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Nga Thi Nguyet Dinh¹

Van-Loc Vo^{2*}

Phuong Thi Lan Pham³

Nha Duy Le⁴

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¹Gia Đình University, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

²Saigon University, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

³Ho Chi Minh City University of Education, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

⁴Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology and Education, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam



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Nga Thi Nguyet Dinh¹, Van-Loc Vo^{2*}, Phuong Thi Lan Pham³, Nha Duy Le⁴

¹Gia Đình University, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

²Saigon University, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

³Ho Chi Minh City University of Education, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

⁴Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology and Education, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

*Corresponding authors

Email: loc@sgu.edu.vn

ABSTRACT:

When one studies their ancestors, they acquire information and documentation about their marriages, births, and deaths as far back as possible, through their parents, grandparents, and great grandparents, as well as information and documentation about their children and grandchildren. In particular, the purpose of this study is to examine the perspectives of Vietnamese children and adults regarding the significance of genealogy in traditional family education in the country of Vietnam. One hundred and ninety-nine persons participated in the survey. In a questionnaire, they answered eight questions regarding the lives of their forefathers and foremothers. When this research came to a close, it was determined that the perceptions of Vietnamese children and adults about the function of genealogy in traditional family education fell into one of two categories: "below average" and "above average." All of the findings from this research are critical in terms of establishing family traditions in the minds of future generations.

Keywords: family genealogy, family education, family traditions, children, adult

INTRODUCTION

Family traditions education is an educational task not only of the Party and Government, the Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam but also of the whole society. It is an effective measure to heighten awareness and modify abnormal behaviour. In the current stage of trade openness and international integration, not only young people, teenagers and children, who are objects of family traditions education, but also middle-aged and older adults have a complete awareness of family traditions education. The formation of each of the countries, people, social classes and even each community takes many centuries to form its traditions, customs, rituals and holidays. Family tradition is a spiritual atmosphere of each family, including routine, habits of its inhabitants and standard of living (Klepar, 2017), not only the spiritual core of a family but also the value epitome of the society (Gui-Zhen, 2019). Family traditions aim to maintain the family's order and transfer of national experience to tackle life problems. The desire to have family happiness and family well-being is reflected in the building and forming family traditions. The significance of family traditions in building and improving a complete personality was also explored in the research of Klepar (2017). The content and structure of the influences of family tradition education indicated the interaction between parents and children in building and obeying family traditions. Klepar (2017) described several features of the original Ukrainian traditional family heritage and feasibility of the Ukrainian people in family traditions education in modern society. Specifically, one of the long-standing traditions was the early participation of children in discussing all the essential matters of family life. The evening tea, when the whole family talked, shared and discussed all the experiences, events and issues of the day, had become more widespread in some families. All members discussed and made plans for the distant and immediate future together. Besides, late-night talks, readings, free expressing emotions and exchanging opinions were beneficial traditions. Each of the modern families can build and form their own family traditions. Klepar (2017) also determined that building family traditions had to follow specific rules: repeated experiences which are for children must be cheerful, positive and memorable; using smells, sounds, visual images which is in the conventional action and can affect feelings, relationship to the children.

Family traditions education is the original foundation of moral cultivation for college students in China (Gui-Zhen, 2019). Excellent traditional culture provides rich spiritual nourishment for good family tradition, and good family tradition is also an essential carrier of inheritance and promotion of good traditional culture. Therefore, the cultivation of good family tradition is the implication of the excellent traditional culture education for college students. In practice, we must integrate the good family tradition into the College Ideological and Political Education, the daily life of college students and the cultural activities on campus, so that we can help college students “the buttons of the life have to be fastened from the beginning”. There are also researches on Vietnamese family traditions. Ha Mai Van (2018) compared the education of traditional family values of Vietnamese with participants including 100 Vietnamese living in Vietnam, 96 Vietnamese living in Poland and 15 people who got married to Poles. The findings of the study revealed that the Vietnamese traditional values are still preserved even though they are living far from their homeland. They confirmed basic values such as filial piety and respect of children for their parents in the parent-child relationship; loyalty, benevolence, righteousness, and support each spouse in work and connubial life. Besides, some differences were found. Vietnamese people living in Poland were more flexible than other groups in relationship with their children; they are also easier to accept the difference of opinions and behaviours regarding sexual matters. The results confirmed that Vietnamese who is living and working abroad brought some innovations in the education of traditional family values.

Traditions include both family structures and the relationships which are built and developed between family members. Traditions, the most powerful elements, connect family members with each other, strengthen relationships between individuals and nation and preserve the integrity, interaction and communication between members even though there's a generation gap in families. Family traditions education with family genealogy is an effective educational method on the basis of evoking, preserving and promoting precious traditions of each family to remind children to respect and follow their ancestors' example. For each family, genealogy is the spiritual fulcrum of the present from the past.

Genealogy has been one of the world's most popular interest. Around the world, there are hundreds of millions of people who actively participated in family researches (Veale, 2004; Vuran, Çiğdemöğlü & Mirici, 2020). Research on the family genealogy has become progressively popular. It now is a remarkable commercial enterprise with the development of web-based census data and other life course documents, self-help guides, genealogy enthusiast publications, and computer software to assist users in designing and organizing their family trees (Tutton, 2004). Genealogy is the research on family ancestors with the information and documentation of marriage, birth and death date through parents, grandparents, great grandparents, as far back as possible. In Eastern culture, the genealogy history has over 3000 years, Europe has nearly 500 years. Genealogy is considered to be a historical picture of the branch of a family. Genealogy refers more to a voyage of discovery undertaken to find information about ancestors and descendants.

In general, the genealogy research provided a huge fund of knowledge about life not only in the past but also in the present and the opportunity to find out and knowing about one's roots and self (Bottero 2015; Darby and Clough 2013; Fulton 2016). For people seeking a sense of belonging and acceptance as a member of the community, genealogy had become much more important (Ball 2017; Bottero 2015). There are many reasons for searching out family history. Some of which included facilitating personal healing, promoting understanding about family history, and members' past (Chance, 1988; Humes, 1994); improving connectedness with ancestors after family bereavement (Champagne, 1990); establishing a closer relationship with family members (Sobol & Cardiff, 1983; Triseliotis, 1998); having positive influences on one's identity or sense of self (Reiser, 2012). Genealogy is the most specific document to educate the precious traditions, associated with the national tradition for each family and each person. That tradition has become the responsibility of every members and family.

The subject of genealogy is not a new one. However, just a few research have been conducted in Vietnam on this subject, particularly on the importance of genealogy in family traditions education with participants who are Vietnamese. As a result, this study is being undertaken to determine the attitudes of Vietnamese children and adults regarding the role of genealogy in family traditions education in order to close the gap.

METHODS

The survey questionnaires were distributed directly to participants using a combination of convenience sampling and random sampling methods. A total of 179 valid questionnaires were used for analysis in this study after being coded and tested. There are 84 children (46.9 percent) and 95 adults (53.1 percent) in the population. The lives of their forefathers and foremothers were investigated through the use of an eight-item questionnaire that had been developed to gather information about the participants' own lives. All items are rated on a 4-point Likert scale, which is used to categorize them from small to large in size: 1 indicates disagreement; 2 indicates uncertainty; 3 indicates agreement; and 4 indicates strong agreement.

RESULTS

On the questionnaire, the participants received scores that were in the middle of the range. Table 2 displays the mean, standard deviation, number of participants, and percentage of participation for each of the variables.

Table 2:Adults' perception of genealogy's role in family traditions education

		Level				M	SD	Order
		1	2	3	4			
Each family has a genealogy book.	n	1	17	40	26	4.08	0.75	1
	%	1.2	20.2	47.6	31.0			
Genealogy provides family history for members completely, which educates them about families and lineages systematically.	n	3	35	40	6	3.58	0.68	3
	%	3.6	41.7	47.6	7.1			
Genealogy evokes the love and attachment to members in the branch of a family.	n	4	26	31	23	3.87	0.88	2
	%	4.8	31.0	36.9	27.4			
Genealogy shows the characteristics of citizens such as tolerance, integration and so on.	n	41	36	5	2	2.51	0.88	6
	%	48.7	42.9	6.0	2.4			
On the occasion of their activities of the anniversary, all members listen attentively to genealogy book.	n	21	37	22	3	3.06	0.86	4
	%	25.3	44.6	26.5	3.6			
Grandparents read the genealogy book to their children.	n	30	30	24	0	2.87	0.90	5
	%	35.7	35.7	28.6	0.0			
Descendants read genealogy book for the whole family.	n	53	22	5	4	2.42	0.93	7
	%	63.0	26.2	6.0	4.8			
There is a website providing historical information about the brach of their family.	n	61	17	3	3	2.07	0.99	8
	%	72.6	20.2	3.6	3.6			

Note: n = Number of participants; % = Percentage; M = Mean; SD = Standard deviation

There were 84 adults (25.5%) reported that each family has a genealogy book. Among the eight items of adults' perception questionnaire, the top three indicators which are listed from the highest to the lowest average points, are as below: Each family has a genealogy book (M=4.08, SD=0.75), Genealogy evokes the love and attachment to members in the branch of a family (M=3.87, SD=0.88), Genealogy provides family history for members completely, which educates them about families and lineages systematically (M=3.58, SD=0.68). The indicator, there is a website providing historical information about the brach of their family (M=2.07, SD=0.99), has the lowest score.

Table 3 shows the mean scores and standard deviations for eight items pertaining to children and young adults' perceptions of genealogy's function in family traditions education, as well as the standard deviation for each item.

Table 3:Children and young adults' perception of genealogy's role in family traditions education

		Level				M	SD	Order
		1	2	3	4			
Each family has a genealogy book.	n	27	36	26	6	3.11	0.92	2
	%	28.4	37.9	27.4	6.3			
Genealogy provides family history for members completely, which educates them about families and lineages systematically.	n	32	23	28	12	3.01	1.33	3
	%	33.7	24.2	29.5	12.6			
Genealogy evokes the love and attachment to members in the branch of a family.	n	30	34	30	1	3.00	0.86	4
	%	31.6	35.7	31.6	1.1			
Genealogy shows the characteristics of Ho Chi Minh City citizens such as tolerance, integration and so on.	n	41	46	7	1	2.55	0.84	6
	%	43.1	48.4	7.4	1.1			
On the occasion of their activities of the anniversary, all members listen attentively to genealogy book.	n	64	23	4	4	2.22	0.99	7
	%	67.4	24.2	4.2	4.2			
Grandparents read the genealogy book to their children.	n	13	41	29	12	3.42	0.88	1
	%	13.7	43.2	30.5	12.6			
Descendants read genealogy book for the whole family.	n	34	41	16	3	2.73	1.01	5
	%	36.2	43.6	17.0	3.2			

There is a website providing historical information about the brach of their family.	n	70	23	1	1	1.81	0.91	8
	%	73.6	24.2	1.1	1.1			
Note: n = Number of participants; % = Percentage; M = Mean; SD = Standard deviation								

There were 95 children, and young adults (28,8%) in 330 participants reported that each family has a genealogy book. Among the eight items of children and young adults' perception questionnaire, the top three indicators which are listed from the highest to the lowest average points, are as below: Grandparents read the genealogy book to their children (M=3.42, SD=0.88), Each family has a genealogy book (M=3.11, SD=0.92), Genealogy provides family history for members completely, which educates them about families and lineages systematically (M=3.01, SD=1.33). The indicator, there is a website providing historical information about the brach of their family (M=1.81, SD=0.91), has the lowest score.

DISCUSSION

This research examined the perceptions of Vietnamese children and adults toward genealogy's role in family traditions education. The evaluation scores of the survey showed that there were significant differences in scores of the perceptions of Vietnamese children and adults. The adults thought that each family has a genealogy book, genealogy evokes the love and attachment to members in the branch of a family and got higher score compared to children and young adults' score in these items. Besides, on the occasion of their activities of the anniversary, the adults also believed that all members listen attentively to genealogy book and they still got a higher score than children and young adults. These findings indicated that the adults participating in this survey were constantly concerned with genealogy's role in family traditions education and optimistic about paying attention to genealogy of all members. Especially, the adults got the above-average score when they believed that genealogy evokes the love and attachment to members in the branch of a family. However, children and young adults thought that grandparents read the genealogy book to their children and got a higher score compared to adults' score in this item. This finding is directly in line with previous findings of Sobol and Cardiff, (1983), and Triseliotis (1998), which reported that establishing a closer relationship with family members is one of the reasons for people to find out genealogy or search out family history.

The evaluation scores of the survey also showed that the children, young adults and adults got the above-average score when they thought genealogy provides family history for members completely, which educates them about families and lineages systematically. This result supports previous research conducted by Bottero (2015), Darby and Clough (2013) and Fulton (2016), who found that genealogy provided a huge fund of knowledge about life not only in the past but also in the present and the opportunity to find out and knowing about one's roots and self. Besides, the children, young adults and adults did not think that genealogy shows the characteristics of Ho Chi Minh City citizens such as tolerance, integration and so on, and there is a website providing historical information about the brach of their family. These findings show the opinions of participants about family genealogy. Two groups of participants believed that the family genealogy book does not describe the characteristics of Ho Chi Minh City citizens. The family genealogy book records the information and documentation of parents, grandparents, great grandparents, as far back as possible, and be a historical picture of the branch of a family. While there were many websites and software to record the historical information about the brach of families in the world, the history of each Vietnamese family is still recorded in a genealogy book which is difficult to preserve. There is no perfect preservation technology to restore effectively information and documentation in a book in many years.

These findings do not support the opinions that the genealogy do not need to educate family traditions. Future research on the perception of genealogy's role in family traditions education might extend the methods to improve the perception of participants, especially adults' perception of genealogy's role in family traditions education. Both children and adults should be encouraged to participate in future studies, as well as to participate more frequently in existing studies.

CONCLUSION

Genealogy is one of the most specific documents to educate the precious traditions, associated with the national tradition for each family and each person. To the best of the authors' knowledge, this is the first study in Vietnam, adults and Vietnamese children's perception of genealogy's role in family traditions education. The main conclusion of our research that both adults and Vietnamese children believe that genealogy has a positive effect on educating family traditions. All results obtained from this research are necessary for educating well family traditions for children. Our future research will use the case study methodology for studying a specific case to gain concrete, contextual, in-depth knowledge about genealogy's role in family traditions education. With the finding that the history of each Vietnamese family is still recorded in a genealogy book, future research should consider the better method to preserve the historical information about the brach of Vietnamese families.

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