

## 2. Family:

- *In what ways have families in your country changed in recent years?*

Families in Vietnam have considerably changed over the past few years. The first change is the fall in family sizes. Couples have fewer children but also get married at an older age than before. Secondly, there has been a rise in single-parent families because of the rise in divorce rate and increasing financial independence of women. Furthermore, I think young people these days prefer to live independently to relying on their parents.

- *Should husbands and wives have different roles within a family?*

No, I do not think that men and women should only play the traditional roles of a breadwinner and a housewife. Men should actively take part in housework activities and women should find their own jobs to contribute to family's finances. Sociological researches have indicated that marital satisfaction levels significantly increase when both partners do housework and have a job. In fact, their children can benefit because they will not hold sexist attitudes when growing up.

- *What conflicts can arise between husbands and wives in a family?*

Financial conflicts, in my opinion, are very common. The costs of marriage which include housing, food and childcare are massive and many young couples are financially unable to afford them. There are also conflicts over how to raise their children because husbands and wives may come from different religious backgrounds and countries. Moreover, I think emotional conflicts can arise because of the lack of experience in a mature relationship.

- *What role do grandparents play in families in your country?*

Grandparents can play the role of child-carers if they are physically and mentally able to do so. Many grandparents can contribute to family's finances, either because they have pensions, or because they still have a job. Furthermore, grandparents, due to their large amounts of life experience, can offer a lot of useful advices to their children as well as grandchildren.

- *How do you think family in Vietnam will change in the future?*

As children live longer and as the costs of raising children continue to increase, I think families in Vietnam will continue to become smaller in the next few years. For young couples, I believe they will tend to live independently due

to the active financial support of parents and of the government. Because Vietnam is significantly affected by traditional norms and values, grandparents will still play important roles within Vietnamese families.