

Session 4 Dehumanized Population

Presentation 1

Citizenship of 'Children without a Homeland' in Vietnam: From the Case of the Mekong Delta Region

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Abstract

In recent years, children with "foreign roots" (có yếu tố nước ngoài), such as Taiwan or Korea, are facing serious social problems in Vietnamese society. Among them, the existence of "unrecognized children" (không được thừa nhận) has drawn a lot of attention. In this paper, we focus on various issues concerning the citizenship of children due to cross-border divorce and the problem of how their access to the full citizenship has been restricted, especially with regard to their education rights due to the transmigration. The citizenship problems of borders-crossing children are greatly influenced by the decisions of parents and families who trigger their transmigration, especially mothers who account for a majority of marriage migrants. I would like to embrace the concept of feminist citizenship as a valid theoretical framework for approaching the survival rights of "children without a homeland" from international divorce. This discussion is based on the results of fieldwork research in the Mekong Delta Region in 2016 and 2017. We found that these children have to attend schools as "non-regular students" (học gửi) on a humanitarian basis. However, this has a very important meaning for "children without a homeland" who grow up in a complex environment.