

THE PHILANTHROPIC LIFESTYLE IN HO CHI MINH CITY, VIET NAM IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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SUMMARY

Up to now, the COVID-19 pandemic is still very complicated in many countries around the world. In Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC), the COVID-19 pandemic has threatened the economic growth, business development, income and lifestyle of Ho Chi Minh City's people. The article analyzes and clarifies issues of concern related to the philanthropic lifestyle in Ho Chi Minh City in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Keyword: Ho Chi Minh City, Covid-19, lifestyle, philanthropic lifestyle

INTRODUCTION

Facing with complicated and unpredictable rises of COVID-19, thanks for the efforts of HCMC and the southern provinces and cities in the searching and early detection of COVID-19 infected people in lock-down, quarantined, and blockade areas in the community, especially the preparation of vaccination plans against COVID-19 for priority citizens who are vulnerable and located in high or very high-risk zones in HCMC's districts, we can confidently believe that in the coming time, Ho Chi Minh City will gradually control and take over the COVID-19 epidemic and return to a normal lifestyle and routine as before.

CONTENTS

2.1. The philanthropic lifestyle and basic manifestations related to philanthropic lifestyle in Ho Chi Minh City of Vietnam

We know that lifestyle is a key factor of culture, playing an important role in developing individuals, families, and society. Lifestyle, generally understood, is a set of basic, typical, stable features of distinctive forms of life activities of each ethnic, nation, geographical region, social group, and individual in specific political, economic, and socio-cultural conditions. Important and constitutive lifestyle elements include working and doing business methods, traditions and customs, communication style and behaviors, morals and personality conceptions, cultural conception, intellectual satisfaction, aestheticism, etc. Therefore, lifestyle is prescribed by the mode of social production and all the humans' living conditions, and the lifestyle itself can either positively or negatively affect the mode of production and the whole social life. According to the interpreted content above, we boldly assume that, the philanthropic lifestyle in HCMC is a category related to historical materialism, considered in correlation with the mode of social production. The philanthropic lifestyle in HCMC is shaped by geographical and economic conditions, influenced by national psychology and culture; it is the incarnation of national traditions, bearing its uniqueness and associated characteristics with certain political-economic - social and cultural conditions HCMC.

Being a city with more than 323 years of establishment and development, Ho Chi Minh is connected with historical landmarks: In 1696, Lord Nguyen appointed Marshal Nguyen Huu Canh to Southern land to care for it, which founded Saigon city. In 1911, from Nha Rong Harbour, the young man Nguyen Tat Thanh left his country to find a way to save his nation. In 1976, after the reunification of Vietnam, Saigon was renamed "Ho Chi Minh City." In the process of strong integration and development, throughout the processes of establishment and development [1], the philanthropic lifestyle in Ho Chi Minh City of Vietnam shows some following basic manifestations:

Firstly, HCMC is regarded as the country's leading province in social charity movements caring for the less fortunate in life.

HCMC is also the first spot in the country to launch the poverty reduction program. Sustainable poverty reduction has become an important striving criterion of the whole political system to improve people's living standards. The City has implemented many policies and solutions to support poverty reduction, mobilizing many social resources to contribute, such as supporting capital for business, production, and vocational training for poor households of the city the sector of The Ministry of Labour Invalids and Social Affairs. Relevant agencies and organizations such as the city Vietnam Fatherland Front Committee; City Women's Union; The Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union; City Farmers Union; City Red Cross; The City Sponsoring Association for Poor Patients, etc. have also regularly built many meaningful, dynamic, and creative activities, achieved very positive results for the community, and created a good environment to nurture and promote humane values of the nation, arousing the tradition of "solidarity," "the leaves protect tattered ones," "love people as if you love yourself" in society. At the same time, cultural values have appeared typical of the people of Ho Chi Minh City - humanity and philanthropy.

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ho Chi Minh City's Committee has been raising, receiving, and distributing to the Covid-19 Prevention and Control Fund, achieving over 889.7 billion VND in total for money and goods, more than 762.4 billion VND in cash; Goods and equipment are more than 127.2 billion VND worth. It allocated money and goods worth more than 739.5 billion VND, of which the cash amount is more than 612.3 billion VND, and transferred 500 billion VND to the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front to support the Covid-19 Vaccine Fund; together with goods and equipment worth more than 127.2 billion VND [2].

The government shows the responsibility to the difficulties in HCMC, who are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, by paying attention, especially to laborers, freelancers, and the weak in society. For that, the HCMC government has implemented the second support package of HCMC for people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic with a value of 886 billion VND; Ho Chi Minh City received nearly 890 billion VND for money and goods to support the Covid-19 Prevention and Control Fund[2]. Meanwhile, six groups are supported, including support for meals; support for employees who postpone the labor contracts or accept unpaid leave; policies to support employees whose labor contracts are ended but are not eligible for unemployment benefits; policies to support employees who do not have labor contracts (freelancers) and lose

their jobs due to the impact of the Covid-19; support stop-opening household businesses and traders at traditional markets.

Secondly, HCMC, with many buildings and movements, has effectively been built an urban civilization.

The campaign “The whole people unite building cultural life in residential quarters” has brought about many positive changes in building awareness, polite and civilized in communication, behaviors, and awareness of living responsibly with society. Due to the movement “For a civilized, spotless and secure country,” residents are campaigned to realize four things: safety and order, environmental sanitation, cultural behaviors, and preserving the beauty of the urban; and not to perform six following behaviors: peddling in front of the school gate, distributing flyers and playing noisy advertising loudspeaker, littering the street with garbage and sewage, scattering votive papers on the street, swearing and indiscriminately defecating, driving on the sidewalk and encroaching on the prescribed line when halting a vehicle.

In the development of the COVID-19 pandemic, HCMC has had a plan to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19 at production facilities, businesses, and industrial zones within the area. Accordingly, HCMC has propagated measures for prevention, control, and assessing the infected risk of COVID-19 at production facilities and businesses under the guidance of Decision No. 2194/QĐ-BCĐQG of the national steering committee for the prevention and control of covid-19, as well as promulgated regulations, rules and sanctions in the unit to ensure well-performing the mission of prevention and control of COVID-19 at the workplace. Simultaneously, HCMC has developed a plan to prevent and control COVID-19 at the workplace, developed solutions when there are cases of COVID-19 in industrial zones, and organized a rehearsal of the plan of prevention and control of COVID-19 in industrial areas. HCMC has guided people to realize measures of prevention, control, and assessing the infected risk of COVID-19 at production facilities, businesses, and industrial zones. HCMC has organized training on the implementation of prevention and control of COVID-19 for the unit manager, employers, and employees. On the other hand, HCMC manages and controls information of laborers from other provinces and foreign laborers working at industrial zones to ensure the prevention and control of COVID-19 tasks. HCMC updates map data of safely existing with COVID-19 at production facilities, businesses, and industrial zones. HCMC has also organized inspection, supervision, and assessment of the risk of COVID-19 infection at workplaces. HCMC will severely punish individuals and units not complying with the prevention and control regulations of COVID-19 at the workplace.

Besides, to quickly control the COVID-19 pandemic in HCMC as well as to soon return a normal lifestyle to the inhabitants, The People Committee of HCMC has promulgated Directive No.10/CT-UBND on tightening and strengthening solutions for prevention and control of COVID-19 in HCMC such as: Halting all unnecessary services, not assembling over 3 people in the public, temporarily stopping activities of non-traditional markets, halting unnecessary meetings, isolating and quarantining high-risk infection areas, striving to test 500.000 samples per day, ensuring necessary food and foodstuff, halting public transportation, being determined to control the pandemic.

Thirdly, with the spirit of gratitude and philanthropy, HCMC is also flexible in accepting different ideas, new lifestyles, and new activities.

From 1977 to the eve of renovation of 1985, by practical research and enthusiasm, creativity, and gumption, City decided to hazard some policies and solutions to get out of stagnation and deadlock. It also constituted money transfer companies to exchange the remittances of thousands and hundred thousand families whose relatives were abroad with satisfactory exchange rates. The City's recommendations on the mechanism of linking economic zones include the Southern Key Economic Zone, which was acknowledged and institutionalized by the Central Government in newly issued documents about regional policies. HCMC has developed a program of commercial cooperation which allowed connecting the supply and demand of goods between cities and provinces, cities in Southeast and Southwest from 2011; it also signed an agreement of comprehensive development cooperation with 36 locals across the nation. In the implementation process, the city also actively cooperated and proposed changes to Ministries, Departments, and Central Committees to surmount difficulties and obstacles, especially inappropriate laws for practical management and administration in HCMC.

Most recently, in the complicated development of the COVID-19 pandemic in HCMC, the number of infected cases is increasing due to the emergence and strong transmission of SARS-CoV-2 variants in England and India. HCMC has mobilized many resources, including medical staff and even local authorities, agencies, and the community, to fight against the pandemic. To be more proactive in the mission of controlling the pandemic, HCMC has proposed with the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and the Ministry of Finance to keep the supportive fund for epidemic prevention and control, which will be spent on supportive activities for the prevention and control of COVID-19 and buying vaccines. Simultaneously, the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City has proposed the Central Committee to assign Vietnam Fatherland Front Committee monitoring, managing, and using the supportive fund for epidemic prevention and control activities, including buying vaccines.

2.2. Basic opportunities, challenges, and solutions related to the philanthropic lifestyle in HCMC, Vietnam, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

The implementation of a philanthropic lifestyle in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic has emerged some basic and remarkable opportunities and challenges, specifically as follows:

*** Opportunities:**

First, the process of globalization and international integration helps implement a philanthropic lifestyle in Ho Chi Minh City to advertise more extensively to countries in the region and around the world. It additionally opens up the possibility of exchange, cooperation, and comprehensive development, improving opportunities to promote people and culture in Ho Chi Minh City in particular and Vietnam in general to other countries in the region and around the world.

Second, the fourth industrial revolution and the digital economy create favorable conditions for forming a philanthropic lifestyle in HCMC. The development of digital technology has led to the ability to access lifestyle, lifestyle, and cultural content easily and not limited by regulatory boundaries or national borders.

Third, the socialist-oriented market economy in Vietnam, and associated with a dynamic and largest economic center, has been creating positivity in the society and the philanthropic lifestyle of the people of HCMC. People are more encouraged to participate in activities to build a meaningful lifestyle in Ho Chi Minh City as active participants, from planning to assessing social and cultural issues, even as citizens co-creating a philanthropic lifestyle with the administrative apparatus from wards and communes towards districts and the city.

Fourth, the Party and State and government policy and HCMC generation of leaders always support and facilitate HCMC implementation, development, and effort in spreading out that philanthropic lifestyle.

Fifth, during the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing, online meetings, learning, and webinars have flourished at different scales and levels, showing that the potential of the internet has not yet been fully exploited so far.

*** Challenges:**

First, COVID-19 has revealed the weakness of organizations and the government system of HCMC in organizing circulation and supplying goods for inhabitants, as well as a sluggish response when allowing the rapid outbreak and spread of the pandemic. Especially, the network of hospitals in HCMC is not only in the overcrowded situation but also in a shortage of some needed medical equipment for opportune emergency and recovery for patients in the serious condition such as ventilators, oxygen, portable ventilators, N95 face masks, protective gear, a serious shortage of ambulances, etc... In addition, the speed of implementing RT-PCR tests for patients before discharging from the hospital is still slow. These are considerable challenges in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which directly influences the lifestyle of inhabitants in HCMC in the current context of unmanageably pandemic development. (July 2021).

Second, implementing social distancing measures to control the spread of COVID-19 has made production go down, leading to a decline in jobs. As a result, many workers are deprived of opportunities of getting official jobs, leading to many workers being unemployed.

According to data from the General Statistics Office, the recurrence of waves of COVID-19 in the last days of April 2021 has influenced the momentum of restoring jobs and improving workers' incomes in the second quarter of 2021. Accordingly, in the second quarter of 2021, the whole nation had 12,8 million people from 15 years of age and older who were negatively affected by COVID-19, including those who lost their jobs, those taking days off due to social distancing/taking alternate days off and those who had to reduce working time and incomes,... Unemployment and underemployment rates have also increased, with the underemployment rate of working age in the second quarter of 2021 being 2,6%, which is 0,4% higher when

compared to the previous quarter. The unemployment rate of working age in the second quarter of 2021 is 2,62%, which is 0,2% higher when compared to the previous quarter. According to Social Insurance accessed at 3:10 on July 21st, 2021, more than 2 million workers are unemployed and underemployed due to COVID-19[4].

Third, the challenge is completing the set of criteria of HCMC having a good quality of life, modern civilization, philanthropy in the pandemic and after the COVID 19 pandemic. The issue we need to notice is that if HCMC is inherently philanthropic, is it necessary to set philanthropic criteria? Will these criteria become a mould that tightens the spontaneous and generous nature and personality of inhabitants in HCMC.

Fourth, the completion of institutions and legal regulation and the development of cultural institutions is one of the most concerning problems. They are also great challenges in implementing and promoting philanthropic lifestyles in HCMC because cultural institutions and building philanthropic lifestyles, in terms of comprehension, have a close dialectical relationship.

Fifth, the challenge is the transition from centralized management to decentralized management, which is appropriate for the context of the market economy (From micromanagement to macro-management, from direct management to indirect management). Besides, it is necessary to continue further innovating leadership mindset, management thinking in an open-minded way, promoting creativity and proactivity of related subjects.

Sixth, the challenge of the digital economy context and the fourth industrial revolution. In the context of the strong development of multimedia and digital communication technology and the free market, the Cultural field needs to make a difference and apply scientific and technological advances into making original and multiform products and services to fulfill the public's needs. The outburst in information and communication, together with the waves of cultural interference and introduction with many cultural elements, has both positive and negative aspects to the lifestyle of inhabitants in HCMC.

Seventh, the challenge of harmoniously handling different lifestyles relationships in HCMC, such as the relationship between philanthropic lifestyle and pragmatic lifestyle, positive lifestyle, sustainable lifestyle in the COVID-19 pandemic, minimalist lifestyle, the active lifestyle fighting against COVID-19... Among young people and other classes in HCMC.

* Basic Solutions:

First, raising awareness and creating transformation into the action of the whole society in building and developing a philanthropic lifestyle in HCMC. The advocations, policies, and guidelines of the Party, State, and People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City need to become an action plan for all districts, wards, and communes practically and effectively.

Second, concentrate on building HCMC people with qualities proper to the requirements of the new time. Those are important qualities of Vietnamese people, such as patriotism, philanthropy, affection, honesty, solidarity, diligence, creativity, with high sentimentality. Forming a lifestyle with a sense of self-respect and self-control, living and working under the Constitution and laws, also protecting the environment; combining harmoniously personal positivity and social positivity; foster personal responsibility towards oneself, family, and

society; affirming and honoring the justice, the good, the positive, the noble, multiplying the highness and humane values.

Third, build a wholesome cultural environment that facilitates the development of culture and people. A healthy cultural environment at home, school, and society will be the place to form, nurture cultural personality, and educate people's lifestyle so that the good ones will be protected and multiplied; The evil, the bad, will be eliminated and condemned. These are important and necessary prerequisites to develop, replicate, spread, and create a philanthropic lifestyle brand in HCMC.

CONCLUSION

Ho Chi Minh City is at the forefront of the southern key economic region, making a large supplement to the region's socio-economic development and Vietnam. The city always contributes the highest to Vietnam's budget (accounting for more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of the total budget revenues of Vietnam). By the view of constantly innovating, creating, and developing comprehensively for the whole of Vietnam, together with the whole of Vietnam, for the happiness of the people, the Resolution of the 11th Party Congress Committee of Ho Chi Minh City, term of 2020-2025, Ho Chi Minh City has determined specific goals by 2025 to become: "Smart urban, a city of modernity oriented service and industrial, maintaining the economic forefront and growth motivation role of the key economic region in the South and the country, leading in creative innovation, good quality of life, civilization, modernity, and philanthropy" [5].

The history of formation and development from Saigon to HCMC today spanning more than 323 years, which is always associated with philanthropy, the philanthropic lifestyle of the people of HCMC. Amid the intricate rise and difficulties regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the philanthropic lifestyle in Ho Chi Minh City has always been improved, mobilized, changed, promoted, and developed, which will be ones of the most important conditions and premises to help HCMC continue to evolve, affirm its position and role in the development of Vietnam./.

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