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ENSURING SOCIAL SECURITY IN THE REALIZATION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE IN NINH BINH PROVINCE AT PRESENT

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SUMMARY OF THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION IN PHILOSOPHY

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INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale for Selecting the Research Topic

Social security and social justice are dialectically related and interact closely. Ensuring social security contributes to harmonizing stakeholders' interests, narrowing social disparities, and creating opportunities for people to benefit from the achievements of development. In the context of developing a socialist-oriented market economy in Vietnam, harmoniously addressing the relationship among economic growth, ensuring social security, and realizing social justice is a requirement of profound theoretical and practical significance.

In Ninh Binh Province, industrialization, urbanization, and economic restructuring have generated additional resources for improving people's living standards. In particular, the merger of Ha Nam, Nam Dinh, and Ninh Binh provinces on July 1, 2025, has created a new development space while also posing new requirements for resource allocation and the reduction of social disparities. Although considerable achievements have been made in ensuring social security, practical challenges remain concerning employment, income, the risk of falling back into poverty, and access to basic social services.

From a theoretical perspective, the dialectical relationship between ensuring social security and realizing social justice under specific local conditions requires further clarification. Therefore, examining this relationship in Ninh Binh Province is of practical significance for assessing the current situation, identifying emerging issues, and proposing appropriate solutions.

For these reasons, the author has selected the topic *"Ensuring Social Security in the Realization of Social Justice in Ninh Binh Province at Present"* for the doctoral dissertation in Philosophy.

2. Research Aim and Tasks

2.1. Research Aim

On the basis of the theoretical framework, the dissertation clarifies the actual situation of ensuring social security in the realization of social justice in the three former provinces of Ninh Binh, Ha Nam, and Nam Dinh during the 2020–2025 period. It then proposes orientations and solutions to improve the effectiveness of ensuring social security in the realization of social justice in Ninh Binh Province during the 2026–2030 period, with a vision toward 2045.

2.2. Research Tasks

First, to review the existing research literature, evaluate the findings of

previous studies, and identify issues requiring further clarification in the dissertation.

Second, to clarify the theoretical foundations, dialectical relationship, role, and factors influencing the process of ensuring social security in the realization of social justice.

Third, to analyze the influencing conditions and assess the actual situation of ensuring social security in the realization of social justice in Ninh Binh Province from 2020 to the present, with particular emphasis on the 2020–2025 period; and to identify achievements, limitations, their causes, and emerging issues.

Fourth, to propose orientations and solutions to improve the effectiveness of ensuring social security in the realization of social justice in Ninh Binh Province through 2030, with a vision toward 2045.

3. Research Subject and Scope

3.1. Research Subject

The dissertation focuses on ensuring social security in the realization of social justice in Ninh Binh Province at present.

3.2. Research Scope

Content scope: The dissertation examines the theoretical foundations, dialectical relationship, roles of relevant actors, contents, and methods of ensuring social security in the realization of social justice; assesses the actual situation; and proposes orientations and solutions for Ninh Binh Province.

Geographical scope: The research covers the present-day territory of Ninh Binh Province, encompassing the three former provinces of Ninh Binh, Ha Nam, and Nam Dinh prior to their merger.

Temporal scope: The research covers the period from 2020 to the present, with particular emphasis on 2020–2025. It incorporates developments following the merger of the three provinces on July 1, 2025, and proposes solutions through 2030, with a vision toward 2045.

4. Theoretical Foundations and Research Methods

4.1. Theoretical Foundations

The dissertation is grounded in the theoretical foundations of dialectical materialism and historical materialism within Marxism–Leninism, Ho Chi Minh Thought, and the viewpoints, guidelines, orientations, and policies of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the State, and Ninh Binh Province concerning ensuring social security in the realization of social justice through 2030.

4.2. Research Methods

The dissertation adopts the methodology of dialectical materialism and historical materialism, adhering to the principles of objectivity, comprehensiveness, historical specificity, development, and the unity of theory and practice. It primarily employs the historical and logical methods, combined with analysis, synthesis, induction, deduction, statistical analysis, comparison, and the review and synthesis of practical experience.

These methods are applied according to the specific objectives of each chapter:

Chapter 1: Analysis, synthesis, and the historical–logical method are employed to review the existing research literature.

Chapter 2: Analysis, synthesis, induction, deduction, and the logical method are used to clarify the theoretical foundations of ensuring social security in the realization of social justice.

Chapter 3: The historical–logical method, statistical analysis, comparison, analysis, and synthesis are applied to assess the actual situation, identify causes, and determine emerging issues in Ninh Binh Province.

Chapter 4: Analysis, synthesis, the systems approach, the logical method, and the review and synthesis of practical experience are employed to propose orientations and solutions through 2030, with a vision toward 2045.

5. Theoretical and Practical Significance of the Research

5.1. Theoretical Significance

The dissertation helps clarify the theoretical foundations and deepen understanding of the dialectical relationship between ensuring social security and realizing social justice through the application of Marxism–Leninism, Ho Chi Minh Thought, and the guidelines of the Communist Party of Vietnam. It further clarifies the role, conditions, and methods of ensuring social security in harmonizing stakeholders' interests, narrowing social disparities, and creating opportunities for human development.

5.2. Practical Significance

The dissertation provides scientific and practical grounds for assessing the actual situation, identifying emerging issues, and proposing solutions to improve the effectiveness of ensuring social security in the realization of social justice in Ninh Binh Province. It also serves as a reference for policy formulation and implementation, as well as for research and teaching in related fields.

6. New Contributions of the Dissertation

Theoretical contributions: The dissertation contributes to clarifying the dialectical relationship between ensuring social security and realizing social justice, as well as the role of ensuring social security in this process from a philosophical perspective, particularly in harmonizing stakeholders' interests, narrowing social disparities, and promoting human development.

Practical contributions: The dissertation clarifies the actual situation, achievements, limitations, their causes, and the contradictions and emerging issues associated with ensuring social security in the realization of social justice in Ninh Binh Province, particularly in the context of the merger of the three provinces.

Contributions in terms of solutions: The dissertation proposes orientations and solutions to improve the effectiveness of ensuring social security in the realization of social justice, emphasizing the rational allocation of resources, the harmonization of stakeholders' interests, and the reduction of disparities in access to and actual enjoyment of social security among population groups and geographical areas.

7. Structure of the Dissertation

Apart from the Introduction, Conclusion, and List of References, the dissertation consists of 4 chapters and 11 sections.

CHAPTER 1
OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH RELATED TO THE DISSERTATION TOPIC

1.1. Overview of Research Works Related to the Dissertation

1.1.1. Research Works on Theoretical Issues Related to Ensuring Social Security in the Realization of Social Justice

Existing studies focus on three main areas: (1) Clarifying the concepts, nature, functions, and roles of social security in protecting people, ensuring rights, and creating opportunities for development; (2) Explaining the theoretical foundations, nature, and content of social justice in relation to resource distribution, rights, and development opportunities; and (3) Analyzing the role of social security in reducing inequality, harmonizing stakeholders' interests, and realizing social justice. However, the dialectical relationship, content, and methods of ensuring social security in the realization of social justice from a philosophical perspective require further clarification.

1.1.2. Research Works on the Actual Situation of Ensuring Social Security in the Realization of Social Justice

Existing studies focus on the following major aspects: (1) Employment, income, and poverty reduction; (2) Social insurance, health insurance, and unemployment insurance; (3) Access to and enjoyment of basic social services; (4) Social assistance for vulnerable groups; and (5) The actual situation of ensuring social security in Ninh Binh and several other localities. These studies have provided an important practical foundation. However, they have not systematically clarified the actual situation of ensuring social security in the realization of social justice in Ninh Binh Province, particularly disparities in access, enjoyment of benefits, and resource allocation among population groups and geographical areas.

1.1.3. Research Works on Viewpoints and Solutions for Ensuring Social Security in the Realization of Social Justice

Existing studies focus on three main areas: (1) Establishing viewpoints and orientations for the development of social security in association with the realization of social justice and sustainable development; (2) Improving institutions and policies, expanding social security coverage, and enhancing access to social security; and (3) Ensuring equity in the enjoyment of benefits, narrowing social disparities, and strengthening the capacity to respond to emerging risks. However, the proposed solutions lack a systematic approach to linking the process of ensuring social security with the realization of social justice, particularly under the specific socioeconomic conditions of Ninh Binh Province.

1.2. Contributions of the Reviewed Research Works to the Dissertation and Issues Requiring Further Investigation

1.2.1. Contributions of the Reviewed Research Works to the Dissertation Topic

First, regarding theoretical contributions: Previous studies have clarified the concepts, nature, and roles of social security and social justice, as well as the relationship between them. They provide a theoretical foundation for the dissertation to build upon and further develop a philosophical approach to ensuring social security in the realization of social justice.

Second, regarding the actual situation: Previous studies provide information on achievements, limitations, and their causes in the implementation of social security policies in Vietnam and several localities, including Ninh Binh. These findings provide a basis for the dissertation to analyze and assess the actual situation in relation to the requirements of realizing social justice.

Third, regarding viewpoints and solutions: Previous studies have proposed orientations and solutions for improving policies, expanding coverage, enhancing access to and enjoyment of social security benefits, and mobilizing resources. These serve as references for the dissertation in proposing orientations and solutions appropriate to the conditions of Ninh Binh Province.

1.2.2. Issues Requiring Further Investigation in the Dissertation

Building upon previous research findings, the dissertation focuses on: (1) Clarifying the theoretical foundations and dialectical relationship between ensuring social security and realizing social justice from a philosophical perspective; (2) Establishing an analytical approach and evaluation criteria for ensuring social security in the realization of social justice; (3) Analyzing the actual situation, achievements, limitations, and their causes in Ninh Binh Province; (4) Clarifying disparities in access to and enjoyment of social security benefits among population groups; (5) Analyzing the specific conditions of Ninh Binh that influence this process; and (6) Proposing orientations and solutions appropriate to the province's new development context.

Chapter 1 Summary

Previous studies have provided important theoretical and practical foundations, as well as orientations and solutions concerning ensuring social security and realizing social justice. However, the dialectical relationship between these two issues from a philosophical perspective, together with the practical situation in Ninh Binh Province, has not been comprehensively and systematically examined. This provides the basis for the dissertation to further clarify theoretical issues, assess the actual situation, and propose solutions to improve the effectiveness of ensuring social security in the realization of social justice in Ninh Binh Province at present.

CHAPTER 2
THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF ENSURING SOCIAL SECURITY IN THE REALIZATION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AT PRESENT

2.1. Conceptions of Social Security, Social Justice, and the Relationship Between Ensuring Social Security and Realizing Social Justice

2.1.1. Conceptions of Social Security and Ensuring Social Security

2.1.1.1. Conception of Social Security

First, the concept of social security

Building upon the perspectives previously analyzed and in accordance with the research objectives, the dissertation defines social security as a system of policies, programs, and institutions in which the State plays the leading role, in coordination with other social actors, in organizing implementation to ensure a minimum standard of living and provide all citizens with full and equal access to basic social services. At the same time, this system provides support to prevent, mitigate, and effectively address major risks throughout the life cycle, such as illness, occupational accidents, unemployment, and old age, thereby contributing to the stabilization of living conditions, human development, and the realization of social justice.

Second, the fundamental components of social security

Based on its principal areas of intervention, the social security system in Vietnam can be classified into four fundamental components:

- Employment, income security, and poverty reduction.
- Social insurance, health insurance, and unemployment insurance.
- Social assistance.
- Basic social services for the population.

Third, the nature of social security

- Social security embodies human rights and social responsibility for ensuring basic living conditions.
- Social security reflects humanitarian values and a development orientation centered on human beings.
- Social security embodies solidarity and the sharing of responsibilities and benefits within society.

Fourth, the role of social security in the social policy system

- Protecting people’s livelihoods against socioeconomic risks.
- Creating conditions for the realization of fundamental social rights and human development.
- Contributing to the regulation of relations of interests and the reduction of social disparities.
- Contributing to social stability and development.

2.1.1.2. Conception of Ensuring Social Security

Based on the preceding analysis, the dissertation defines ensuring social

security as a process in which the State plays the leading role, in coordination with other social actors, in establishing the necessary conditions, mobilizing and distributing resources, and organizing the implementation of social security policies to prevent, mitigate, and address risks, ensure basic living conditions, create opportunities for human development, and contribute to the realization of social justice.

2.1.2. Conceptions of Social Justice and the Realization of Social Justice

2.1.2.1. Conception of Social Justice

First, the concept of social justice

Building upon the perspectives previously analyzed and in accordance with the research objectives, the dissertation defines social justice as a state of social life in which all members of society have equitable opportunities to access development resources and essential social services, such as education, healthcare, employment, social security, and welfare, without discrimination in any form. At the same time, the distribution of the achievements of development is carried out in accordance with the actual contributions and legitimate needs of different social groups.

Second, the fundamental dimensions of social justice

- Justice in the distribution and redistribution of the achievements of development.
- Justice in opportunities to access resources and conditions for development.
- Justice in the exercise of social rights and obligations.
- Justice among population groups and geographical areas with different levels of development.

Third, the nature of social justice

- Social justice is historically and socially conditioned.
- Social justice reflects fairness and reasonableness in social relations of interests.
- Social justice embodies humanitarian values and is oriented toward human development.

Fourth, the role of social justice

- Social justice contributes to creating motivation for socioeconomic development.
- Social justice contributes to improving living standards and promoting human development.
- Social justice contributes to harmonizing stakeholders' interests and maintaining social stability.
- Social justice contributes to orienting social development toward progress and sustainability.

2.1.2.2. Conception of the Realization of Social Justice

First, the concept of realizing social justice

Based on the preceding analysis, the dissertation defines realizing social justice as establishing correspondence between rights and obligations, and between contributions and benefits, while ensuring that workers receive adequate income commensurate with the results of their labor.

Realizing social justice does not mean absolute equalization. Rather, it is reflected in equitable development opportunities, conditions of access, and fairness in the distribution of social benefits. Individuals must have equitable opportunities to access resources and basic social services, including education, healthcare, employment, and welfare, without discrimination, while benefiting from the achievements of development in accordance with their contributions and legitimate needs.

Thus, social justice does not imply uniform equality but reflects fairness in opportunities and distribution.

Second, the fundamental components of realizing social justice

- Ensuring justice in the distribution and redistribution of the achievements of development.
- Creating opportunities to access resources and conditions for development.
- Ensuring fairness and reasonableness in the exercise of social rights and obligations.
- Narrowing disparities in living conditions and development opportunities among population groups and geographical areas.

Third, the fundamental characteristics of the process of realizing social justice

- It is historically specific.
- It is associated with the dialectical relationship between economic development and social progress.
- It involves the participation of multiple actors, with the State playing the leading role.
- It is continuous and oriented toward human development.

2.1.3. The Dialectical Relationship Between Ensuring Social Security and Realizing Social Justice

First, the foundations of the relationship between ensuring social security and realizing social justice.

Ensuring social security and realizing social justice both arise from actual socioeconomic conditions, particularly disparities in resource distribution, living conditions, and development opportunities among population groups. They also respond to the need to harmonize interests and address social issues emerging during the development process.

Second, ensuring social security and realizing social justice interact with and mutually facilitate each other.

Ensuring social security is an important means of realizing social justice through risk prevention, resource redistribution, support for disadvantaged

groups, and the expansion of opportunities to access social services. Conversely, social justice serves as the objective, guiding orientation, and criterion for evaluating the effectiveness of ensuring social security.

Third, the relationship between ensuring social security and realizing social justice constitutes a dialectical unity that also contains contradictions requiring resolution.

Ensuring social security and realizing social justice share the common objective of human development but are not identical in their content or methods of implementation. This relationship contains contradictions between social security needs and the capacity of available resources to meet them; between distribution according to contributions and support according to needs; and between expanding coverage and improving the quality of benefits received. Resolving these contradictions is essential to improving the effectiveness of ensuring social security in association with the realization of social justice.

2.2. The Role of Ensuring Social Security in the Realization of Social Justice

2.2.1. Ensuring Social Security Contributes to Harmonizing Relations of Interests and Realizing Justice in Distribution and Redistribution

Ensuring social security contributes to the realization of social justice through mechanisms of resource redistribution and the sharing of benefits and risks among members of society. Through insurance, social assistance, and poverty reduction policies, social security helps support disadvantaged groups, narrow disparities in living conditions, and mitigate conflicts of interest.

This process requires a harmonious combination of distribution according to labor and contributions with support according to needs, as well as a balance between the right to receive benefits and social responsibility, thereby contributing to the realization of social justice and social stability.

2.2.2. Ensuring Social Security Contributes to Creating Opportunities to Access Resources and Basic Social Services

Ensuring social security contributes to narrowing disparities in initial conditions and creating meaningful opportunities to access resources and basic social services, such as education, healthcare, employment, and housing.

It thereby enables people to maintain and develop their capabilities, enhance their participation in socioeconomic life, and prevent disadvantages from persisting across population groups and generations. This role requires not only expanding coverage but also ensuring the quality of benefits received in accordance with the needs and actual conditions of different social groups.

2.2.3. Ensuring Social Security Contributes to Protecting Vulnerable Groups, Narrowing Social Disparities, and Creating Conditions for Human Development

Ensuring social security contributes to protecting vulnerable groups through risk prevention and mitigation, income support, and the maintenance

of essential living conditions.

At the same time, social security helps narrow unjustified social disparities and prevent disadvantages from persisting across population groups and generations. It thereby combines immediate assistance with recovery, capacity development, expanded opportunities for participation in social life, and the promotion of human development.

2.3. Conditions, Actors, and Methods of Ensuring Social Security in the Realization of Social Justice

2.3.1. Economic, Political, and Social Conditions Influencing the Process of Ensuring Social Security in the Realization of Social Justice

First, economic conditions: These provide the material foundation and determine the capacity to mobilize and allocate resources, as well as the extent to which social security needs can be met.

Second, political and institutional conditions: These establish the orientations, legal framework, mechanisms for resource distribution, and effectiveness of social security policy implementation.

Third, social conditions: These influence social security needs, access, and the enjoyment of benefits through demographic characteristics, employment patterns, living conditions, and social risks.

These three groups of conditions interact with one another and influence the effectiveness of ensuring social security in the realization of social justice.

2.3.2. Actors Involved in Ensuring Social Security in the Realization of Social Justice

First, the Communist Party of Vietnam provides leadership and political direction and defines the objectives of ensuring social security in association with the realization of social justice.

Second, the State: Plays the leading role in institutional development, resource mobilization and allocation, and the organization of social security policy implementation.

Third, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, socio-political organizations, and social organizations: Represent and support the population, mobilize resources, and supervise policy implementation.

Fourth, enterprises: Create employment and income, ensure workers' rights and benefits, and fulfill their social responsibilities.

Fifth, families and communities: Provide care and support and share risks in everyday life.

Sixth, citizens: Serve both as central actors who contribute to and supervise policy implementation and as beneficiaries of social security policies.

These actors perform different but complementary and coordinated roles in improving the effectiveness of ensuring social security in the realization of social justice.

2.3.3. Methods of Ensuring Social Security in the Realization of Social Justice

First, through policies and laws: Establishing rights, obligations, and responsibilities and organizing the implementation of social security policies.

Second, through resource mobilization and distribution: Mobilizing, distributing, and redistributing social resources in accordance with contribution capacities and the needs of beneficiaries.

Third, through insurance and risk sharing: Implementing social insurance, health insurance, and unemployment insurance to prevent, share, and mitigate the impacts of risks.

Fourth, through social assistance and basic social services: Supporting disadvantaged groups, meeting essential needs, and expanding development opportunities.

Fifth, through coordination among actors and supervision: Mobilizing social resources, strengthening coordination, promoting openness and transparency, and supervising policy implementation.

These methods are complementary and mutually reinforcing, contributing to the realization of the objectives of ensuring social security in the realization of social justice.

Chapter 2 Summary

Ensuring social security and realizing social justice are dialectically related, with social justice serving as the objective and guiding orientation, while social security constitutes an important means of realizing social justice. This role is reflected in harmonizing interests, expanding opportunities to access resources, protecting vulnerable groups, and promoting human development. The effectiveness of ensuring social security depends on economic, political, and social conditions, the responsibilities of relevant actors, and methods of implementation, thereby providing the theoretical foundation for assessing the actual situation in Ninh Binh Province.

CHAPTER 3
THE ACTUAL SITUATION OF ENSURING SOCIAL SECURITY IN THE REALIZATION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE IN NINH BINH PROVINCE AT PRESENT

3.1. Socioeconomic Conditions Influencing the Process of Ensuring Social Security in the Realization of Social Justice in Ninh Binh Province

3.1.1. Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Areas Comprising Ninh Binh Province Prior to the Merger

First, regarding natural conditions and geographical location: The three former provinces possessed different development advantages, while disparities existed in livelihood conditions, exposure to risks, and access to development opportunities.

Second, regarding the level and structure of economic development: Differences in economic scale, structure, and the pace of economic restructuring resulted in unequal capacities to mobilize resources for social security and generated new requirements concerning employment and worker protection.

Third, regarding population, labor, and social changes: Population aging, informal employment, migration, and disparities in educational attainment and living conditions increased social security needs and created differences in people's ability to access and benefit from social security policies.

These characteristics formed the objective basis for differences in the requirements for ensuring social security in the realization of social justice across the three provinces before the merger.

3.1.2. New Conditions and Requirements for Ensuring Social Security in the Realization of Social Justice Following the Provincial Merger

First, regarding the development space: The merger expands opportunities for regional integration and the mobilization and allocation of social security resources, while requiring the harmonization of interests and the reduction of disparities among geographical areas.

Second, regarding social security policies: It requires policy harmonization while ensuring responsiveness to differences in living conditions, needs, and people's ability to benefit from social security policies.

Third, regarding administrative organization and management: The merger creates opportunities to reform management methods while requiring continuity in policy implementation and effective access to benefits.

Fourth, regarding population and labor: Social security policies must adapt to diverse needs, protect vulnerable groups, narrow social disparities, and promote human development.

The provincial merger creates new conditions for development while also requiring a harmonious balance among economic growth, resource distribution, and the realization of social justice.

3.2. The Actual Situation of Ensuring Social Security in the Realization of Social Justice in Ninh Binh Province

3.2.1. The Actual Situation Regarding Actors Involved in Ensuring Social Security in the Realization of Social Justice

3.2.1.1. The Leadership and Guiding Role of Party Committees

Party committees in the three former provinces identified ensuring social security as closely associated with economic development, poverty reduction, employment creation, and improvements in human resource quality. However, the effectiveness of their leadership depended on the capacity to translate policy orientations into concrete measures and achieve tangible improvements in people's living conditions.

3.2.1.2. The Role of State Agencies in Policy Formulation and Implementation

State agencies proactively introduced locally specific policies and mobilized and allocated resources to support the population. Nevertheless, differences remained in benefit levels and eligibility conditions among localities, alongside limitations in policy implementation coordination.

3.2.1.3. The Role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, Socio-Political Organizations, and Social Organizations

These organizations actively mobilized social resources, supported disadvantaged groups, and promoted community solidarity and mutual assistance. However, support resources remained dependent on voluntary contributions, lacked stability, and did not fully meet long-term social security needs.

3.2.1.4. The Role of Enterprises, Families, Communities, and Citizens

Enterprises contributed to employment creation and income generation; families and communities provided support and shared risks; and citizens actively participated in and benefited from social security programs. However, differences in economic conditions, employment, and contribution capacities limited certain population groups' participation in, and access to benefits from, social security programs.

Overall, the relevant actors played important roles in ensuring social security. Nevertheless, the effectiveness of realizing social justice continued to depend on coordination, clearly defined responsibilities, and the capacity to meet people's actual needs.

3.2.2. The Actual Situation Regarding the Content of Ensuring Social Security in the Realization of Social Justice

3.2.2.1. Ensuring Social Security Through Expanding Opportunities to Access Basic Social Services

Policies concerning healthcare, education, and housing contributed to expanding access to essential services and alleviating difficulties faced by disadvantaged population groups. Nevertheless, disparities persisted in the ability to use services, the quality of benefits received, and conditions of access among population groups and geographical areas.

3.2.2.2. Ensuring Social Security Through Supporting and Protecting Vulnerable Groups

Poverty reduction, social assistance, employment support, and livelihood development policies contributed to improving living conditions and protecting vulnerable groups. However, the risk of falling back into poverty, unstable incomes, and differences in people's capacity to maintain their livelihoods independently necessitated combining immediate assistance with long-term protection tailored to the circumstances of different groups.

3.2.2.3. Ensuring Social Security Through Income Redistribution Based on the Principle of Justice

Social assistance, insurance, and preferential credit policies contributed to resource redistribution, reduced income-related disadvantages, and expanded development opportunities. However, the effectiveness of redistribution continued to depend on policy appropriateness, access to and utilization of resources, and the extent of tangible improvements in people's living conditions.

Ensuring social security in the three former provinces achieved positive results in expanding access to services, protecting vulnerable groups, and redistributing resources. Nevertheless, the requirements of realizing social justice call for a shift from emphasizing coverage toward improving the quality and actual effectiveness of benefits received.

3.2.3. The Actual Situation Regarding Methods of Ensuring Social Security in the Realization of Social Justice

3.2.3.1. Ensuring Social Security Through the System of Policies and Laws

The three former provinces implemented national policies and proactively introduced locally specific support measures, thereby expanding social security entitlements. However, differences remained in policy coverage, benefit levels, and eligibility conditions among localities, while certain criteria did not fully reflect people's actual needs.

3.2.3.2. Ensuring Social Security Through Economic Development, Employment Creation, and Income Improvement

Economic development, labor restructuring, and employment and livelihood support programs contributed to generating resources for social security, increasing incomes, and strengthening people's capacity to maintain their livelihoods independently. However, opportunities to benefit from economic growth remained uneven, particularly among workers lacking skills, capital, and access to markets.

3.2.3.3. Ensuring Social Security Through the Insurance System

Social insurance, health insurance, and unemployment insurance contributed to expanding protection, sharing risks, and stabilizing people's living conditions. Nevertheless, participation in and continued coverage under insurance schemes remained limited among informal workers, low-income

earners, and people in unstable employment. Consequently, levels of protection varied among population groups.

3.2.3.4. Ensuring Social Security Through Social Assistance and Community Resource Mobilization

Regular and emergency social assistance policies, together with community resource mobilization activities, contributed to supporting disadvantaged groups. However, coverage and benefit levels remained limited, while socially mobilized resources lacked stability and did not fully meet people's long-term protection needs.

The methods of ensuring social security were relatively diverse and contributed to improving living conditions and realizing social justice. Nevertheless, their effectiveness continued to depend on coordination among different methods, policy appropriateness, and people's ability to receive tangible benefits.

3.2.4. Causes of Achievements and Limitations in Ensuring Social Security in Association with the Realization of Social Justice

3.2.4.1. Causes of Achievements

First, regarding political orientation: Consistency in the Party's guidelines and their concretization through local policies provided the foundation for expanding social security and linking poverty reduction with employment creation, income improvement, and the realization of social justice.

Second, regarding economic development: Economic growth and labor restructuring generated additional employment, increased incomes, and expanded the material resources available for ensuring social security.

Third, regarding the role of local authorities: Proactive formulation and implementation of locally specific policies contributed to resource allocation, expanded access, and improved responsiveness to people's social security needs.

Fourth, regarding resource mobilization: Combining state budget resources, policy-based credit, and community resources diversified forms of assistance and contributed to improving livelihoods and living conditions.

Fifth, regarding management reform: Administrative reform, information technology application, and innovations in implementation methods contributed to improving management effectiveness and access to social security policies.

3.2.4.2. Causes of Limitations

First, regarding socioeconomic conditions: Differences in development levels, resources, and social security needs among geographical areas constrained the capacity to meet people's needs and generated disparities in social security benefits.

Second, regarding labor structure: The considerable proportion of informal workers and unstable employment limited people's ability to

participate in and maintain insurance coverage and access long-term protection mechanisms.

Third, regarding policy design: Certain eligibility criteria remained administratively oriented and did not fully reflect people's needs, circumstances, or capacity to maintain their livelihoods independently.

Fourth, regarding policy integration: Limited coordination among poverty reduction, social assistance, vocational training, and livelihood support policies reduced the effectiveness of long-term assistance and the prevention of recurrent poverty.

Fifth, regarding outcome evaluation: Evaluations tended to emphasize quantitative targets, beneficiary numbers, and expenditure rather than adequately reflecting the quality of benefits received, improvements in living conditions, and the effectiveness of realizing social justice.

Sixth, regarding coordination among actors: Mechanisms for coordination, information sharing, and resource allocation among the State, enterprises, social organizations, and communities remained insufficiently integrated, limiting the overall effectiveness of the social security system.

The achievements and limitations resulted from the interaction between objective conditions and the activities of relevant actors. Particularly prominent were the contradictions between social security needs and resource capacities, between formal access rights and actual enjoyment of benefits, and between immediate assistance and long-term human development.

3.3. Major Contradictions in Ensuring Social Security in Association with the Realization of Social Justice in Ninh Binh Province

3.3.1. The Contradiction Between the Requirement to Expand Social Security for the Realization of Social Justice and the Capacity of Available Resources to Meet This Requirement

The need to expand social security coverage and improve its quality continues to increase, while budgetary resources and the contribution capacities of relevant actors remain limited. This contradiction necessitates the rational mobilization, allocation, and utilization of resources, with priority given to groups having the greatest protection needs.

3.3.2. The Contradiction Between Expanding Social Security Coverage and Disparities in People's Actual Access to and Enjoyment of Benefits

Although social security coverage has expanded, disparities in access to and enjoyment of benefits persist due to differences in income, employment, place of residence, and living conditions. This reflects the gap between formally established entitlements and the actual capacity to realize those entitlements in practice.

3.3.3. The Contradiction Between the Requirement to Help People Overcome Immediate Difficulties and the Objective of Strengthening Their Long-Term Capacity to Ensure Their Own Social Security

Social assistance policies have contributed to addressing immediate

difficulties but have not always established stable livelihoods or strengthened long-term risk prevention capacities. This contradiction requires combining direct assistance with the development of people's capacity to ensure their own social security, in accordance with the circumstances of different population groups.

3.3.4. The Contradiction Between the Requirement to Realize Social Justice Within a Unified Provincial Territory and Differences in Development Conditions and Social Security Policies Among Geographical Areas

Differences in resources, policies, and development conditions among the three former provinces generated disparities in the enjoyment of social security benefits. Following the merger, the requirement is to harmonize policies while ensuring their appropriateness to the actual needs and conditions of different geographical areas and population groups.

3.3.5. The Contradiction Between the Requirement for Coordination and Integration in Ensuring Social Security and Fragmentation in Policy Implementation and Outcome Evaluation

Social security needs are interconnected and multidimensional, whereas policy implementation and evaluation remain fragmented across sectors and actors. This limits the combined effectiveness of policies and the capacity to assess tangible improvements in people's living conditions.

Chapter 3 Summary

The actual situation in Ninh Binh Province demonstrates that ensuring social security has contributed to improving living conditions, expanding opportunities to access services, and realizing social justice. Nevertheless, outcomes remain uneven among population groups and geographical areas. These limitations arise from differences in development conditions and resources, together with shortcomings in policy implementation, giving rise to contradictions between needs and resource capacities, between access rights and actual enjoyment of benefits, and between immediate assistance and long-term development. These findings provide the practical foundation for identifying orientations and solutions for ensuring social security in the realization of social justice in Ninh Binh Province following the merger.

CHAPTER 4
ORIENTATIONS AND SOLUTIONS FOR ENSURING SOCIAL SECURITY IN THE REALIZATION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE IN NINH BINH PROVINCE THROUGH 2030, WITH A VISION TOWARD 2045

4.1. Development Context and Requirements for Ensuring Social Security in the Realization of Social Justice in Ninh Binh Province

4.1.1. Socioeconomic Development Context of Ninh Binh Province Through 2030, with a Vision Toward 2045

First, regarding the international context and integration: Global economic fluctuations, scientific and technological advancements, and international integration create opportunities for economic growth while increasing risks related to employment and income, as well as disparities in workers' capacity to adapt.

Second, regarding national development orientations: The policy orientation toward rapid and sustainable development associated with social progress, social justice, and the establishment of a comprehensive, multi-tiered social security system provides the political and legal foundations for expanding protection coverage, improving the quality of benefits received, and promoting human development.

Third, regarding the development space following the provincial merger: The merger of the three provinces expands opportunities for regional integration and the mobilization and coordination of resources while requiring policy harmonization and appropriate responses to differences in development conditions and social security needs among geographical areas.

Fourth, regarding economic growth and restructuring: High economic growth targets and the shift toward industry and services create opportunities to expand resources for social security while requiring the equitable distribution of development achievements and measures to prevent widening social disparities.

Fifth, regarding industrialization, urbanization, and digital transformation: These processes create additional opportunities for employment and economic development while changing the demand for vocational training, housing, social services, and access to technology among population groups.

Sixth, regarding demographic changes and human development: Population aging, increasing healthcare needs, and diverse living conditions require improvements in service quality, expanded opportunities for effective access, and stronger protection for vulnerable groups.

Seventh, regarding climate change and social risks: Natural disasters, climate change, and emerging risks may adversely affect livelihoods, incomes, and living conditions, requiring stronger prevention, adaptation, and recovery capacities within the social security system.

Eighth, regarding the development vision toward 2045: Higher levels of

socioeconomic development require the establishment of a modern, sustainable social security system capable of adapting to long-term changes and meeting the growing demand for improved quality of life and human development.

The new development context creates opportunities to expand resources and improve the quality of social security while requiring a harmonious balance among economic growth, the distribution of development achievements, protection against risks, and the realization of social justice in Ninh Binh Province.

4.1.2. Requirements for Ensuring Social Security in the Realization of Social Justice in Ninh Binh Province

First, linking the process of ensuring social security with economic development and the realization of social justice: Economic growth must be accompanied by the equitable distribution of development achievements, employment creation, income improvement, and tangible improvements in people's living conditions.

Second, ensuring justice in distribution and redistribution: The allocation of social security resources must combine the principle of distribution according to contributions with support according to needs, taking into account the circumstances and capacity of different population groups to maintain their livelihoods independently.

Third, expanding protection coverage while improving the quality of benefits received: Social security coverage should continue to expand, particularly for vulnerable groups, while greater attention must be given to the effectiveness of protection and the actual benefits received by beneficiaries.

Fourth, narrowing disparities in opportunities for access to and enjoyment of benefits: Resources must be allocated appropriately to reduce differences among geographical areas and population groups in access to education, healthcare, housing, employment, and basic social services.

Fifth, combining protection against risks with the development of people's capacity to ensure their own social security: Assistance must be maintained for those unable to support themselves, while employment, livelihood, and capacity development support should be provided to those capable of working.

Sixth, reforming governance and improving coordination among relevant actors: Policies must be harmonized following the provincial merger, the leading role of the State must be strengthened, and coordination, supervision, and technological applications must be enhanced to improve the effectiveness of ensuring social security.

Seventh, strengthening risk prevention and adaptation capacities: A

social security system capable of preventing, responding to, and recovering from economic, social, technological, and environmental changes must be developed to promote sustainable development.

The overarching requirement is to transform the achievements of economic growth and social security resources into tangible improvements in people's living conditions, actual enjoyment of benefits, and development opportunities, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of realizing social justice in Ninh Binh Province through 2030, with a vision toward 2045.

4.2. Orientations for Ensuring Social Security in the Realization of Social Justice in Ninh Binh Province

4.2.1. Linking the Process of Ensuring Social Security with Economic Development and the Realization of Social Justice

Ensuring social security must be integrated into socioeconomic development strategies, in which economic growth provides the material foundation for social security, while social security contributes to harmonizing interests, improving living conditions, and developing human capabilities. The achievements of economic growth must be translated into employment, income, and development opportunities, thereby realizing social justice and promoting sustainable development.

4.2.2. Harmonizing Relations of Interests and Realizing Justice in Resource Distribution and the Enjoyment of Development Achievements

Relations of interests among the State, enterprises, workers, and population groups must be harmoniously addressed by combining distribution according to contributions with redistribution according to needs and actual circumstances. Resource allocation must be appropriate to the conditions of each geographical area, prioritize disadvantaged groups, and promote justice in the actual enjoyment of benefits.

4.2.3. Expanding Opportunities for Access, Narrowing Social Disparities, and Promoting the Roles of Relevant Actors in Ensuring Social Security

Protection coverage must be expanded, the quality of benefits received must be improved, and disparities in access to resources and basic social services among population groups and geographical areas must be reduced. At the same time, the leading role of the State, the responsibilities of enterprises, social organizations and communities, and the active participation of citizens in ensuring social security must be strengthened.

These three orientations are dialectically related, unified, and mutually complementary. Economic development provides the material foundation; the harmonization of interests and rational resource distribution contribute to

realizing social justice; and expanded access and the active participation of relevant actors improve the effectiveness of ensuring social security. Together, they provide the foundation for developing solutions in Ninh Binh Province through 2030, with a vision toward 2045.

4.3. Solutions to Improve the Effectiveness of Ensuring Social Security in the Realization of Social Justice in Ninh Binh Province

4.3.1. Promoting Economic Development, Generating Resources, and Strengthening the Capacity to Meet Social Security Needs

Promote sustainable economic development, improve the quality of growth, create stable employment, and increase people's incomes. At the same time, diversify resources, improve the effectiveness of resource mobilization, allocation, and utilization, and strengthen preparedness and response capacities for social risks.

4.3.2. Improving Resource Distribution Mechanisms and Enhancing the Effectiveness of Social Security Policy Implementation

Review, harmonize, and improve social security policies following the provincial merger; reform resource allocation based on needs, levels of deprivation, and implementation outcomes. At the same time, improve the effectiveness of insurance, social assistance, preferential credit, and livelihood support policies, ensuring justice in distribution and the enjoyment of benefits.

4.3.3. Narrowing Disparities Among Geographical Areas and Population Groups in Opportunities for Access to and Enjoyment of Social Security Benefits

Identify disadvantaged geographical areas and population groups for priority resource allocation and improve the quality of healthcare, education, housing, and essential living conditions. At the same time, reduce barriers to access, provide targeted support, and reform policy evaluation based on tangible improvements in people's living conditions.

4.3.4. Promoting the Roles of Relevant Actors and Strengthening Coordination in Ensuring Social Security

Strengthen the leadership role of Party committees, improve the management effectiveness of local authorities, and enhance the supervisory responsibilities of People's Councils. Promote the participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, social organizations, enterprises, communities, and citizens. At the same time, strengthen intersectoral coordination, information sharing, transparency, and accountability in policy implementation.

4.3.5. Strengthening People's Capacity to Ensure Their Own Social Security in Association with Human Development

Improve people's awareness, educational attainment, vocational skills, and capacity to adapt; support sustainable livelihood development; and enhance their ability to access and use social services. Combine the promotion of people's initiative with the protective responsibilities of the State and society, aiming toward comprehensive human development.

Chapter 4 Summary

The new development context of Ninh Binh Province requires linking economic growth with ensuring social security and realizing social justice while appropriately addressing disparities among geographical areas and population groups. Improving the effectiveness of social security requires the coordinated implementation of solutions concerning resource development, equitable distribution, the quality of benefits received, the responsibilities of relevant actors, and people's capacity to maintain their livelihoods independently. These solutions aim to transform development achievements into tangible improvements in living conditions and development opportunities, thereby contributing to the sustainable realization of social justice through 2030, with a vision toward 2045.

CONCLUSION

Ensuring social security and realizing social justice are dialectically related, with social security serving as an important means of harmonizing interests, redistributing resources, and creating development opportunities for people. The actual situation in Ninh Binh Province demonstrates that social security policies have achieved positive results, although limitations remain concerning protection coverage, the quality of benefits received, and disparities among population groups and geographical areas. The provincial merger creates opportunities to expand resources while also requiring the resolution of contradictions in the distribution of resources and access to and enjoyment of social security benefits. Therefore, coordinated solutions are needed to link economic development with equitable distribution, improve policy effectiveness, strengthen the responsibilities of relevant actors, and develop people's capacity to maintain their livelihoods independently. These efforts will help transform development achievements into tangible improvements in living conditions and development opportunities, contributing to the realization of social justice and sustainable development in Ninh Binh Province.

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