

HO CHI MINH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICS

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**IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY
POLICIES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
IN THE MEKONG DELTA REGION AT PRESENT**

SUMMARY OF THE DOCTORAL THESIS

MAJOR: SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM

Code: 9229008

HA NOI - 2026

**The dissertation is conducted at
Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics**

Chairman of the Council



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**The thesis was successfully defended in front of the Thesis Committee
at Academy level, at the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics**

At 14:00 on June 29, 2026

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INTRODUCTION

1. The urgency of the theme

Social security is one of the essential needs of human life and social development. Along with political security, economic security, ecological security, and other forms of security, social security plays a particularly important role in stabilizing people's lives and strengthening the foundation for the country's sustainable development. In Vietnam, the formulation and implementation of social security policies have consistently been a major policy orientation, reflecting the profound concern of the Party, constituting a regular and essential task of the State, and representing the responsibility of society as a whole to ensure safety, stability, and improvements in the quality of life for the people. These efforts also meet the requirements of sustainable development and promote the fine humanitarian traditions of the Vietnamese nation, such as "mutual affection and solidarity" and "the good leaves protect the torn leaves." The 14th National Congress of the Party (2026) affirmed: "Ensuring social progress, social justice, social security, social welfare, and human security. Building a modern, multi-tiered social security system... Ensuring that all citizens have access to and benefit from quality essential social services; giving priority to policy beneficiaries, vulnerable groups, and those working in the informal sector" [48, pp.108-109]. This is an important task aimed at realizing the aspiration for national development in the new era, in which social security policies designed to support and assist persons with disabilities, enabling them to develop, overcome difficulties, and ensure social justice, require special attention.

At present, approximately 7.8% of the population in Vietnam are persons with disabilities. Over the years, the Party and the State have promulgated and implemented numerous social security policies to guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities and create favorable conditions for them to stabilize their lives and gradually integrate into the community. However, in reality, due to both objective and subjective factors, a proportion of persons with disabilities still face many barriers related to economic conditions, access to social services, employment opportunities, and spiritual life. This situation not only affects the traditional humanitarian values of the Vietnamese nation but also impacts the implementation of the development orientation based on the principle that "no one is left behind" in the country's socialist-oriented development process, thereby requiring timely and effective solutions.

The Mekong Delta is one of the regions still facing numerous difficulties in socio-economic development. At present, the Mekong Delta region has more than 300,000 persons with disabilities, accounting for approximately 4.84% of the total number of persons with disabilities nationwide. In terms of socio-economic regions, the Mekong Delta is among the regions with the highest proportion of persons with disabilities (aged two years and above) in the country, accounting for 7.54% of the regional population. Although persons with disabilities in the region have benefited from various social security policies in recent years, a considerable gap in living standards and opportunities for social participation remains. The main causes stem from limitations in the organization and implementation of policies, which have become barriers to the process of integration and self-affirmation of persons with disabilities. Therefore, strengthening measures to minimize self-stigmatization and social discrimination is an essential requirement, thereby creating favorable conditions for persons with disabilities to promote their capacities, enhance their self-confidence, and actively participate in community life, while also narrowing development gaps among regions and contributing to national development.

Resolution No. 13-NQ/TW of the Politburo, dated April 2, 2022, *on the orientations for socio-economic development and ensuring national defense and security in the Mekong Delta region through 2030, with a vision toward 2045*, set the objective of developing the Mekong Delta into a region with a “sustainable living environment and a good quality of life for its people” by 2030. To achieve this objective, it is essential to enhance the effectiveness of implementing social security policies for persons with disabilities through a comprehensive assessment of achievements, limitations, and causes, thereby proposing appropriate solutions. This is the reason why the author selected the topic “**Implementation of Social Security Policies for Persons with Disabilities in the Mekong Delta Region at Present**” for research in the doctoral dissertation in Scientific Socialism.

2. Research Objectives and Tasks

2.1. Research Objectives

Based on systematically clarifying the fundamental theoretical issues concerning the implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities, the dissertation analyzes the current situation of policy implementation. It proposes several solutions to enhance the effectiveness of implementing social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta through 2030.

2.2. Research Tasks

To achieve the above objectives, the dissertation focuses on addressing the following tasks:

- Reviewing the research situation related to the dissertation topic.
- Clarifying the fundamental theoretical issues concerning the implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region.
- Analyzing the current situation of the implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region, as well as identifying the causes and current issues arising in practice.
- Proposing requirements and solutions aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of implementing social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region through 2030.

3. Research Subjects and Scope

3.1. Research Subject

The dissertation studies the implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta.

3.2. Research Scope

In terms of content: The dissertation examines the implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities in the following fields: social assistance, healthcare, education, vocational training, and employment. These are areas that still face many limitations in the implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region today.

In terms of space: The dissertation studies the implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region through surveys conducted in Can Tho (including the former Can Tho City and the former Soc Trang Province) and An Giang Province (including the former Kien Giang Province). These localities have a high proportion of persons with disabilities, including persons with disabilities belonging to ethnic minority groups, particularly the Khmer people, within the region.

In terms of time: The dissertation examines the implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities from 2011 to the present and proposes solutions through 2030. This period marks the formulation and comprehensive direction of social policy implementation in general, and social security policies for persons with disabilities in particular, by the Party and the State of Vietnam, including: the Resolution of the 5th Plenum of the 11th Party Central Committee on “Several Issues on Social Policies for the 2012-2020 Period,” the Vietnam Social Security Strategy for the 2011-2020 period, and the Law on Persons with Disabilities promulgated in 2010 and effective from January 1, 2011.

4. Theoretical Basis and Research Methodology

4.1. Theoretical Basis

The dissertation is conducted on the theoretical foundation of Karl Marx-Vladimir Lenin theory, Ho Chi Minh Thought, and the guidelines, orientations, and policies of the Party and the State of Vietnam concerning social policy, social security, persons with disabilities, and the implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities.

4.2. Research Methodology

Based on the methodology of Marxism-Leninism, the dissertation employs a combination of specialized research methods, including historical and logical methods, analysis and synthesis, generalization, sociological investigation, comparison, statistics, and contrastive analysis. Among these, the author mainly applies the following research methods:

- *Secondary document research method*, the dissertation inherits and utilizes findings from related research works, reports, and summaries issued by central and local authorities concerning social security, persons with disabilities, and the implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta.

- *Analytical and synthetic method*, this method enables the author to develop a profound, comprehensive, and generalized understanding, thereby ensuring the scientific and logical consistency of the research.

- *Sociological survey method*, the dissertation author conducted pilot surveys using questionnaires to collect opinions, specifically as follows:

- + Subjects: 1) Officials, civil servants, and public employees working at Associations of Persons with Disabilities, Departments of Home Affairs, Social Protection Centers, and Social Work Centers; 2) Persons with disabilities, their relatives, or caregivers.

- + Number of questionnaires: The author distributed questionnaires to 120 officials, civil servants, and public employees working at Associations of Persons with Disabilities, Departments of Home Affairs, Social Protection Centers, and Social Work Centers, and 300 questionnaires to persons with disabilities, their relatives, or caregivers.

- + Survey locations: 02 provinces/cities: Can Tho and An Giang Province.

- + Survey period: From February to August 2025.

5. New Contributions of the Thesis

First, the dissertation focuses on clarifying the system of fundamental concepts related to the research topic, including social security, persons with disabilities, and the implementation of social security policies for persons with

disabilities in the Mekong Delta. The dissertation also develops a theoretical research framework concerning the contents of implementing social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region and identifies the factors affecting the implementation of these policies in the region.

Second, based on the established theoretical framework, the dissertation analyzes and clarifies the current situation of implementing social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region at present, including social assistance policies, healthcare, education, vocational training, and employment creation for persons with disabilities. The dissertation also analyzes the causes underlying the current situation and identifies the issues arising in the implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region today.

Third, the dissertation proposes major solutions aimed at enhancing the implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region to meet the current development requirements of both the region and the country as a whole.

6. Theoretical and Practical Significance

Theoretical Significance:

The research findings of the dissertation contribute to further clarifying the contents and significance of implementing social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta. The dissertation also proposes recommendations to contribute to the amendment, supplementation, and improvement of methods for implementing policies and assistance programs for persons with disabilities in the direction of integrating specific policies tailored to persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region.

Practical Significance:

This dissertation is the first systematic research project on the implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta. Therefore, it may serve as a useful reference source for individuals and organizations concerned with improving the effectiveness of implementing social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region in particular, as well as in several provinces and cities throughout the country in general.

7. Structure of the Thesis

Apart from the introduction, conclusion, list of references, and appendices, the thesis is structured into 4 chapters with a total of 8 sections.

Chapter 1

OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH SITUATION RELATED TO THE DISSERTATION TOPIC

1.1. TYPICAL RESEARCH WORKS RELATED TO THE DISSERTATION

1.1.1. Research Works on Social Security Policies and the Implementation of Social Security Policies

Social security policies and the implementation of social security policies constitute an important aspect of stabilizing people's lives and strengthening the foundation for national development. This topic has attracted the attention of numerous domestic and international scholars. Many scientific works have conducted in-depth studies clarifying the theoretical foundations, current situation, and proposing solutions to improve the effectiveness of implementing social security policies. Research findings have been published in the form of monographs, reference books, scientific journals, scientific research projects, and dissertations. Typical foreign authors include Dominique Anxo, Gerhard Bosch, Jill Rubery, Rebecca Surender, Robert Walker, Joakim Palme, Eskil Wadensjö, Christian Aspalter, and Dang Dai Tung. Domestic authors include Le Hoang Hai, Le Thi Thuy Huong, Nguyen Thi Thanh, Nguyen Duy Hung, Vu Van Phuc, Nguyen Van Chieu, Le Anh, Le Huu Nghia, Bui Sy Loi, Dang Nguyen Anh, Doan Minh Huan, Lai Quoc Khanh, Pham Thi Thuy Van, Le Thi Hoai Thu, Ho Sy Ngoc, and the Central Theoretical Council, among others.

1.1.2. Research Works on Persons with Disabilities, Social Security Policies for Persons with Disabilities, and the Implementation of Social Security Policies for Persons with Disabilities

Research on persons with disabilities, social security policies for persons with disabilities, and the implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities has been conducted by many prominent domestic and international scholars, including Michael Oliver, Colin Barnes, Dan Goodley, Ruth Hawkins, Mark Priestley, Simon Darcy, Roger J. Lewis, Marcia Rioux, William A.D. Smith, Genova Scavarda, Świątkiewicz-Mośny, Arie Rimmerman, Nguyen Thi Bao, Dinh Thi Cam Ha, Phan Thanh Minh, Nguyen Thi Que Anh, Vu Cong Giao, Ngo Minh Huong, La Khanh Tung, Nguyen Thi Mo, Duong Thi Hoai Nhung, Le Thai Phong, Tran Thi Ngoc Hanh, Nguyen Thi Khanh Chi, Thai Thanh Ha, Nguyen Thu Trang, Nguyen Thi Thu Ha, Tran The He, Nguyen Mai Phuong, and Doan Huu Minh, among others.

1.1.3. Research Works on Persons with Disabilities and the Implementation of Social Security Policies for Persons with Disabilities in the Mekong Delta Region

Research works on persons with disabilities and the implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta by prominent scholars include Julian S. Wessels, Mai Thi Nguyen, Nguyen Thi Bich Thuy, Michael J. Williams, Hoa Thi Le, Robert A. Jenkins, Kien Nguyen Trung, Michael Simon, Thi Huyen Do, Thi Thu Thuy Trinh, Diu Thi Le, Phuong Anh Nguyen, Giang Hong Nguyen, Jenny Flynn, Le Tran Huyen Tran, and Ho Nguyen Phuong Uyen, among others.

1.2. OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH RESULTS AND ISSUES FOCUSED ON BY THE DISSERTATION

1.2.1. Overview of Research Results

First, regarding the theory of social security and the implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities in general, in Vietnam, and in the Mekong Delta region.

Many existing studies have focused on clarifying core theoretical issues related to social security policies, especially fundamental concepts such as social security, social security policies, and persons with disabilities. These works analyze the contents, objectives, and significance of social security policies for persons with disabilities, thereby forming an important theoretical basis for the formulation and implementation of policies supporting this social group. At the same time, these studies identify necessary conditions for ensuring the effective operation of social security policies, including financial mechanisms, human resources, and coordination among implementing agencies, to improve both effectiveness and equity in policy implementation.

These research works serve as important reference materials for the dissertation on the implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities, contributing to the formation of a theoretical foundation for clarifying concepts, contents, objectives, and significance of social security policies, as well as the role of such policies in protecting the rights and promoting the social integration of persons with disabilities. However, current studies have not directly addressed region-specific issues, particularly the concepts and methods of implementing social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region, an area characterized by distinctive cultural, social, and economic conditions.

In addition, existing studies have not deeply analyzed the role and influencing factors in the implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region. This region is currently facing numerous difficulties in policy implementation, including the lack of coordination among support programs, limitations in resources, and uneven

levels of development among provinces. The absence of in-depth studies on these issues has created difficulties in proposing feasible and appropriate solutions to improve the effectiveness of implementing social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region in the coming period.

Second, regarding the practical implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities in Vietnam, in specific areas such as vocational training, employment creation, education, healthcare, and social assistance.

Research works have clearly identified the achievements, limitations, and causes in the implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities in various fields, including healthcare, education, employment, and social assistance. The achievements mainly include the expansion of support programs, improvements in employment opportunities, and enhanced living standards for persons with disabilities through vocational training and employment policies. However, studies have also pointed out significant limitations, such as inconsistencies in policy implementation among localities, irrational allocation of resources, and difficulties in accessing social security services for persons with disabilities. The causes of these limitations are often associated with factors such as financial constraints, uneven infrastructure development, and insufficient public awareness in supporting persons with disabilities.

In particular, several studies have addressed the implementation of vocational training and employment policies for persons with disabilities in certain provinces and cities of the Mekong Delta, where persons with disabilities encounter many challenges in integrating into the labor market. These works not only focus on policies themselves but also clarify influencing factors such as natural conditions, socio-economic characteristics, and the specific circumstances of persons with disabilities in each locality. Studying these factors is highly important for understanding the context of implementing social security policies in the region.

However, current research works have not directly and comprehensively addressed the specific characteristics of persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region, an area distinguished by unique natural conditions, population characteristics, cultural features, and infrastructure systems. A comprehensive and systematic evaluation framework regarding both the achievements and limitations in the implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region has also not yet been directly examined.

Third, many studies have addressed solutions aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of implementing social security policies for persons with disabilities in specific fields in Vietnam. However, these works have not discussed solutions for improving the effectiveness of implementing social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region.

The above-mentioned studies indicate that although numerous research works have examined social security and vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, there has not yet been any study that directly, comprehensively, and systematically investigates the implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region. Previous studies have mainly focused on individual aspects such as healthcare, vocational training, employment support, or social assistance for persons with disabilities, without reflecting the overall picture of social security policies for persons with disabilities under the specific conditions of the Mekong Delta region.

Therefore, these are issues that require further clarification, especially regarding the current situation and the factors affecting the implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region. Research on this issue not only contributes to supplementing theoretical and practical foundations concerning social security policies for persons with disabilities but also provides specific solutions to improve and perfect the policy system, ensure the rights and interests of persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region, and thereby enable them to fully participate in and integrate into social life.

1.2.2. Issues Requiring Further Research in the Dissertation

First, fundamental theoretical issues concerning the implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region:

First of all, the dissertation needs to systematize and generalize concepts such as social security, social security policies, persons with disabilities, social security policies for persons with disabilities, and the concept of implementing these policies in the Mekong Delta region. At the same time, the dissertation must develop a theoretical research framework on the implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities, clarifying the relationships among implementing actors, beneficiaries, operational mechanisms, and influencing factors. On that basis, the dissertation should analyze the role of social security policies for persons with disabilities not only from the perspective of assistance but also in ensuring equity, improving quality of life, and promoting social integration. Finally, it is necessary to clearly identify the factors affecting the implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region at present, including institutional factors, resources, public awareness, and the participation of persons with disabilities themselves.

Second, the current situation of implementing social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region and the issues arising at present:

The dissertation needs to focus on clarifying the current situation of implementing social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region in the following aspects: social assistance, healthcare, education,

vocational training, and employment creation. These are key areas reflecting the level of support and the capacity for social integration of persons with disabilities. The dissertation should specifically evaluate the achievements that have been attained, while also clearly analyzing the remaining limitations in each field. On that basis, the dissertation will analyze the causes of both achievements and limitations in implementing social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region. At the same time, the dissertation needs to identify several newly emerging issues in the implementation process, such as the lack of consistency among policies, the gap between policy orientations and practical implementation, and support mechanisms that remain insufficiently comprehensive and sustainable. These are issues that must be addressed for social security policies to achieve substantive and long-term effectiveness.

Third, requirements and solutions for improving the effectiveness of implementing social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region during the 2026-2030 period:

The dissertation needs to focus on identifying and analyzing several requirements for implementing social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region during the 2026-2030 period. The establishment and clarification of these orientation-based requirements are of great significance in building both the theoretical and practical foundations for the formulation and implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region in the coming period. On that basis, the dissertation should propose a system of practical, feasible, and regionally appropriate solutions in line with the socio-economic characteristics of the Mekong Delta region, thereby contributing to improving the effectiveness of implementing social security policies for persons with disabilities. These solutions include: enhancing the awareness of implementing actors and policy beneficiaries regarding the role of implementing social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region; mobilizing and effectively utilizing resources from the central government, local authorities, and other funding sources to ensure effective policy implementation; improving the capacity of grassroots political systems in provinces and cities of the Mekong Delta region in implementing social security policies for persons with disabilities; perfecting mechanisms and policies related to the implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region; and promoting self-effort while overcoming psychological, cultural, and lifestyle barriers among persons with disabilities in the implementation of social security policies in the region. These are the core issues that the dissertation must address to contribute to ensuring the rights and improving the living conditions of persons with disabilities in the region.

Chapter 1 Summary

Chapter 2

HIỆN NAY FUNDAMENTAL THEORETICAL ISSUES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY POLICIES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE MEKONG DELTA REGION AT PRESENT

2.1. SOCIAL SECURITY POLICIES AND SOCIAL SECURITY POLICIES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AT PRESENT

2.1.1. Social Security Policies

Concept of Social Security:

Social security is the protection and support provided by the State for essential needs directly related to human life, with the highest objective of ensuring adequate living conditions, liberating people from limitations and injustice, and creating a fair and better life, thereby realizing the humanitarian values of the socialist-oriented development path in Vietnam.

Contents of the Social Security System:

First: The system of social insurance and preventive insurance institutions against risks, including compulsory social insurance, voluntary social insurance, unemployment insurance, and health insurance.

Second: Social assistance, which is non-contributory in nature and directly targeted toward vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

Third: Social preferential policies for people with meritorious services to the revolution, who possess distinctive political and historical characteristics.

Fourth: Employment policies and sustainable poverty reduction policies, which are developmental and preventive measures addressing the root causes of social risks.

Social Security Policies

Social security policies constitute a system of state intervention measures combined with support from the private sector, aimed at ensuring essential living conditions for people in society to minimize poverty and vulnerability, while enhancing the self-protection capacity of individuals and communities against risks or the reduction or loss of income. These policies contribute to promoting social justice and equality, as well as ensuring national stability and development.

2.1.2. Persons with Disabilities and Social Security Policies for Persons with Disabilities

2.1.2.1. Persons with Disabilities

Concept of Persons with Disabilities: Persons with disabilities are individuals who have impairments in one or more parts of the body, leading to functional limitations and causing difficulties in performing activities such as mobility, learning, working, and accessing public services. They require support

and assistance from the community and society to ensure their rights, equal opportunities, and access to the values of social justice.

Classification of Persons with Disabilities: According to the Law on Persons with Disabilities of Vietnam (2010), persons with disabilities are classified into six categories of disabilities as follows: Physical disabilities; Hearing and speech disabilities; Visual disabilities; Neurological and mental disabilities; Intellectual disabilities; Other disabilities.

2.1.2.2. Social Security Policies for Persons with Disabilities

Social security policies for persons with disabilities are a system of viewpoints, objectives, orientations, and comprehensive solutions promulgated by the State, together with the participation of the community, aimed at ensuring the satisfaction of basic needs and improving the quality of life of persons with disabilities. The objective of these policies is to promote the comprehensive social integration of persons with disabilities, ensure human rights and equality of opportunity, and move toward building a fair and non-discriminatory society.

Objectives and Contents of Social Security Policies for Persons with Disabilities

First, improving the quality of life for persons with disabilities; Second, ensuring rights and equality; Third, promoting social integration for persons with disabilities; Fourth, enhancing the capacity for independent living among persons with disabilities; Fifth, improving family support mechanisms; Sixth, raising awareness and strengthening education.

Social security policies for persons with disabilities encompass various *contents*, mainly focusing on the following issues: social assistance policies, healthcare policies, education policies, and vocational training and employment policies.

2.2. CONCEPTS, CONTENTS, ROLES, AND FACTORS AFFECTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY POLICIES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE MEKONG DELTA REGION

2.2.1. Characteristics, Concepts, Subjects, Contents, and Methods of Implementing Social Security Policies for Persons with Disabilities in the Mekong Delta Region

2.2.1.1. Characteristics of Persons with Disabilities in the Mekong Delta Region

- First, persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the Mekong Delta constitute a large population and live in a region with favorable natural conditions for agricultural development. However, they also face limitations in infrastructure and socio-economic development.

- Second, PWDs in the Mekong Delta live in a multicultural environment that has long been home to the Kinh, Khmer, Chinese (Hoa), and Cham ethnic communities.

- Third, the majority of PWDs in the Mekong Delta live with their families, while only a small proportion of persons with severe or profound disabilities receive care in social protection centers.

- Fourth, most working-age PWDs in the Mekong Delta are engaged in low-skilled or simple jobs, such as household work, janitorial services, and selling lottery tickets.

2.2.1.2. Concepts, Subjects, Contents, and Methods of Implementing Social Security Policies for Persons with Disabilities in the Mekong Delta Region

Concept of Implementing Social Security Policies for Persons with Disabilities

The implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta refers to the entirety of planned and purposeful activities carried out by actors within society under the leadership of the Party and the management of the State, aimed at transforming social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region into practical outcomes, thereby promoting justice, equality for persons with disabilities, and sustainable development in the region.

Subjects Implementing Social Security Policies for Persons with Disabilities

First, Party organizations at all levels; Second, local authorities, including provincial/city governments and commune-, ward-, and special-zone-level administrations in the Mekong Delta region; Third, the Vietnam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations; Fourth, social organizations and local communities; Fifth, persons with disabilities and their relatives or caregivers in the Mekong Delta region.

Contents of Implementing Social Security Policies for Persons with Disabilities

First, social assistance in the Mekong Delta; Second, healthcare for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region; Third, education in the Mekong Delta region. Fourth, vocational training and employment in the Mekong Delta region.

Methods of Implementing Social Security Policies for Persons with Disabilities

- Implementing policies, programs, projects, and plans;
- Disseminating information and raising awareness among persons with disabilities, their families, and communities regarding social security policies;
- Assigning responsibilities and coordinating among agencies and organizations at different levels in provinces and cities of the Mekong Delta region in implementing social security policies for persons with disabilities;
- Supervising and evaluating the implementation process of social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region;

- Seeking and mobilizing resources to support the implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region.

2.2.2. The Role of Implementing Social Security Policies for Persons with Disabilities in the Mekong Delta Region

- Reflecting the noble nature of the socialist regime and the humanitarian values of traditional Vietnamese culture in the Mekong Delta region.

- Creating conditions for building a stable and sustainable socio-political environment in the Mekong Delta region, where a large number of ethnic minority communities reside.

- Improving healthcare services, enhancing educational attainment, promoting vocational training, creating employment opportunities, and strengthening social assistance for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region.

- Creating motivation and confidence for persons with disabilities to strive for a better life and to fully exercise their rights and obligations as citizens.

2.2.3. Factors Affecting the Implementation of Social Security Policies for Persons with Disabilities in the Mekong Delta Region

Natural and social conditions of the Mekong Delta region; demographic, ethnic, cultural, and religious characteristics of the Mekong Delta region; characteristics of persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region; the Party's guidelines and the State's policies and laws concerning the Mekong Delta region; and the influence of international organizations.

Chapter 2 Summary

Chapter 3

CURRENT SITUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY POLICIES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE MEKONG DELTA REGION AND ISSUES ARISING AT PRESENT

3.1. CURRENT SITUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY POLICIES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE MEKONG DELTA REGION AT PRESENT

3.1.1. Implementation of Social Assistance Policies for Persons with Disabilities

3.1.1.1. Major Achievements

First, financial support for persons with severe disabilities, persons with extremely severe disabilities, and their relatives has been strengthened.

Second, care and nurturing for persons with disabilities in social protection institutions have been ensured.

The achievements attained in implementing social assistance policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region have contributed to improving the quality of life, ensuring minimum social security, and creating a foundation for the social integration of persons with disabilities in the context of new development conditions.

3.1.1.2. Limitations

First, the level of financial assistance has not yet met the actual needs of persons with disabilities.

Second, there are difficulties in the payment and distribution of allowances for persons with disabilities.

Third, shortcomings remain in determining allowance entitlement levels for persons with disabilities.

Fourth, the care of persons with disabilities in social protection institutions still faces limitations in financial resources; shortages of specialized personnel; inadequate healthcare and rehabilitation services; and shortcomings in the review and management of persons with extremely severe disabilities and severe disabilities.

3.1.2. Implementation of Healthcare Policies for Persons with Disabilities

3.1.2.1. Major Achievements

- Initial healthcare services for persons with disabilities at their places of residence have received greater attention.

- Priority policies in medical examination and treatment have been effectively implemented.

- Rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities have been expanded.

3.1.2.2. Limitations

- The effectiveness of implementing priority policies in medical examination and treatment for persons with disabilities remains inadequate compared to practical requirements.

- Difficulties persist in deploying healthcare and rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities.

- Limitations in management and overly complicated administrative procedures continue to hinder the implementation of healthcare policies for persons with disabilities.

3.1.3. Implementation of Education Policies for Persons with Disabilities

3.1.3.1. Major Achievements

- Inclusive education for individuals with disabilities has received increasing attention and has expanded gradually.

- Educational support policies for persons with disabilities have been implemented relatively comprehensively.

- Specialized education systems and support institutions for persons with disabilities have gradually been established and developed.

3.1.3.2. Limitations

First, the implementation of inclusive education and specialized education policies for students with disabilities still faces many shortcomings, including

limitations in facilities and infrastructure serving students with disabilities; educational programs for persons with disabilities remain inadequate and have not fully met their learning needs.

Second, regarding support policies for students with disabilities participating in education, the current levels of financial support and scholarships for students with disabilities are insufficient to fully meet their needs, leading to many difficulties in covering educational and living expenses.

Third, a shortage of teachers and educational administrators professionally trained in special education persists, and the current workforce has yet to meet the requirements of inclusive education.

Fourth, the implementation of policies for teachers and staff participating in the education of persons with disabilities still contains shortcomings and inadequacies.

3.1.4. Implementation of Vocational Training and Employment Policies for Persons with Disabilities

3.1.4.1. Major Achievements

First, regarding vocational training for persons with disabilities: Vocational training policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region have been implemented with the attention of local authorities and organizations in order to help persons with disabilities improve their skills, create self-employment opportunities, and integrate into the community.

Second, regarding employment support for persons with disabilities: Employment creation policies for persons with disabilities have been implemented by localities to create favorable conditions for persons with disabilities to participate in the labor force, improve their income, and gradually stabilize their lives.

Third, regarding preferential policies for production establishments employing persons with disabilities and the development of employment models for persons with disabilities: Production establishments recruiting persons with disabilities are entitled to tax exemptions and reductions, vocational training support, and favorable conditions for sustainable development.

3.1.4.2. Limitations

First, the implementation of vocational training policies for persons with disabilities still faces several difficulties: infrastructure remains inadequate, and support equipment has not been sufficiently provided to effectively implement these policies.

Second, employment support and vocational counseling remain insufficient: vocational counseling services and employment placement support for persons with disabilities are still limited, reducing their ability to integrate into the labor market.

3.2. CAUSES OF THE CURRENT SITUATION AND ISSUES ARISING IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY POLICIES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE MEKONG DELTA REGION AT PRESENT

3.2.1. Causes

3.2.1.1. Causes of the Achievements Attained

First, the sound and appropriate policies of the Party and the State: this is the foundational and guiding factor determining the results of implementing social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region.

Second, the efforts of Party organizations and local authorities at all levels in leading and implementing social security policies for persons with disabilities: one of the important factors contributing to the achievements in implementing social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region in recent years has been the leadership and direction of local Party organizations.

Third, the active contribution of social organizations and communities to the implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities: this factor plays an important role in supplementing resources, promoting socialization, and improving the effectiveness of implementing social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region.

Fourth, the self-efforts of persons with disabilities themselves: many persons with disabilities have strived to overcome difficulties, participate in support programs, and seek opportunities to improve their quality of life. Their self-efforts in the Mekong Delta region play an important role in effectively participating in support policies and proactively seeking opportunities to improve living conditions.

Fifth, support from international organizations: In recent years, international organizations, including non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, have played an important role in improving the quality of life and promoting social integration for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region.

3.2.1.2. Causes of the Limitations

First, budgetary resources for implementing policies for persons with disabilities remain limited, insufficient to meet actual needs, and unevenly distributed.

Second, the capacity of managerial staff and policy implementation personnel remains limited, while procedures for accessing policy benefits are still complicated.

Third, infrastructure remains inadequate, and accessibility for persons with disabilities continues to face many difficulties.

Fourth, stigma and discrimination against persons with disabilities still exist within the community, and some persons with disabilities have not yet fully understood their rights under social security policies.

Fifth, coordination among state agencies, social organizations, and communities in implementing policies has not been effectively carried out, leading to overlaps or omissions in policy implementation.

Sixth, challenges arising from local characteristics: the difficult socio-economic conditions of the Mekong Delta region constitute one of the major factors hindering the effective implementation of support policies for persons with disabilities.

3.2.2. Several Issues Arising in the Implementation of Social Security Policies for Persons with Disabilities in the Mekong Delta Region

- The contradiction between the increasingly high demands for implementing social security policies and the limitations in awareness regarding the position and role of implementing social security policies for persons with disabilities among officials and persons with disabilities themselves in the Mekong Delta region at present.

- The inconsistency between the increasing demand for resources to implement social security policies for persons with disabilities and the limited resources available in localities within the region.

- The contradiction between limitations in the culture, psychology, and lifestyles of persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region and the substantive implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities at present.

- The inconsistency between the Party's and the State's guidelines, policies, and laws on implementing social security policies for persons with disabilities, and the actual implementation mechanisms adopted by localities in the region.

Chapter 3 Summary

Chapter 4

REQUIREMENTS AND SOLUTIONS FOR ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY POLICIES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE MEKONG DELTA REGION DURING THE 2025-2030 PERIOD

4.1. BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY POLICIES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE MEKONG DELTA REGION

4.1.1. The implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region must be associated with the region's comprehensive development strategy

Comprehensive development of the Mekong Delta region in the fields of economy, politics, culture, society, and national defense and security constitutes an important and decisive foundation for ensuring social security in general and

for persons with disabilities in particular. In the practice of social development, the level of social security provision is always closely linked to the level of socio-economic development of a nation or a territorial region.

4.1.2. The implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region must be based on the specific characteristics of the region

One of the foremost requirements in the process of implementing social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region is that such policies must be formulated on the basis of a comprehensive and rigorous analysis of the region's distinctive characteristics. This is an area currently experiencing the intertwined impacts of numerous economic, social, environmental, and demographic challenges.

4.1.3. The implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region requires the involvement of the entire political system in the region

The implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities is not merely an activity of a purely supportive nature, but also a vivid manifestation of the humanitarian, progressive, and equitable nature of the Socialist Rule-of-Law State of Vietnam. Social security policies directed toward persons with disabilities represent the concretization of human and citizens' rights, values that are embodied in the Constitution and the current legal system.

4.1.4. The implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region must be grounded in the self-efforts of persons with disabilities

In the context where the whole country, as well as the Mekong Delta region, is promoting the process of sustainable development, social security policies are required not only to guarantee the rights and interests of vulnerable groups but also to create conditions enabling them to affirm themselves, rise above difficulties, and proactively contribute to social life.

4.2. MAJOR SOLUTIONS FOR ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY POLICIES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE MEKONG DELTA REGION DURING THE 2025-2030 PERIOD

4.2.1. Raising awareness among policy implementers and beneficiaries regarding the role of implementing social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region

First, about policy-implementing subjects:

- For Party committees and local authorities at all levels, it is necessary to organize professional training and capacity-building programs for cadres and civil servants engaged in state management concerning persons with disabilities.

- For the Vietnam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations, specialized communication programs should be developed in coordination with press agencies, radio and television stations, with dissemination conducted through traditional media platforms and social networks, while also integrating propaganda activities into grassroots movements and campaigns.

- For social organizations and residential communities, emphasis should be placed on social responsibility, legal awareness, and policy participation skills.

Second, about policy beneficiary groups:

- *For persons with disabilities*, solutions should include organizing thematic training programs with visual and comprehensible content; developing and distributing instructional materials in multiple accessible formats such as Braille, audiobooks, and subtitled videos.

- *For relatives and caregivers of persons with disabilities*, solutions should include organizing training courses on legal knowledge and caregiving skills appropriate to the general educational level of residents.

4.2.2. Mobilizing and effectively utilizing resources from the Central Government, local authorities, and other funding sources for the implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region

First, mobilizing resources from the Central Government: (1) Rational allocation and distribution of the central budget; (2) Establishing mechanisms to encourage enterprises to participate in recruiting and providing vocational training for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta; (3) Developing infrastructure and accessibility services for persons with disabilities; (4) Promoting social security policies associated with the specific characteristics of the Mekong Delta region; (5) Monitoring, evaluating, and flexibly adjusting policies.

Second, mobilizing local resources: (1) Mobilizing resources from local budgets; (2) Enhancing socialization and cooperation with enterprises and social organizations by encouraging businesses to recruit persons with disabilities, cooperating with non-governmental organizations and charitable funds, and launching community support movements for persons with disabilities; (3) Investing in the development of infrastructure and accessibility services for persons with disabilities; (4) Supporting livelihoods and vocational training for persons with disabilities; (5) Promoting communication activities

and mobilizing social participation; (6) Monitoring, evaluating, and adjusting policies.

Third, exploiting other funding sources (including financial, technical, human, and intellectual resources) for the implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region.

Fourth, strengthening supervision and transparency in the utilization of resources supporting persons with disabilities.

4.2.3. Training and fostering the capacity of cadres within the grassroots political system in provinces and centrally governed cities in the Mekong Delta region in implementing social security policies for persons with disabilities

About Party organizations at all levels: directing the organization of dissemination and communication activities concerning policies and laws related to persons with disabilities for cadres, Party members, and the people.

About local authorities at all levels (provincial, commune, ward, and special administrative units): strengthening the training and capacity-building of cadres through specialized training courses on social security policies for persons with disabilities.

With regard to the Vietnam Fatherland Front and socio-political mass organizations, promoting the effectiveness of their extensive organizational networks from the provincial level to communes and hamlets constitutes an important advantage in accessing and supporting persons with disabilities in rural and remote areas.

About cadres, civil servants, and public employees within the grassroots political system: enhancing public service ethics and the sense of responsibility of policy implementers.

4.2.4. Improving mechanisms and policies in the implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region

First, at the central level, it is necessary to continue improving the legal system and social security policies related to social assistance, healthcare, education, vocational training, and job creation for persons with disabilities in the direction of greater specificity, feasibility, and practicality under local conditions.

Second, at the local level, management mechanisms and the implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities should be improved in a proactive, flexible manner suitable to the practical conditions of each locality in the Mekong Delta region.

Third, regarding intersectoral coordination mechanisms, it is necessary to establish and institutionalize intersectoral coordination regulations in implementing social security policies for persons with disabilities.

Fourth, regarding mechanisms for feedback, supervision, and policy adjustment, it is necessary to improve mechanisms for receiving opinions and complaints from persons with disabilities through diverse and flexible forms.

4.2.5. Promoting self-reliance and overcoming psychological and cultural barriers among persons with disabilities in the implementation of social security policies in the Mekong Delta region

First, about persons with disabilities themselves, there must be a fundamental transformation in their mindset toward policy access; at the same time, persons with disabilities should focus on developing essential life skills.

Second, about families and relatives of persons with disabilities, communication programs, psychological counseling, and life-skills guidance should be provided for families with persons with disabilities in order to transform perceptions from “doing things on their behalf” to “accompanying and supporting them,” and from protection-oriented approaches to empowerment-oriented approaches.

Third, with regard to state management agencies, it is necessary to shift from a subsidy-based support approach toward an approach centered on capacity development and opportunity creation.

Fourth, regarding other socio-political organizations, alongside the State, socio-political organizations, non-governmental organizations, and enterprises should act as active supporting partners in creating an environment that encourages persons with disabilities to promote their internal capacities.

Chapter 4 Summary

CONCLUSION

1. Social security is a system of protection and support organized by the State to meet basic human needs such as food, housing, healthcare, education, and employment, while also aiming to achieve social justice and equality. Under socialism, social security is not limited to assistance alone but also creates conditions for individuals to overcome risks, develop comprehensively, and attain a life of freedom and happiness. Social security policy, therefore, can be understood as the totality of State interventions, coordinated with the private

sector and the community, aimed at poverty reduction, risk prevention, enhancement of self-protection capacity, and contribution to sustainable development. For persons with disabilities, social security policies play a particularly important role in ensuring rights, creating equal opportunities, and promoting social inclusion. In the Mekong Delta region, the implementation of these policies constitutes the concretization of the Party's and the State's guidelines through the activities of local authorities, socio-political organizations, and residential communities, in accordance with the natural, economic, and cultural characteristics of the region. The implementing actors include Party organizations, authorities at all levels, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, socio-political organizations, social organizations, local communities, as well as persons with disabilities themselves and their families. The implementation focuses on fundamental areas such as social assistance, healthcare, education, vocational training, and employment, and is carried out through various methods including policy execution, awareness-raising communication, intersectoral coordination, monitoring and evaluation, and resource mobilization. The achievements attained have contributed to improving the lives of persons with disabilities, strengthening public confidence in the government, promoting sustainable development, and clearly demonstrating the humanitarian nature of the regime.

2. On the basis of the established theoretical framework, the dissertation has focused on analyzing the current situation of the implementation of social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region across four major areas: social assistance, healthcare, education and vocational training, and employment. These contents were comprehensively examined from both the perspective of achievements and existing limitations, based on a synthesis of research works, reports from competent agencies, and the author's sociological survey results, while also incorporating comparisons among localities within the region. The research findings indicate that, alongside notable achievements, the implementation of policies still reveals numerous shortcomings arising from various causes, including both subjective factors and implementation methods. Accordingly, the dissertation identified five causes of achievements and six causes of limitations, while also generalizing four major issues emerging in practice. These include: the contradiction between the increasingly high requirements of policies and the limited awareness of cadres as well as persons with disabilities themselves; the inadequacy between the growing demand for

resources and the still-limited response capacity of localities; the incompatibility between psychological, cultural, and lifestyle barriers among persons with disabilities and the requirements of policy implementation; and the gap between policy orientations and actual implementation mechanisms in practice. These issues not only reflect the complexity of the policy implementation process but also require comprehensive and regionally appropriate solutions to improve effectiveness in the coming period.

3. In the context of the 2025-2030 period, enhancing the effectiveness of implementing social security policies for persons with disabilities in the Mekong Delta region carries particular significance, not only in ensuring the rights and improving the quality of life of persons with disabilities, but also in promoting social inclusion and the sustainable development of the entire region. This region is heavily affected by climate change and natural disasters and continues to have a relatively high poverty rate, making it more difficult for persons with disabilities to access basic services. Therefore, improving and enhancing the effectiveness of policy implementation must be based on the following orientations: associating policy implementation with the region's socio-economic development strategy; grounding policies in the natural, economic, and cultural characteristics of the region; ensuring the participation of the entire political system; and promoting the proactive role and self-efforts of persons with disabilities themselves. On that basis, it is necessary to synchronously implement solutions such as raising awareness among implementing actors and beneficiaries; mobilizing and effectively utilizing resources from the Central Government, local authorities, and society; strengthening the capacity of the grassroots political system; improving mechanisms, policies, and organizational implementation processes; and supporting persons with disabilities in overcoming psychological and cultural barriers to proactively integrate into society. The effective implementation of these solutions will not only bring direct benefits to persons with disabilities but also contribute to building a just and humane society, reducing burdens on families, and creating momentum for the sustainable socio-economic development of the Mekong Delta region in the coming years.

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