

Information on Doctoral thesis of Fellows Nguyen Thi Kim Nhung

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2. Sex: Female
3. Date of birth: November 7th, 1986
4. Place of birth: Hai Phong city
5. Admission of decision number: 5658/QĐ-ĐH, date November 17th, 2008, issued by the President of Vietnam National University, Hanoi
6. Changes in academic process: Decision on changing the thesis title, decision number 685a/QĐ-SDH, date June 2nd, 2010, issued by the Rector of the University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Hanoi
7. Official thesis title: Public participation in waste management towards urban sustainable development (a case study of Hoan kiem and Ung Hoa District, Hanoi).
8. Major: Sociology
9. Code: 62.31.30.01
10. Supervisors: Assoc.Prof. Dr Vu Cao Dam, Assoc.Prof.Dr Nguyen Thi Kim Hoa
11. Summary of the new findings of the thesis:

Firstly, compared to the previous studies, the thesis not only describes the situation of public participation in waste separation, collection and disposal, but also adds another level of involvement, such as environmental fee payment, monitoring the activities of waste management, community advocacy and contribution in decision-making processes. The results of this investigation have shown that various social groups have different levels of participation in the process of direct and indirect waste management in residential areas. Within the community, the females, retired-people and the people whose families are involved as leaders of the local government and social organizations participate the most.

Secondly, according to the results of this research, the public participation in establishing the regulations and policies exists in a wide spectrum. At the lowest degree of participation, the public solely complies with government rules and policies, while at the highest degree members of the public actually articulate their ideas, but decisions are still made by the local government. The degree of participation of the people is inversely related to the scope of impact of each rule. Policies with a lower scope (policies at residential areas level) will receive a higher degree of public participation. In contrast, policies with a broader scope of impact that is beyond the local community, will have lower involvement of public participation. As a result, the public lacks the power to significantly impact policies that extend beyond the local community.

Thirdly, the thesis identified factors that affect the level of participation of the public. Citizens involve themselves more efficiently in waste management activities when alignment exists between two critical

groups of factors: personal factors including the people's awareness, motivation and needs, and social factors, such as institutions, policies and the habits of community. This thesis has discovered that the lack of transparency in the development and implementation of regulations, along with inadequate attention to vulnerable groups, are factors limiting the potential for public participation in the management of municipal waste. Additionally, the traditionally self-limiting community perceptions of gender roles in the process of waste management, timidity of local citizens, lack of initiative during meetings in neighborhoods, and ineffective communication also limit the participation of the people

Lastly, the thesis describes the current situation of public participation in urban waste management and analyses factors affecting the level of public participation from the perspective of urban sustainable development in Vietnam. The thesis results indicate that there exists the potential for sustainable development in the process of waste management, such as providing jobs for urban citizens (waste pickers), improving the quality of public neighborhood meetings to provide people greater opportunities to express their opinions, their needs and problems in their neighborhood. Furthermore, there is a multitude of projects at the community level that strengthen people's awareness and action, such as the project 3R of waste separation in 4 wards in Hanoi. The attainment of the core principles of sustainable development, including the precautionary principle, intra-generational principle and the polluter/user pays principle, are hindered by many remaining issues.

12. Practical applicability

- The thesis could be used as the reference for the Sociology of Environment.
- The thesis recommended a number of solutions to improving public participation in waste management to enhance sustainable urban development, such as continuing waste separation, establishing an official channel for people to give their feedback of waste services to waste service suppliers, and proactively collecting people's opinions on problems related to waste management in the neighborhood through questionnaires.

13. Further research direction: the process of making and implementing environmental policies and the influences of these policies on the community.

14. Thesis-related publications

- Nguyen Thi Kim Nhung (2014), "The theory of public participation in policy making and its applicability into environmental decision making in Vietnam", *Sociology* (2), pp.71-81
- Nguyen Thi Kim Nhung (2014), "The influence of stakeholders on the level of public participation in waste management in Hanoi", *Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities* (2), pp.16-27
- Nguyen Thi Kim Nhung (2014), "Waste management in Hanoi households at present: situation and problems", *Human Studies* (5), pp.48-62
- Nguyen Thi Kim Nhung (2012), "Social policies for the vulnerable people due to climate change in Vietnam", *International conference on "Sharing international experiences on social policies and social welfare"*, the University of Social Sciences and Humanities, pp.283-294.