

**Research Article****SOCIAL WORK IN THE GRASSROOTS HO CHI MINH COMMUNIST YOUTH UNION ORGANIZATION IN THE ERA OF NATIONAL GROWTH*****Nguyen Minh Hoang**

Ho Chi Minh City Cadre Academy, Vietnam

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Abstract

The article “Social work in the grassroots Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union Organization in the era of national growth” provides an in-depth assessment of how Youth Union cadres understand and apply the Party's guidelines and views in social work. This study is especially meaningful in the context that the country is undergoing a strong socio-economic transformation, placing increasing requirements on the role of youth and Youth Union organizations in promoting sustainable development, ensuring social security and increasing people's participation in social governance. Through practical surveys and rigorous quantitative analysis, research clarifies the level of awareness of grassroots Youth Union officials, the main factors affecting this awareness and the difficulties in the process of implementing social work activities. The results of the study show that, although the majority of Youth Union cadres are well aware of the role of social work in building trust between the Youth Union and the youth and the community, there are still differences between the youth and the community. A part of cadres, especially in areas where there are still many difficulties, are still confused in applying social work methods and skills in accordance with the new conditions. This shortage affects operational efficiency, limits the ability to engage youth and spread positive values to the community. In addition, objective challenges such as the speed of digital transformation, urbanization, labor migration, and changes in population structure are also increasing the complexity of social work. These changes require the Youth Union organization to innovate the content, mode of operation and improve the capacity of the Youth Union staff. In addition, the unsynchronized coordination between the Youth Union ministries and other socio-political organizations is still a major barrier in the effective implementation of social work programs. To overcome these shortcomings, the study proposes many strategic solutions, including emphasizing the strengthening of theoretical and practical skills in social work for Youth Union cadres; applying digital technology to Youth Union activities; promote interdisciplinary coordination mechanisms and build a flexible management system to adapt to the new context. Implementing these solutions well will help the grassroots Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union to strongly promote its core role in social work, contributing to building a generation of pioneering and brave youth and contributing to the nation's journey of reaching out in the new era.

Keywords: Social work, Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, Grassroots level, Era of national growth.

INTRODUCTION**Ask the problem**

In the development process of the country, social work undertaken by the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union plays a particularly important role in connecting, supporting and improving community life. President Ho Chi Minh once emphasized: “Youth are the future owners of the country. Whether the country prospers or falls, whether it is weak or strong, is largely due to the young people.” In fact, the Youth Union at all levels has promoted its role in many fields, especially social work, contributing to solving urgent social problems such as supporting the poor, protecting the environment, volunteering for the community and building a new countryside. In 2023, the work of the Youth Union and the youth movement will take place in the context of strong digital transformation, requiring innovation in both content and operation methods. According to the summary report, volunteer activities to ensure social security and for community life have been widely implemented, with a total value of mobilized resources of more than 59 billion VND. Specifically, the Youth Union has organized more than 61,426 projects and youth work with a total budget of more than 453.42 billion VND [1].

These figures show the positive contribution of youth in social work, and at the same time set requirements for improving organizational efficiency and implementation methods. In the context that the nation is entering a period of strong development, the social work of the Youth Union at the grassroots level needs to be focused on promoting the spirit of “Where there is no need for youth, there is no need for youth”. The research and assessment of the current situation, strengths, limitations as well as solutions to improve the quality of social work activities in the Youth Union organization is an urgent requirement, in order to optimize resources and increase positive impacts on the community.

THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE**Looking back at the views of previous authors**

Social work in the grassroots organization of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union is a topic of interest to many researchers, with different perspectives on the role and mode of operation of the Youth Union. Some studies focus on educating young people about self-reliance and self-reliance. In the article “Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union of Trade Union University in studying and following Ho Chi Minh's moral ideology and style of self-reliance, self-reliance and aspiration to develop a prosperous and happy country”, Nguyen Quoc Viet and Nguyen Chu Du (2022) emphasized

*Corresponding Author: *Nguyen Minh Hoang*,
Ho Chi Minh City Cadre Academy, Vietnam.

that the Youth Union plays an important role in arousing the spirit through educational and volunteer activities [2]. From another perspective, Tran Duc Thang and colleagues (2024) in the article "Promoting the role of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union in protecting the Party's ideological foundation in the new situation" said that in order to perform this task well, the Youth Union needs to strongly innovate its operation methods, especially in protecting the ideological foundation of the Party [3].

In addition to ideal education, the social work of the Youth Union is also significantly influenced by the development of social networks. Nguyen Thi Minh Ngan (2023), in the article "Evaluation of students of the Ho Chi Minh City Cadre Academy on the effectiveness of social network application in Youth Union activities" [4], pointed out that social networks play an important role in connecting and spreading information, helping to enhance the efficiency of the Youth Union's activities. However, the author also warns about challenges such as fake information and excessive dependence on digital platforms, requiring the Youth Union organization to have an appropriate management strategy.

In practical aspects, the social work of the Youth Union is not only limited to educational activities but also associated with skills training and supporting youth to develop comprehensively. Nguyen Thi Mai Huong (2020) in her doctoral thesis "Renovating the content and mode of operation of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union of Hanoi today" affirmed that the Youth Union is not only a socio-political organization of youth but also plays an important role in educating revolutionary ideals, training ethics and life skills for the younger generation [5]. In addition, many researchers have proposed new models to improve the efficiency of social work in the Youth Union. Nguyen Thanh Tung (2020) in the study "Building a model of a social work center to support students through forms of communication at the Academy of Journalism and Propaganda" proposed the construction of a social work center to support students, helping the Youth Union to have a more professional platform to implement psychological counseling programs, support learning and connect job opportunities [6]. However, in a different approach, Nguyen Van Nga (2017) in the article "The role of system theory in social work for helping students addicted to the Internet" said that the organization of social work in the Youth Union should focus on building an online help system, take advantage of digital platforms to reach and support young people more effectively [7]. Some studies have also shown that social work in the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union needs to be more professional. Douglas Durst, Nguyen Thi Thai and Le Hong Loan (2006) in their study "Analysis of Social Work Education and Practice in Vietnam and Canada" argue that although social work in the Youth Union plays an important role, it has not achieved high professionalism [8]. The authors emphasized the need for methodical training for the Youth Union staff to ensure sustainability and effectiveness in the implementation of social work programs. From another perspective, career guidance for students is also an important part of the Union's social work activities. Phan Thuan (2017) in the article "The role of social organizations in career guidance for high school students in Tra Vinh" said that although the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union participates in career guidance activities, the level of influence is still limited [9]. According to the author, the activities of the Youth Union are still more of a movement than a long-term

orientation, leading to not really creating a sustainable impact on students in choosing their future careers. From an international perspective, the research of Juliane Sagebiel and Ngan Nguyen-Meyer (2012) in the book "Some theories of social work in Vietnam and Germany" has shown the differences in social work of youth organizations between the two countries [10]. Accordingly, in Germany, social work in youth organizations is highly professionalized with specific support policies from the state. Meanwhile, in Vietnam, social work in the Youth Union is still mainly based on the spirit of volunteerism and momentary movements, which have not been organized methodically and long-term.

In general, it can be seen that social work in the organization of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union has been studied from many different angles, including ideal education, start-up support, innovation of operation methods, application of technology and building a model to support youth. Although there are many different views, studies agree that in order to improve the effectiveness of social work, the Youth Union needs to constantly innovate, adapt to the development of society and better meet the practical needs of young people.

RESEARCH METHODS

The author used the method of surveying questionnaires. The research on the implementation of the questionnaire survey method is described as follows:

1. Regarding the sample selection process: the author selected a non-probability sample of 400 union members and young people working in Nguyen Thai Binh Ward and Pham Ngu Lao Ward
2. Regarding the design, the questionnaire consists of 2 parts, part one: Respondents' characteristic information; part two: The current situation of social work in the grassroots organization of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union in the era of national growth
3. Regarding the respondents to the questionnaire: In order to ensure the accuracy of the information, this number of respondents is the subjects of cadres and youth union members working in Nguyen Thai Binh Ward and Pham Ngu Lao Ward.
4. Regarding the processing of survey results: After the investigation, the questionnaires are checked, encrypted, cleaned and data entered and processed according to the requirements of the topic on SPSS software version 20.0.

Research questions and research hypotheses

Research Questions

How does social work take place in the grassroots Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union organization in the current era of national growth? What factors affect the level of awareness of social work in the grassroots organization of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union? What solutions should be implemented to raise awareness and improve the effectiveness of social work in the grassroots organization of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union?

Research hypothesis

In the new era of development of the country, the social work activities of the grassroots Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth

Union have contributed to raising the awareness of cadres about the people's mobilization work, and the awareness has been increasingly improved. However, cognitive effectiveness is also affected by skills limitations, lack of linkages between forces, and adaptation that is not synchronized with the requirements for innovation. Improving the role of the Youth Union, modernizing the content of activities and promoting community strength will be an important solution to increase awareness and effectiveness of the people's mobilization work in the new situation.

Conceptual manipulation

In the article "*Social work in the grassroots Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union Organization in the era of national growth*", the basic concepts that need to be clarified include: 1) Social work; 2) The grassroots Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union; 3) The era of national growth and 4) The era of national growth. In terms of social work, it is a professional field of activity that aims to help individuals, groups, and communities solve social problems, improve their quality of life, and promote social justice. According to Article 2 of the Law on Social Work (draft), social work includes activities of supporting, consulting, intervening, connecting and mobilizing resources to help vulnerable people such as children, people with disabilities, the elderly, the poor and other vulnerable groups. For the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, social work is not only a support activity but also an education, training, and encouragement of the spirit of youth in community building.

Regarding the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union at the grassroots level, it is the most basic organizational unit in the Youth Union system, directly implementing activities and movements associated with youth in localities and units. According to the Charter of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, the grassroots level includes the Youth Union of communes, wards and townships; Grassroots unions in schools, agencies, enterprises, armed forces units; and affiliated branches. This is a key force in organizing volunteer movements, protecting the environment, supporting youth to develop, contributing to promoting social security programs and building a new countryside.

Regarding the Era of National Growth, it is a period of strong development of the country in the context of international economic integration, digital transformation and innovation. This is a period when Vietnam is striving to affirm its position in the international arena through economic achievements, science and technology, education and sustainable development. In that context, young people play the role of a pioneering force, not only absorbing knowledge and technology but also actively participating in community activities, promoting the spirit of patriotism and a sense of responsibility to society. The social work activities of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union during this period are of particular importance in contributing to building a humane, developed and sustainable society. From the above concepts, it can be formed that the central concept is "*Social work in the grassroots organization of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union in the era of national growth*". In the context that the nation is transforming strongly with the new requirements of the integration and development period, social work in the grassroots Youth Union organization is not only a community support activity, but also an essential part of the people's

mobilization work – a strategic task of the Party and the political system. Through practical activities, close to the people's life, social work in the Youth Union makes an important contribution to consolidating the great unity of the whole nation, strengthening the people's confidence in the leadership of the Party, and promoting the spirit of self-reliance and self-reliance in the younger generation. This is the basis for realizing the goal of industrialization, modernization of the country and protecting the Fatherland in the new stage of national development.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results of research on social work in the grassroots organization of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union

In the context that the country has entered a period of strong development with the requirement of comprehensive innovation, social work in the grassroots organization of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union has increasingly clearly demonstrated its role as a bridge between youth and the community, making an important contribution to building a humane society. progress. The survey results show that the awareness of cadres and youth union members is very good, especially in indicator 1/ Movement of revolutionary, impulsive, and volunteer action for the community with a rate of 93.8%. This result reflects the sense of responsibility, social consciousness and dedication aspiration of youth union members in the new period, and at the same time shows that the propaganda, education and organization of the movement of the Youth Union at the grassroots level have been remarkably effective.

The survey results showed significant differences in the level of political theory in awareness and the level of participation of cadres, union members and youth in social work in grassroots Youth Union organizations. According to Table 1, there is Significance = 0.000* <0.05, indicating that the level of political theory affects the level of participation and social cognition among the three level groups. The Intermediate level group of political theory was assessed to have a higher rate than the Elementary group of political theory and other groups in two indicators: "Taking care of the disadvantaged, supporting the vulnerable" (93.6%) and "Protecting the environment and responding to climate change through activities such as garbage collection, planting trees" (100%). This shows that the level of political theory affects the thinking and sense of social responsibility of cadres, union members and young people. The equipping of political theory helps cadres, union members and youth have the ability to analyze, evaluate and solve social problems in a deeper and more comprehensive way; strengthen the ability to protect the Party's ideological foundation, the State's guidelines and laws; struggle and refute wrong and hostile views, contributing to strengthening the trust and absolute leadership of the Party and the State. Based on the survey results and the data reported by District Youth Union 1, it is shown that there is a similarity, reflecting the success of implementing social work in the Youth Union organization. In addition to maintaining the "Small Jobs - Big Meaning" squad, District Youth Union 1 has organized 337 environmental protection activities with 35,000 leaflets on waste classification at the source issued, attracting more than 21,437 turns of union members and children to participate, in which young intellectuals participate and make significant contributions.

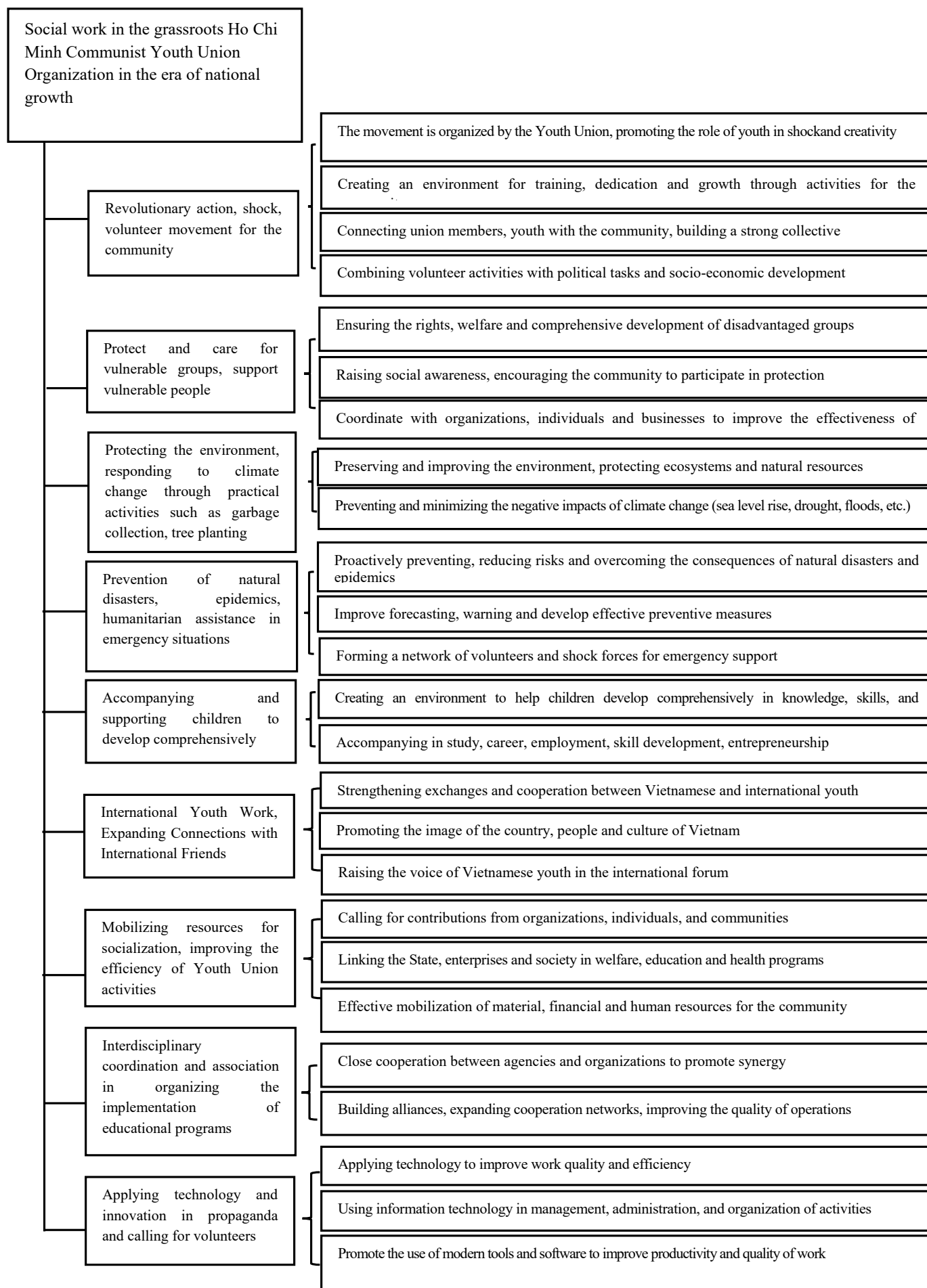


Figure 1. Social work in the grassroots Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union Organization in the era of national growth

Table 1. Awareness of social work in the organization of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union at the grassroots level by political theory level group

Social work in the grassroots organization of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union	Political Theory Level							
	Primary		Intermediate		Different		Sum	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1. Movement of revolutionary, impulse and volunteer action for the community	145	92,9	76	97,4	154	92,8	375	93,8
2. Protecting and caring for vulnerable groups and supporting vulnerable people	135	86,5	73	93,6	139	83,7	347	86,8
3. To protect the environment and respond to climate change through practical activities such as garbage collection and tree planting	140	89,7	78	100,0	151	91,0	369	92,3
4. Prevention and control of natural disasters, epidemics, humanitarian assistance in emergency situations	140	89,7	75	96,2	145	87,3	360	90,0
5. Accompanying and supporting union members and youth to develop comprehensively	130	83,3	73	93,6	140	84,3	343	85,8
6. International youth work, expanding connections with international friends	135	86,5	74	94,9	134	80,7	343	85,8
7. Fostering and educating young people to comprehensively develop morality - intellect - body - beauty	123	78,8	66	84,6	128	77,1	317	79,3
8. Mobilizing resources for socialization, improving the efficiency of Youth Union activities	129	82,7	71	91,0	137	82,5	337	84,3
9. Interdisciplinary coordination and association in organizing the implementation of educational programs	133	85,3	76	97,4	140	84,3	349	87,3
10. Application of technology and innovation in propaganda and call for volunteers	138	88,5	75	96,2	144	86,7	357	89,3
Sum	156	100,0	78	100,0	166	100,0	400	100,0

Significant = 0,000*

Source: Survey of the topic

Table 2. Causes affecting "Social work in the grassroots organization of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union in the era of national growth by regional group

Causes affecting "Social work in the grassroots organization of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union in the era of national growth	Area					
	Nguyen Thai Binh Ward		Pham Ngu Lao Ward		Sum	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
1. Union members and children are busy with study, work, and have little time to participate in Youth Union activities	185	92,5	156	78,0	341	85,3
2. The awareness, value system and social norms of a part of union members and children are not suitable	157	78,5	143	71,5	300	75,0
3. Some union members have not been proactive and interested in participating in local activities	161	80,5	145	72,5	306	76,5
4. Not well promoting creativity and individuality in collective activities	151	75,5	134	67,0	285	71,3
5. A part of the Youth Union cadres are not exemplary, showing signs of deterioration in ethics and manners	173	86,5	148	74,0	321	80,3
6. Loose family, school and social institutions, affecting the gathering of union members and children	161	80,5	139	69,5	300	75,0
7. Mobilization and persuasion skills of Youth Union officials are still limited	152	76,0	133	66,5	285	71,3
8. The coordination between the Youth Union and social departments and organizations is not close	145	72,5	134	67,0	279	69,8
9. The activities of some Youth Unions are still weak and have not kept up with the new situation	169	84,5	145	72,5	314	78,5
10. The development of union members and attracting elite children has not been paid enough attention	171	85,5	129	64,5	300	75,0
11. The contents and methods of operation are still formal, lack depth and do not meet actual needs	171	85,5	140	70,0	311	77,8
12. Lack of resources and funding for organizing movements	167	83,5	136	68,0	303	75,8
13. Not flexible and creative in organizing activities, many places are still passive	167	83,5	141	70,5	308	77,0
14. Youth counseling is still slow and ineffective	149	74,5	128	64,0	277	69,3
15. Failing to promptly grasp and orient the ideology and lifestyle of union members and children	162	81,0	132	66,0	294	73,5
Sum	200	100	200	100	400	100

Significant = 0,000*

Source: Survey of the topic

In addition, social security work has been promoted by supporting 782 disadvantaged children with a total value of VND 2,346 billion, taking care of 400 policy families with an annual maintenance budget of VND 800 million [11]. These results demonstrate the efforts of the Youth Union in developing social work at the grassroots, reflecting the strong participation and social responsibility of union members and children in various fields and supporting the disadvantaged. The above figures show the difference in the perception of social work in the Youth Union organization between groups of educational levels, and at the same time reflect the important role of professional qualifications in approaching and implementing youth movements. However, the practice of operation in District 1, especially in Nguyen Thai Binh Ward, shows that the Youth Union has had many practical solutions to attract, connect and promote the shock role of union members at all levels. This affirms the importance of people's mobilization and propaganda in raising awareness and promoting the active participation of young people in social activities.

The study shows a fairly positive overall picture of the development of social work in the grassroots Youth Union organization, but the above factors pose significant challenges, requiring the Youth Union organization to have flexible and creative solutions to optimize resources, and at the same time improve the capacity of counseling and management. Overcoming these limitations will create a solid foundation for social work in the Youth Union organization, helping the organization to adapt quickly and effectively to the changes of the times. In order to ensure the authenticity and reliability of this study, the author conducted a survey on many different social groups, thereby obtaining objective results, accurately reflecting the causes affecting social work in the grassroots Youth Union organization in the new era taking place in Nguyen Thai Binh Ward and Pham Ngu Ward. He obtained the following results:

When considering the regional group, with the value of Significant = 0.000* < 0.05, the results show that there is a clear difference in the causes affecting social work in

grassroots youth union organizations in the region. Specifically, for the indicator “Union members and children are busy with studying, working, and having little time to participate in Youth Union activities”, the group in Nguyen Thai Binh Ward accounted for up to 92.5%, much higher than the group in Pham Ngu Lao Ward with a rate of only 78%. This disparity has had a significant impact on the effectiveness of the Youth Union work at the grassroots, especially in these changes, reflecting the challenge in coordinating the Youth Union's activities with the daily life of union members and children to suit practical needs. In order to improve efficiency, it is necessary to modernize the content of activities, strengthen skills training for Youth Union officials and promote community strength. Further research may focus on the application of digital technology, financial policies and linkage models to optimize resources and improve the quality of operations.

Conclusion

In the era of strong development of the country, the social work activities of the grassroots Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union have gradually affirmed their role as a bridge between youth and the community. Through volunteer programs, supporting the disadvantaged, protecting the environment, or promoting sustainable development initiatives, the Youth Union has actively contributed to raising awareness of cadres and union members about civil mobilization work. These activities not only help union members practice skills and a sense of responsibility, but also arouse a sense of citizenship and patriotism in the younger generation. However, the process of raising awareness and implementing social work of the Youth Union still faces certain challenges. Some Youth Union cadres still lack practical skills in organizing activities, lack sensitivity to the requirements of renewing and modernizing the content of the people's mobilization work. On the other hand, the association between the Youth Union and other social forces and socio-political organizations is sometimes not close, leading to fragmentation and lack of synchronization in the implementation of activities, reducing the effectiveness of resonance and spread in the community. In order to further improve the role and effectiveness of social work in the coming period, the Youth Union needs to focus on innovating content and methods of operation in accordance with the context of digital transformation, urbanization and international integration. At the same time, it is necessary to maximize community strength, strengthen multi-sectoral coordination and regional linkages in implementing social activities. Fully equipping the Youth Union cadres with skills in mass mobilization work and improving the quality of the movement from the grassroots will be a solid foundation for the Youth Union to continue to play a key role in building the great national unity bloc and promoting sustainable development in the new era.

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