

# Enhancing the Legal Awareness of Vietnamese Basic Officers

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**Abstract:** *The grassroots cadres are the core force, effectively deciding the implementation of the policies of the Party and the State, the bridge between the Party and the people, which is the force contributing to economic development, local society and society. The article mentions the legal consciousness of grassroots cadres, legal awareness characteristics of Vietnamese grassroots cadres to analyze the content of improving legal awareness of Vietnamese grassroots officials, including: Raising awareness and understanding of laws for grassroots officials; Strengthening the attitude and belief in law of grassroots officials; Improve the efficiency in applying legal knowledge to the work of grassroots cadres.*

**Keywords:** Legal awareness, grassroots officials, legal knowledge

The grassroots cadres are the core force, effectively deciding the implementation of the policies of the Party and the State, being the bridge between the Party and the people, and the force contributing to socio-economic development locally. Currently, with the requirements of the innovation cause in the context of globalization and the industrial revolution 4.0, stemming from the requirement to build grassroots cadres in the State apparatus, it is necessary to raise the legal awareness of grassroots cadres are of great importance. Because, through raising legal awareness, grassroots officials are equipped with basic legal knowledge; regulatory role of the law; legal standards and the value of the law at work and in all areas of life. This is the basis for fostering legal trust for grassroots cadres who are aware of the law and apply law to have proper law compliance. Vietnamese establishments include:

## 1. Research method

The article is done on the basis of the general legal method of dialectical materialism and historical materialism combined with methods such as: Analytical and synthetic method, this method is based on research theoretical documents, Party documents, guidelines, lines, resolutions of the Party, policies and laws of the State in order to analyze and clarify the concepts, legal-conscious characteristics of the Ministry of grassroots level in Vietnam, using synthetic methods will help generalize the previously analyzed issues, thereby building conclusions of the research process. In addition to the above methods, the article also uses methods of evaluating and analyzing documents (in Vietnamese and foreign languages) suitable for each research content of the problem.

## 2. Research Results

### 2.1 Legal awareness, grassroots officials, legal consciousness of officials at grassroots level

Regarding the legal consciousness, there have been many different conceptions from the perspective of jurisprudence and philosophy, for example, according to Dao Duy Tan, "legal consciousness is all thoughts and views of a class

about nature and the role of law, the rights and obligations of the state, social organizations and citizens, on the legality and illegality of human behavior in society"<sup>1</sup>, this conception points to the , structure, content, origin, inevitable common relationship in social life. From there, it shows that the level of legal knowledge shows the level reflected in legal knowledge, the attitude towards the law, including feelings, beliefs and legal will, all exist in current people. In fact, this concept covers quite fully, comprehensively and deeply about the social expression of individuals. According to Le Dinh Khien's viewpoint, "legal awareness is a reflection of the human legal life creation; People perceive, evaluate and express their attitudes towards legal phenomena"<sup>2</sup>. According to this point of view, legal consciousness is the legal understanding and legal attitude of people before social life, including legal phenomena and the structure of legal consciousness showing characteristics and views about legal life; emotions, moods of reflected subjects such as individuals, parts or society. From the above points of view, in our opinion: Consciousness of law is a form of social consciousness, including all theories, opinions, ideas about the law, expressing the attitudes and feelings of children people when evaluating the fairness or unfairness, correctness or impropriety of current law, the legality in human behavior, activities of State agencies or communal organizations associations and other entities. At present, the commune, ward and town authorities are at the grassroots level, the last stage of the management and administration of socio-economic activities, solving issues related to the interests of the State and the people. people based on the provisions of the law. According to Article 4 of the Law on Cadres and Civil Servants 2008, "The cadres of communes, wards and townships (hereinafter referred to as communes collectively) are Vietnamese citizens who are elected to hold positions by term in the Standing Council the people, the People's Committee, the Secretary, the Deputy Secretary of

<sup>1</sup> Dao Duy Tan (2008), The formation of legal consciousness and solutions to improve legal awareness in our country during the doi moi period, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, p.11.

<sup>2</sup> Le Dinh Khien (1996), Raising the legal awareness of the current contingent of State administrative cadres in our country, Doctoral thesis in Law, State Research Institute and Law, p.14.

the Party Committee, the head of the socio-political organization; Commune-level civil servants who are Vietnamese citizens are recruited to hold a professional title of the People's Committee of the commune, be on the payroll and receive salary from the State budget"<sup>3</sup>. As such, grassroots cadres are physically mature and socially mature, they are recruited or appointed to hold a regular position in State offices, they are directly involved. Join the public bureaucracy of the national administration, so they are the ones who control their own behavior and attitudes and must be responsible before the law as a citizen, a public servant administrative. Grassroots cadres must be trained to a certain degree, along with their working positions in the public administration apparatus. From the concept of legal consciousness and the concept of grassroots cadres, in our opinion, the legal consciousness of grassroots officials is: knowledge, beliefs, emotions, attitudes towards the law, legal prices, rights and obligations, legal or unlawful behavior of grassroots officials for the effective application of legal knowledge to work.

## 2.2. Legal awareness characteristics of Vietnamese grassroots cadres

*Firstly*, the legal consciousness of grassroots cadres has their own characteristics and characteristics, common characteristics of the social consciousness, the legal consciousness has interaction with other parts of the social consciousness. Legal awareness of grassroots officials is also affected by the laws of movement, change, and influence of local economic, social and cultural conditions, and subjective factors and objectively, from there, forming legal awareness and understanding through the participation of grassroots officials in building and completing the legal system. In terms of subjects, the legal consciousness of grassroots cadres is the consciousness of a social group, including those who have similarities in characteristics and characteristics of professional work, in functions, tasks and work together on the scope of a commune, ward or town. This is the team that directly implements and brings the law into the local social life, they directly handle affairs related to the interests of the State, the collective and the citizens in the local area.

*Second*, the legal consciousness of grassroots cadres in the northern mountainous region of Vietnam directly reflects the reality of legal life in communes, wards and towns. The results of that reflection showed that the legal consciousness of grassroots cadres in the northern mountainous region of Vietnam had specific contents including: awareness, understanding of the law; Attitudes, feelings and beliefs about the law; Applying legal knowledge to receive, accept and handle professional affairs within the assigned scope, functions and tasks.

*Third*, grassroots cadres are the ones who work directly with people, most closely with people. Therefore, grassroots cadres have a particular important position and role. It can be said that all the Party and State's lines, undertakings and policies are through grassroots cadres to enter people's lives.

Through grassroots cadres, people can exercise their rights and obligations in the most direct way, reflect and express their thoughts and aspirations in the direct, accurate and fastest way by grassroots officials when dealing with people's affairs, they have professional qualifications, political theory, education and understanding of the law, apply the law to solve the work gradually improved against title standards and mission requirements.

## 3. Content to raise legal awareness of Vietnamese grassroots cadres

### 3.1 Raising awareness and understanding of the Vietnamese grassroots laws.

Our Party always considers officials to have a decisive role in the revolutionary cause. Resolution of Central Conference 3 (Session VII) affirms that in the process of national renewal: "Officers either promote or inhibit the renewal process. Cadres in general play a very important roles, grassroots cadres in particular have a grassroots position. The grassroots level is the direct level that organizes the implementation of all guidelines and policies of the Party and laws of the State. Law enforcement quality and effectiveness is in part determined by grassroots implementation. The grassroots level is the level directly associated with the masses; creating mass revolutionary movement. Strong or weak commune, ward and town facilities partly depend on the quality of the contingent of cadres in communes, wards and towns". Commune-level government officials and employees play a very important role in grassroots management and operation. Commune-level government officials and employees are the representatives of the State to perform the state management function in accordance with the assigned policies and authority. Commune-level government cadres and civil servants are those who daily directly contact the people, bring the Party's guidelines and policies, the State's legal policies to life and turn into revolutionary actions of the masses. Legal awareness reflects social existence from a legal perspective, with legal aspects such as the legal system, legal status, organization, implementation and application of the law, the attitude of people before the law. This reflection not only depends on the reality of social life but also on the reflecting subject such as the level of awareness and knowledge of legal knowledge. When the sense of law is associated with grassroots cadres, the reflection brings the colors and typical professional appearance of grassroots cadres in communes, wards and towns. That reflection is reflected in their level of awareness, understanding of the law and law enforcement activities. Therefore, it is required that grassroots officials have legal awareness and understanding to meet the requirements of law-related tasks that they have to deal with daily, so it is necessary to dig creating and fostering to equip grassroots officials with knowledge and understanding to raise legal awareness for this team. In fact, commune-level government officials and civil servants daily rubbing against very complex practices in many fields, so they need to have bravery, experience and knowledge. Raising awareness and understanding of the law for Vietnamese grassroots officials is a bridge to convey the law into life. Grassroots cadres must have legal knowledge because if they are not fully

<sup>3</sup> National Assembly (2008), Law No. 22/2008 / QH12, Law on Cadres and Civil Servants

aware of the important role of the law in their work, no matter how well they do it, they will not achieve effective law application. The laws of the State are not always investigated and strictly implemented by grassroots officials.

The process of Vietnamese grassroots officials raising awareness and understanding of the law and its application in practice is as follows:

**Firstly**, grassroots cadres must have a basic understanding of the law, legal issues in relation to current law, issues in the relationship of the application of legal imperatives and legal requirements in all spheres of social life. From here, Vietnamese grassroots officials develop knowledge of the law, including basic knowledge of the State and the law and knowledge of specific provisions of the real legal system. Comprehensively and systematically in legal normative documents.

**Second**, grassroots cadres in the course of work are inevitably required to apply knowledge and knowledge of the law to exercise their legal rights and obligations in legal situations, each event, and circumstances. Specifically, as well as the process of using laws, applying laws to protect the legitimate rights and interests of people. Therefore, this is the process of grassroots officials conveying legal knowledge and legal knowledge to apply them into specific legal acts to resolve social relationships and at work. This process has helped grassroots officials to be aware of legal or illegal behaviors, socially acceptable positive behavior or negative, social condemnation and criticism. On the other hand, legal situations help grassroots officials not only be aware of their own behavior, but also recognize that the behavior of other subjects is consistent with behavioral standards and regulations rules are regulated or not, from which to choose the most appropriate and positive behavior. From this perception, grassroots cadres actively maintain and consolidate the general order, participate in State management, effective social management. Grassroots cadres have a full and profound understanding of the law, the more legal violations will be avoided.

**Third**, grassroots officials, when properly aware of the permeability of the law in social life and social behaviors, will form a behavioral habit in accordance with ethical standards and into legal feelings. This process helps grassroots officials to timely grasp the content of newly enacted and enacted legal documents to gain understanding while applying it to solving public related issues work and life. Having awareness and understanding of the law, grassroots-level officials promote self-awareness, actively, participate in law-making and enforcement, express their opinions, opinions, behaviors and attitudes of with the law, forming a culture of obeying, obeying the law, taking the law as a standard of behavior for everyone to not only master the law, acquire knowledge and understanding of the law properly. It is sound, systematic and comprehensive, but also knows how to apply the law correctly and fully in specific cases, circumstances and situations. The legal consciousness of grassroots officials in Vietnam is the product of the legal impact on the perception of grassroots officials, in addition, legal awareness is an important factor in forming awareness and understanding the law, the greater

the awareness of the law will directly affect the regulatory mechanism through the awareness and positive behavior of grassroots officials in public service execution and Social life. Proper awareness and understanding of the system of legal regulations and legal documents will help grassroots officials have feelings, beliefs and apply the law effectively in the process of building and implementing. and legal protection.

**Thus**, awareness and understanding of the correct law help grassroots officials to bring the law to life, not only that, but also to form positive behaviors in accordance with the law, meeting the job needs of grassroots cadres. The legal knowledge and understanding of grassroots cadres is an important content that shows their legal awareness, shows their cognitive ability in the legal field and forms in them the correct opinion and thought about the law, thereby reinforcing the attitude and belief in the law to meet the requirements of the reality of legal life at grassroots level.

### **3.2 Strengthening the attitude and belief in the law of grassroots cadres in the northern mountainous region of Vietnam**

In life, belief plays an important role to help people navigate the correct behavior, for the law, if there is faith in the role, effect and severity of the law, people will have Proper awareness of the law, on the other hand, belief in oneself will help subjects form a sense of self-fostering to improve legal understanding. People perform their actions depending on different states and degrees of belief, so it affects the choice and performance of each person's behavior, on the one hand, if people believe in the law as well as the activities of the authorities will carry out legal acts, on the other hand, if people lose confidence in the law and the activities of the authorities will give rise to the mentality of "carelessness", they will lose their confidence. Believe in the State and the law, they easily commit illegal acts. When people have a firm belief in justice, absolutely believe in the solitude of the law, have proper awareness and understanding of legal acts, their attitudes and beliefs help the subject always have the sense of state protection and the law. Laws can only be strictly implemented by people and grassroots officials when they believe in the provisions of the law. The law is designed to protect the rights and interests of the people, to ensure the common interests of the community, to ensure social justice and democracy. Whenever Vietnamese grassroots officials are fully aware of this, the law does not need any coercive measures, but grassroots officials will still voluntarily implement them if they reinforce their attitudes and beliefs in the law grassroots officials. Strengthening attitudes and beliefs towards the sense of the law to help grassroots officials know to respect the law, not to tolerate and be determined in their acts of law violation, to have a sense of law enforcement and to act as an example model in applying the law to become an example for local people. In addition to understanding the law, grassroots officials need to have attitude and belief in the fairness of the law, thereby creating the ability to adjust their legal behavior. Without the attitude and belief in the law, all actions of grassroots cadres are easily deviated from the legal standards for individual purposes and motives. When grassroots officials have attitude and belief in the law,

they will act according to the provisions of the law. Correct attitude and belief in the law will guide legal compliance at all times, condemn and criticize violations of the law, manifestations of law disregard, and officials. The establishment actively actively participates in protecting the severity of the law. Through strengthening the attitude and belief in the law of grassroots cadres, helping grassroots officials understand the law is necessary to maintain fairness and equality in society. The law is not only useful for the people in general and for grassroots cadres in particular, so it is necessary to have legal compliance attitude, and have acts that show legal compliance. Having an attitude of respect and compliance with the law is a "necessary" condition for grassroots officials to properly perform their duties. If grassroots officials have legal knowledge, they will respect the law and believe in the fairness of the law, they will believe in the provisions of the law, all actions will not deviate from legal standards for personal motives and purposes. The attitude and belief in the law of grassroots officials are reflected in the obligations and responsibilities of citizens, and the uncompromising attitude towards law violations. Building legal trust helps grassroots officials to execute the law voluntarily without the need for coercive force, so that grassroots officials have confidence in the social values of the law and trust in with the legal norm at work and in real everyday life. For each grassroots level official, there are different reactions to the legal system, in which attitude, belief - one of the factors of legal psychology, thus reinforcing the attitude of respect, Grassroots officers' compliance with the law through the law-abiding behavior of grassroots officials is the result of a process of legal awareness and understanding. In the cognitive process, there are many influencing factors (subjective and objective) to form behaviors and behaviors according to the law, raising legal awareness will provide legal knowledge to help them understand From there, there is an attitude and confidence to voluntarily implement the provisions of the law. That is an important factor in shaping motivation and legal behavior.

### **3.3 Improve the efficiency in applying legal knowledge to the work of grassroots cadres**

Officers at grassroots level are people who directly and indirectly contact and handle affairs with the people, the last place to receive, organize and implement the Party's lines and policies and the laws of the State. Therefore, in order for the law to come to life, they must turn the provisions in legal documents and administrative decisions into law in action through the professional activities of grassroots officials. In applying legal knowledge to their work, grassroots officials must comply with the law, do not violate the law, have to comply with the law in association with actively performing legal obligations as a legal subjects. Thus, when grassroots officials comply with and obey the law, effective application of legal knowledge to their work is to show their personal legal awareness associated with the functions and duties of officials grassroots level sets. The effective application of legal knowledge to the work of grassroots cadres is the process of applying the common of legal documents to consider, analyze and evaluate the particular and specific professional tasks of grassroots cadres. In practice at grassroots level, grassroots cadres need to analyze the

particular and specific in the locality where they work to apply legal knowledge to have a correct solution. In order to do so, grassroots officials must have a firm grasp of legal knowledge, the meaning of legal documents and regulations, follow the actual situation, and understand the nature of legal situations in order to properly apply laws. Since then, propagating, mobilizing and educating the masses to live and work according to the Constitution and laws. Improve the efficiency of law application in the work of grassroots cadres in handling administrative documents. In order to effectively apply legal knowledge, grassroots cadres are not only strong in political bravery, have ethics, and a healthy lifestyle, but also must have a high level of legal knowledge and understanding, and professional expertise. In addition to implementing the undertakings and guidelines of the Party, policies and laws of the State, grassroots cadres must implement all undertakings and policies of the State or turn "law on paper" into "law in action". Therefore, grassroots cadres must be equipped with knowledge, understanding of the law and have a high level of legal awareness in order to perform their functions and tasks well, from which there are" fight against law violations, denunciations of illegal acts ... It is important for individuals to understand the social meaning, social values of the law provisions, of legal actions and comply with it voluntarily, not just out of fear of sanctions ". The process of building a socialist rule of law State in Vietnam shows that law and laws and laws hold the ultimate position to regulate social relations according to the provisions of law, "law If the law wants to be effective and effective, in addition to the power of public authority, by coercion, it is necessary to mobilize both the power of thought and spirit, the law must be perceived by people as necessary and competent. must create trust and respect for the law ". On the other hand, grassroots cadres are indispensable in the government apparatus at all levels, they are also the ones directly enforcing the law and representing the public authority to the people. Therefore, whether or not the application of legal knowledge in the work of grassroots officials is effective or not is decided by this team. Building the rule of law requires grassroots cadres to not only master their legal knowledge but also apply legal knowledge related to their expertise to apply the law into practice in the process of contacting, work with people.

Improve the efficiency of law application in the work of grassroots cadres so that grassroots cadres realize that self-study and self-improvement of expertise and skills are necessary in order to effectively apply the law. In order to apply legal knowledge to effective professional work, grassroots cadres accumulate lessons learned from the practice of legal life, see the changes of the reality of legal life, on the basis of The department draws experience from actual legal situations, grassroots cadres will be supplemented and updated with knowledge to improve the efficiency of applying legal knowledge to their work. Because, the professional activities of grassroots cadres are also the basis for people to evaluate the effectiveness of their legal knowledge application. The legal awareness of grassroots cadres is always influenced and bound by ethical and cultural factors of the nation and locality where they work. Every day, this team directly or indirectly deals with the affairs of the state apparatus, the legitimate rights and interests of the people, in order to handle those tasks,

grassroots cadres must continuously update information on new policies and legal documents. Because, when grassroots officials have information about policies, new legal documents will help them update and supplement their knowledge and understanding of the law. If grassroots officials lack information about legal knowledge, especially fail to timely grasp new legal documents and policies, they will lead to law violations, causing frustration among the people, lose confidence among people. Therefore, in order to effectively handle professional tasks, grassroots cadres need to regularly raise their sense of law through self-study and self-training. The current grassroots cadres are responsible for the work at the grassroots level (commune, ward, and town) with different functions and tasks and from different branches and fields. Each job position has its own scope, functions and duties, so the need for information and legal knowledge is different. On the other hand, each grassroots cadre applies different laws because of their different knowledge and understanding of the law. Therefore, to improve the efficiency of applying legal knowledge to work, it is necessary to select and classify grassroots cadres by level, by industry, by capacity, qualifications and information needs of each target group. with the guideline of equipping what grassroots officials are in need. Improving the efficiency of applying legal knowledge to the work of grassroots cadres is both a process, as well as the end result of legal adjustments to each specific case in life. Applying the law not only does not violate the law, does not do the prohibited law, but is also reflected in the acts of using the law, in the legal positivity of each grassroots official, in the fulfill their legal obligations at work. Lawful acts also include acts of fighting against law violations, denunciations of illegal acts ... therefore, grassroots cadres must understand the social significance and values of the commune. Assembly of legal provisions, of legal actions and voluntary compliance, not just out of fear of legal sanctions. The grassroots cadres must comply with the law, not violate the law, and use the law in a cultural and ethical manner. Grassroots officials also show their legal positivity in the rule of law, especially in our country, where people in terms of tradition and negative influencing factors are still afraid to use them law.

Conclude Raising the legal awareness of grassroots officials to raise awareness of the law, reinforcing the attitude and belief in the law of grassroots officials in order to effectively apply legal knowledge to their work. The contents of raising legal awareness must be complete, timely, accurate, and concretize legal documents so that these documents practically attach to the people's life, contribute to implementation and application, supplement and test the policies of the Party and the State, serve as a bridge between the Party and the people, which is the force contributing to the socio-economic development in the locality.

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