

HO CHI MINH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICS

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**THE SUBJECT ROLE OF ETHNIC MINORITY PEOPLE
IN PRESERVING AND PROMOTING CULTURAL IDENTITY
IN THE NORTHERN MIDLANDS AND MOUNTAINOUS REGION
OF VIETNAM AT PRESENT**

**SUMMARY OF THE DOCTORAL THESIS
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INTRODUCTION

1. The urgency of the theme

The cultural identity of ethnic minorities is the crystallization of a long historical process, reflecting communities' modes of adaptation to the environment, organization of social life, and creative capacities. The cultural identity of ethnic minority groups not only expresses their distinctive ethnic characteristics but also constitutes an integral component of the Vietnamese culture, which is unified in diversity.

The Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region, home to numerous ethnic minority communities with a rich cultural heritage, is currently undergoing profound changes due to the impacts of urbanization, migration, livelihood transformation, and modern communication. In this context, studying the subject role of ethnic minority communities in preserving and promoting cultural identity has become an urgent requirement both theoretically and practically. Cultural heritage can only be sustainably preserved when communities - the creators, practitioners, and transmitters of culture - are substantively involved in the processes of planning, organizing, and monitoring preservation activities.

The urgency of this topic becomes even more evident in the context of implementing the Party's guidelines and policies in the new era of development. The 13th National Congress, and particularly the 14th National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam, reaffirmed that culture and human beings are both the objectives and driving forces of development, and that promoting Vietnamese cultural values and human strengths constitutes an important endogenous resource for rapid and sustainable development. The Party emphasizes the task of building a system of cultural values and standards of the Vietnamese people, in which the cultures of ethnic minorities are regarded as an inseparable component. At the same time, the Party calls for renewing approaches and methods of cultural preservation in the direction of respecting, empowering, and promoting the subject role of communities, considering this a prerequisite for ensuring harmony between socio-economic development and the protection of traditional cultural spaces, especially in strategically important regions such as the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region.

From the above-mentioned theoretical and practical grounds, it can be affirmed that studying the topic entitled “*The Subject Role of Ethnic Minority People in Preserving and Promoting Cultural Identity in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region of Vietnam at Present*” is of both scientific significance and pressing practical relevance. The study not only contributes to a clearer understanding of the position and role of ethnic minority communities as cultural subjects under new development conditions, but also provides scientific arguments for the formulation and improvement of policies aimed at promoting endogenous cultural resources, strengthening ethnic pride, enhancing community responsibility, and fostering aspirations for development among ethnic minority people. On this basis, the study's findings may contribute to solidifying the Party's orientation toward building an advanced Vietnamese culture infused with national identity, enhancing the strength of Vietnamese culture and people, and establishing a robust spiritual foundation for national development in the new era.

2. Research Objectives and Tasks

2.1. Research Objectives

On the basis of clarifying theoretical issues and analyzing the current situation regarding the role of ethnic minority communities as subjects in preserving and promoting cultural identity in Vietnam's Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region over recent years, the dissertation proposes several fundamental solutions aimed at further promoting their subject role in the preservation and promotion of cultural identity in the region in the coming period.

2.2. Research Tasks

- To review previous studies relevant to the topic of the dissertation.
- To clarify theoretical issues concerning the contents and modes of preserving and promoting cultural identity, as well as the importance of and factors affecting the role of ethnic minority communities as subjects in preserving and promoting cultural identity in Vietnam's Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region.
- To analyze the current situation and identify emerging issues regarding the role of ethnic minority communities as subjects in preserving

and promoting cultural identity in Vietnam's Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region during the period from 2015 to 2025.

- To propose several fundamental solutions aimed at promoting the role of ethnic minority communities as subjects in preserving and promoting cultural identity in Vietnam's Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region toward 2045.

3. Research Scope and Subjects

3.1. Research Subject

The dissertation examines the role of ethnic minority communities as subjects in preserving and promoting cultural identity, with particular attention to ethnic minority residents, commune-level officials, prestigious persons within communities, and artisans and artists living in Vietnam's Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region.

3.2. Research Scope

- Content scope: The role of ethnic minority communities as subjects in preserving and promoting cultural identity in Vietnam's Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region.

- Spatial scope: Vietnam's Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region, including the provinces of Lao Cai, Lai Chau, Dien Bien, Son La, Cao Bang, Thai Nguyen, Phu Tho, Lang Son, and Tuyen Quang.

- Temporal scope: From 2015 to 2025.

4. Theoretical Foundation and Research Methods

4.1. Theoretical Foundation

The dissertation is grounded in the Marxist-Leninist theory concerning the role of human beings as subjects of cognition and practical activity. According to historical materialism, the masses are the creators of history and, at the same time, the subjects that create and reproduce the spiritual life of society. Culture does not exist independently or metaphysically; rather, it is formed through the process by which human beings transform nature and society. The dialectical relationship between social existence and social consciousness indicates that changes in socio-economic conditions influence cultural consciousness, while cultural consciousness, possessing relative autonomy, in turn exerts an impact on social reality.

Ho Chi Minh Thought emphasizes the central role of the people in the construction and development of culture, regarding culture as belonging to the people, created by the people, and serving the people. The viewpoints of the Communist Party of Vietnam further affirm that the people are both the subjects and the center of the development strategy, in which the preservation and promotion of cultural identity must be based on the endogenous strength of communities. These theoretical perspectives constitute the direct theoretical foundation for analyzing the role of ethnic minority communities as subjects in preserving and promoting cultural identity.

4.2. Research Methods

The dissertation employs the methodology of dialectical materialism and historical materialism to examine the role of ethnic minority communities as subjects in preserving and promoting cultural identity in Vietnam's Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region. The study applies methods of analysis and synthesis, sociological survey, and descriptive and inferential statistical methods. Survey data are processed using specialized software in order to test reliability and validity and to examine the relationships among variables.

5. New Contributions of the Thesis

The dissertation contributes to providing and enriching scientific arguments of both theoretical and practical significance for the formulation, development, and implementation of cultural development policies in Vietnam's Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region. By clarifying the role of ethnic minority communities as subjects in preserving and promoting ethnic cultural identity, the findings of the study serve as a useful source of reference for management agencies, policymakers, and local authorities in designing programs and projects for sustainable development.

Furthermore, the dissertation proposes appropriate solutions aimed at promoting endogenous cultural resources and enhancing the awareness, responsibility, and proactive participation of ethnic minority communities in preserving traditional cultural values. Thereby, it contributes to

improving the material and spiritual lives of the people, strengthening the great national unity bloc, promoting socio-economic development, maintaining political stability, and ensuring the sustainable development of individual provinces as well as the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region as a whole.

6. Theoretical and Practical Significance

In terms of theoretical significance, the dissertation contributes to clarifying and systematizing several fundamental issues concerning the promotion of the role of ethnic minority communities as subjects in preserving and promoting cultural identity in Vietnam's Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region. Drawing upon and further developing the theories of Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh Thought, and the Communist Party of Vietnam's viewpoints on the role of the masses, the dissertation provides an in-depth analysis of the relationship between cultural subjects and the process of cultural preservation and development under the conditions of a market economy and international integration. Thereby, it supplements scientific arguments for properly identifying the position and role of ethnic minority communities as active, creative, and decisive subjects in preserving and promoting traditional cultural values.

In terms of practical significance, the dissertation may serve as a reference source for research, teaching, and policymaking related to promoting the human factor and the role of ethnic minority communities as subjects in preserving and promoting cultural identity. The findings of the dissertation provide a scientific basis for management agencies, researchers, and lecturers in developing training programs, conducting educational and communication activities, and proposing solutions appropriate to the specific characteristics of Vietnam's Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region in the current context.

7. Structure of the thesis

Apart from the introduction, conclusion, list of references, and appendices, the thesis is structured into 4 chapters with a total of 11 sections.

Chapter 1

OVERVIEW OF STUDIES RELATED TO THE ROLE OF ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES AS SUBJECTS IN THE PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION OF CULTURAL IDENTITY

1.1. STUDIES RELATED TO THE THEORY OF THE ROLE OF ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES AS SUBJECTS IN THE PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION OF CULTURAL IDENTITY

The dissertation reviews groups of domestic and international studies concerning the theory of the role of the people as subjects, the role of ethnic minority communities, and the role of ethnic minority communities as subjects in preserving and promoting cultural identity. These studies, including monographs, reference books, and scholarly articles relevant to the dissertation topic, have made significant contributions to the scientific understanding of the issue.

1.2. STUDIES RELATED TO THE CURRENT SITUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROLE OF ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES AS SUBJECTS IN THE PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION OF CULTURAL IDENTITY

The dissertation reviews groups of studies on the current situation regarding the implementation of the role of ethnic minority communities as subjects in preserving and promoting cultural identity in Vietnam's Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region. These studies have approached the practical implementation of cultural preservation and promotion from different levels, ranging from individual provinces to the regional and national levels.

1.3. STUDIES RELATED TO SOLUTIONS FOR PROMOTING THE ROLE OF ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES AS SUBJECTS IN THE PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION OF CULTURAL IDENTITY

In the course of the study, the dissertation reviews a number of scientific works concerning viewpoints and solutions aimed at promoting the role of ethnic minority communities as subjects in preserving and promoting cultural identity in the provinces of Vietnam's Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region. These works, presented in the form of

scientific research projects, monographs, and scholarly articles, possess both theoretical and practical value.

1.4. OVERVIEW OF THE VALUES OF THE REVIEWED STUDIES AND ISSUES REQUIRING FURTHER RESEARCH

1.4.1. Overview of the Values of the Reviewed Studies Related to the Dissertation

In terms of theory, studies on ethnic minority cultures have shifted from descriptive approaches to analytical approaches, from external perspectives to endogenous perspectives, and from a static conception of preservation to a dynamic conception of promotion and development. Affirming the role of ethnic minority communities as subjects is not only an objective requirement arising from practice but also a manifestation of democratization in the cultural sphere. It also represents a concrete expression of the Communist Party of Vietnam's viewpoint on building an advanced culture imbued with national identity and placing human beings at the center of development.

In terms of the current situation, previous studies have provided relatively comprehensive assessments of the preservation and promotion of the cultural identity of ethnic minorities in Vietnam in general and in Vietnam's Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region in particular. Their findings indicate that, despite many remarkable achievements, the preservation of ethnic minority cultures continues to face numerous difficulties and limitations in terms of awareness, resources, and modes of implementation.

In terms of solutions, the measures proposed in previous studies are aimed not only at preserving cultural values inherited from the past but also at opening up new pathways for the development of ethnic minority cultures in the modern era. Such solutions reflect a harmonious combination of tradition and innovation, identity and integration, and preservation and development, enabling the cultures of ethnic minorities in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region to retain their distinctive characteristics while contributing to the strength of the unity in diversity of Vietnamese culture.

From the review of related studies, it can be seen that although a considerable number of works have addressed the preservation and

promotion of ethnic minority cultural identity, several research gaps remain to be further explored.

First, in terms of theory, previous studies have mainly focused on clarifying cultural values, ethnic minority cultural identity, or cultural preservation policies, whereas the role of ethnic minority communities as subjects has not been systematically examined from a philosophical perspective, particularly from the viewpoint of promoting the human factor in cultural development. Many studies still regard ethnic minority communities primarily as beneficiaries of policies rather than as direct subjects that create, preserve, and promote cultural values.

Second, in terms of practice, although previous studies have provided relatively comprehensive reflections on the preservation and promotion of ethnic minority cultural identity in various localities, most have approached the issue from the perspective of individual ethnic groups, provinces, or specific forms of culture. There has been a lack of comprehensive studies examining the role of ethnic minority communities as subjects in preserving and promoting cultural identity across the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region as a whole - a region characterized by ethnic and cultural diversity as well as distinctive development conditions.

Third, regarding influencing factors, existing studies have mainly focused on the impacts of industrialization, modernization, the market economy, and international integration on ethnic minority cultures. However, they have not thoroughly analyzed the factors affecting the promotion of the role of ethnic minority communities as subjects in the context of digital transformation, cultural tourism development, the creative economy, and the ongoing new rural development program.

Fourth, with respect to solutions, many studies have proposed measures for preserving and promoting ethnic minority cultural identity. Nevertheless, these solutions have largely focused on state management mechanisms, support policies, and resource investment. There has been a lack of studies developing a comprehensive and integrated system of solutions aimed at enhancing the initiative, creativity, self-governing capacity, and direct participation of ethnic minority communities as the central subjects in the process of preserving and promoting cultural identity.

Therefore, to date, no study has comprehensively, systematically, and in-depth examined the role of ethnic minority communities as subjects in preserving and promoting cultural identity in Vietnam's Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region from a philosophical perspective. This constitutes the scientific gap that the dissertation seeks to fill and clarify in both theoretical and practical terms.

1.4.2. Issues Requiring Further Investigation in the Dissertation

First, regarding the theoretical dimension, the dissertation needs to conduct in-depth research and further elaborate scientific arguments concerning the cultural identity of ethnic minority groups. It should clarify the social characteristics, psychological traits, beliefs, and lifestyles of ethnic minority communities, while affirming their role as subjects not only in preserving but also in creating, regenerating, and disseminating cultural identities. The dissertation should also provide a more comprehensive analysis of the factors affecting their subjectivity, including State policies, the impacts of globalization, information technology, tourism, and the cultural market, thereby identifying mechanisms for promoting the endogenous capacities of communities in the new context.

Second, regarding the practical dimension, the dissertation needs to undertake a more profound analysis of the practice of promoting the subject role of ethnic minority people in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region, focusing on two aspects: awareness and behavior. Based on field surveys, the dissertation will assess both facilitating and constraining factors, manifestations of changes in cultural awareness, the degree of participation in cultural preservation activities, as well as influencing factors such as economic, social, educational, and environmental conditions. At the same time, it should identify practical issues arising in the process, including the decline in the use of mother tongues, disruptions in the intergenerational transmission of cultural knowledge, the commercialization of cultural heritage, and dependence on external sources of support.

Third, regarding the solutions, the dissertation needs to propose a system of specific measures aimed at enhancing the awareness and strengthening the cultural behavior of ethnic minority communities, enabling them to clearly recognize their role as subjects in preserving and

promoting cultural identity. These solutions should focus on strengthening cultural education within communities; encouraging younger generations to learn about and take pride in their ethnic identities; establishing models of co-governance in cultural management between the State and local communities; promoting the digital transformation of cultural heritage associated with the intellectual property rights of local people; and creating flexible financial mechanisms that enable communities to exercise autonomy in organizing cultural preservation activities.

Chapter 2

THE SUBJECT ROLE OF ETHNIC MINORITY PEOPLE IN PRESERVING AND PROMOTING CULTURAL IDENTITY IN THE NORTHERN MIDLANDS AND MOUNTAINOUS REGION OF VIETNAM TODAY: SOME THEORETICAL ISSUES

2.1. PRESERVING AND PROMOTING THE CULTURAL IDENTITY OF ETHNIC MINORITIES IN THE NORTHERN MIDLANDS AND MOUNTAINOUS REGION OF VIETNAM: CONCEPTS, CONTENTS, AND MODES

2.1.1. Some Concepts

2.1.1.1. The Cultural Identity of Ethnic Minorities in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region of Vietnam

The cultural identity of ethnic minorities in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region of Vietnam comprises distinctive characteristics reflected in both tangible cultural elements (traditional houses, traditional modes of production, traditional musical instruments, traditional costumes, traditional cuisine, etc.) and intangible cultural elements (languages, traditional rituals, folk arts, indigenous knowledge, etc.), which have been created by ethnic minority people in the region throughout the course of their habitation and productive activities.

2.1.1.2. The Subject Role of Ethnic Minority People in Preserving and Promoting Cultural Identity

The subject role of ethnic minority people in preserving and promoting cultural identity in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region refers to their initiative in both awareness and action to preserve, practice, and creatively develop the distinctive characteristics of tangible

culture (traditional houses, traditional modes of production, traditional musical instruments, traditional costumes, traditional cuisine, etc.) and intangible culture (languages, traditional rituals, folk arts, indigenous knowledge, etc.), which have been created by ethnic minority communities in the region through their processes of settlement and production.

The subject role of ethnic minority people in preserving and promoting cultural identity is manifested in two dimensions:

First, the subject role of ethnic minority people in terms of awareness regarding the preservation and promotion of cultural identity in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region of Vietnam is reflected in five aspects: awareness of the historical and humanistic values of cultural identity; awareness of culture as the foundation constituting ethnic identity; awareness of culture as a resource for development; awareness of the responsibility for intergenerational transmission of culture; and the community's self-positioning in relation to other actors.

Second, the subject role of ethnic minority people in terms of behavior regarding the preservation and promotion of cultural identity in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region of Vietnam is manifested in five aspects. *First*, ethnic minority people play a central role in disseminating information and mobilizing communities to preserve and promote cultural identity. *Second*, ethnic minority people directly practice and organize modes of cultural preservation through cultural institutions and community spaces. *Third*, ethnic minority people play a decisive role in restoring and reenacting traditional festivals and rituals. *Fourth*, ethnic minority people are the decisive subjects in the inventorying, safeguarding, and transmission of cultural heritage. *Fifth*, ethnic minority people demonstrate the subject role in promoting cultural identity in association with economic and tourism development.

2.1.2. Contents of Preserving and Promoting the Cultural Identity of Ethnic Minorities in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region of Vietnam

At present, the cultural identity of ethnic minorities in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region of Vietnam that needs to be preserved and promoted encompasses both tangible and intangible cultural elements.

The tangible cultural identity of ethnic minority people in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region of Vietnam, which requires

preservation and promotion, is highly diverse. However, this dissertation focuses on three major components, namely traditional houses, traditional costumes, and traditional cuisine.

The intangible cultural identities of ethnic minority people in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region of Vietnam, which require preservation and promotion, are likewise diverse. Nevertheless, this dissertation concentrates on languages, traditional rituals, indigenous knowledge, traditional crafts, and folk arts.

2.1.3. Modes of Preserving and Promoting the Cultural Identity of Ethnic Minorities in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region of Vietnam Today

2.1.3.1. Modes of Preserving the Cultural Identity of Ethnic Minorities in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region of Vietnam Today

First, preserving cultural identity through systems of traditional cultural spaces and museums.

Second, restoring and reenacting traditional cultural values in contemporary life

Third, conducting the inventory, collection, and safeguarding of the cultural identities of ethnic minorities

Fourth, transmitting the cultural identity of ethnic minorities through classes, clubs, and practices embedded in daily life.

2.1.3.2. Modes of Promoting the Cultural Identity of Ethnic Minorities in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region of Vietnam Today

First, publicizing and disseminating the cultural identities of ethnic minorities through mass media and social platforms.

Second, promoting the “soft power” of traditional culture in association with tourism-based economic development.

2.1.3.3. The Relationship Between the Modes of Preserving and Promoting the Cultural Identity of Ethnic Minorities in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region of Vietnam Today

First, the modes of preserving and promoting cultural identity constitute a unified process that combines the safeguarding of core values with their regeneration in contemporary life.

Second, the modes of preserving and promoting cultural identity are implemented through the coordination among the State, communities, and individuals within the context of a modern environment.

2.2. THE IMPORTANCE OF ETHNIC MINORITY PEOPLE IN PRESERVING AND PROMOTING CULTURAL IDENTITY IN THE NORTHERN MIDLANDS AND MOUNTAINOUS REGION OF VIETNAM TODAY

First, ethnic minority people are the subjects responsible for the creation, preservation, and intergenerational transmission of traditional cultural identity.

Second, ethnic minority people constitute the central factor in practicing and disseminating cultural identities in modern life.

Third, ethnic minority people are the direct force that transforms culture into a resource for socio-economic development.

Fourth, ethnic minority people play an important role in educating, transmitting, and reproducing ethnic cultural knowledge.

Fifth, ethnic minority people occupy a central position in the cooperative relationship among the State, society, and communities in the work of preserving and promoting culture.

2.3. FACTORS AFFECTING ETHNIC MINORITY PEOPLE IN PRESERVING AND PROMOTING CULTURAL IDENTITY IN THE NORTHERN MIDLANDS AND MOUNTAINOUS REGION OF VIETNAM TODAY

2.3.1. Natural and Socio-Economic Conditions

Natural Conditions: The Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region of Vietnam possesses particularly significant geo-economic and geopolitical advantages. Seven out of the region's nine provinces share borders with neighboring countries, namely China and Laos. The region is endowed with diverse natural resources and is characterized by fragmented terrain, high mountains, steep slopes, deep ravines, and numerous valleys. These conditions provide an important foundation for economic development and cultural exchange; however, they also pose considerable challenges to accessing and implementing modes of preserving and promoting cultural identity. Moreover, these conditions exert substantial influences on enhancing both the awareness and

behavior of ethnic minority communities regarding the preservation and promotion of cultural identity.

Socio-Economic Conditions: The Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region possesses numerous favorable conditions for economic development and income improvement. It is home to a large population of ethnic minority people who possess abundant indigenous knowledge and enjoy considerable advantages for developing tourism-based economies. Ethnic minority communities in the region live in an interspersed pattern while often forming concentrated residential areas. These conditions constitute an important basis for enhancing the awareness of ethnic minority people in socio-economic development, while simultaneously exerting profound impacts on their awareness and behavior in preserving and promoting cultural identity.

2.3.2. Policy and Institutional Conditions

The political system, together with a coherent policy framework, constitutes a highly important factor affecting the subject role of ethnic minority people in preserving and promoting cultural identity in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region of Vietnam today. Such influences are manifested in orienting awareness, establishing institutions, organizing implementation, mobilizing resources, and creating a favorable social environment that enables communities to participate actively in these activities.

2.3.3. Material Conditions

Material conditions represent one of the factors exerting the most direct influence on promoting the subject role of ethnic minority people in preserving and promoting cultural identity. Material conditions include technical infrastructure such as electricity, transportation networks, schools, and healthcare facilities, as well as cultural infrastructure, including cultural spaces, museum systems, and digital technologies.

2.3.4. Cognitive Capacity of Ethnic Minority People

The cognitive capacity of ethnic minority people is one of the most influential factors affecting the exercise of the subject role in preserving and promoting cultural identity. The level of awareness among the various subjects includes grassroots ethnic minority cadres, residents, artisans, artists, and prestigious figures within the community. Differences among these subjects arise from disparities in living conditions, working environments, and educational attainment.

2.3.5. Ethnic Self-Consciousness

Ethnic self-consciousness constitutes one of the defining characteristics of a nation or ethnic group. In order to preserve and promote cultural identity, ethnic minority people need not only to possess a proper understanding of their cultural values but also to take pride in preserving and utilizing those values in their daily lives, while simultaneously disseminating and promoting their cultural heritage.

Chapter 2 focuses on clarifying the theoretical foundations of the subject role of ethnic minority people in preserving and promoting cultural identity in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region of Vietnam, based on the worldview and methodology of Marxist-Leninist philosophy. The subject role of ethnic minority people is manifested in two dimensions: awareness and behavior. In terms of awareness, ethnic minority people recognize the value, identity, and significance of cultural identity for the existence and development of their communities. In terms of behavior, they directly maintain their mother tongues, practice traditional rituals, transmit traditional crafts, organize festivals, develop community-based tourism, and apply digital technologies to promote their culture.

Chapter 3

THE SUBJECT ROLE OF ETHNIC MINORITY PEOPLE IN PRESERVING AND PROMOTING CULTURAL IDENTITY IN THE NORTHERN MIDLANDS AND MOUNTAINOUS REGION OF VIETNAM TODAY: CURRENT SITUATION AND EMERGING ISSUES

3.1. CURRENT SITUATION OF THE EXERCISE OF THE SUBJECT ROLE OF ETHNIC MINORITY PEOPLE IN PRESERVING AND PROMOTING CULTURAL IDENTITY IN THE NORTHERN MIDLANDS AND MOUNTAINOUS REGION OF VIETNAM TODAY

3.1.1. Current Situation of Awareness Regarding the Subject Role of Ethnic Minority People in Preserving and Promoting Cultural Identity in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region of Vietnam Today

3.1.1.1. Awareness of the Value and Significance of Ethnic Cultural Identity

First, ethnic minority people have become increasingly aware of the value of traditional costumes, languages, festivals, folk knowledge, and

traditional crafts. They have also recognized the close relationship between cultural preservation and the improvement of material and spiritual life, as well as the strengthening of community solidarity. The role of the community has been increasingly affirmed in the process of preserving and promoting cultural heritage.

Second, awareness of cultural identity still tends to focus on symbolic and readily recognizable elements, whereas deeper values, such as languages, folk knowledge, and traditional arts, have not yet received commensurate attention in everyday cultural practices.

3.1.1.2. Proper Awareness of the Position and Role of Different Subjects in Preserving and Promoting Cultural Identity

The sense of collective responsibility within communities has been increasingly strengthened. Ethnic minority people no longer regard culture merely as “a legacy of the past”; rather, they recognize it as the foundation of ethnic identity, a resource for development, and a condition for safeguarding the status of their ethnic groups in the context of integration. When communities become self-aware, self-organized, and actively engaged in practicing traditional values, the process of cultural preservation can achieve sustainability, thereby contributing to affirming the position of each ethnic group within the unified yet diverse Vietnamese culture.

3.1.2. Current Situation of the Behavioral Dimension of Ethnic Minority People as Subjects in Preserving and Promoting Cultural Identity in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region of Vietnam Today

3.1.2.1. Disseminating Information and Mobilizing Communities to Preserve and Promote Cultural Identity

First, renewing the contents and methods of dissemination and mobilization in accordance with the characteristics of the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region.

Second, promoting the application of mass media and digital platforms in cultural communication.

Third, giving full play to the pivotal role of grassroots cadres and prestigious figures within the community.

Fourth, organizing ethnic minority cultural festivals as a vivid, direct, and effective means of cultural communication.

Fifth, strengthening the subject role of communities in preserving and promoting cultural identity.

3.1.2.2. Implementing Modes of Preserving Cultural Identity

First, preserving cultural identity through systems of museums, libraries, cultural villages, and cultural spaces.

Second, restoring and reenacting the cultural identities of ethnic minorities.

Third, conducting inventories to safeguard the cultural identities of ethnic minorities.

Fourth, transmitting the cultural identities of ethnic minorities through classes, clubs, and practices embedded in everyday life.

3.1.2.3. Modes of Promoting Cultural Identity Are Implemented in Flexible, Diverse, and Creative Ways

First, publicizing and disseminating the cultural identities of ethnic minorities through mass media and social platforms.

Second, promoting cultural identity in association with tourism development.

3.2. EMERGING ISSUES CONCERNING THE SUBJECT ROLE OF ETHNIC MINORITY PEOPLE IN PRESERVING AND PROMOTING CULTURAL IDENTITY IN THE NORTHERN MIDLANDS AND MOUNTAINOUS REGION OF VIETNAM TODAY

3.2.1. Emerging Issues Concerning the Awareness of Ethnic Minority People in Preserving and Promoting Cultural Identity in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region of Vietnam Today

One of the most prominent issues currently arising in the preservation and promotion of the cultural identity of ethnic minorities in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region is the issue of awareness among ethnic minority people themselves, who are the subjects responsible for the creation and preservation of culture. This issue is manifested in several aspects. A segment of ethnic minority people has yet to clearly identify which elements of cultural identity should be preserved and promoted, and has not fully reconciled practical needs and

requirements, State orientations, and the needs of local people. In addition, a proportion of ethnic minority people still lack initiative and self-consciousness in their awareness regarding the preservation and promotion of cultural identity.

3.2.2. Emerging Issues Concerning the Behavioral Dimension of Ethnic Minority People in Preserving and Promoting Cultural Identity in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region of Vietnam Today

A major issue arising in the behavioral implementation of preserving and promoting cultural identity among ethnic minority people today is the gap between awareness and action. Although many people have become aware of the value of their ethnic culture, the degree of proactive participation, particularly in contributing to policy formulation, developing plans, and organizing activities, remains limited. In many cases, participation tends to be carried out in response to administrative requirements rather than stemming from self-consciousness and a sense of cultural responsibility.

Chapter 3 evaluates the current situation of the subject role of ethnic minority people in preserving and promoting cultural identity in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region from two dimensions, namely awareness and behavior. Ethnic minority people themselves have become increasingly aware of their role in safeguarding and disseminating cultural identity, regarding it as a sacred responsibility toward their lineage and communities. As a result, traditional cultural identities have been restored, practiced, and disseminated more widely; community awareness of the role of culture has been significantly enhanced; and models of cultural tourism, traditional craft villages, and the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage have been implemented effectively.

However, the promotion of cultural identity still faces a number of challenges. These include disparities in awareness among different localities, the risk of uncontrolled commercialization, and the gradual erosion of cultural heritage under the impact of modernization. Therefore, it is necessary to further enhance awareness, adjust behavioral practices, and create favorable conditions and motivations for ethnic minority people to continue participating more extensively and effectively in preserving and promoting cultural identity.

Chapter 4

SOME FUNDAMENTAL SOLUTIONS FOR PROMOTING THE SUBJECT ROLE OF ETHNIC MINORITY PEOPLE IN PRESERVING AND PROMOTING CULTURAL IDENTITY IN THE NORTHERN MIDLANDS AND MOUNTAINOUS REGION OF VIETNAM TOWARD 2045

4.1. A GROUP OF SOLUTIONS FOR ENHANCING THE AWARENESS OF ETHNIC MINORITY PEOPLE IN PRESERVING AND PROMOTING CULTURAL IDENTITY IN THE NORTHERN MIDLANDS AND MOUNTAINOUS REGION OF VIETNAM IN THE COMING PERIOD

4.1.1. Bringing into Full Play the Role of Party Committees and Authorities at All Levels in Enhancing Ethnic Minority People's Awareness of the Subject Role in Preserving and Promoting Cultural Identity

First, provincial Party committees and authorities should, on the basis of the guidelines and policies of the Party and the State, conduct research and formulate resolutions, projects, and programs suited to local specific conditions in order to enhance the awareness of ethnic minority people.

Second, commune-level Party committees should strengthen their leadership and direction over village and residential cell branches in the process of raising the awareness of ethnic minority people regarding the preservation and promotion of cultural identity.

Third, village and residential cell Party branches should assign responsibilities to Party members in association with ethnic minority households to implement activities aimed at preserving and promoting cultural identity.

4.1.2. Intensifying Communication and Awareness-Raising Activities among Ethnic Minority People in Preserving and Promoting Cultural Identity

First, intensifying communication and awareness-raising activities among ethnic minority people regarding the preservation and promotion of cultural identity through visual forms of communication.

Second, intensifying communication and awareness-raising activities among ethnic minority people regarding the preservation and promotion of cultural identity through radio and television broadcasting systems.

Third, intensifying communication and awareness-raising activities among ethnic minority people regarding the preservation and promotion of cultural identity through prestigious figures within the community.

Fourth, intensifying communication and awareness-raising activities among ethnic minority people regarding the preservation and promotion of cultural identity through cultural institutions and cultural activities.

4.1.3. Integrating Educational, Training, Capacity-Building, and Professional Development Programs to Enhance the Awareness of Ethnic Minority People in Preserving and Promoting Cultural Identity

First, integrating ethnic minority cultural education into the general education curriculum.

Second, incorporating education on the identification and protection of traditional costumes.

Third, expanding community-based models of folk art clubs and performance groups.

Fourth, organizing training courses on utilizing cultural identity to serve tourism development.

Fifth, transmitting cultural values through practices embedded in daily life.

Sixth, developing learning materials and modern educational media to disseminate cultural values.

Seventh, enhancing the capacities of teachers, cultural officials, and artisans engaged in cultural transmission.

Eighth, establishing mechanisms to encourage ethnic minority youth to participate in learning, practicing, and preserving their culture.

4.1.4. Bringing into Full Play the Role of Ethnic Minority People in Selecting Cultural Identities to Be Preserved and Promoted

First, promoting the role of ethnic minority cadres and intellectuals in the collection, research, and selection of cultural identities.

Second, identifying and eliminating negative and outdated elements within traditional culture.

Third, formulating community conventions and regulations while promoting the role of spiritual leaders.

Fourth, selecting and preserving traditional crafts as the foundation of cultural identity.

Fifth, improving the capacity of ethnic minority people to receive, analyze, and selectively absorb cultural values through education.

Sixth, encouraging communities to proactively propose cultural identities that should be preserved and promoted.

Seventh, enhancing the role of ethnic minority cultural officials in guiding and orienting communities.

4.2. A GROUP OF SOLUTIONS FOR ADJUSTING THE BEHAVIOR OF ETHNIC MINORITY PEOPLE IN PRESERVING AND PROMOTING CULTURAL IDENTITY IN THE NORTHERN MIDLANDS AND MOUNTAINOUS REGION OF VIETNAM IN THE COMING PERIOD

4.2.1. Promoting Socio-Economic Development and Improving People's Living Standards to Create the Material Foundation for Adjusting the Behavior of Ethnic Minority Subjects in Preserving and Promoting Cultural Identity

First, continuing to improve and synchronize the system of policies for the development of ethnic minority areas in a manner that closely integrates economic development with cultural preservation.

Second, ensuring stable and long-term investment resources for socio-economic development in ethnic minority areas, thereby creating a material foundation for behaviors aimed at preserving culture.

Third, linking multidimensional poverty reduction policies with the enhancement of the self-reliance capacity and independent spirit of ethnic minority people.

Fourth, making focused investments in cultural preservation as an integral component of socio-economic development.

Fifth, developing cultural tourism in association with community interests and ensuring equitable benefit-sharing.

Sixth, creating a favorable socio-cultural environment for cultural practice and creativity.

Seventh, improving the capacity of officials and strengthening expert consultation in the policy-making process.

Eighth, specifying policies for very small ethnic groups and areas with distinctive characteristics.

4.2.2. Bringing into Full Play the Role of Different Groups of Ethnic Minority Subjects in Preserving and Promoting Cultural Identity

First, artisans, artists, and prestigious figures within ethnic minority communities.

Second, grassroots officials who are members of ethnic minority groups.

Third, ethnic minority people are ordinary citizens.

4.2.3. Making Synchronized Investments in Infrastructure and Equipment for Preserving and Promoting Cultural Identity

First, establishing a system of appropriate cultural institutions associated with cultural identity.

Second, developing cultural preservation zones and ethnic minority cultural villages in connection with community-based tourism.

Third, promoting the digitalization of ethnic minority cultural heritage.

Chapter 4 proposes two groups of solutions aimed at enhancing awareness and adjusting the behavior of ethnic minority people, so that each member of ethnic minority communities will consciously conduct research and deepen their understanding of their own ethnic cultural identity. Through this process, they can proactively change their behavior and selectively preserve and promote positive cultural values. These groups of solutions can produce effective outcomes only when they are implemented in a comprehensive, flexible, and context-sensitive manner that is appropriate to the characteristics of each ethnic community. Such an approach will contribute to the development of a diverse and sustainable Vietnamese culture in the new stage of national development.

CONCLUSION

The thesis entitled “*The Subject Role of Ethnic Minority People in Preserving and Promoting Cultural Identity in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region of Vietnam at Present*” has been conducted based on a systematic review of domestic and international studies, an analysis of the theoretical foundations, an examination of the current situation, and the proposal of a feasible system of solutions aimed at enhancing the subject role of ethnic minority people in the new context. The research findings indicate that this issue is not only urgent but also of strategic significance for the sustainable development of both the region and the nation.

First, the review of relevant studies reveals that most scholars have acknowledged the central and irreplaceable role of ethnic minority communities in preserving and disseminating their own cultural heritage. However, previous studies have mainly approached the issue from the perspectives of cultural studies, anthropology, ethnology, and cultural management. Relatively few studies have provided in-depth analyses of mechanisms for encouragement, modes of empowerment, or the factors affecting the subject capacity of communities under the conditions of globalization, the market economy, and digital transformation. This research gap constitutes the scientific space within which the dissertation establishes its approach, namely, investigating the subject role not merely as a cultural concept but as a system of capacities that are formed, influenced, and adjusted in the course of social development.

Second, on the basis of the literature review, the dissertation has developed and clarified the theoretical framework concerning ethnic minority people as subjects in preserving and promoting cultural identity. The dissertation affirms that cultural identity is a dynamic value system and that preservation and promotion constitute an integrated process. Ethnic minority people are identified as the decisive subjects throughout the entire chain of activities, ranging from the identification, practice, and creation of cultural identity to its transmission and utilization for development purposes. At the same time, the dissertation comprehensively analyzes the factors affecting subject capacity, including institutions, resources, the socio-economic environment, interethnic interactions, and

the influences of technology and digital media. These analyses provide a solid theoretical foundation for assessing the current situation.

Third, the findings on the current situation demonstrate that the subject role of ethnic minority people has been increasingly promoted in an effective manner, as reflected in their participation in collecting and inventorying cultural heritage, restoring festivals, preserving traditional crafts, developing cultural tourism, and transmitting languages and beliefs. Nevertheless, subject capacity remains limited in several respects, including the ability to selectively preserve cultural values, digital skills, resilience against the commercialization of culture, the decline of indigenous knowledge, the influence of industrial products and modern clothing, and the persistence of certain outdated customs and practices. These issues call for further comprehensive solutions.

Fourth, the dissertation proposes a comprehensive and feasible system of solutions aimed at promoting the subject role of ethnic minority people. These groups of solutions include: enhancing awareness through communication, education, training, and capacity-building; adjusting behavior through community self-governance mechanisms and the formulation of appropriate community conventions and regulations; promoting cultural transmission through schools, clubs, and artisans; establishing policies for honoring and supporting ethnic minority artisans and intellectuals; developing digital ecosystems and promoting the digitalization of cultural heritage; linking cultural preservation with livelihood development, particularly through cultural tourism; improving grassroots cultural institutions; and establishing mechanisms for multi-actor coordination among the State, communities, enterprises, and the academic community.

The dissertation contributes to enriching the scientific foundations for the formulation of ethnic cultural policies in Vietnam. At the same time, it clarifies the nature, characteristics, and requirements for promoting the subject role of ethnic minority people in the new context. The findings of the dissertation provide an important basis for further studies on models of cultural empowerment, cultural industries, cultural economics, and digital transformation in the preservation of the heritage of ethnic groups in Vietnam.

LIST OF PUBLISHED WORKS BY THE AUTHOR RELATED TO THE THESIS

1. Nguyen Thi Anh Dao (2024), “Applying Ho Chi Minh’s Perspective on Preserving and Promoting the Cultural Identity of Ethnic Groups in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Region”, *Political Theory Journal*, Special Issue, Fourth Quarter 2024, p. 182.
2. Nguyen Thi Anh Dao (2025), “The Subject Role of Ethnic Minority People in Preserving and Promoting Ethnic Cultural Identity: Evidence from Lao Cai Province”, *Political Theory Journal*, Special Issue 2025, p. 236.