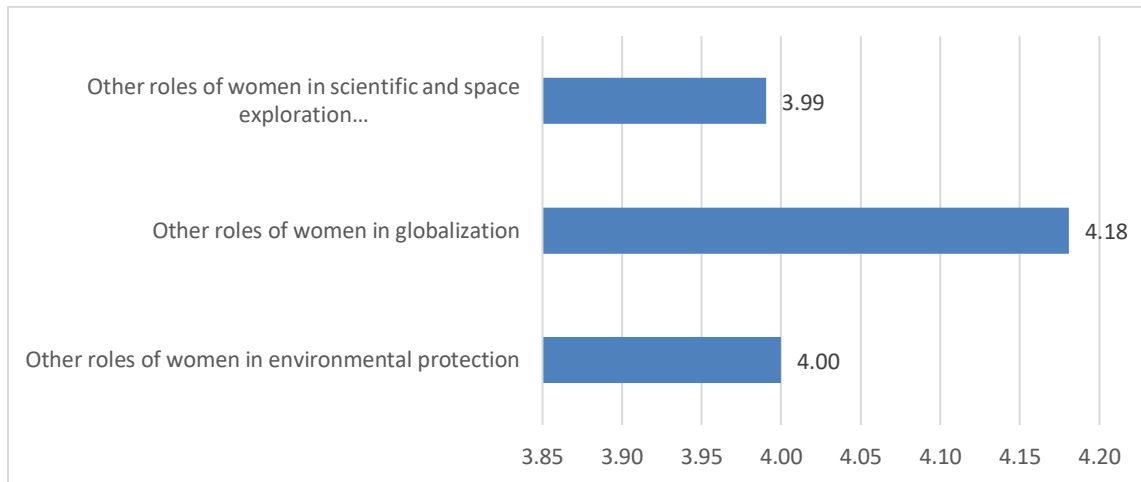


Source: Survey Results

3.3. Other roles of women

Issues of great concern in the period of Doi Moi and integration are environmental protection, globalization, scientific and space exploration... And women also affirmed their place in these issues. According to the survey data, the subjects surveyed all evaluated that women have a role in environmental protection (Average score: 4.00/5.00); in globalization (Average score: 4.18/5.00); in scientific and space exploration (Average score: 3.99/5.00).

Figure 8. Summary of assessments of women's environmental, globalization, and scientific discovery roles



Source: Survey Results

As reported by experts, alongside the rapid urbanization, the issue of environmental protection is becoming more urgent, the utmost task of the entire political system, the community and each citizen. To be specific, women have a close connection with the natural environment in the process of labor, production and daily life. They are also among the most sensitive to the impacts of environmental pollution and the consequences of climate change. Women are also the ones who have a great influence on forming awareness and changing the behavior of children and family members in environmental protection; therefore, they are both the subjects and the important subjects of environmental protection work.

Women have a direct position in classifying household waste at the source, combating plastic waste, contributing to building a green - clean - beautiful environment right at home and work as well as the surrounding environment. Women today also contribute to globalization, promoting the image of Vietnamese women in the world and participating in digital transformation to connect and take advantage of the benefits of an innovative, integrated and modern economy.

In addition to the above roles, Vietnamese women as well as women in the world also face many challenges in accessing opportunities and finding more appropriate positions in society. The higher the level of management, the lower the percentage of women. In some areas with breakthrough growth and promise for development in Doi Moi and integration in the future such as digital economy, digital transformation, AI, the percentage of women participating and leading is still low, causing women to miss out on opportunities to increase income. Women also do not easily adapt to climate change like men and have limited access to resources. Global

challenges force women to pitch in the fields of science and technology more. To further promote the role of women and gradually remove challenges, it is necessary to study the factors that changed the role of Vietnamese women in the period of Doi Moi and integration.

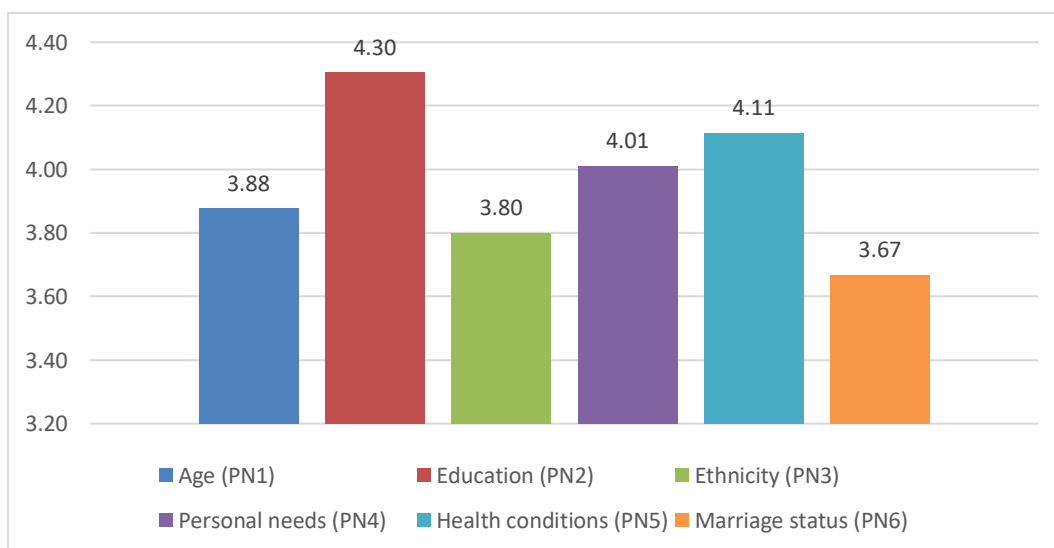
4. Studying the factors that change the role of Vietnamese women in the period of Doi Moi and integration

The role of Vietnamese women in history is very important, undeniable. Over time and the transformation of the period of Doi Moi and integration of the country, women’s part is also changing; new roles of women have appeared such as in space science or the economic role is also increasing.

The research team has formed a research model and conducted a survey to assess the factors that change the role of Vietnamese women in the period of Doi Moi and integration.

4.1. The first group of factors that change the role of Vietnamese women in the period of Doi Moi and integration are the characteristics of women including: *age, education level, ethnicity, personal needs, health status and marital status*, which were presented for the survey subjects to be evaluated.

Figure 9. Summary of assessments of women’s characteristics and factors that change the role of women in the period of Doi Moi and integration



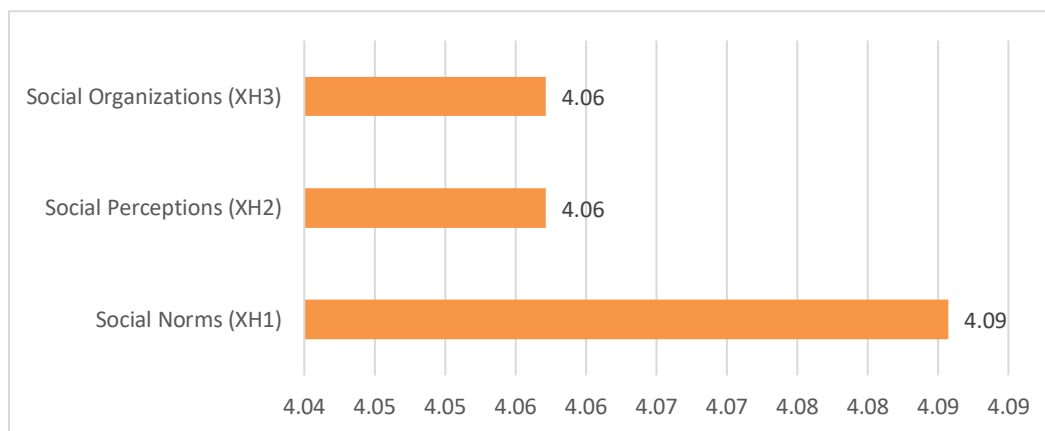
Source: Survey Results

In fact, the characteristics of women will be the direct factor in changing their positions. Vietnamese women from the past to the present, in all circumstances, have always been very

diligent and flexible, rising up to seize opportunities. Among their outstanding characteristics, according to the assessment of the surveyed subjects, women's education level has the greatest influence on changing their roles (Average score: 4.30/5.00), while based on the survey assessment, marital status has the lowest influence among the factors (Average score: 3.67/5.00). This shows that when women are educated, have increased qualifications and awareness, they not only reshape their own perspectives but also make a significant impact on advancing the country's economic reform and opening, including the Doi Moi period. If in the past women's lives revolved around marriage, family, husband and children, in these days and age, that factor does not have much effect on their career and contribution to society. However, because they are the weaker sex, combined with the labor intensity being equal to or even higher than men, according to the assessment of the surveyed subjects, women's health status also changes their role in the period of Doi Moi and integration (Average score: 4.11/5.00). This is also something that women need to pay attention to.

4.2. The second group of factors that change the role of Vietnamese women in the period of Doi Moi and integration is the social situation, including: social norms, social awareness, social organizations that have been presented for the surveyed subjects to be evaluated.

Figure 10. Summary of assessments of social factors that change the role of women in the period of Doi Moi and integration



Source: Survey Results

In the past, women were judged by societal standards of "three subordinations" and "four virtues," with their roles primarily recognized in terms of their contributions to the family or local community. However, with the advent of national innovation and integration, women have been freed from these traditional social constraints. Following the assessment of the surveyed subjects, social norms were the most influential social agents (Average score: 4.09/5.00),

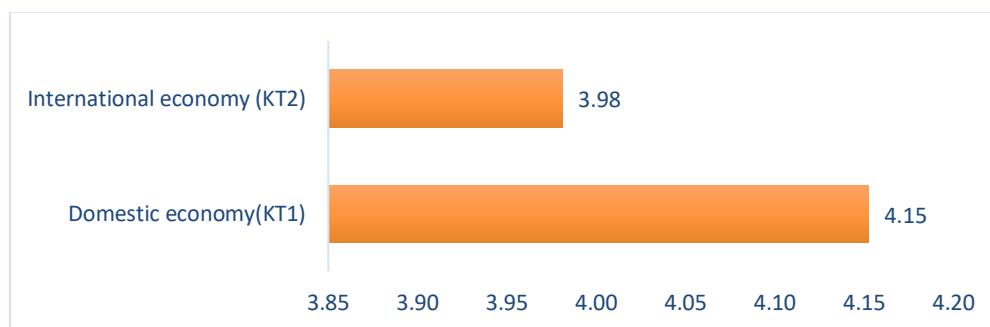
followed by social awareness and social organizations (Average score: 4.06/5.00), changing the role of women in the period of Doi Moi and integration.

In fact, social norms from ancient times have created generations of women who only live as lovers, wives, mothers, and those who bring happiness to the family. The social awareness in the past largely made Vietnamese women not respected, not having a worthy position in the family, society, having to endure many impositions, injustices, and male-dominated ideology. Women did not have the chance to develop on par with the development of society, they were just the shadow standing behind but were still considered the agents in the success of their husbands. Vietnamese women in the wars, could participate in the social organization of Viet Minh or spontaneously due to passionate patriotism, their role also contributed greatly to the success of gaining independence of the country. Today, although not all prejudices, doubts, constraints, discrimination have been eliminated, but overall, the role of Vietnamese women has changed.

Increased social awareness, evolving social norms, and the influence of various organizations such as the Women’s Union and the Women’s Association for Mutual Economic Assistance have significantly transformed the role of modern Vietnamese women. They have demonstrated their value and capabilities through their professional achievements, transcending traditional familial roles. Women now confidently assume leadership positions in corporations, companies, and state agencies. They have also reshaped societal perceptions and norms, becoming active and influential members of social organizations.

4.3. The third group of factors that change the role of Vietnamese women in the period of Doi Moi and integration is the economic situation, including: the domestic economic situation and the international economic situation, which have been presented for the survey subjects to be evaluated.

Figure 11. Summary of assessments of economic factors that change the role of women in the period of Doi Moi and integration



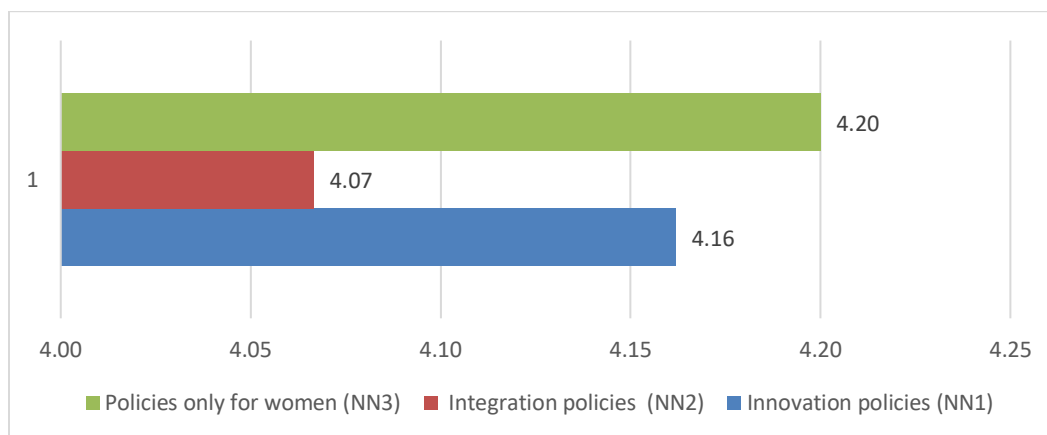
Source: Survey Results

The economic situation is a key factor that indirectly influences the transformation of women's roles during the Doi Moi period and integration. According to the assessment of the surveyed subjects, the domestic economic situation has more influence (Average score: 4.15/5.00) than the international economic situation (Average score: 3.98/5.00).

As a matter of fact, the domestic economic situation with the constant change of economic structure, new forms of business, and new industries have emerged. Career opportunities, new business fields have opened up new development paths for women. Labor in the healthcare industry for the elderly, children; labor in the service industry... has attracted a large female workforce. The role of women has also changed since then. They are recognized for their abilities, find suitable jobs and passion, and contribute to society and the country. And beyond the country, with the rise of the international economic situation, Vietnamese women today, from their youth, have chosen to study abroad to broaden their knowledge and absorb culture in developed countries. Then, there is also a large number of Vietnamese female workers exporting labor, joining the international labor market, gradually affirming the role of Vietnamese women in the international division of labor. That proves that the international and domestic economic situation are also factors that alter the role of women in the period of Doi Moi and integration.

4.4. The fourth group of factors that changes the role of Vietnamese women in the period of Doi Moi and integration is State management, including: Doi Moi policies, integration policies, and policies specifically for women, which have been presented for the survey subjects to be evaluated.

Figure 12. Summary of assessments of Government management agents changing the role of women in the period of Doi Moi and integration



Source: Survey Results

Government management affects all subjects and activities in each nation. No matter how well a market economy operates, it still has shortcomings, which requires Government management of the economy. According to the assessment of the surveyed subjects, policies for women have more influence (Average score: 4.20/5.00) than the Doi Moi policy (Average score: 4.16/5.00) and the integration policy (Average score: 4.07/5.00) on the change in the role of women in the period of innovation and integration.

Reality shows that the Government is the subject leading the country to gradually transition to the period of Doi Moi and integration. Vietnam's economy has been innovated since 1986 and integrated into the international economy since the early years of the 21st century, and has now become a partner of more than 200 countries and territories in the world. Article 26 of the 2013 Constitution of Vietnam emphasizes: Male and female citizens are equal in all aspects; the Government has policies to ensure gender equality rights and opportunities. The State, society and family create conditions for women to develop comprehensively and promote their role in society; gender discrimination is strictly prohibited. Vietnam affirms: "The people are the center and the subject of the renovation, construction and protection of the Fatherland; all policies and guidelines must truly originate from the requirements, aspirations, rights and legitimate and legal interests of the people". The people in general, including Vietnamese women, are always given special attention and are the center of socio-economic development. Social policy for women is a system of policies and viewpoints of the Government related to women that have been institutionalized to establish an environment for women to stimulate their capacity in all areas of life and secure social justice between women and men. Thoroughly grasping the viewpoint that women's liberation is closely linked to national liberation and class liberation, policies specifically for women have had an impact on changing the role of women. Women have better integrated into the environment of Doi Moi and integration, have space to improve their professional and technical qualifications, boost their abilities and internal strength; attract women into production and business activities, into leadership and social management. Doi Moi and integration policies have had an indirect impact on helping to improve the position of women in the family and in society. These policies aim to solve employment for women, increase income, eliminate pressure, create opportunities for women to participate more and more and play a more important role than before in economic, political, social activities... (Luatminhkhue.vn, 2021)

5. Solutions to maintain and promote the role of women in the period of Doi Moi and integration

Vietnamese women have always had to take on many roles: being a worker, a wife, a mother, and having the duty to take care of the family. However, in the period of Doi Moi and integration, the role of Vietnamese women has changed in terms of economics, society, environment, science... There have been many factors that have changed their role such as

factors related to the characteristics of women themselves, factors of social status, economic status and State management. To maintain and enhance the role of Vietnamese women in the period of Doi Moi and integration, through implementing a number of proposed solutions as follows:

First: For women

Women themselves must be aware of the change in their role in the period of Doi Moi and integration in order to have appropriate behaviors. Vietnamese women must realize that they are not inferior to men in terms of capacity and career opportunities. In addition to fulfilling their responsibilities within the family, women must also pursue continuous learning and self-improvement. They are encouraged to confidently innovate in their assigned tasks and embrace challenges, exploring and launching new business ventures with determination. Vietnamese women are united in challenging and overcoming prejudices and social norms that impose constraints on their lives. They are increasingly assertive in protecting themselves from domestic violence and parental pressure, a significant departure from past practices. Women today advocate for equal opportunities in education and employment, and engage in activities such as learning foreign languages, studying abroad, or traveling. Investing time in self-care, personal appearance, and building a strong personal image are all ways to embody the modern Vietnamese woman. These efforts contribute to the progressive enhancement of women's roles in contemporary society.

Second: For the family

When women are young, they live with their parents, and when they grow up and start a career or get married, their lives undergo big changes. Families must facilitate their exposure to societal advancements, such as those brought about by Doi Moi, which play a crucial role in enhancing women's positions. Parents should ensure that girls have equal educational and living opportunities from a young age. Husbands are encouraged to respect and treat their wives equally, sharing family responsibilities to enable women to excel professionally and contribute meaningfully to societal development. While women may face challenges and setbacks in their careers, a supportive family provides the stability needed to overcome difficulties, allowing women to confidently assert their roles and continue making impactful contributions to society.

Third: For society, schools, localities, work agencies, and mass organizations

It is necessary to change perceptions, standards, and perspectives on the role of women, so that women are confident in their environments and contribute.

Each school needs to have knowledge specifically for female students about health care and self-protection. So that each female student has good health and the ability to be independent and self-reliant in life. In addition, schools also create an equal learning environment, stimulate learning ability, and give opportunities for female students to assert themselves. This represents a crucial environment for women's education and serves as a significant factor in transforming their roles.

Localities and mass organizations also need to support and foster a favorable living environment for women. Collective activities help women relax, share and bring laughter as well as enrich themselves economically through cooperative models formed and participated in by women. In agencies where women work, there should be an equal working environment for male and female employees; create opportunities to improve working skills as well as assign management and leadership tasks to female workers based on their working capacity. Fully implement salary, bonus, rest, maternity, and insurance regimes for female workers. Additionally, any complaints or reports of inappropriate behavior must be thoroughly investigated and addressed. Such measures ensure that women feel secure and valued in their work, allowing them to contribute significantly to the success of domestic and international enterprises.

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