

HO CHI MINH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICS

DANG NGOC MAI

**IMPLEMENTATION OF ETHNIC POLICIES IN
ACCORDANCE WITH HO CHI MINH'S THOUGHT IN
THE NORTHERN MIDLANDS AND MOUNTAINOUS
REGION OF VIETNAM TODAY**

SUMMARY OF THE DOCTORAL THESIS

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Supervisors: 1. Assoc. Prof., Dr. Dang Quang Dinh



2. Dr. Tran Thi Huyen



Reviewer 1:
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Reviewer 2:
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Reviewer 3:
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INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale of the Study

Ethnic issues and the implementation of ethnic policies constitute an important component of Ho Chi Minh's Thought. They inherit the Vietnamese tradition of ethnic solidarity and consistently reflect the principles of equality, solidarity, mutual respect, mutual assistance, and common development among the ethnic groups within the Vietnamese national community. According to Ho Chi Minh's Thought, all ethnic groups, whether majority or minority, regardless of their level of development, are equal in terms of rights and obligations. Ethnic solidarity is regarded as a strategic issue and a decisive factor in the success of the Vietnamese revolution. Ho Chi Minh consistently attached great importance to improving the material and spiritual well-being of ethnic minority people, considering it both a political responsibility and a humanitarian requirement of the socialist regime. These viewpoints constitute the ideological foundation upon which the Communist Party of Vietnam and the State formulate guidelines, policies, and implement ethnic policies.

Guided by Ho Chi Minh's Thought on the implementation of ethnic policies, the Communist Party of Vietnam and the State have promulgated numerous guidelines and policies aimed at promoting the comprehensive development of ethnic minority and mountainous areas. Notable among these are Resolution No. 24-NQ/TW, issued on March 12, 2003, by the Ninth Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam on ethnic affairs; and Resolution No. 88/2019/QH14, adopted on November 18, 2019, by the Fourteenth National Assembly approving the Master Plan for Socio-Economic Development in Ethnic Minority and Mountainous Areas for the 2021-2030 Period. With regard to the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region, Resolution No. 11-NQ/TW, issued by the Politburo on February 10, 2022, sets forth the requirement for rapid and sustainable regional development by promoting the region's potential and advantages in conjunction with ensuring national defense and security and improving the living standards of people from all ethnic groups.

More than four decades of the renovation process have demonstrated that the implementation of ethnic policies has achieved significant accomplishments. Socio-economic infrastructure has been progressively improved; the material and spiritual well-being of the people has been enhanced; education, healthcare, and educational attainment have shown positive progress; the cultural identities of ethnic groups have been preserved and promoted; the grassroots political system has been strengthened; national defense, security, and the great national unity bloc have been consolidated; and the poverty rate has declined. Nevertheless, the implementation of ethnic policies continues to face a number of limitations. Policies remain insufficiently synchronized, implementation effectiveness has yet to meet expectations, resources are dispersed, and the development gap between ethnic minority and mountainous areas and other regions remains substantial.

These limitations indicate that a considerable gap persists between policy objectives and implementation outcomes, highlighting the need for continued research into and application of Ho Chi Minh's Thought to enhance the effectiveness of ethnic policy implementation.

The urgency of this issue is particularly evident in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region of Vietnam—a strategically important area in terms of politics, economy, culture, society, national defense, security, and foreign affairs. The region covers a vast territory, is characterized by complex terrain, shares borders with several neighboring countries, and is home to a large population of ethnic minority communities. Through the implementation of the guidelines and policies of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the State, the region has achieved notable progress in socio-economic development, infrastructure improvement, enhancement of the people's living standards, and the maintenance of national defense and security. However, the implementation of ethnic policies continues to reveal a number of shortcomings. In several localities, the institutionalization of the Party's guidelines and the State's policies has been slow; implementation has lacked coordination and has not achieved the desired level of effectiveness; and certain emerging issues have not been addressed in a timely manner. This reality underscores the need for further theoretical and practical research to propose solutions for enhancing the effectiveness of the implementation of ethnic policies in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's Thought.

At present, Vietnam has entered a new stage of development characterized by the need to accelerate industrialization and modernization, build an independent and self-reliant economy, and promote deep international integration in the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, digital transformation, and climate change. This new context gives rise to new requirements for ethnic affairs and the implementation of ethnic policies. The 14th National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam reaffirmed the following objective: “Ensure equality, solidarity, mutual support, and common development among all ethnic groups. Promote the dynamism, self-reliance, and resilience of ethnic minority people in socio-economic development, enabling them to escape poverty and achieve sustainable multidimensional poverty reduction”.

On this basis, the doctoral candidate selected the topic ***“Implementation of Ethnic Policies in Accordance with Ho Chi Minh's Thought in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region of Vietnam Today”*** as the subject of this doctoral dissertation in Ho Chi Minh Studies.

2. Research objectives and tasks

2.1. Research Objective

To systematically examine Ho Chi Minh's Thought on the implementation of ethnic policies; on that basis, to assess the current situation of the implementation of ethnic policies in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's Thought in the Northern Midlands

and Mountainous Region during the 2015-2025 period, and to propose orientations and solutions for enhancing the effectiveness of the implementation of ethnic policies in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's Thought in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region through 2030, with a vision to 2045.

2.2. Research Tasks

To review previous studies relevant to the dissertation topic, identify the knowledge and findings to be inherited, and clarify the research gaps and unresolved issues; to analyze and clarify the system of key conceptual frameworks and the fundamental contents of Ho Chi Minh's Thought on the implementation of ethnic policies; to examine the natural, economic, socio-cultural, national defense and security conditions, as well as ethnic characteristics that directly affect the implementation of ethnic policies; to identify the underlying causes of existing limitations and analyze the issues arising in the implementation process; to forecast the factors influencing the implementation of ethnic policies; and to determine orientations and propose fundamental solutions for enhancing the effectiveness of the implementation of ethnic policies in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's Thought in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region through 2030, with a vision to 2045.

3. Research object and scope

3.1. Research object

Ho Chi Minh's Thought on the implementation of ethnic policies and the practice of implementing ethnic policies in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's Thought in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region.

3.2. Research Scope

Content Scope: This dissertation examines the implementation of ethnic policies in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's Thought in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region.

Spatial Scope: The Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region.

Temporal Scope: The study investigates the implementation of ethnic policies in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's Thought in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region during the 2015-2025 period. On that basis, it proposes orientations for the implementation of ethnic policies through 2030, with a vision to 2045.

4. Theoretical Foundation and Research Methods

4.1. Theoretical Foundation

This study is grounded in the viewpoints of **Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's Thought**, and the guidelines and policies of the Communist Party of Vietnam, as well as the laws and policies of the State on ethnic policies and their implementation.

4.2. Research Method

The dissertation is conducted on the basis of the Marxist-Leninist research methodology, employing the following methods: the dialectical materialist and

historical materialist methods; the logical method; the historical method; methods of analysis, synthesis, statistical analysis, comparison, and practical review; as well as sociological survey and field research methods.

5. New Scientific Contributions of the Thesis

First, the dissertation contributes to clarifying and systematizing Ho Chi Minh's Thought on the implementation of ethnic policies, thereby providing additional theoretical and scientific foundations for the understanding and application of Ho Chi Minh's Thought in the current context.

Second, it provides a comprehensive and systematic assessment of the implementation of ethnic policies in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's Thought in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region during the 2015-2025 period, identifying the achievements, limitations, underlying causes, and practical issues arising in the implementation process.

Third, the dissertation proposes orientations and solutions for enhancing the effectiveness of the implementation of ethnic policies in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's Thought in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region through 2030, with a vision to 2045, thereby contributing to the consolidation of the great national unity bloc and the promotion of the country's sustainable development.

6. Significance of the Thesis

6.1. Theoretical Significance

The dissertation contributes to clarifying the ideological and theoretical foundations of the ethnic guidelines and policies of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the State. It also affirms the inheritance and development of Ho Chi Minh's Thought in the implementation of ethnic policies, particularly in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region.

6.2. Practical Significance

The dissertation contributes to providing a theoretical basis and practical orientation for the application of Ho Chi Minh's Thought in the implementation of ethnic policies in Vietnam today. Its research findings, proposed solutions, and synthesis of practical experience in implementing ethnic policies in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region serve as valuable references for the formulation and implementation of ethnic policies, as well as for the development and implementation of socio-economic development strategies by Party committees and local authorities. Furthermore, these findings may also be adapted and applied in other localities with similar conditions.

7. Structure of the Thesis

In addition to the Introduction, Conclusion, References, and Appendices, the thesis consists of 4 chapters with 10 sections.

Chapter 1

LITERATURE REVIEW RELATED TO THE THESIS

1.1. STUDIES RELATED TO THE THESIS

1.1.1. Studies on Ho Chi Minh's Thought on Ethnic Issues and Ethnic Policies

Studies on Ho Chi Minh's Thought concerning ethnic issues and ethnic policies, including books, journal articles, dissertations, and other scholarly works, have provided a rich and relatively comprehensive body of theoretical arguments on Ho Chi Minh's views regarding ethnic issues and ethnic policies. Many of these studies have adopted multidimensional approaches that integrate theoretical analysis with practical investigation, thereby further enriching the understanding of the content and contemporary value of Ho Chi Minh's Thought in the context of national development.

1.1.2. Studies on the Application and Implementation of Ethnic Policies in Accordance with Ho Chi Minh's Thought

Studies on the application and implementation of ethnic policies in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's Thought have examined comprehensively the application of his thought in the formulation and implementation of ethnic policies. These studies have clarified the theoretical foundations, guiding principles, and major areas of implementation across such fields as education, cadre development, poverty reduction, socio-economic development, and the consolidation of the great national unity bloc. In addition, many studies have provided empirical data, practical evidence, and specific policy recommendations, thereby presenting a relatively comprehensive picture of the implementation of ethnic policies in Vietnam today.

1.1.3. Studies on Ethnic Policies and Their Implementation in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region

Studies on ethnic policies and their implementation in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region have provided a rich theoretical and practical foundation for understanding various dimensions of ethnic policy implementation. These studies have clarified important issues relating to culture, education, livelihoods, national defense, security, and the strengthening of the great national unity bloc.

1.2. OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH FINDINGS AND RESEARCH GAPS

1.2.1. Summary of Previous Studies Related to the Dissertation

Previous studies have clarified the special position and role of ethnic issues and ethnic policies in the Vietnamese revolutionary cause, while affirming the foundational role of Ho Chi Minh's Thought in ethnic affairs. This thought is reflected in the principles of ethnic equality, solidarity, and opposition to oppression and exploitation, as well as in specific viewpoints on improving the living conditions

of ethnic minority people, training ethnic minority cadres, promoting the internal strengths of ethnic communities, respecting positive traditional customs and practices, and combating outdated customs and practices. These studies have demonstrated that Ho Chi Minh's Thought on ethnic issues not only represents a creative development of Marxism-Leninism but also originates from the realities of Vietnam, thereby providing enduring guidance for the formulation and implementation of ethnic policies throughout different stages of the Vietnamese revolution.

In addition to theoretical studies, numerous works have examined and evaluated the implementation of ethnic policies in ethnic minority and mountainous areas, emphasizing their contributions to strengthening the people's confidence in the Communist Party of Vietnam and the State, reinforcing the great national unity bloc, and maintaining socio-political stability in strategically important areas. With regard to the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region, many studies have affirmed that the effective implementation of ethnic policies is an essential condition for enhancing the effectiveness of state governance, strengthening the grassroots political system, and preventing hostile forces from exploiting ethnic and religious issues to undermine social and political stability.

An analysis of the existing body of literature indicates that, despite significant achievements in research on ethnic policies and their implementation in Vietnam, several important research gaps remain. Most previous studies have approached the issue from the perspective of individual disciplines, resulting in a lack of interdisciplinary and systematic analysis and insufficient integration of theoretical depth with the complex realities of ethnic minority and mountainous areas. Many studies have been limited to describing and assessing the current situation or proposing general solutions, without providing an in-depth analysis of the relationship between the Party's ideological foundation-particularly Ho Chi Minh's Thought-and the mechanisms, content, and effectiveness of ethnic policy implementation in specific contexts. These research gaps are even more evident in studies focusing on the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region.

1.2.2. Research Gaps to Be Addressed by the Dissertation

The dissertation identifies its primary research focus as further clarifying, enriching, and systematically developing, on a sound scientific basis, Ho Chi Minh's Thought on the implementation of ethnic policies. It concentrates on analyzing the current situation of the implementation of ethnic policies in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's Thought in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region in recent years; examining the factors influencing policy implementation; and forecasting domestic and international trends that are likely to affect the implementation of ethnic policies in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's Thought in the coming period. Based on

theoretical research, an analysis of the current situation, the identification of influencing factors, and forecasts of future development trends, the dissertation proposes orientations and a system of solutions for enhancing the implementation of ethnic policies in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's Thought in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region in the years ahead.

Chapter 1 Summary

Chapter 1 has systematically reviewed domestic and international studies related to ethnic policies, Ho Chi Minh's Thought on ethnic issues, and the application of his thought to the implementation of ethnic policies in Vietnam. The literature review indicates that previous studies have made significant contributions to both theoretical and practical understanding; however, important research gaps remain. Most existing studies have approached the subject at a general level or have focused on specific sectors, localities, or individual aspects, while comprehensive and in-depth research on the implementation of ethnic policies in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's Thought, particularly in relation to the distinctive conditions of the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region, remains limited. Accordingly, this dissertation focuses on providing a systematic analysis of the implementation of ethnic policies in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's Thought in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region, thereby contributing additional scientific evidence to support the improvement of ethnic policy implementation and to meet the requirements of the region's and the country's sustainable development in the current period.

Chapter 2

IMPLEMENTATION OF ETHNIC POLICIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH HO CHI MINH'S THOUGHT: THEORETICAL ISSUES

2.1. BASIC CONCEPTS

2.1.1. Concepts Related to Ethnic Policies

Concept of Ethnic Group/Nation: An ethnic group/nation is a stable socio-political community formed and developed through a long historical process on the basis of the integration and cohesion of multiple ethnic communities. It is bound together by fundamental common elements, including territory, economic life, language, culture, and a shared sense of community identity, while being organized and governed within the framework of a unified state and legal system.

Concept of Policy: A policy is a system of objectives, viewpoints, decisions, and courses of action formulated by competent authorities to guide, regulate, and address issues arising in social life within a specific scope and period.

Concept of Ethnic Policy: An ethnic policy is a system of objectives, viewpoints, decisions, and measures derived from the guidelines and policies of the Communist Party of Vietnam, institutionalized and implemented by the State to regulate ethnic relations within the Vietnamese national community; to ensure

equality, solidarity, mutual respect, and mutual assistance among ethnic groups for common development; to promote the potential, strengths, and cultural identities of all ethnic groups; to create equal opportunities for development, progressively narrow development disparities, and improve the material and spiritual well-being of people from all ethnic groups; thereby strengthening the great national unity bloc and promoting the country's stability and sustainable development.

2.1.2. Concepts Related to the Implementation of Ethnic Policies

Concept of Policy Implementation: Policy implementation is the process by which competent authorities and other relevant stakeholders organize and carry out the objectives, viewpoints, decisions, and measures embodied in a policy through specific activities in practice, with the aim of realizing the policy's objectives and addressing the issues that the policy is intended to resolve.

Concept of the Implementation of Ethnic Policies: The implementation of ethnic policies is the process by which competent authorities organize and carry out ethnic policies in practice through specific activities in order to realize the objectives, contents, and solutions set forth in the policies; ensure equality, strengthen solidarity, mutual respect, and mutual assistance for common development among ethnic groups; promote economic, cultural, and social development; narrow development disparities among ethnic groups and across regions; strengthen the great national unity bloc; maintain political stability; and foster the country's sustainable development.

2.1.3. Concepts Related to Ho Chi Minh's Thought on the Implementation of Ethnic Policies

Concept of Ho Chi Minh's Thought on Ethnic Policies: Ho Chi Minh's Thought on ethnic policies is the comprehensive and coherent system of his viewpoints on addressing ethnic issues, serving as the ideological foundation for the formulation and implementation of ethnic policies in Vietnam.

Concept of Ho Chi Minh's Thought on the Implementation of Ethnic Policies: Ho Chi Minh's Thought on the implementation of ethnic policies is the system of his viewpoints guiding the practical implementation of ethnic policies on the basis of ensuring equality, solidarity, mutual respect, and mutual assistance among ethnic groups; combining the State's support with the promotion of the self-reliance and self-strengthening of ethnic minority people in order to improve their living standards, narrow development disparities, and strengthen the great national unity bloc.

2.1.4. Concepts Related to the Implementation of Ethnic Policies in Accordance with Ho Chi Minh's Thought in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region

Concept of the Implementation of Ethnic Policies in Accordance with Ho Chi Minh's Thought: The implementation of ethnic policies in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's Thought is the process of putting into practice the guidelines and policies of

the Communist Party of Vietnam and the State's policies and laws on ethnic affairs under the guidance of Ho Chi Minh's system of viewpoints. It ensures the principles of equality, solidarity, mutual respect, and mutual assistance among ethnic groups, while combining the promotion of the people's internal strengths with the State's support in order to improve living standards, narrow development disparities, and strengthen the great national unity bloc.

Concept of the Implementation of Ethnic Policies in Accordance with Ho Chi Minh's Thought in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region: The implementation of ethnic policies in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's Thought in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region is the process of putting into practice the guidelines and policies of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the State's policies and laws on ethnic affairs throughout the region under the guidance of Ho Chi Minh's system of viewpoints. It is carried out on the basis of ensuring the principles of equality, solidarity, mutual respect, and mutual assistance among ethnic groups; combining the promotion of the people's internal strengths with the support of the State and society as a whole; and taking into account the region's natural conditions, socio-economic characteristics, and multi-ethnic composition. Its objectives are to improve the material and spiritual well-being of the people, narrow development disparities among ethnic groups and between regions, strengthen the great national unity bloc, and promote the sustainable development of the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region.

2.2. HO CHI MINH'S THOUGHT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ETHNIC POLICIES

2.2.1. Ho Chi Minh's Views on the Importance of the Implementation of Ethnic Policies

2.2.1.1. The Implementation of Ethnic Policies as an Essential Basis for Ensuring Equality Among Ethnic Groups

In Ho Chi Minh's Thought, ethnic equality begins with economic equality, first and foremost by ensuring the people's ownership of the means of production. In addition, sound ethnic policies contribute to preserving and promoting the cultural identities of ethnic groups, strengthening political trust and social consensus. Ethnic equality is reflected not only in the equitable allocation of resources but also in respect for the distinct identities and the right to development of every ethnic group.

2.2.1.2. The Implementation of Ethnic Policies as a Driver of Economic Development

According to Ho Chi Minh, the implementation of ethnic policies should aim at the comprehensive improvement of the people's material and spiritual well-being, with economic development and the enhancement of living standards as the central tasks. He emphasized that productive development should be closely integrated with the improvement of educational attainment, healthcare, and cultural life.

2.2.1.3. The Implementation of Ethnic Policies as a Means of Strengthening the Great National Unity Bloc

According to Ho Chi Minh, solidarity is the foundation for ensuring ethnic equality, because only within a united community can ethnic groups develop mutual trust, provide mutual support, overcome difficulties together, and achieve common development. From this perspective, the implementation of ethnic policies to strengthen the great national unity bloc should be carried out comprehensively in three major aspects: ensuring equality and mutual respect among ethnic groups; placing the legitimate interests of the people at the center of policy objectives; and recognizing ethnic communities as the principal actors in policy implementation by respecting community self-governance, promoting internal strengths and the spirit of self-reliance and self-strengthening, while attaching importance to the development of ethnic minority cadres and grassroots officials.

2.2.1.4. The Implementation of Ethnic Policies as a Means of Maintaining Political Stability and Strengthening National Defense and Security

According to Ho Chi Minh, the effective implementation of ethnic policies provides a solid foundation for socio-political stability by safeguarding the legitimate rights and interests of the people, improving their living standards, narrowing development disparities, and strengthening public confidence in the Party and the State. At the same time, it constitutes an important condition for building a strong national defense and security posture at the grassroots level. When the people are united, have confidence in, and maintain close ties with the government, a solid *people's security posture* is established, providing effective support for monitoring the local situation and for the timely prevention, detection, and handling of activities aimed at sabotage, incitement, manipulation, and the exploitation of ethnic and religious issues to undermine national stability.

2.2.1.5. The Implementation of Ethnic Policies as an Affirmation of the Humanitarian and Revolutionary Nature of the New Regime

According to Ho Chi Minh, the implementation of ethnic policies affirms the humanitarian and revolutionary nature of the new regime because such policies fundamentally reject the inhumane systems of feudal and colonial rule while establishing a development path that places people at its center and upholds ethnic equality and solidarity as its socio-political foundation. From this perspective, the revolutionary character of ethnic policies lies in transforming both the objectives and the methods of governance from domination and division toward human emancipation and development. Their humanitarian nature is reflected in the fact that all guidelines, programs, and measures are directed toward improving the material and spiritual well-being of ethnic communities, gradually overcoming the legacy of historical injustice, and narrowing development disparities between mountainous and lowland areas as well as between ethnic minority areas and more developed regions.

2.2.2. Ho Chi Minh's Views on the Subjects and Beneficiaries of Ethnic Policy Implementation

2.2.2.1. Subjects of the Implementation of Ethnic Policies

According to Ho Chi Minh's Thought, the subjects of the implementation of ethnic policies comprise the entire political system and all social forces involved in organizing and implementing ethnic policies in practice. Among these, the Communist Party of Vietnam plays the leading role by providing overall leadership, setting strategic directions, and organizing policy implementation through the formulation of guidelines appropriate to each stage of national development, thereby safeguarding the legitimate rights and interests of all ethnic groups and promoting balanced development across regions.

2.2.2.2. Beneficiaries of the Implementation of Ethnic Policies

According to Ho Chi Minh's Thought, the beneficiaries of ethnic policies include all ethnic groups within the Vietnamese national community. In a multi-ethnic nation, the proper resolution of ethnic issues concerns not only each individual ethnic group but is also directly linked to the country's stability, unity, and development.

2.2.3. Ho Chi Minh's Views on the Content of the Implementation of Ethnic Policies

2.2.3.1. Promoting the People's Right to Mastery among Ethnic Communities

According to Ho Chi Minh, the right to mastery of all ethnic groups must be guaranteed in the economic, political, cultural, and social spheres. This right should not only be realized in practice but also institutionalized through law. Ho Chi Minh emphasized that, in order to exercise this right, every member of the ethnic communities should cultivate the determination to improve their own lives, while mass organizations and social organizations have the responsibility to provide support, encouragement, and motivation. At the same time, all ethnic groups are obliged to fulfill their responsibilities to the nation and strictly comply with the laws of the State.

2.2.3.2. Promoting Economic Development and Improving the Living Standards of Ethnic Communities

Ho Chi Minh maintained that socialist construction in mountainous areas should begin with rural development, taking agriculture as the breakthrough sector and laying the foundation for subsequent industrialization. For ethnic communities, the most immediate needs are adequate food, sufficient clothing, and stable housing; therefore, agriculture plays a fundamental role in meeting these basic needs and promoting socio-economic development. On this basis, Ho Chi Minh advocated the integrated development of agriculture, forestry, and industry, together with emphasizing the responsibilities of cadres and Party members in work relating to

mountainous areas. He also promoted policies tailored to the specific conditions of each locality, with particular attention to infrastructure development, the establishment of mutual-aid production teams and cooperatives in mountainous areas, and the promotion of solidarity and mutual assistance in economic development.

2.2.3.3. Promoting Cultural and Social Development

According to Ho Chi Minh, culture is an indispensable component of the life of every ethnic group. It should both preserve traditional values and encourage creativity and innovation, while strengthening solidarity among ethnic groups and removing cultural barriers to foster common development. In the social sphere, he attached particular importance to education, healthcare, and the training of cadres for mountainous areas. Ho Chi Minh's views on education for ethnic minority areas were comprehensive in nature and aimed at narrowing development disparities among ethnic groups. Through preferential educational policies, educational attainment and the quality of ethnic minority human resources improved significantly, leading to the emergence of the first generation of ethnic minority intellectuals, public officials, and members of the armed forces, thereby laying a foundation for socio-economic development in ethnic minority areas. In the field of healthcare, Ho Chi Minh regarded health as a precious asset of both individuals and society. Accordingly, he called upon the Party and the State to improve healthcare services for ethnic communities by expanding healthcare networks, training local health workers, and promoting public awareness campaigns to eliminate outdated customs and practices and foster a new cultural way of life.

2.2.3.4. Strengthening and Safeguarding National Defense and Security

Ho Chi Minh emphasized the strategic importance of mountainous areas in the cause of national defense. To strengthen national defense and security, he advocated the establishment of autonomous zones for ethnic minority communities as a means of countering hostile forces that sought to exploit demands for autonomy to undermine the Party's and the State's policy of great national unity. At the same time, Ho Chi Minh consistently encouraged ethnic communities to remain vigilant, uphold the spirit of solidarity, and stand ready to cooperate with and support the armed forces and the Public Security forces in preventing and combating activities aimed at inciting ethnic division and disrupting the peaceful lives of the people.

2.2.4. Principles Governing the Implementation of Ethnic Policies

2.2.4.1. Solidarity Among Ethnic Groups

According to Ho Chi Minh, although the ethnic groups of Vietnam differ in their levels of development, customs, traditions, and languages, they share a common historical origin, destiny, and interests within a unified nation. This constitutes the objective and enduring foundation for building ethnic solidarity and generating the collective strength of the entire nation in the revolutionary cause. Solidarity is not

only the basis for mobilizing the people to safeguard national independence and sovereignty but also a prerequisite for building a new society in which all ethnic groups enjoy prosperity, freedom, and happiness.

2.2.4.2. Equality Among Ethnic Groups

In Ho Chi Minh's Thought, the principle of equality among ethnic groups is rooted in the recognition of fundamental human rights as universal values that constitute the foundation of every nation and state. Ho Chi Minh creatively applied this principle to Vietnam's historical and social conditions, thereby establishing an important theoretical foundation for ensuring equal relations among ethnic groups within the Vietnamese national community.

2.2.4.3. Mutual Assistance and Common Development Among Ethnic Groups

According to Ho Chi Minh, mutual assistance among ethnic groups must be founded on sincerity, reflecting the spirit of national solidarity and the shared responsibility of all ethnic groups within a unified nation. To genuinely realize the principles of equality, solidarity, and mutual assistance, it is essential to resolutely eliminate misconceptions and inappropriate practices; overcome feelings of inferiority, discord, and mistrust inherited from colonial and feudal rule; and build relationships of solidarity based on equality in both rights and obligations. At the same time, Ho Chi Minh emphasized the responsibility of Party committees, government authorities, mass organizations, and the contingent of cadres to overcome distorted attitudes such as ethnic chauvinism, narrow ethnic nationalism, and ethnic inferiority complexes. In his view, equality, solidarity, and mutual assistance among ethnic groups should not remain merely principles or policy orientations but must be effectively organized and translated into practice through the broad-based United National Front, while being closely linked to comprehensive economic, cultural, and social development in ethnic minority areas.

2.2.5. Ho Chi Minh's Views on the Methods of Implementing Ethnic Policies

2.2.5.1. Conducting Communication, Mobilization, Education, and Public Persuasion

According to Ho Chi Minh, communication, mobilization, education, and public persuasion constitute an integral component of ideological work. He regarded these activities as a unified process encompassing three interrelated dimensions: first, a proper understanding of the objectives and significance of communication and public persuasion; second, the appropriate methods of communication; and third, the requirements for those engaged in communication work. These three dimensions are inseparable and mutually reinforcing. Ho Chi Minh also emphasized that those responsible for communication and mobilization must have a thorough understanding of their target audience.

2.2.5.2. Training, Developing, and Promoting the Role of Ethnic Minority Cadres

Ho Chi Minh attached particular importance to the training and development of ethnic minority cadres. In his view, this contingent plays a vital role because of its deep understanding of local realities, cultural traditions, and the psychology of ethnic communities, as well as its direct responsibility for disseminating the Party's guidelines and the State's policies and laws, and for mobilizing people in ethnic minority and mountainous areas to implement them. In training ethnic minority cadres, Ho Chi Minh emphasized the close integration of learning with practical tasks, the combination of political and cultural education with productive labor, and the rejection of lengthy and impractical forms of study.

2.2.5.3. Promoting the Spirit of Self-Governance, Self-Reliance, Self-Strengthening, and Self-Advancement among Ethnic Communities

According to Ho Chi Minh, alongside the preferential policies of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the State, the successful implementation of ethnic policies and the improvement of the people's living standards depend fundamentally on the continuous efforts of ethnic communities to advance through solidarity, mutual affection, and mutual assistance, as well as through their active, self-conscious, and voluntary participation in the country's construction and development. This constitutes an essential requirement for the effective implementation of ethnic policies in Vietnam and an important condition for the country's sustainable development.

2.2.5.4. Formulating Appropriate, Targeted, and Preferential Policies to Support the Socio-Economic Development of Ethnic Minority Areas

According to Ho Chi Minh, the effective implementation of ethnic policies and the strengthening of ethnic solidarity require a thorough understanding of mountainous areas, their people, and ethnic communities, because each ethnic group possesses its own distinctive way of life, cultural identity, language, and psychological characteristics. To successfully carry out the revolutionary cause in general, and ethnic affairs in particular, it is necessary to study and gain a thorough understanding of the customs and practices of each locality. For ethnic minority and mountainous areas, determining appropriate policy content, implementation measures, and implementation roadmaps suited to specific local conditions is of decisive importance for ensuring policy effectiveness. Therefore, ethnic policies must be tailored to the distinctive characteristics of each region and each ethnic group, while respecting their legitimate interests, cultural values, traditions, writing systems, languages, and customs. During the implementation process, particular attention should be paid to the specific characteristics of each ethnic group arising from

differences in psychology, beliefs, culture, customs, and levels of socio-economic development, thereby enabling the adoption of policy measures appropriate to each region and ethnic group.

Chapter 2 Summary

Chapter 2 clarifies the fundamental theoretical issues concerning the implementation of ethnic policies in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's Thought, thereby providing the scientific foundation for analyzing the current situation and proposing solutions for the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region. As the theoretical foundation of the dissertation, this chapter establishes the key conceptual framework and elucidates the core elements of Ho Chi Minh's Thought on ethnic policies and their implementation, ensuring a close linkage between theoretical analysis and empirical investigation.

The chapter first defines the concepts of *ethnic group*, *ethnic policy*, and *the implementation of ethnic policies in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's Thought*, thereby providing the methodological foundation for the dissertation. By applying these concepts to the specific conditions of the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region, the chapter demonstrates that the implementation of ethnic policies is a comprehensive, continuous, and well-organized socio-political process closely associated with the region's historical characteristics, natural conditions, level of socio-economic development, socio-cultural context, and multi-ethnic composition.

The chapter further analyzes Ho Chi Minh's Thought on the implementation of ethnic policies, highlighting the strategic significance of ethnic issues in the Vietnamese revolutionary cause. According to Ho Chi Minh, the implementation of ethnic policies is intended not only to ensure equality, solidarity, and mutual assistance among ethnic groups but also to promote comprehensive development, improve the material and spiritual well-being of ethnic communities, strengthen the great national unity bloc, maintain political stability, and reinforce national defense and security.

On this basis, the chapter identifies the objectives, policy actors, and policy beneficiaries, as well as the key areas of policy implementation. It also clarifies the guiding principles of solidarity, equality, and mutual assistance for common development as the fundamental values and methodological norms governing the implementation of ethnic policies. Finally, the chapter examines the principal methods of policy implementation, including communication, public mobilization, and education; promoting the role of cadres, particularly ethnic minority cadres; fostering the spirit of self-reliance and self-strengthening; and formulating policies tailored to the specific characteristics of each region and ethnic group.

Chapter 3

CURRENT SITUATION AND EMERGING ISSUES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ETHNIC POLICIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH HO CHI MINH'S THOUGHT IN THE NORTHERN MIDLANDS AND MOUNTAINOUS REGION

3.1. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NORTHERN MIDLANDS AND MOUNTAINOUS REGION AND ITS ETHNIC COMMUNITIES

3.1.1. Characteristics of the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region

The geographical location, together with the region's natural, economic, socio-cultural, and national defense and security conditions, provides favorable opportunities for socio-economic development, cultural preservation, the strengthening of the great national unity bloc, and the enhancement of the national defense posture. At the same time, these characteristics pose significant challenges to the implementation of ethnic policies. Rugged terrain, harsh climatic conditions, inadequate infrastructure, limited income, the relatively low quality of human resources, and disparities in education and healthcare reduce both the effectiveness and sustainability of policy implementation, constrain ethnic communities' access to and benefits from public policies, and place greater demands on national defense and security governance. Therefore, the implementation of ethnic policies must be closely integrated with safeguarding border security, strengthening the confidence of ethnic communities in the Party and the State, and maintaining socio-political stability at the grassroots level.

3.1.2. Characteristics of the Ethnic Communities in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region

In 2024, the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region had a population of approximately 13.3389 million, accounting for about 15.2% of Vietnam's total population. However, its population density remained relatively low at 140.1 persons per square kilometer, higher only than that of the Central Highlands. The region has the highest proportion of ethnic minority people in the country, comprising 31 ethnic groups, with ethnic minorities accounting for more than 80% of the population in many provinces.

The region's diverse socio-cultural characteristics and multi-ethnic composition exert a direct influence on the implementation of ethnic policies, particularly in the context of relatively low educational attainment and limited access to information and legal knowledge. In addition, a proportion of the population continues to exhibit a mindset of dependence on State support due to an incomplete understanding of ethnic policies. Therefore, the implementation of ethnic policies should be flexible and people-centered, recognizing ethnic communities as the principal actors of the development process, combining material support with capacity building, and

respecting and promoting the cultural identities of ethnic groups in order to strengthen the great national unity bloc.

3.2. CURRENT SITUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ETHNIC POLICIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH HO CHI MINH'S THOUGHT IN THE NORTHERN MIDLANDS AND MOUNTAINOUS REGION (2015-2025)

3.2.1. Formulation and Implementation of Ethnic Policies in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region in Accordance with Ho Chi Minh's Thought (2015-2025)

During the 2015-2025 period, the Communist Party of Vietnam and the State promulgated a relatively comprehensive system of guidelines and policies aimed at promoting the development of ethnic minority and mountainous areas, reflecting the inheritance and application of Ho Chi Minh's Thought on ethnic affairs. These policies focused on economic development, sustainable poverty reduction, improving educational attainment, safeguarding national defense and security, and preserving and promoting the cultural identities of ethnic groups, thereby gradually improving the living standards of ethnic communities.

From an institutional perspective, the system of ethnic policies continued to be strengthened through the 2013 Constitution, together with 97 laws and codes containing nearly 300 provisions related to ethnic affairs. In addition, the Government and the Prime Minister issued 188 policies that remain in force, including 136 ethnic policies. Nevertheless, the distribution of policies across sectors has remained uneven, particularly in healthcare, culture, and national defense and security, indicating that the goal of human-centered development advocated in Ho Chi Minh's Thought has not yet been fully realized.

From the perspective of strategic orientation, major Party resolutions, including Resolution No. 24-NQ/TW (2003), Resolution No. 37-NQ/TW (2004), and Resolution No. 11-NQ/TW (2022), established a regional development approach centered on harnessing regional potential, ensuring equality among ethnic groups, and integrating economic development with the strengthening of national defense and security. In the subsequent period, the promulgation of Resolution No. 88/2019/QH14, Resolution No. 120/2020/QH14, and Decision No. 1719/QD-TTg (2021) provided an important legal framework for the National Target Program on Socio-Economic Development in Ethnic Minority and Mountainous Areas. These instruments also contributed to improving regional planning and coordination mechanisms, although limitations remain in certain areas, particularly forest management, protection, and development, owing to inadequate resources and implementation mechanisms.

At the local level, provinces in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region proactively translated the central government's guidelines into resolutions, programs, and implementation plans tailored to local conditions. Their efforts

focused on sustainable poverty reduction, socio-economic development in ethnic minority areas, social welfare, strengthening national defense and security, and reinforcing the great national unity bloc. Several provinces, including Ha Giang, Tuyen Quang, Hoa Binh, Dien Bien, and Lang Son, adopted specialized resolutions, accelerated administrative reform, strengthened decentralization, and effectively implemented the National Target Program in accordance with local circumstances.

3.2.2. Achievements, Limitations, and Their Causes in the Implementation of Ethnic Policies in Accordance with Ho Chi Minh's Thought in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region (2015-2025)

3.2.2.1. Achievements and Their Causes in the Implementation of Ethnic Policies in Accordance with Ho Chi Minh's Thought in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region (2015-2025)

Achievements

First, the awareness of Party committees, government authorities, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, and mass organizations regarding the position, role, and significance of implementing ethnic policies in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's Thought in the cause of national renewal has gradually improved.

Second, the implementation of ethnic policies in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's Thought in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region has achieved positive outcomes in terms of policy actors, policy beneficiaries, and the participation of various social forces, thereby reflecting the principle of "taking the people as the root" and promoting the strength of the great national unity bloc.

Third, significant progress has been made in safeguarding and promoting the right to mastery of ethnic minority communities, gradually affirming their role as the principal actors in local socio-economic development.

Fourth, the system of ethnic policies has contributed to the comprehensive development of the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region, demonstrating the application of Ho Chi Minh's Thought to the development of ethnic minority areas in line with the national development strategy, improving people's living standards, and promoting local endogenous strengths.

Fifth, the implementation of the principles of solidarity, equality, and mutual assistance among ethnic groups has produced positive results, as reflected in improved social relations and enhanced trust and consensus among ethnic communities.

Sixth, important innovations have been introduced in the methods of implementing ethnic policies for ethnic minority communities, contributing to greater policy effectiveness and efficiency while generating positive changes across multiple dimensions.

Causes of the Achievements

First, the strong, consistent, and continuous leadership and direction of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the State from the central to the local levels.

Second, the effective promotion of the strength of the great national unity bloc in conjunction with enhancing the role of ethnic minority communities as the principal actors in the development process.

Third, the organization and implementation of ethnic policies have been continuously improved toward clearer accountability, greater responsiveness to practical conditions, and higher effectiveness.

Fourth, notable progress in economic development and the increasingly effective utilization of the region's comparative advantages and development potential. The Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region possesses abundant resources, including land, forests, minerals, hydropower, ecological tourism, cultural tourism, and high-value specialty agricultural production.

Fifth, increasingly coordinated investment in infrastructure development and the continuous improvement of the investment and business environment.

Sixth, the synchronized implementation of social welfare policies and ethnic affairs policies.

Seventh, the maintenance of national defense and security, the preservation of socio-political stability, and the promotion of peaceful, friendly, and cooperative border areas.

3.2.2.2. Limitations and Their Causes in the Implementation of Ethnic Policies in Accordance with Ho Chi Minh's Thought in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region (2015-2025)

Limitations

First, the absence of an effective regional coordination mechanism and interregional linkages has limited policy coherence, while the existing system of ethnic policies has not been sufficiently adapted to the specific characteristics of the region.

Second, the limited capacity of the cadre contingent and the inadequacy of resources for policy implementation have directly affected the effectiveness of implementing ethnic policies in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region.

Third, poverty reduction outcomes have not yet been sustainable; economic restructuring in ethnic minority areas has progressed slowly, and income disparities among ethnic groups remain considerable.

Fourth, the implementation of cultural and social policies has encountered numerous difficulties, particularly in preserving traditional cultural values, while the quality of education and healthcare services remains inadequate.

Fifth, the political security situation and social order and safety in ethnic minority areas of the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region continue to face a number of potential challenges, requiring further improvements in the implementation of ethnic policies in conjunction with strengthening national defense and security.

Sixth, the methods of implementing ethnic policies continue to reveal several shortcomings, particularly in policy communication and dissemination, as well as in the professional capacity of officials engaged in ethnic affairs.

Causes of the Limitations

First, the limitations in implementing ethnic policies in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region stem in part from the region's harsh natural conditions and highly fragmented terrain.

Second, the region's relatively low level of socio-economic development constitutes a direct cause of many shortcomings in the implementation of ethnic policies.

Third, social, demographic, and customary barriers have significantly constrained the effectiveness of ethnic policy implementation.

Fourth, the insufficient proactiveness and political commitment of certain Party committees and local authorities have adversely affected policy implementation.

Fifth, a mindset of dependence on support from the central government and the State continues to exist among a proportion of both officials and local residents.

Sixth, shortcomings remain in policy direction, administration, and implementation.

Seventh, limitations persist in communication and public mobilization methods, as well as in the quality and capacity of officials engaged in ethnic affairs.

Eighth, both domestic and international developments have created additional challenges and pressures for the implementation of ethnic policies.

Ninth, institutional shortcomings, slow administrative reform, and the limited application of information technology have also reduced the effectiveness of ethnic policies.

3.3. KEY ISSUES ARISING FROM THE CURRENT SITUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ETHNIC POLICIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH HO CHI MINH'S THOUGHT IN THE NORTHERN MIDLANDS AND MOUNTAINOUS REGION (2015-2025)

3.3.1. Issues Concerning Awareness and Methods of Implementing Ethnic Policies in the Spirit of Ho Chi Minh's Thought

3.3.2. Issues Concerning the Coherence and Consistency of the Policy System and Implementation Coordination Mechanisms

3.3.3. Issues Concerning Resources, Administrative Procedures, and the Progress of Ethnic Policy Implementation

3.3.4. Issues Concerning Sustainable Development Associated with Livelihood Improvement and Narrowing Disparities in Access to Public Services

3.3.5. Issues Concerning Culture, Society, Human Resources, and the Requirement to Safeguard Political Stability, National Defense, and Security

Chapter 3 Summary

Chapter 3 provides a systematic analysis of the current situation of the implementation of ethnic policies in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's Thought in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region during the 2015-2025 period. The findings indicate that the implementation of the Party's guidelines and the State's ethnic policies has achieved significant accomplishments across various socio-economic sectors. Nevertheless, the implementation process continues to reveal a number of shortcomings and challenges.

Based on an analysis of the achievements, limitations, and their underlying causes, the chapter identifies the key issues that must be addressed in order to further improve the implementation of ethnic policies in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's Thought. These issues include enhancing awareness, reforming institutional mechanisms and policy frameworks, strengthening the effectiveness of state governance, and improving implementation methods in a manner that is responsive to the new development context and the distinctive characteristics of the region.

The findings of this chapter provide the foundation for Chapter 4, which proposes strategic orientations and practical solutions to enhance the effectiveness of ethnic policy implementation and promote the sustainable development of the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region.

Chapter 4

ORIENTATIONS AND SOLUTIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ETHNIC POLICIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH HO CHI MINH'S THOUGHT IN THE NORTHERN MIDLANDS AND MOUNTAINOUS REGION IN THE COMING PERIOD

4.1. FORECAST OF FACTORS AFFECTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ETHNIC POLICIES IN THE NORTHERN MIDLANDS AND MOUNTAINOUS REGION

4.1.1. Impacts of the International Context

First, the evolving trends of peace and cooperation, alongside conflicts and wars in the contemporary international environment, are exerting increasingly profound influences on cooperation among nations. These developments will create new opportunities while simultaneously posing significant challenges for Vietnam in general and the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region in particular.

Second, the continuing expansion of globalization and deeper international integration across multiple fields will have direct and comprehensive impacts on the socio-economic, cultural, and human development of the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region. Third, the Fourth Industrial Revolution (Industry 4.0) will have significant implications for the implementation of ethnic policies in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region.

4.1.2. Impacts of the Domestic Context

First, climate change and natural disasters will continue to affect the livelihoods and production activities of local people, particularly ethnic minority communities, thereby influencing the effectiveness of ethnic policy implementation in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region.

Second, the merger of administrative units and the reorganization and streamlining of the two-tier local government system will have significant implications for the implementation of ethnic policies in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region.

Third, ethnic and religious issues, together with attempts by hostile forces to exploit these issues, will continue to affect the implementation of ethnic policies in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region.

Fourth, the restructuring of the economy toward industrialization and modernization will have important implications for the implementation of ethnic policies.

Fifth, the Party's policy of developing tourism into a spearhead economic sector will create both opportunities and challenges for the implementation of ethnic policies in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region.

Sixth, the Party's policy of promoting a circular economy and green growth will also influence the implementation of ethnic policies in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region.

4.2. ORIENTATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ETHNIC POLICIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH HO CHI MINH'S THOUGHT IN THE NORTHERN MIDLANDS AND MOUNTAINOUS REGION TOWARD 2030, WITH A VISION TO 2045

4.2.1. Implement Ethnic Policies in Close Association with the Tasks of Building, Developing, and Firmly Safeguarding the Fatherland in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region

4.2.2. Implement Ethnic Policies on the Basis of Consolidating and Promoting the Great National Unity Bloc while Ensuring the Principles of Solidarity, Equality, Mutual Support, and Shared Development

4.2.3. Implement Ethnic Policies in Conjunction with Fostering Independence, Self-Reliance, Self-Strengthening, and the Preservation and Promotion of the Cultural Identities of Ethnic Groups

4.2.4. Implement Ethnic Policies in a Manner Appropriate to the Characteristics of Each Region and Each Ethnic Group, with a Focus on Sustainable Socio-Economic Development, Effective Poverty Reduction, and Narrowing Development Gaps

4.2.5. Implement Ethnic Policies in Association with Improving Educational Attainment, Gradually Eliminating Backward Customs and Practices, and Promoting Gender Equality

4.3. SOLUTIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ETHNIC POLICIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH HO CHI MINH'S THOUGHT IN THE NORTHERN MIDLANDS AND MOUNTAINOUS REGION TOWARD 2030, WITH A VISION TO 2045

4.3.1. Raise the Awareness of Policy Implementers and Promote the Proactive Role of Policy Beneficiaries in the Implementation of Ethnic Policies

4.3.2. Improve Institutional Mechanisms and Policies to Enhance the Effectiveness of Ethnic Policy Implementation

4.3.3. Effectively Organize the Implementation of Ethnic Policies in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region

4.3.4. Strengthen Inspection and Supervision; Conduct Preliminary Reviews, Final Reviews, and Lessons-Learned Assessments in the Implementation of Ethnic Policies in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region

4.3.5. Enhance the Climate Change Adaptation Capacity of Ethnic Minority Communities in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region

4.3.6. Promote the Spirit of Self-Reliance and Self-Strengthening among Ethnic Minority Communities

Chapter 4 Summary

Chapter 4 focuses on forecasting the international and domestic contexts as well as the factors affecting the implementation of ethnic policies in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's Thought in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region in the new situation. At the same time, the chapter identifies orientations and proposes solutions to concretize Ho Chi Minh's Thought in practice.

Accordingly, the dissertation affirms the particularly important role of consolidating and promoting the great national unity bloc in ensuring stability and sustainable development of the region. Based on theoretical analysis and practical assessment, the chapter identifies fundamental orientations for implementing ethnic policies in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region, including: linking ethnic policy implementation with the strategy of building and safeguarding the

Fatherland; consolidating the great national unity bloc on the basis of solidarity, equality, mutual support, and shared development; promoting the spirit of self-reliance and self-strengthening in association with preserving cultural identities; ensuring policies are appropriate to the characteristics of each region and ethnic group; promoting sustainable socio-economic development, poverty reduction, and narrowing development gaps; and associating policy implementation with improving educational attainment, eliminating backward customs, and promoting gender equality.

On that basis, the dissertation proposes a comprehensive set of solutions that are synchronous and appropriate to the specific characteristics of the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region.

CONCLUSION

Based on a systematic study of both theoretical and practical aspects, the dissertation has contributed to clarifying the content, approaches, and conditions ensuring the organization and implementation of ethnic policies in accordance with Ho Chi Minh's Thought in the current context.

Through a selective review of domestic and international studies, the dissertation identifies major research achievements and points out existing research gaps, particularly regarding the application of Ho Chi Minh's Thought to the practical implementation of ethnic policies in specific regions.

The dissertation also conducts an assessment of the current implementation of ethnic policies in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region, demonstrating significant achievements in improving socio-economic conditions, enhancing the living standards of ethnic minority communities, strengthening grassroots political systems, and maintaining political and social stability. However, the implementation process still faces several limitations, including disparities in development among localities, the limited effectiveness of some policies, and the fact that policy implementation in certain areas remains formalistic and insufficiently adapted to the specific characteristics of different regions and ethnic groups. Based on the analysis of the current situation and influencing factors, the dissertation identifies orientations and proposes six major groups of solutions to improve the effectiveness of ethnic policy implementation in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region.

In the context of the country's new development stage, continued research, application, and development of Ho Chi Minh's Thought on ethnic policies are of particular importance. With the results achieved, the dissertation contributes to enriching and deepening scientific understanding while providing important theoretical and practical foundations for policy formulation and implementation.

LIST OF PUBLISHED WORKS BY THE AUTHOR RELATED TO THE THESIS

1. Dang Ngoc Mai (2024), “Applying Ho Chi Minh Thought on Cultural and Educational Development for Ethnic Minority Communities in Ha Giang Province”, *Journal of Ho Chi Minh Studies*, No. 63, pp. 91-97.
2. Dang Ngoc Mai (2024), “Applying Ho Chi Minh Thought in the Implementation of Ethnic Policies in Ha Giang Province”, *Political Theory Journal*, Special Issue, Fourth Quarter, pp. 174-181
3. Dang Ngoc Mai (2025), “Principles for Implementing Ethnic Policies in Accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought in the Cause of National Renewal”, *Youth Magazine*, No. 87, pp. 6-8.