

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISSERTATION

**Doctoral candidate:** Doan Van Luan

**Dissertation title:** *Community and the cultural heritage of communal houses (a case study of several communal houses in Hanoi)*

**Major:** Cultural Studies

**Code:** 9229040

**Scientific supervisor:** Prof. Dr. Lam Thi My Dung, Prof. Dr. Nguyen Thi Hien

**Institution:** Vietnam National Institute of Culture and Arts Studies

### CONTENT OF THE ABSTRACT

#### 1. Aims and Objectives of the study

*Aims of the study:* The thesis clarifies the role of the community in maintaining and promoting the cultural heritage of communal houses, analyzes the mutual relationship between the community and heritage, explores how the community participates in heritage preservation, and identifies the factors affecting the sustainability of heritage in the modern context.

*Objects of the study:* The thesis focuses on the role and voice of the community in the restoration and protection of communal house heritage. Although under state management, the community still plays an important role, cooperating with authorities to preserve heritage values. Throughout history, the community has both created and preserved, while practicing and passing on the rituals and festivals honoring the village's Thành hoàng (patron deity).

#### 2. Methods of the study

**Secondary Source Research:** The researcher synthesizes and analyzes various published works on the history, role, function of communal houses, architecture, and village festivals to clarify the community's role in the communal house heritage.

**Legal Source Research:** The researcher collects legal documents related to historical monuments to clarify the roles and authority of the community in relation to communal houses.

**Field Research:** The researcher conducts field surveys at Tây Đằng, Hạ Hiệp, and Giẽ Thượng communal houses; meets community representatives, observes festivals, and collects related materials to gain a deeper understanding of community life and activities.

**Sociological Survey:** The researcher surveys community members regarding their level of participation in activities related to communal house heritage.

**In-depth Interviews:** The researcher interviews and holds group discussions with community representatives such as village heads, cultural officers, and leaders of community organizations to understand their role in communal house activities.

**Comparative and Synthesis Methods:** The researcher uses statistical, comparative, and contrast methods to assess the community's role in preserving communal house heritage.

### **3. Main Results and Conclusions**

*3.1. Main results:* The results of the thesis provide reference materials on the role of community organizations in preserving communal house heritage. The scientific viewpoints in the thesis contribute to policy advice regarding the recognition of the community as the primary subject and their rights to communal house heritage, while also affirming the effective role of traditional community organizations in the current context.

*3.2. Conclusion:* The thesis has analyzed the role of the community in preserving communal house heritage, especially through traditional organizations such as the Festival Organizing Committee, the Elderly Belief Association, and the Elderly Association. These organizations not only maintain but also ensure continuity in cultural activities at communal houses, contributing to heritage preservation across generations. Through the three case studies of Tây Đằng, Hạ Hiệp, and Giẽ Thượng, the thesis clarifies the collaboration between the State and the community in heritage preservation: The State manages tangible historical monuments, providing financial support and expert advice, while the community directly implements and preserves intangible cultural values. Festival activities, rituals, and worship organized by the community reflect not only a sense of responsibility and voluntarism but also deeply express the cultural identity and spiritual beliefs unique to each village.

The study affirms the key role of community organizations in maintaining and promoting the heritage values of communal houses. Practices in the studied villages have demonstrated that the proactivity and active involvement of the community are crucial for the survival and sustainable development of communal house heritage in the current context.

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