

# **Factors Influencing Community Resource Mobilization to Support Households in Achieving Sustainable Poverty Alleviation: The Case of Dao People in Thanh Hoa Province, Vietnam**

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## **Abstract**

This article explains the factors influencing community resource mobilization in achieving sustainable poverty alleviation focusing on Dao households in Vietnam. It found that two factors influenced community resource mobilization to help Dao households sustainably escape poverty focuses on two dimensions: internal and external factors. Internal factors include education level, occupation, skills, experience, the number of healthy workers in the household, and the household's physical capital resources. External factors encompass broader influences such as state policies and support from state organizations and non-governmental organizations. While internal factors are crucial in determining the ability to mobilize community resources, external factors, though not decisive, play a significant role in facilitating the mobilization of these resources to support the Dao people in Thanh Hoa in achieving sustainable poverty alleviation. This study contributes to the study on how poverty should be alleviated in communal levels in Asia with a special reference to Vietnam.

## **Keywords**

Community resources, Dao household, sustainable poverty escape, Thanh Hoa

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## **Introduction**

Sustainable poverty reduction for ethnic minorities is a key priority for the Party and State of Vietnam. To increase income, reduce poverty rates, and improve access to basic services for ethnic minorities, the Government has launched the National Target Program for Sustainable Poverty Reduction. Numerous programs and projects have been and are being implemented to support ethnic minorities, including Resolution No. 88/2019/QH14, which approves the comprehensive socio-economic development plan for ethnic minorities and mountainous areas for the period 2021-2030, and Resolution No. 12/NQ-CP, which outlines the implementation of Resolution No. 88/2019/QH14, dated November 18, 2019.

To support ethnic minorities, especially the Dao ethnic group in Thanh Hoa, many programs and policies have been implemented. According to the Resolution of the 18th Thanh Hoa Provincial Party Congress, rapid and sustainable poverty reduction is a key program. The goal is that by 2025, the province's poverty rate according to multidimensional standards will be lower than the national average.

Currently, Thanh Hoa is home to approximately 6,894 Dao people, divided into two groups: Dao Quan Chet and Dao Do, primarily residing in the Ngoc Lac and Cam Thuy districts. The Dao community in these districts mainly belongs to the Dao Quan Chet group, with the Ban, Trieu, and Dang families being the most common. Each family and branch has its own genealogy and a system of middle names to distinguish between different generations.

Research on mountainous development policies in Vietnam by Jamieson, Le Trong Cuc, and Rambo (1998) shows that the cause of this situation comes from a lack of full awareness of the basic principles towards building sustainable livelihoods. In 2005, Joseph Iloabanafor Orji studied the impact assessment of poverty reduction programs as a development strategy in Niger. The study concludes that for any meaningful poverty reduction programs to be implemented properly. Therefore, the government will collaborate with rural communities to facilitate program implementation and

achieve greater success, ultimately fostering economic autonomy, growth, and development.

Summary report of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on the Integrated Rural Development Project for ethnic minority areas in the Central region, including Thanh Hoa and Nghe An (ADB 2007) presented several key solutions to improve livelihoods and build sustainable livelihoods for ethnic minorities, focusing on improving infrastructure systems (physical capital) such as roads, irrigation systems, water supply, sanitation, and markets. Michael Cuddy, Liu Hongmei, and Paulos Gute (2008) researched the factors affecting the poverty level of rural households in the South of China. The focus of this research is to understand the income level of rural households and the factors that affect income levels.

Tran Thi Hanh et al. (2010) evaluated the human resources of ethnic minorities based on three criteria: physical strength, mental strength, and mental strength. The Vietnam Poverty Assessment Report (2012) identified several reasons for the persistent poverty among ethnic minorities, including difficulties in accessing education, credit, and land, as well as challenges in finding markets. Additionally, stereotypes and prejudices held by the Kinh people towards ethnic minorities contribute to these ongoing challenges. Assessing “the current situation and solutions for sustainable poverty reduction in the mountainous districts of Nghe An province”, the report also points out that poverty in the mountainous districts of Nghe An province comes from the opportunity to access health services. Health, education, and social assistance are limited, infrastructure conditions are weak, income is low, and production activities are fragmented and passive.

Research on poverty have been conducted in the contexts of many countries such as in Africa and Asia. These include studies by Abbas et al. 2020; Addae-Korankye 2014; Alkire 2019; Alkire 2010; Alkire and Foster 2011; Alkire and Santos 2014; Alkire et al. 2017; Alkire et al 2021; ADB 2009; Bali 2019; Beegle and Christiaensen 2019; Bradshaw and Finch 2003; Barros and

Tenório 2007; Chen et al. 2019; Diaz-Bonilla and Sabatino 2022; Eberharter 2018; Ezcurra-Zavaleta 2023; Gradin 2014; Handley et al. 2009; Khatiwada et al. 2017; Lawson et al. 2008; Luo and Sicular 2013; Nansadiga et al. 2019; Narayan et al. 2009; Li et al. 2013; Singh and Chudasama 2020; cvan Noordwijk 2019; World Bank 2013; and Yang et al. 2020.

Studies on poverty in Vietnam have also been conducted by many scholars and instituion such as AAV and Oxfam 2013; Bui and Erreygers 2020; Do 2016; Do et al. 2020; and Duc 2019. Specific reseach has evaluated and analyzed poverty reduction policies across various countries, focusing on social groups such as ethnic minorities in rural and mountainous areas (Chambers and Conway 1992; Baulch 2010; Chau et al. 2015; Abdullah et al. 2019)

Many countries have implemented policies to support the poor in general, and poor ethnic minorities in particular. However, in developing countries like Vietnam, the top-down approach and direct support have often left the poor in a passive position, leading them to rely on state assistance, such as free health insurance cards and financial aid for education for ethnic minority children (Decision No. 59; Decision No. 287-QD; Decision No. 289-QQD; Decision No. 291-DQ; Decision No. 59/2015/ND-CP; Decree No. 95/2011/ND-CP; Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs 2014; Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs 2006; Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs 2012). There is still a lack of policies developed through assessing the needs, expectations, resources, and potential of the poor themselves, especially those from ethnic minority groups. Therefore, this study aims to contribute to helping poor households within the Dao ethnic group actively work towards escaping poverty, thereby promoting sustainable socio-economic development in the mountainous areas of Thanh Hoa province.

According to the theoretical approach and sustainable livelihoods framework of the UK Department for International

Development, five sources of capital affect the ability to escape poverty: human capital, natural resource capital, financial capital, physical capital, and social capital. The study analyzed the results of quantitative research based on interviews with 200 representatives of poor households and those escaping poverty.

Research content is limited to the following two dimensions: (1) Internal factors: education level, occupation, skills and experience, number of healthy enough workers to work in the household, physical capital resources of the household; (2) External factors: these are external macro factors such as state policies, support from state organizations, non-governmental organizations. The group of internal factors plays a decisive role in the ability to mobilize community resources, on the contrary, although external factors do not have a decisive role, they play a very important role in influencing the mobilization of community resources for support helping the Dao people in Thanh Hoa escape poverty sustainably.

### **Factors Affecting the Mobilization of Community Resources of Dao Households**

There are two groups of factors affecting the mobilization of community resources to support Dao ethnic households to escape poverty sustainably. First, internal factors, which include educational level, occupation, skills and experience, number of healthy workers household work, and household physical capital resources. Second, external factors, which consist of state policies, support from state organizations, and non-governmental organizations.

#### *Internal Factors*

These are internal factors belonging to workers and households and physical capital resources. The internal force factor emphasizes the decisive role of the household head in planning the household's economic development. We use regression analysis to test this model with the equation set up as follows:

$$\ln [p(x)/1-p(x)] = \beta_0 + \beta_1X_1 + \beta_2X_2 + \beta_3X_3 + \beta_4X_4+ \dots + \beta_nX_n+ \epsilon$$

This means that the dependent variable p(x) is the household’s ability to escape poverty. This variable takes the value of 1 if the household has a good ability to escape poverty, and otherwise, it takes the value of 0.

$\beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3 \dots \beta_n$  is the regression coefficient that needs to be estimated ( $\beta_0$  is a constant)

$\epsilon$ : is the error measuring the impact of variables not included in the model.

$X_1, X_2, X_3, \dots X_n$  are the independent variables included in the model, which are explained in turn as follows in Table 1.

Table 1 Interpretation of Independent Variables in the Regression Model

<b>Xj</b>	<b>Variables</b>	<b>Explanation</b>	<b>Expected</b>
X1	Academic Level	Education level takes a value corresponding to the number of years of schooling of the household representative at present	+
X2	Job	Occupation receives a value corresponding to the type of occupation of the Dao household representative at present	+
X3	Skills Experience	Experienced skills receive a value corresponding to the number of years of farming animal husbandry, or trading of the household representative up to the present time.	+
X4	Number of Workers Healthy Enough to Work	Labor rate, get the value of the rate of labor directly involved in production, the total number of workers in the household	+
X5	Physical Resources of Households	Includes the number of heads of buffaloes, cows, pigs, chickens, livestock, and poultry up to the present time of the household; Number of production machines and rented trucks up to the present time of the household	+

Source: The Authors’ Analysis

With the survey data obtained, we used a binary logistic regression model to analyze the correlation between independent and dependent variables as seen Table 2. One of the necessary conditions for analyzing the next steps of multivariate regression is that the independent variable must be correlated with the dependent variable. If not correlated, this type of independent variable is out of regression analysis. Therefore, before performing regression analysis, we checked the Pearson Correlation Coefficient to check the linear relationship between the independent variables and the dependent variable.

Table 2 Correlation Matrix between Variables

Variables	X1	X2	X3	X4	X5	p(x)
X1	first	-,035	,027	,015	,075	,022
		,417	,537	,736	,085	,013
	200	200	200	200	200	200
X2	-,035	first	,237 **	-,100 *	,005	,005
	,417		,000	,021	,912	,012
	200	200	200	200	200	200
X3	,027	,237 **	first	-,266 **	-,034	-,056
	,537	,000		,000	,436	,031
	200	200	200	200	200	200
X4	,015	-,100 *	-,266 **	first	,053	-,050
	,736	,021	,000		,229	,057
	200	200	200	200	200	200
X5	,075	,005	-,034	,053	first	,113 **
	,085	,912	,436	,229		,009
	200	200	200	200	200	200
p(x)	,022	,005	-,056	-,050	,113 **	first
	,013	,012	,031	,057	,009	
	200	200	200	200	200	200

Source: The Authors' Analysis

The analysis results show that the VIF of the 10 independent variables included in the model are all much smaller than 10. Therefore, multicollinearity does not occur in the model, so the model is statistically significant (Table 3).

Table 3 Multicollinearity Test Results

Coefficients	t	Collinearity Statistics	
		Tolerance	VIF
(Constant)	6,925	-	-
X1	-2,195	,954	1,024
X2	,222	,856	1,118
X3	-2,328	,952	1,024
X4	-,628	,858	1,157
X5	1,626	,959	1,026

Source: The Authors' Analysis

As seen in Table 4, the significance level  $p < 0.05$  for all independent variables, showing that the model has high statistical significance. With this result, the logistic regression model is written as follows:

Community Resources Mobilization =  $\beta_0 + B_1$ education Level +  $\beta_2$  Occupation +  $B_3$  Skills Experience +  $B_4$ number of Healthy Workable Labor of The Household +  $B_5$ physical Capital Resources of the Household.

Table 4 Results for the Binary Logistic Regression Model

Variables in the Equation	B	SE	Wald	DF	Sig.	Exp(B)
X1	,113	,167	,161	first	,001	1,042
X2	,576	,467	,326	first	,005	,758
X3	,493	,338	1,867	first	,003	,632

Table 4 continued

X4	,625	,405	,260	first	,003	1,213
X5	,322	,539	11,987	first	,017	6,602
Constant	1,491	1,341	,003	first	,001	,300

Source: The Authors' Analysis

As shown in Table 5, the results of logistic regression analysis show that the significance level Sig = 0.012, the correct prediction rate of the model is 69%, so the model is accepted and used to identify subjective factors affecting the ability of Dao ethnic households to escape poverty. As for the multivariate regression model Sig = 0.019 < 0.5 with a significance level of 95%, the variables included in the model have a variance magnification (VIF) much smaller than 10, showing that the variables included in the model do not have multicollinearity. The model's Durbin - Watson coefficient is 1.535, proving that the model is correlated. The adjusted R2 coefficient of the model is 71%, proving that the independent variables in the model explain the difference in community resource mobilization of each Dao family at 71%.

Table 5 Regression Analysis of Internal Factors Affecting Community Resource Mobilization of Dao Households

Variables	Logistic model		Multivariate regression model		
	B coefficient	Level of significance	B coefficient	Level of significance	VIF
Constant	-6,042	0.000	0.543	0.019	
Academic level	0.432	0.018	0.034	0.013	1,543
Job	0.023	0.023	0.043	0.023	1,234
Experience skills	0.043	0.032	0.018	0.032	1,522
Number of workers who are healthy enough to work	0.535	0.008	0.067	0.021	1,675
Households' physical capital resources	-0.234	0.657	0.063	0.657	1,344

Table 5 continued

Number of observations (N):200	Number of observations (N): 200
Significance level (Sig.): 0.012	Significance level (Sig.): 0.019
-2 Log likelihood 123.556	Adjusted R <sup>2</sup> coefficient: 0.71
Correct prediction rate: 69,000	Durbin-Watson coefficient: 1.535

Source: The Authors' Analysis

According to Table 6, there are three internal factors that most influence the mobilization of community resources to support Dao households to escape poverty sustainably. These are the number of workers healthy enough to work (3.45), qualifications education (3.36), occupation (3.16), followed by skills and experience, and the household's physical capital resources also partly affect the ability to mobilize community resources to support human households.

Table 6 Anova Variance Analysis of the Relationship of Internal Factors Affecting Community Resource Mobilization of Dao Households

Criteria	The average value	Influence level
Academic level	3.36	2
Job	3.16	3
Experience skills	3.14	4
Number of workers who are healthy enough to work	3.45	first
Households' physical capital resources	3.08	5
Overall average	3,238	

Results of ANOVA variance test on differences in internal factors affecting community resource mobilization of Dao households in Thanh Hoa

Table 6 continued

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 F-statistic: 4.013
 

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 Statistical significance level: Sig: 0.000 > 0.05 shows that there is a difference between internal factors to mobilize community resources of the Dao people in Thanh Hoa
 

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Source: The Authors' Analysis

### *External Factors*

The group of external factors is not decisive but plays an important and influential role in supporting Dao families to escape poverty sustainably. Table 7 shows the level of influence of the causes: Lack of means of production is the highest-rated cause (4.52 points), showing that this is the main problem preventing people from escaping poverty. Natural disasters and epidemics (4.34 points) are also an important cause, greatly affecting production activities and people's lives. Disadvantaged communities (4.40 points) make mutual support more difficult, reducing the ability of households to escape poverty. Ineffective support from State programs (3.12 points) is also a major barrier, showing the need to improve the effectiveness of these programs to better support people. Support from relatives, relatives, friends, and mass organizations (2.35 - 2.56 points), although less influential than other causes, still plays a certain role in helping people escape poverty.

In addition, the above analysis results show the level of consensus in assessment: The standard deviation of the causes is quite low (1.028 - 1.669), showing a high level of consensus in people's assessment of the causes and leading to poverty in Dao households. However, the analysis results show the causes of poverty, helping policymakers focus resources on key issues to solve the poverty problem more effectively, as well as the importance of poverty.

Table 7 Statistics of Objective Causes Affecting Community Resource Mobilization to Support Poverty Reduction of Dao Households

Values	Smallest	Biggest	Medium	Standard deviation	Meaning
There is no support from State programs	1.00	5.00	2.14	1. 669	9
No support from relatives or relatives	1.00	5.00	2.35	1. 613	8
No support from friends	1.00	5.00	2.43	1. 516	7
There is no support from mass organizations (Farmers' Union, Women's Union, Youth Union...)	1.00	5.00	2.56	1. 329	6
Due to natural disasters and epidemics, business failed	1.00	5.00	4.34	1. 413	3
Due to a lack of means of production	1.00	5.00	4.52	1. 028	first
Support from State programs is not effective and does not meet the needs of households	1.00	5.00	3.12	1. 532	4
Most of the communities are in difficulty so they cannot support each other	1.00	5.00	4.40	1. 332	2
Natural resources in the locality are very limited, and environmental conditions are not favorable for doing business and developing the household economy.	1.00	5.00	3.01	1. 365	5

Source: The Authors' Analysis

According to the survey results in Table 8, three objective factors do not affect the ability of Dao households to escape poverty, including no support from associations (Sig=719>0.5), no support from relatives (Sig=662>0.5), no support from friends (Sig=548>0.5). The remaining factors in the regression model all have statistical significance Sig<0.5, demonstrating a correlation with the ability of Dao households to escape poverty.

Table 8 Analysis of the Influence of Objective Factors on the Ability of Dao Households to Mobilize Community Resources

Independent variables	Unstandardized regression coefficient(B)	Standardized regression coefficient (Beta)	t value	Significance level (Sig.)	Variance Inflation Factor (VIF)
Constant	5,453		4,426	.000	
There is no state support	-.055	-.064	-1,534	.351	1,443
There is no support from relatives or relatives	.074	.045	.643	.662	1,423
No support from friends	.081	.077	.179	.548	1,234
There is no support from mass organizations (Farmers' Union, Women's Union, Youth Union...)	.043	.039	.656	.719	1,212
Due to natural disasters and epidemics, business failed	.545	.320	2,955	.014	1,214
Due to the lack of necessary production materials (land, water...)	.032	.032	.364	.023	1,215
Support from State programs is not effective and does not meet the needs of households	.053	.085	1,468	.018	1.144

Table 8 continued

Most of the communities are in difficulty so they cannot provide any support for households to escape poverty	-.107	-.104	-1,469	.013	1,233
<hr/> Dependent variable: Capacity for economic development planning and household economic management Sample capacity: 200 F value= 3.003 Sig value = 0.065 Adjusted R2 value = 0.73 Durbin Watson value =1.241 <hr/>					

Source: The Authors's Analysis

The process of mobilizing community resources of Dao households still has many difficulties. The Dao people have not proactively planned for household economic development. A part of them still want to continue to receive state sponsorship in education, health care, and social assistance. On the other hand, a part of Dao households are not keen on finding side jobs to generate more income, diversifying their fields of work in economic development to rise out of poverty. sustainable poverty.

Two groups of factors affected the mobilization of community resources: The group of internal factors (belonging to the individual and household such as number of workers, skills, experience, age, and occupation) and the group of external factors that affect the mobilization of community resources. External factors (objective factors at the macro level) had a direct impact on mobilizing community resources to sustainably escape poverty.

The state's guidelines, policies, and poverty reduction programs play an important role in the process of hunger eradication and poverty reduction, typically Programs 135, 30A. However, "there are still some overlapping policies" which have not been fully effective, some supports are not suitable for local conditions (such as cow support), and some support policies are too small (such as electric meter support, salt support).

## **Conclusion**

The study has identified factors affecting the mobilization of community resources to support Dao households to escape poverty sustainably in Thanh Hoa. First, internal factors include education level, occupation, economic skills production experience, the number of workers who are healthy enough to work, and the household's physical capital resources. These factors had a positive influence on the ability to mobilize community resources of Dao households in Thanh Hoa to escape poverty sustainably. Second, external factors such as policies to support the poor, socio-economic development in ethnic minority areas, and state organizations such as the Vietnam Fatherland Front, the Vietnam Farmers' Association, and the Vietnam Women's Union. These played an important role in propagandizing, mobilizing, and supporting people to mobilize community resources. Non-governmental organizations, through programs and projects supporting socio-economic development, and poverty reduction, also made an important contribution to mobilizing community resources to support Dao households in achieving a sustainable way out of poverty.

To mobilize community resources to support Dao households to escape poverty sustainably, there is a need for close coordination between relevant parties including governments at all levels, state organizations, non-governmental organizations, and people. It is necessary to focus on improving the capacity of Dao households in terms of education, experience skills, production, and business

development so that they can access and use community resources more effectively. It is urgent to continue to improve policies and laws, creating a favourable environment for mobilizing community resources to support Dao households to escape poverty sustainably.

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