

Building Ecological Culture - Basic of Sustainable Development in the Northern Mountainous Region Today

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Abstract Practical activities to change the natural world in the "ecological corridor" in accordance with the rules of the ecological environment will bring about the sustainable development conditions of human society, which is really an action that shows high ecological culture. On the basis of discussing the role of building ecological culture as a basis for sustainable development, the article analyzes the state of ecological culture and proposes a number of basic solutions to build ecological culture to ensure goals about sustainably developing in the northern mountainous region today.

Keywords: *ecological culture, ecological culture in the northern mountainous region, sustainable development*

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1. Introduction

In Vietnam today, in the cause of industrialization and modernization with the trend of expanding social production both in width and depth, the risk of a natural environment is degraded and polluted, this situation is becoming an important challenge for the sustainable development of the Northern Upland region today. Facing the risk of environmental degradation, change and re-effect on human society itself, building ecological culture is one of the basic solutions to ensure ecological balance, which is the important basis for the sustainable development of the Northern Upland region today.

The study discusses ecological culture and affirms the important role of ecological culture for the sustainable development of *Eco-cultural and human cultural works* [1] and *on ecological culture and sustainable development in our country today* [2] the authors give basic points on ecological culture, the sustainable development of society and the relationship between ecological culture and sustainable development, contributing to raising awareness in dealing with ecological issues - one of the urgent issues not only in Vietnam but also globally.

Luong Viet Hai, I.K. Lixiev with the work of *Social and Ecological Modernization* [3], Nong Quoc Chinh with the work of *Education on environmental protection and sustainable development* [4] affirms: Building ecological culture is the effective solution to ensure the

harmonious and co-evolutionary development between the socio-economy and the ecological environment. Cultural and humanistic natures in relation to ecology - ecological culture - becomes an important criterion to assess the progress of a society, the sustainable development of an region, a nation and all mankind.

In the following articles: *Current ecological and cultural issues* [5], *On the relationship between ecological culture and sustainable development* [6], *Ecological culture and sustainable development in the community* [7], *Ecological-human culture and natural-human-social system* [8] the authors have started to study theoretical views on ecological culture and appreciation of the role and value of ecological culture for the development of society towards sustainable development.

Research on the role of ecological culture in sustainable development in the Northern mountainous region, the article *some issues of ecological culture in the Northern Uplands in our country today* [9] within the scope of the article, Tran Thi Hong Loan initially gave some views on ecological culture and proposed a number of solutions to build ecological culture, contributing to the sustainable development of the northern mountainous region, but not yet system.

Within the scope of this article, the research team have looked into research about the role of ecological culture as a basis for sustainable development, analyzing the status of ecological culture and proposing some solutions and basic measures to build ecological culture to ensure the goal of sustainable development of the Northern mountainous region today.

2. Content

2.1. Basic Ecological Culture for Sustainable Development

In Ph.Engghen's thought, culture is the social activity of human beings, the natural development of oneself. Culture is different from nature, but nature does not stand outside. If culture is the level of people of social development, everywhere, people are a direct product of nature and is also a dynamic subject of social relations. The unity between man and nature creates regional, historical and cultural characters when it reflects a certain social appearance. Thus, culture is first of all human relations with nature, creation and conquering the natural world of human beings needs to reach unity with the natural world, then the values of creative labor of human are cultural values. Apart from nature, humans will not be able to survive and develop, so destroying nature is an anti-cultural action. Regarding ecological culture, researchers all consider ecological culture as an expression of the relationship between man and nature, expressed through love for the natural environment, through creative activities in reality, on the basis of respecting for nature, harmony with nature, towards the values of truth and goodness. As such, we perceive *ecological culture as an expression of the relationship between man and nature, it reflects the human to conquer nature, expressed through knowledge, love and action of people in practical activities creating material and spiritual values on the basis of respecting for the ecological environment.* The structure of ecological culture includes: Knowledge of dialectical relationship between people - nature - society; human love for the ecological environment; and the will to take action to respect nature, obeying the rules of objective action in practical activities.

Discussing the role of ecological culture in sustainable development, it can be affirmed that building ecological culture is considered the basis of sustainable development, because:

Firstly, ecological culture is an knowledge about the position and role of human beings in relation to the ecological environment, the impact of human in practical activities in dialectical relationship human - natural - human society. The whole activity of human is a frequent "metabolism" between man and nature, C. Marx wrote: "Man lives by the natural world. This means that the natural world is the body of human, with which the human being must remain in the process of constant communication in order to exist" [[10]; p.137]. This explains that the human system - naturally a unified kinetic system, under the influence of each other. This is a system that operates on the principle of backward contact, not only one-way relationship, that is, not only human impact, natural transformation, but also the natural also impacts strongly to humans. It is worth noting that the opposite effect is not anticipated, it can destroy all the first results that human has been achieved.

Thus, ecological culture becomes the basis to raise people's awareness about the important role of the ecological environment for the sustainable development of society. People must voluntarily "perceive the rule of

nature" and on that basis must "use those rules correctly" in the course of practical operations. Because "We can not absolutely dominate the natural world as an aggressor who dominates another people, like a person living outside of nature, but on the contrary, ourselves, all flesh, blood and our minds belong to the natural world, we belong to the natural world, and all our dominance over nature is in our places, different from all other creatures, we are aware of the laws of nature and we can use them correctly [[11]; p.655].

Secondly, ecological culture is displayed in people's awareness and attitudes in the process of taking advantage and changing the natural world in socio-economic development activities. Understanding about the natural world, the objective laws of movement of nature only represent the basic level of awareness of ecological culture. People who understand the nature and laws of movement of nature and apply creatively, being right in the rules to improve ecology and take advantage of ecology for the goal of social and natural evolution - they are the highest expression of ecological culture. The exploitation and improvement of the natural world in the "ecological corridor" in accordance with the rules of the ecological environment will bring about the sustainable condition of development of human society, which is really the behavior that demonstrate high ecological culture. This is considered the basis for solving all ecological issues, human and ecological environment of countries and the world in the current period. When people seize the nature of the objective law in the relationship between people - nature - society, with a positive sense, will properly apply the objective rules in that relationship - will become the key to build and form ecological culture, is a fundamental factor for a society to achieve sustainable development.

Thirdly, on the basis of realizing the right position, role and dialectical relationship between people - nature - society to ensure sustainable development, helping people voluntarily adjust their behavior, cultivate their love for the environment and improve the willingness to act with respect to nature, obeying the laws of objective movements, harmony with the ecological environment, self-awareness and seriously implementing guidelines and policies, law in practical operations.

Thus, building and improving the ecological and cultural level of individuals in society is understood that people can not treat nature as "exploitation" or taking over, but on the contrary, people have to treat nature like a companion in a co-evolutionary trend. Today, the rapid development of economic facilitates to improve the quality of human life, but there are certain disadvantages affecting the natural environment such as resource exhaustion, ecological imbalance, living environment which is polluted...In this situation, building an ecological culture is an effective solution to ensure the harmonious and co-evolutionary development between the socio-economy and the ecological environment. The cultural and human nature of human with the natural world - ecological culture - becomes an important criterion to assess the progress of a society and the sustainable development of a region, a country. Therefore, "Today, the global goal is to shape ecological culture, consciousness and behavior to achieve ecological sustainability for the development of

the human community" [[4]; p.324], towards the goal of sustainable development, it is necessary to "enhance ecological culture in the process of social modernization" [[3]; p.11].

2.2. Current Situation of Ecological Culture in the Northern Mountainous Region of Vietnam Today

2.2.1. Basic Achievements in Building Ecological Culture in the Northern Mountainous Region Today

Firstly, the awareness of management, leaders and people in harmonizing the natural-human relationship to protect the ecological environment, making certain the goal of sustainable development, they have changed significantly; planning of socio-economic development tasks associated with the protection of natural resources and the environment, nature conservation, ecological environment protection and biodiversity protection have been paid more and more attention; The prevention and overcoming of degradation and environmental pollution have been concerned and achieved some results. Resources for the protection of natural resources and the environment for the purpose of sustainable development have been strongly strengthened. Environmental quality in some areas and some regions has been improved, contributing to improving the quality of life of people as well as the sustainable development process of the region and the country. The national program on response with climate change was initially implemented. In particular, being aware of the important role of the ecological environment in the sustainable development of the region, the region's strategies for socio-economic development and the mission for the socio-economic development with the mission of environmental protection is particularly emphasized. In the Prime Minister's Decision No. 1064 / QĐ-TTg on approving the overall planning on socio-economic development of the Northern Midland and mountainous region up to 2020: "The North is a particularly important strategic area in terms of socio-economic, defense, security and foreign affairs of the whole country, and plays an important role in the ecological environment of the whole northern region" [[12]; p. 65]. In the Political Bureau's Conclusion No. 26-KL / TW on continuing implementation of Resolution No. 37-NQ / TW, on July 1, 2004, of the IX th Political Bureau, aiming to boost socio-economic development and to ensure national defense and security in the Northern Midland and Mountainous Region up to 2020, fully aware of the position and role of the Northern Mountain Region "Having a decisive role in the ecological environment of the whole Northern region", The general objective of regional development to 2020 is to "link socio-economic development with environmental protection".

In the Decision No. 980 / QĐ-TTg of the Prime Minister, the Decision approved the construction planning of the Northern Midland and Mountains region till 2030, It has confirmed the provinces of Lang Son, Cao Bang, Ha Giang and Lao Cai and Lai Chau: is a region with a strategic position in terms of national security and defense for the whole country; northern gateway along with the

key economic region in the North and closely economic connection with southern provinces of China; protecting natural ecology, water sources, special-use forests and watershed forests; developing the general economy, of which the border economy and the mining industry are the key ones, developing cultural, historical and ecological tourism; identification of highly mountainous areas, protection of natural ecology, water sources, special-use forests, watershed forests, forestry development; Dien Bien and Son La provinces develop forestry, protect watershed forests and biodiversity; mining industry, hydroelectricity, agro-forestry processing, construction materials; cultural - historical tourism, ecology and relaxation. Forming a nuclear urban center in Dien Bien and Son La provinces, linking industrial clusters of building materials, processing industries, centers of cultural-historical and ecological tourism, border-gate economic exchanges, hydroelectricity, irrigation. Developing small and medium-sized cities in association with developing forestry to protect ecological environment.

Secondly, the legal system on resource management and environmental protection have been increasingly improved in the direction of approaching sustainable development goals, and the awareness on environmental protection have been raised. Individuals and organizations engaged in production and business activities that because environmental pollution shall be handled in time. Summarizing the situation of receiving and processing information about the environmental pollution nationwide through the General Department of Environment's hotline by the end of December 31, 2018, the provinces in the Northern mountainous areas 100 % of received information reflecting environmental pollution is processed, higher than the national rate, the proportion of received information reflecting environmental pollution is processed in the whole country 47 %, unprocessed is 53% [13].

Thirdly, the positive values of ecological culture are expressed through indigenous knowledge (local knowledge), which are knowledge systems of indigenous communities, showing the behavioral culture of people, the community with the environment and society, passed down from generation to generation through memory, through production practice of materials "It aims to guide and regulate social relations, relationships between human and nature" [[1]; p.209]. The culture of the Northern mountainous people is associated with the issue of protecting the ecological environment and forming indigenous knowledge which has important meanings in forming the spiritual values of ecological culture. As in the Spring Festival, the H'mong people set many conventions, including the village's regulations on forest and land protection. The Kho Mu people in Co Chai village (Son La), in recent years, have established the convention of preserving and protecting two basic forest types, watershed and "ghost" forests. As a result, 1 ha of "ghost" forests and 5 ha of upstream forests next to the village has been still preserved and developed. In some areas, the Dao and the Co Tu people still maintain the custom of growing cinnamon trees to celebrate the birth of young children. Or the Dao ethnic group in cinnamon Van Yen (Yen Bai) has a long tradition and is also a respectable culture: when girls and boys reach the age of maturity, they are "married and married" by the family. ,

according to custom, 10 cinnamon trees must be planted in the village. For Thai people, the forest plays a very important role in the life of material life and spiritual life, the Thai people have the saying: "Tai pang phang, promiscuous pà Lát" means: when living forests raise and when dying forests bury" [[14]; p.80]. Therefore, forests are highly respected in Thai customary law.

2.2.2. Some Issues Raised in Building Ecological Culture Have Become the Basis for Sustainable Environmental Development in the Northern Mountainous Region Today

Subjectively, awareness of human about environmental impacts is still limited, so in the economic development process, the environment has not been paid attention properly, making the ecological environment in the Northern mountainous area more and more far deterioration and serious pollution. "One of the most difficult and pressing human cultural and ecological issues in our country today is the awareness of the environment and protection of the ecological environment of the people, even the social managers are at low levels. To be more precise, the ecological awareness and ecological thinking of Vietnamese people so far is mainly at a low level, the level of small producers, cultivating wet rice (small farmers) is popular in the whole society" [[15]; p.24]. This is the current situation and at the same time is an important cause of negative consequences for the ecological environment in Vietnam today in general and the Northern Uplands in particular.

The organization system for environmental management is still limited, the management structure is still not adequate with the tasks. In the process of making socio-economic development planning, plans, programs and projects, environmental protection has not been given attention properly. Regarding the system of legal documents on environmental protection, there are still many shortcomings, the formulation of laws and policies on environmental protection is still slow, not comprehensive, not strictly implemented, effective and low efficiency. There is a lack of method for managing the overall environment at regional, inter-regional and inter-national levels, while there is an overlap of functions and tasks between levels and sectors in environmental protection.

Ecological culture in business of enterprises, of business household. Awareness of implementing state policies and laws on environmental protection of enterprises and household is not high. Responsibility for environmental protection has not really become a culture in business and production as well as in the lifestyle for every individual in society. The awareness of compliance with the Law on environmental protection is not high, in Yen Bai province, from January 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018, there were discovered: 143 cases of illegal transportation of forest products; 84 cases of buying, selling and storing forest products; 15 cases of illegal forest exploitation; 3 cases of violating regulations on forest fire prevention and fighting; administrative sanctions of 674 million dong. In Lao Cai province, 341 cases were detected and handled: 22 deforestation cases; 26 cases of deforestation for cultivation, 130 cases of illegal transportation of forest products; 20 cases of exploitation of forest product; 90 cases of trading, hiding, 07 cases of violating

administrative procedures [[16]; p.3]. In Dien Bien Province in 2018, the situation of deforestation was 116 cases, causing damage to 30.88 ha of forests, handling of administrative violations of 72 cases, 31 cases of continuing to complete the documents for handling according to regulations, 13 case of taking criminality. Illegal forest exploitation occurred 12 cases (up 8 cases over the same period in 2017); violating forest products of 56,705 m³ timber of all kinds [[17]; p.5].

Objectively, the downside of industrialization, industrial urbanization and urbanization is the inevitable trend of the development process. Many processing zones and industrial parks have low technological level, many old and outdated equipment's fail to ensure the sources of waste to be treated, greatly affected the ecological environment. Industrialization is aimed at promoting economic growth, but economic growth in our country is still largely in the width, low quality of growth, mainly based on capacity of labor, investment capital, consumption of raw materials and energy are high, low efficiency, negative impacts on the environment are still very large. On the other hand, with objective conditions in the Northern Uplands, the region still has a large proportion of poor households in the country, thus the pressure of underdeveloped economy and population on natural resources and environment of the region is becoming more and more severe. In fact, "the northern mountains have already overpopulated and the natural resources here are being used at an uncontrolled speed" [[18]; p.273-274].

Therefore, the Northern mountainous region is currently facing the challenge of economic growth, along with there is a shortage of fuels and energy due to the exhaustion of non-renewable resources. Yes, environmental pollution, natural environment are gradually destroyed, ecological balance is gradually broken down, nature causes extremely catastrophic disasters, over the years the statistics show that the level of impact is extremely serious: in Ha Giang province, the impact of natural disasters, the total value of damage constantly increased in the period of 2010-2017 increased by 29.1% (VND 203 billion) [[19]; p.417]; Lao Cai province in the period of 2010-2017 increased sharply by VND 604.2 billion [[20]; p.521]; Yen Bai province in the period of 2014-2017 increased by VND 2440 billion [21].

2.3. Some Basic Solutions to Build Ecological Culture for Making Certain the Goal of Sustainable Development of the Northern Mountainous Region Today

2.3.1. Group of Solutions from All Levels of Leadership and Management

Firstly, policies on planning for socio-economic development in the Northern mountainous areas must give priority to protecting the ecological environment and ensuring ecological balance. As the "lung" of the country, the policies for the socio-economic development of the Northern region in practice put a demand with breakthrough in cognitive thought about economic growth of the region. The policies of the Party and the State in order to develop the economy in the Northern

mountainous region now in association with protecting the ecological environment must become a red thread throughout the process of industrialization and modernization. "Every problem, every thought, policy, way, policy and strategy to solve, including technical issues to solve ecological issues, is really related to ecological culture, because there clearly showing the conception, awareness, responsibility, ecological and cultural level of the subjects in dealing with ecological issues" [[3]; p.60]. The objective of developing socio-economy in the region should be towards economic growth in association with environmental sustainability, growth in an environmentally friendly manner, with a duty to protect, regenerate and improve environment... attaching importance to developing green and environmentally friendly economy.

The policies for planning and projects to develop the socio-economy in the Northern mountainous region need to stop the economic thinking of seizure and "exploiting" natural resources, following the economic growth rate, and "Cool down" for rapid and hot economic growth figures based on natural resource data; planning for developing industrial parks, processing zones, factories, activities for exploiting mineral,...in the Northern mountainous region to ensure the science, It has to pay special attention to efficiency of socio-economic development in associated with preserving and protecting the ecological environment and ensuring the sustainable development of the region. The assessment of environmental impacts on projects for developing socio-economy is a key criterion which should be considered as the first priority for decisions on construction and operation of industrial zones, industrial clusters or mining activities...of enterprises. Reports for having an effect on environmental are not acceptable, they do not permit the implementation and approval of investment projects; It is necessary to require industrial parks and processing zones to invest synchronously and modernly in the infrastructure for gathering and treating wastes, ensuring environmental impacts at a safe level for the ecological environment. The State should put environmental issues as a key issue in strategies for socio-economic development, in attracting capital and projects are invested directly by foreigner in the Northern mountainous region.

The State has a integrating policy to solve issues about protecting environment with hunger eradication and poverty reduction, associating the benefits of environmental protection with people's livelihoods, especially for poor households. The State should have policies to combine the general exploitation of natural resources, especially with tourism development, environmental protection, natural resource protection, ecological environment protection; policies on managing mineral exploitation for small and medium scale that they are suitable to the characteristics of the northern mountainous region; policies on managing protection of watershed forests, associated with economic benefits for people participating in activities of protecting and preserving watersheds of ethnic minority people in mountainous regions. Especially, based on annually the economic growth rate, the State needs to calculate and balance the budget to increase the rate of favorable economic incentives for the protection and preservation of forests for people in the Northern mountain. The State should issue policies to exploit forest products but provide

subsidies to change the livelihoods of the people in association with their life with forests, associated with economic benefits and ensuring the lives of people in the Northern mountainous areas.

Secondly, perfecting the legal system to create a legal corridor to build ecological culture in the whole society. *Firstly*, continuing to improve the Law on Environmental Protection and other related laws to ensure the power of legal sanctions against illegal acts in protecting the ecological environment. The legal system must diversify forms of handling violations at all levels of violations in the scope of administrative sanctions to criminal handling. The development of laws and by-laws should ensure consistency, timeliness and strict enforcement. The sanctioning level must ensure deterrence to individuals and businesses.

Building a Law on the environment in the direction of unifying the work of protecting environmental components and adapting to climate change, formulating a law on waste minimization, recycling and use of waste; The law of clean air; Law on restoration and improvement of environmental quality, natural ecosystems... Being flexible, rational and effective in use of economic instruments in environmental protection, including: Environmental tax, environmental fee, environment cost, penalties for environmental pollution...However, the legal framework for environmental taxes of businesses needs to be adjusted appropriately with the size of business owners to adjust and encourage businesses to use clean energy sources, economically and efficiently using sources of raw materials, fuel and investing for infrastructure to treat waste modernly, ensuring not to cause consequences on pollution and environmental degradation...In the current development of information technology, the State requires businesses to publicize and to be transparent about information of the environment, putting social responsibility of enterprises in the criteria for assessing growth. In addition, the state needs to specify the regulations to regulate enterprises' behaviors toward the environment: set out regulations on conducting environmental accounting at the enterprise level, impose legal documents, adjust the current accounting reporting system of enterprises in the direction of supplementation related to investment and environmental protection, clearly define the responsibilities of enterprises in reporting activities complying with environmental laws monthly, quarterly, yearly...

Secondly, strengthening institutional capacity, incentive mechanism, inspection and supervision of implementing regulations and provisions of the law on environmental protection. Supplementing and completing regulations on environmental inspection, regularly carrying out promoting activities, training courses, advanced training classes and standardizing inspectors. Establishing a system of indicators for environmental assessment and monitoring, strengthening technology of R&D for treating waste technologies. Constructing synchronously management system about the environment according to international standards in factories and industrial parks, and organizing periodic monitoring according to strict standards to ensure environmental quality under the impact of production activities of factories, industrial parks, processing zones, mineral exploitation activities. In the inspection, examination and supervision of functional

agencies, it is necessary to enhance the close and effective coordination with the environmental police force in the struggle, crime prevention and law-breaking acts on environment, strengthening the enforcement of laws and policies on environmental protection. At the same time, strengthening the people's supervision, promoting the role of every citizen as environmental police in order to promptly detect and strictly handle violations of the law on environmental protection.

Thirdly, improving the level of awareness and capacity in operations of leaders and managers at all levels, especially managers and leaders in the field of environment.

2.3.2. Solutions for Building Eco-culture in Enterprises, Production and Business Households

Firstly, raising the awareness of adjusting the production and business activities of enterprises associated with protecting the ecological environment. In order to raise the enterprises' awareness in protecting environmental, voluntarily manage their production and business behaviors into environmentally friendly production, applying scientific and technological achievements in production and business in order to use properly the natural resources, the products of the enterprise, contributing to reducing environmental pollution, reducing the burden of emitting pollutants. Basic measures: There are sanctions to associate the responsibility of enterprises to ensure the production and business activities that are friendly to the environment, not causing harm to pollution, degradation, or destruction of the environment through strict compliance to regulations on environmental protection, with sanctions to associate the responsibility of the business with ensuring the production and business activities friendly to the environment, does not cause harm to pollution, degradation, or damage by strictly complying with environmental protection regulations, investing capital in waste collection and treatment, ensuring zero emissions into the environment, and ensuring that the environment is not polluted such as original. Enterprises need to strictly comply with signed and agreed environmental commitments. For enterprises that fail to fulfill their environmental protection, fail to fulfill their commitments and violate the legislation of environmental protection, competent agencies should resolutely suspend production and business activities and confiscating licenses for production and business activities and resolutely handling the violations in accordance with the legal framework of the Law on Environmental Protection.

Enhancing education and propagation activities for enterprises on their obligations and interests in strictly executing the law on environmental protection; clarifying social responsibility of enterprises for obligations of environmental protection, clarifying the State's responsibility in protecting ecological environment, handling illegal acts on environmental protection.

Improving the awareness of compliance with the Law on Environmental Protection of enterprises. The strict implementation of provisions about environmental protection is considered as a criterion to evaluate the competitiveness of enterprises, while ensuring the sustainable development of enterprises in the market. Enterprises need to identify social responsibilities in their production and business activities, calculate the damages

caused by the environmental impact that they suffer if they do not comply with the provisions of law on environmental protection, commitments for environmental protection that they were signed, brand losses of enterprises in the market, losses due to reduced competitiveness in the market if there are legal violations about environmental protection...

Thirdly, businesses need to invest capital in the application of modern science and technology to produce environmentally friendly production, build an environmentally friendly business strategy. Enterprises need to innovate their thinking in importing and using clean and modern production technology in production and business to improve the competitiveness of products in the market based on the advantage of being environmentally friendly products. In active production in technological innovation, using clean and modern technologies, using less sources of raw materials and fuels, causing no environmental pollution or causing less environmental pollution, investing in advanced technique of waste treatment to ensure that it does not pollute the environment.

Fourthly, the government should have preferential policies on finance to encourage businesses to do business in clean technology, research and application of inventions of raw materials, fuels and eco-friendly products. In particular, the state also needs to invest in creative start-ups or young talents in applying patent research or increasing energy-saving products, using biological energy, new energy, recycling materials that are safe and environmentally friendly...increasing innovative businesses in the field of business of environmentally friendly products, energy-saving products, environmentally friendly and recyclable products that are safe for environment.

Fifth, strengthening inspection and inspection activities and strictly tackling violations of the Law on Environmental Protection.

2.3.3. Solutions from Citizens and Other Social Forces to Build Ecological Culture among the People

Firstly, fostering the role of social organizations in propaganda and education activities to raise people's awareness in obeying environmental protection laws and building ecological lifestyles in order to intensify good practices and the responsibility of every citizen with the protection of the ecological environment. Social organizations in the population need to be aware of their role in the task of propaganda, education to raise awareness of environmental protection, building ecological and cultural life among the people; regularly organizing practical activities to protect the environment, making the task of environmental protection become a sense and self-action of every citizen, becoming a cultural lifestyle of each person such as: *Environment Day World, National Week for Water and Sanitation, Campaign to Make the World Cleaner, Green Sunday, Turning waste into resources, All people take part in protecting the environment...*praising individuals, community have a high sense of responsibility in protecting the environment, fighting against violations of environmental protection law, developing a typical community model in implementing the campaign to protect environmental protection, building ecological and cultural lifestyle. Organizations in the community should actively and

actively promote their role in propaganda and dissemination of laws on environmental protection in various forms such as: implementing weekly plans and contents in propagating the Law on Environmental Protection, penalties for violations of environmental laws, and updating information on cases of violating environmental laws, consequences and levels of sanctions according to the law...thereby propagating and popularizing the law, while educating and raising the awareness of the every person about the Law on environmental protection, raising the awareness and responsibility to protect the environment of every citizen.

Secondly, fostering traditional ecological culture in the customs, village's conventions, protection of ecological environment of villages, because "Customary laws, conventions, customs and traditions of each ethnic group, each locality have a sustained vitality and boosting extent stronger than the modern law" [18]; p.278-279]; at the same time, promoting the role and prestige of the heads of population, especially for ethnic groups in highland and remote areas in protecting the ecological environment.

Third, boosting the role of social supervision and criticism of the people in protecting the ecological environment. Increasing the role of social organizations and communities to participate in dialogues and provide ideas during the decision-making process, especially the process for assessing environmental impact, boosting democracy and role of social supervision and criticism of the people in approving projects, constructing industrial parks, processing zones, mineral exploitation activities in order to prevent impacts from projects and socio-economic activities for development, causing environmental pollution in the locality.

3. Conclusion

Currently, sustainable development in the Northern mountainous areas should confirm the goals for economic development associated with environmental protection, implementing the principle of co-evolution, co-development between society and environment, minimizing conflict between economic system and environmental system. Building ecological culture is an effective solution to making certain the harmonious and co-evolutionary development between the socio-economy and ecological environment, which is the basis of motivation for sustainable development in the Northern mountainous region nowadays.

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