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**THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW ON SOCIAL ASSISTANCE
FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
IN THE NORTHERN BORDER PROVINCES OF VIETNAM**

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INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale for the Study

Globally, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 1.3 billion people are currently living with disabilities, equivalent to about 16% of the world's population. In Vietnam, the disability rate among persons aged two years and older nationwide in 2023 was 6.11%; the rate in rural areas was higher than that in urban areas, at 6.89% and 4.78%, respectively. Among children aged 2 to 17 years, the disability rate was 1.98%; among persons aged 16 years and older, it was 7.31%. These figures show that persons with disabilities constitute a sizeable and vulnerable social group that requires due attention in the development, improvement, and implementation of the law on social assistance.

In the context of Vietnam's ongoing development of a socialist rule-of-law State, promotion of digital transformation, and implementation of the sustainable development goals, the requirement is not only to continue improving social security policies but also to ensure that legal provisions on social assistance for persons with disabilities are implemented correctly, fully, promptly, and in a manner that can be verified in practice. From a legal perspective, social assistance for persons with disabilities is not a form of discretionary charity; rather, it is a means of realizing the right to social security, the right to equality, the right to non-discrimination, and the right to community inclusion.

Vietnam's northern border provinces, namely Lang Son, Cao Bang, Tuyen Quang, Lao Cai, Lai Chau, and Dien Bien, hold particularly important positions in national defense, security, foreign affairs, and socio-economic development. At the same time, they are characterized by complex terrain, dispersed populations, a high proportion of ethnic minority people, and considerable limitations in access to infrastructure, social services, and digital technologies. Persons with disabilities in this region often face a 'double barrier' arising from poverty, geographical distance, language, customs, limited legal information, and inadequate support services. These

conditions warrant a separate study of the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in the northern border area, rather than an examination conducted only at the national level.

On the basis of the above political, legal, theoretical, and practical considerations, the selection of the topic "The Implementation of Law on Social assistance for persons with disabilities in the Northern border provinces of Vietnam" for a doctoral dissertation in the major of Theory and History of State and Law is necessary and has significant theoretical and practical value.

2. Research Objectives and Tasks

2.1. Research Objective

The objective of the dissertation is to clarify the theoretical and practical foundations of the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in Vietnam's northern border provinces; to identify the achievements, limitations, bottlenecks, and causes arising in the processes of compliance with, execution of, use of, and application of law; and, on that basis, to propose viewpoints and solutions for ensuring the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in a manner consistent with human rights requirements, the specific characteristics of the study area, and the country's new development conditions.

2.2. Research Tasks

First, to systematically review domestic and international studies relating to persons with disabilities, the rights of persons with disabilities, social assistance, the law on social assistance, and the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities; thereby identifying the values to be inherited, the limitations of published studies, and the research gaps that the dissertation needs to address.

Second, to develop the theoretical foundations for the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities, including its concept, characteristics, role, principles, contents of legal regulation, forms of law implementation, subjects implementing the law, conditions for ensuring implementation, and

criteria for evaluating the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities.

Third, to examine the experience of selected countries in implementing the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities and, on that basis, to draw lessons of reference value for Vietnam.

Fourth, to analyze influencing factors; assess the current state of the law and the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in Vietnam's northern border provinces according to the forms of law implementation and key substantive areas; and clarify the achievements, limitations, bottlenecks, and causes.

Fifth, to propose viewpoints and solutions for ensuring the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in Vietnam's northern border provinces by linking legal improvement with greater effectiveness of implementation, and by ensuring resources, data, supervision, and accountability.

3. Research Subject and Scope

3.1. Research Subject

The subject of the dissertation is the theoretical and practical issues concerning the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in Vietnam's northern border provinces, with a focus on the relationship between legal provisions on social assistance for persons with disabilities and the processes by which relevant subjects comply with, execute, use, and apply the law in order to ensure, in practice, the right of persons with disabilities to social assistance.

3.2. Scope of the Study

- In terms of content: The dissertation analyzes the theoretical foundations and current state of the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in Vietnam's northern border provinces from the legal-science perspective of the major of Theory and History of State and Law.

- In terms of geographical scope: The study covers the

northern border provinces of Vietnam, namely Dien Bien, Lai Chau, Lao Cai, Tuyen Quang, Lang Son, and Cao Bang.

- In terms of time: The study uses information and survey data collected, analyzed, and processed, and develops its proposals on the basis of data for the 2020-2025 period.

4. Theoretical Basis and Research Methods

4.1. Theoretical Basis

The dissertation is based on Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh Thought, the viewpoints of the Communist Party of Vietnam, and the laws of the State concerning persons with disabilities and social assistance. It adopts a rights-based approach that regards persons with disabilities as rights holders, while applying theories of the socialist rule-of-law State, law implementation, social security, and the standards of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to analyze the responsibilities of the State and the conditions for ensuring the right of persons with disabilities to social assistance.

4.2. Research Methods

On the methodological foundations of dialectical materialism and historical materialism, the dissertation employs a combination of research methods, including analysis, synthesis, logical and historical methods, statistics, and sociological investigation. The combination of these methods is intended to clarify the theoretical foundations, assess the current implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities, identify limitations and their causes, and propose appropriate solutions, thereby ensuring logical coherence between theory and practice.

5. New Contributions of the Dissertation

The dissertation contributes to developing the theory of implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities from a rights-based approach, and clarifies the role of social assistance and the forms of law implementation in ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities.

The dissertation systematically analyzes the current implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in the northern border provinces, thereby identifying achievements, limitations, bottlenecks, and their causes in the implementation process.

On that basis, the dissertation proposes viewpoints and solutions for improving the law, enhancing the effectiveness of implementation, strengthening resources and coordination mechanisms, and improving supervision and accountability in a manner suited to the specific characteristics of the northern border provinces.

6. Theoretical and Practical Significance of the Dissertation

Theoretical significance: The research findings of the dissertation contribute scientific arguments to the understanding and application of the theory of law implementation in the field of social assistance for persons with disabilities. They clarify the relationship among law, law implementation, the protection of human rights, and social security for vulnerable groups in the process of building the socialist rule-of-law State of Vietnam. The findings may also serve as reference materials for research, teaching, and learning on the theory of law implementation, the law on social assistance, and the rights of persons with disabilities.

Practical significance: The research findings of the dissertation provide reference value for state management agencies, local authorities, social assistance establishments, socio-political organizations, and other relevant subjects in organizing the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities, particularly in areas with specific conditions such as the northern border provinces. The dissertation helps identify issues concerning beneficiary identification, benefit payments, access to legal information and public services, social security data, inter-sectoral coordination, and implementation supervision, thereby contributing to legal improvement and to more effective protection of the right of persons with disabilities to social assistance.

7. Structure of the Dissertation

In addition to the Introduction and Conclusion, the list of the author's scientific works related to the dissertation, the references, and the appendices, the dissertation is structured into four chapters.

Chapter 1

OVERVIEW OF RELEVANT RESEARCH

1.1. RESEARCH IN VIETNAM

1.1.1. Studies on persons with disabilities, the law on persons with disabilities, and social assistance for persons with disabilities

Domestic studies have clarified the concept and rights of persons with disabilities, the law on persons with disabilities, and social assistance, while also assessing the current state of policies and laws and proposing various solutions for improvement.

1.1.2. Studies related to the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities

Studies on the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities have clarified the theoretical foundations, current state, and solutions for implementing social assistance policies. These studies constitute an important source of materials for the dissertation to inherit and develop.

1.2. INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH RELATED TO THE DISSERTATION TOPIC

1.2.1. Studies related to persons with disabilities and social assistance for persons with disabilities

International studies have clarified the rights of persons with disabilities, social assistance policies, and experience in implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. They provide an important reference source that enables the dissertation to approach international standards and experience.

1.2.2. Studies related to the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities

International studies have provided relatively comprehensive analyses of the implementation of law and social assistance policies and of the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, clarifying the role of the State, subjects implementing the law, resources, and supervision mechanisms. These studies provide

important reference materials for the dissertation in examining international models and experience concerning law implementation in the field of social assistance for persons with disabilities.

1.3. ASSESSMENT OF PUBLISHED RESEARCH AND ISSUES REQUIRING FURTHER STUDY

1.3.1. Assessment of studies related to the dissertation topic

A review of domestic and international studies confirms that previous research has established an important scientific foundation for the dissertation. Studies on persons with disabilities and their rights have clarified the rights-based approach, under which persons with disabilities are regarded as rights holders. This provides a basis for the dissertation to view social assistance not merely as material support but also as a means of ensuring the human rights, citizens' rights, and social security rights of persons with disabilities.

1.3.1.2. Contents inherited and further developed by the dissertation

Theoretically: The dissertation inherits studies on persons with disabilities, social assistance, and law implementation in order to develop a theoretical framework for the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities.

Practically: The dissertation builds on published data, experience, and research findings to analyze the current state, limitations, bottlenecks, and causes in the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in the northern border provinces.

In terms of approach: The dissertation adopts a rights-based approach, viewing social assistance for persons with disabilities as both a legal relationship and a process of law implementation aimed at ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities in practice.

1.3.1.3. Research gaps requiring further clarification

The dissertation identifies four major research gaps: (i) there has been no direct and systematic study of the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities from the perspective of the major of Theory and History of State and Law,

particularly in terms of the forms of compliance with, execution of, use of, and application of law; (ii) the specific characteristics of the northern border provinces and their impacts on the effectiveness of law implementation have not been analyzed in depth; (iii) the relationship among law, implementation organization, resources, data, supervision, handling of violations, and accountability in ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities has not been sufficiently clarified; and (iv) the impacts of new requirements, including digital transformation, social security data governance, administrative reform, climate change, and particularly vulnerable groups of persons with disabilities, have not been adequately examined in the current context.

1.3.2. Issues to be further examined by the dissertation

First, to develop a theoretical framework for the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities, clearly identifying the concept, characteristics, role, principles, contents of legal regulation, forms of law implementation, subjects, conditions for ensuring implementation, and evaluation criteria.

Second, to analyze the current implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in the northern border provinces by combining data, surveys, interviews, inter-provincial comparisons, and an assessment of causes in two groups: causes arising from legal provisions and causes arising from implementation.

Third, to propose viewpoints and solutions for ensuring the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in the northern border provinces by directly linking the solutions to the identified limitations and causes, with emphasis on legal improvement, enhanced enforcement capacity, adequate resources, digital transformation, transparency, supervision, and accountability.

1.3.3. Research Hypothesis and Research Questions

1.3.3.1. Research hypothesis

The implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities is important for ensuring rights and promoting community inclusion, particularly in Vietnam's northern border provinces. Although certain positive results have been achieved, law implementation in this field remains limited due to shortcomings in legal provisions, resources, data, infrastructure, coordination mechanisms, and the specific conditions of mountainous and border areas. To improve implementation effectiveness, the law needs to be further improved in line with a rights-based approach, the responsibilities of subjects implementing the law need to be clearly defined, and enabling conditions relating to finance, human resources, data, supervision, and the application of digital transformation need to be strengthened. These measures will contribute to better ensuring the right to social assistance, the right to equality, and the right to community inclusion of persons with disabilities.

1.3.3.2. Research questions

General research question: From the perspective of the major of Theory and History of State and Law, how should the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in Vietnam's northern border provinces be understood, assessed, and ensured in the context of building a rule-of-law State, digital transformation, and the requirement to substantively ensure the rights to social security and equality and the capacity for community inclusion of persons with disabilities?

Specific research questions: First, what contents should constitute the theoretical foundations for the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities so as to provide a basis for assessing the current state and proposing solutions to ensure such implementation in Vietnam's northern border provinces? Second, what major achievements, limitations, bottlenecks, and causes are revealed by the current implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in Vietnam's northern

border provinces, particularly under the impacts of mountainous and border-area conditions and the requirements of digital transformation in the management and provision of social assistance services? Third, what viewpoints and solutions should be established to ensure the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in Vietnam's northern border provinces by linking the solutions with the identified limitations, bottlenecks, and causes?

1.3.3.3. Analytical framework of the dissertation

The analytical framework of the dissertation is developed on the basis of the theory of law implementation, the human rights-based approach, Vietnamese legal provisions, international standards, and the specific characteristics of the northern border provinces. Accordingly, social assistance for persons with disabilities is approached as a process of realizing the right to social security and the rights of persons with disabilities. The analytical framework comprises five basic components: political and legal foundations and international standards; the contents of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities; forms of law implementation; conditions for ensuring law implementation; and the specific characteristics of the northern border area in the context of building a rule-of-law State, digital transformation, and inclusive development.

Chapter 2

THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW ON SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

2.1. CONCEPT, CHARACTERISTICS, AND ROLE OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW ON SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

2.1.1. Concept of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities and implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities

2.1.1.1. Concept of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities

Persons with disabilities are understood as persons who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments which, in interaction with social barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

Social assistance for persons with disabilities is understood as the totality of regimes, measures, and services prescribed by law and organized by the State to support persons with disabilities in overcoming difficulties, ensure a minimum standard of living, provide care and support when necessary, enable access to basic social services, enhance independent living, and facilitate equal participation in social life on the basis of respecting, protecting, and ensuring human rights, consistent with the spirit of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The law on social assistance for persons with disabilities is the body of legal norms promulgated by the State in accordance with prescribed processes, procedures, and forms to regulate social relations arising in the determination, organization, and assurance of social assistance regimes for persons with disabilities; thereby ensuring appropriate support, access to basic social services, and the exercise of the right to participate equally in social life.

2.1.1.2. Concept of the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities

Implementation of the law on social assistance is the process by which agencies, organizations, individuals, and other relevant subjects engage in lawful conduct as required by the law on social assistance through the forms of compliance with, execution of, use of, and application of law, with a view to ensuring that eligible beneficiaries have full and timely access to social assistance regimes and basic social services.

Implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities is the process by which state agencies, organizations, individuals, families, communities, and persons with disabilities themselves realize the provisions of the law on social assistance through the forms of compliance with, execution of, use of, and application of law, thereby ensuring that the right of persons with disabilities to social assistance is realized for the correct beneficiaries, in accordance with the prescribed regimes, in a timely, equal, and transparent manner, and in conformity with their specific needs.

2.1.2. Characteristics of the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities

The implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities has the following specific characteristics: (1) it is service-oriented and is intended to ensure the enjoyment of rights by the specific group of persons with disabilities; (2) it involves the participation of multiple subjects; (3) it is complex and takes various forms of law implementation on a regular and continuous basis; (4) it is inter-sectoral and closely associated with economic, social, and cultural conditions; and (5) it has broad social implications and depends on the resources available to ensure implementation.

2.1.3. Role of the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities

The role of the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities includes the following: First, it contributes to realizing the guidelines and policies of the Party and the State aimed at human development. Second, it contributes to ensuring social security policies. Third, it contributes to ensuring the human rights and citizens' rights of persons with disabilities. Fourth, it contributes to fulfilling the responsibilities of the Party and the State of Vietnam to the international community in ensuring human rights in general and the rights of persons with disabilities in particular.

2.2. CONTENTS OF LEGAL REGULATION AND FORMS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW ON SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

2.2.1. Contents of legal regulation on social assistance for persons with disabilities

The author focuses on the following principal groups of legal provisions: (i) provisions on the principles for the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities; (ii) provisions on subjects implementing the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities; (iii) provisions on social assistance regimes for persons with disabilities; (iv) provisions on financial resources for implementing the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities; and (v) provisions on handling violations in the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities.

2.2.2. Forms of implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities

The implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities takes four basic forms: compliance with law, execution of law, use of law, and application of law. Compliance with law means that subjects refrain from acts prohibited by law; execution of law means performing legal obligations as prescribed; use of law means that persons with disabilities and relevant subjects exercise rights recognized by law; and application of law refers to activities undertaken by competent agencies and persons in resolving specific cases. These forms are closely interrelated and contribute to putting social assistance policies into practice and ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities.

2.3. CONDITIONS FOR ENSURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW ON SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The conditions for ensuring the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities include political, economic, socio-cultural, and legal conditions. Political conditions provide orientation and a basis for organizing policy implementation; economic conditions ensure resources for implementing social assistance regimes; socio-cultural conditions affect awareness, participation, and the ability of persons with disabilities to benefit from policies; and legal conditions ensure a complete, coherent, feasible, and accessible legal system together with effective mechanisms for implementation, supervision, and handling violations, thereby ensuring the right of persons with disabilities to social assistance in practice.

2.3.5. Criteria for evaluating the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities

Within the scope of the dissertation, these criteria are developed on the basis of the theory of law implementation, the rights-based approach, and the specific characteristics of the northern border provinces. They include: criteria concerning the completeness, coherence, consistency, feasibility, and accessibility of the law; criteria concerning correct beneficiary identification, correct application of regimes, timeliness, openness, and transparency in implementation; criteria concerning the ability of persons with

disabilities to access and use the law; criteria concerning the organizational and coordination capacity of subjects implementing the law; and criteria concerning resources, data, inspection, supervision, and accountability.

2.4. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW ON SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN SELECTED COUNTRIES AND REFERENCE VALUES FOR VIETNAM

2.4.1. Implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in selected countries

The dissertation examines the experience of the United States, Japan, China, and selected ASEAN countries. These countries were chosen because they have relatively developed systems of social assistance for persons with disabilities, are parties to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and have substantial experience in organizing policy implementation. At the same time, their diverse socio-economic conditions and governance models provide useful lessons for Vietnam.

2.4.2. Reference values for Vietnam

The experience of the United States, Japan, China, and selected ASEAN countries provides the following reference values for Vietnam in implementing the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities:

First, the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities must be based on a human rights-based approach.

Second, the implementation of the law on social assistance should be organized as a multi-tiered and interconnected system centered on persons with disabilities.

Third, the implementation of the law on social assistance should promote socialization and broaden the participation of non-state actors.

Fourth, conditions for law implementation, accessibility, assistive technology, and implementation resources must be ensured.

Fifth, the responsibilities of local authorities should be strengthened, together with supervision and accountability in implementing the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities.

Sixth, implementation should promote empowerment and inclusive development.

CHAPTER 3

FACTORS AFFECTING AND CURRENT STATE OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW ON SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN VIETNAM'S NORTHERN BORDER PROVINCES

3.1. FACTORS AFFECTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW ON SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN VIETNAM'S NORTHERN BORDER PROVINCES

3.1.1. Natural and geographical characteristics of Vietnam's northern border provinces

Vietnam's northern border provinces currently comprise Tuyen Quang, Cao Bang, Lang Son, Lao Cai, Lai Chau, and Dien Bien, which hold strategically important positions in national defense, security, and socio-economic development. The region is characterized by complex mountainous terrain, dispersed populations, high poverty rates, and considerable infrastructure limitations, all of which affect the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities. Although these provinces receive prioritized resources and support policies from the State, the provision of social assistance, rehabilitation, education, and health services for persons with disabilities continues to face many difficulties.

3.1.3. Population characteristics of Vietnam's northern border provinces

The northern border provinces have sparsely distributed populations, complex mountainous terrain, and many remote and isolated areas, which make access to public services difficult. The region is characterized by ethnic, cultural, and linguistic diversity and by the prominent role of traditional community institutions. However, limited infrastructure, language differences, and uneven social awareness have affected the effectiveness of implementing the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities.

3.1.4. Cultural and social characteristics of Vietnam's northern border provinces

The northern border provinces are characterized by ethnic, cultural, and linguistic diversity, together with strong traditions of community cohesion. However, educational levels and social awareness remain uneven, particularly in remote and isolated areas, affecting access to policies and the effectiveness of implementing the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities.

3.1.5. Institutions ensuring the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in Vietnam's northern border provinces

Under conditions of complex terrain, dispersed populations, and socio-economic difficulties, the effectiveness of implementing the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities depends on coordination among state agencies, social organizations, communities, and persons with disabilities themselves.

3.1.6. Social assistance needs of persons with disabilities in Vietnam's northern border provinces

The northern border provinces have a large number of persons with disabilities, primarily persons with severe and particularly severe disabilities, which increases the demand for social assistance. However, difficult terrain, limited infrastructure, and shortages of facilities and specialized personnel mean that many persons with disabilities still lack adequate access to health care, rehabilitation, education, vocational training, and employment services.

3.2. CURRENT STATE OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW ON SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN VIETNAM'S NORTHERN BORDER PROVINCES

3.2.1. Results of implementing the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in Vietnam's northern border provinces and their causes

3.2.1.1. Results of implementing the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in Vietnam's northern border provinces

- *Results concerning the provisions on the principles for the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in Vietnam's northern border provinces:* The research findings show that the principles of ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities, openness, transparency, equality, non-discrimination, and inter-sectoral coordination have gradually been implemented in the northern border provinces. Agencies, organizations, and communities have paid increasing attention to ensuring the right of persons with disabilities to social assistance, while the awareness and initiative of persons with disabilities in accessing policies have improved. Overall, the principles governing the implementation of the law on social assistance have increasingly been realized in practice, contributing to social security and promoting the community inclusion of persons with disabilities.

- *Results concerning the provisions on subjects implementing the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in Vietnam's northern border provinces:* The subjects implementing the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities, including state agencies, local authorities, socio-political organizations, social organizations, families, communities, and persons with disabilities themselves, have gradually strengthened their roles in organizing policy implementation. State management agencies have generally performed well their functions of administration, benefit determination, and social assistance payments; social organizations

and communities have actively participated in support activities, resource mobilization, and assistance for persons with disabilities. At the same time, the legal awareness and initiative of persons with disabilities in accessing and benefiting from policies have increased, contributing to the protection of their lawful rights and interests.

- *Results concerning the provisions on the implementation of social assistance regimes for persons with disabilities in Vietnam's northern border provinces:* The implementation of social assistance regimes for persons with disabilities in the northern border provinces has achieved a number of positive results, generally ensuring allowances, care, emergency assistance, and access to education, health care, and legal aid services. Persons with disabilities have become more proactive in accessing and benefiting from policies, while competent agencies have generally complied with the prescribed provisions. However, implementation effectiveness continues to be affected by administrative procedures, limitations in information, geographical conditions, and the coordination capacity of relevant agencies.

- *Results concerning the provisions on financial resources for implementing the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in Vietnam's northern border provinces:* Financial resources for social assistance for persons with disabilities in the northern border provinces have gradually been strengthened, contributing to the implementation of allowance, health care, rehabilitation, education, and other support services. Localities have proactively mobilized and integrated resources from the state budget, target programs, and resources mobilized from society, while attracting the participation of organizations, enterprises, and benefactors in supporting persons with disabilities. As a result, material conditions for implementation have improved, contributing to a better quality of life and greater social inclusion for persons with disabilities.

- *Results concerning the provisions on handling violations in the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with*

disabilities in Vietnam's northern border provinces: The implementation of provisions on handling violations in social assistance for persons with disabilities in the northern border provinces has generally been ensured through communication, inspection, supervision, and the receipt of feedback and complaints. These measures have contributed to limiting serious violations and improving publicity and transparency in policy implementation. Persons with disabilities, their families, and social organizations have become more proactive in supervision and in protecting their lawful rights and interests, while competent agencies have strengthened inspection, review, and corrective measures to address shortcomings arising in practice.

3.2.1.2. Causes of the results in implementing the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in Vietnam's northern border provinces

*** *Objective causes:*** The implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in the northern border provinces has been ensured by an increasingly improved legal system, political stability, socio-economic development, and the application of information technology. In addition, international integration and cooperation with international organizations have supplemented resources, experience, and technical expertise, thereby improving policy implementation, expanding opportunities for access to services, and promoting the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.

*** *Subjective causes:*** The effectiveness of implementing the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in the northern border provinces has been ensured by the attention of Party committees and local authorities, the capacity of grassroots-level officials, inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms, and legal communication and dissemination. At the same time, persons with disabilities have become increasingly aware of their right to social assistance, while the participation of social organizations, enterprises, and benefactors has supplemented resources, improved

the quality of support, and promoted the social inclusion of persons with disabilities.

3.2.2. Limitations in implementing the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in Vietnam's northern border provinces and their causes

3.2.2.1. Limitations in implementing the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in Vietnam's northern border provinces

- *Limitations concerning the provisions on the principles for the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in Vietnam's northern border provinces:* The implementation of legal principles on social assistance for persons with disabilities in the northern border provinces still has certain limitations, reflected in uneven access to services and policies, limited effectiveness of inter-sectoral coordination, and low levels of awareness and take-up of certain support policies.

- *Limitations concerning the provisions on subjects implementing the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in Vietnam's northern border provinces:* The implementation of provisions concerning subjects implementing the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in the northern border provinces still has certain limitations. Some persons with disabilities continue to experience disrespect, stigma, or difficulties when accessing state agencies and public services.

- *Limitations concerning the provisions on social assistance regimes for persons with disabilities in Vietnam's northern border provinces:* Although social assistance regimes for persons with disabilities have been implemented relatively fully in accordance with law, the level of benefit across policy groups remains uneven.

- *Limitations concerning the provisions on financial resources for implementing the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities:* The implementation of provisions on financial resources for social assistance for persons with disabilities in the northern

border provinces remains limited in terms of meeting actual needs, accessibility, and efficiency of use.

- Limitations concerning the provisions on handling violations in the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in Vietnam's northern border provinces: The application of provisions on handling violations in the field of social assistance for persons with disabilities remains limited in the detection, identification, and handling of violations. Shortcomings such as delayed processing of applications, omission of eligible beneficiaries, inaccurate determination of the degree of disability, or obstacles to policy access have not always been fully identified and addressed; meanwhile, persons with disabilities in remote and isolated areas continue to face difficulties in submitting feedback and petitions.

3.2.2.2. Causes of limitations in implementing the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in Vietnam's northern border provinces

The limitations in implementing the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in the northern border provinces arise from both objective and subjective causes. Objectively, the legal system remains insufficiently coherent; financial resources, facilities, and support services are still limited; and difficult geographical conditions, dispersed populations, and high poverty rates affect the ability of persons with disabilities to access policies. Subjectively, the capacity of some implementing officials, coordination mechanisms, communication and dissemination, supervision, and the awareness of persons with disabilities and their families regarding the right to social assistance remain limited, reducing the practical effectiveness of policy implementation.

CHAPTER 4
VIEWPOINTS AND SOLUTIONS FOR ENSURING THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW ON SOCIAL ASSISTANCE
FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN VIETNAM'S
NORTHERN BORDER PROVINCES

4.1. VIEWPOINTS ON ENSURING THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW ON SOCIAL
ASSISTANCE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN
VIETNAM'S NORTHERN BORDER PROVINCES

The viewpoints include: (1) the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in the northern border provinces must be associated with the effective implementation of the social and social security policies of the Party and the State; (2) awareness among relevant subjects of their roles, responsibilities, and the importance of implementing the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in Vietnam's northern border provinces must be enhanced; (3) the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities must ensure human rights and the lawful rights and interests of citizens in accordance with the Constitution and laws; (4) the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in Vietnam's northern border provinces must be consistent with economic, social, and cultural conditions and contribute to ensuring national defense and security; and (5) attention must be paid to gender mainstreaming and the application of specific measures to prevent and combat discrimination in implementing the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in Vietnam's northern border provinces.

4.2. SOLUTIONS FOR ENSURING THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW ON SOCIAL
ASSISTANCE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN
VIETNAM'S NORTHERN BORDER PROVINCES

To ensure the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in Vietnam's northern border provinces, seven groups of solutions should be implemented in a coordinated

manner: (1) strengthening the Party's leadership over the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in Vietnam's northern border provinces; (2) continuing to improve the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities; (3) consolidating the organizational apparatus and promoting the roles of subjects implementing the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in Vietnam's northern border provinces; (4) innovating communication, dissemination, and legal education concerning social assistance for persons with disabilities in Vietnam's northern border provinces; (5) ensuring economic resources and promoting the application of science and technology in implementing the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in Vietnam's northern border provinces; (6) strengthening supervision of the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities in the northern border provinces; and (7) applying specific measures to ensure the right of persons with disabilities in Vietnam's northern border provinces to benefit from social assistance policies.

CONCLUSION

Social assistance for persons with disabilities is an important instrument for ensuring human rights, citizens' rights, and social security. On the basis of theoretical and practical research, the dissertation has clarified the contents, forms, conditions for ensuring implementation, and criteria for evaluating the implementation of the law on social assistance for persons with disabilities. The research findings show that law implementation in the northern border provinces has achieved a number of positive results in policy implementation, resource mobilization, and improved access for persons with disabilities. However, limitations remain in the legal system, resources, service quality, the capacity of implementing personnel, coordination mechanisms, and conditions for policy access. On that basis, the dissertation proposes coordinated solutions to improve the law, enhance the effectiveness of implementation, strengthen resources, promote digital transformation, improve inspection and supervision, and reinforce accountability, thereby better ensuring the lawful rights and interests of persons with disabilities, promoting inclusive development, and advancing the goal of leaving no one behind.

LIST OF THE AUTHOR'S SCIENTIFIC WORKS RELATED TO THE DISSERTATION

1. Nguyen Thi Oanh (2024), *'Implementation of the Law on Social Assistance for Persons with Disabilities in Vietnam'*, Journal of State Management No. 338, published on March 26, 2024, ISSN 2354-0761

2. Nguyen Thi Oanh (2024), *'The Role of Social Assistance in Ensuring the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Lang Son Province at Present'*, Vietnam Social Sciences Review, July 2024 issue, ISSN 1013-4328

3. Nguyen Thi Oanh (2025), *'Cao Bang Province Implements Care Policies for Persons with Disabilities'*, Journal of State Management, February 2025 issue, ISSN 2354-0761