

# The Impact of Social Capital on the Ability of People to Escape Poverty Hmong Ethnic Households in Thanh Hoa Province

Nguyen Thi Duyen, Dao Thanh Thuy

Faculty of Social Sciences, Hong Duc University, Thanh Hoa, Vietnam

## Email address:

nguyenthiduyen@hdu.edu.vn (Nguyen Thi Duyen), daothanhtuy@hdu.edu.vn (Dao Thanh Thuy)

## To cite this article:

Nguyen Thi Duyen, Dao Thanh Thuy. The Impact of Social Capital on the Ability of People to Escape Poverty Hmong Ethnic Households in Thanh Hoa Province. *Science, Technology & Public Policy*. Vol. 7, No. 2, 2023, pp. 69-74. doi: 10.11648/j.stpp.20230702.13

Received: June 19, 2023; Accepted: July 5, 2023; Published: August 22, 2023

---

**Abstract:** *Purpose:* Analyze the impact of social capital factors on the ability to escape poverty of Mong ethnic households in Thanh Hoa province today. *Subjects and methods:* The study is conducting semi-structured interviews with 400 representatives of Mong households in Thanh Hoa province. *Results:* The results of multivariate regression analysis show that the factors belonging to Social Capital affect the ability to escape poverty of Mong ethnic households including: (i) Relationship with family system row; (ii) Mass organizations (Farmers Union, Women's Union, Youth Union); (iii) Households have actively sought out markets for their products; (iv) Power to search for markets for household products. In which, the household's ability to find markets to consume produced products is the most successful element of social capital that affects the ability of Hmong households to escape poverty. *Conclusion:* Most of the Mong people in Thanh Hoa have relatively limited social capital, such as the ability to borrow capital to use capital, the ability to seek outside jobs, and the ability to plan and orient strategies. The household economic development strategy is still very limited.

**Keywords:** Social Capital, Poor Households, Capacity to Escape Poverty, Ethnic Minorities

---

## 1. Introduction of Research

Capacity to escape poverty of Mong ethnic households is influenced by many different factors such as: socio-demographic characteristics of households, physical capital for socio-economic development, and natural resources of households. Within the research limit of the author group, we only focus on the factor of social capital, which is an important factor that governs the transformation of employment structure and diversification of income sources of Hmong households [1, 11, 12, 14]. There are many different definitions of social capital, but the common point of social capital is that it is associated with social networks, social relationships and social capital created through investment in social relations. Or social networks, individuals can use social capital to seek their own interests [1, 10, 13].

Research by the Asian Development [2] "The impact on poverty reduction of some projects, the perception of the beneficiaries" has offered solutions to reduce poverty to achieve the goal of poverty reduction effectively. This study

covers two areas: agriculture and social support policies in six countries (Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines and Samoa). The research results show that the household economic situation has improved thanks to the impacts of the poverty reduction project. The selected projects have improved the household economic situation of 27% of beneficiaries. In which, the highest percentage of households that have improved their lives thanks to projects belongs to Bangladesh, followed by Nepal and the Philippines, and Indonesia has the lowest rate. Economic growth projects have a slightly lower proportion of beneficiaries than poverty reduction projects [2].

The Institute for Foreign Studies (IDO) [3] carried out the study "Poverty and poverty reduction in sub-Saharan Africa: An overview of issues" ("Poverty and poverty reduction in sub-Saharan Africa: An overview of key issues") by the group of authors Geoff Handley, Kate Higgins and Bhavna Sharma with Kate Bird and Diana Cammack in January 2009 [3]. Research has shown that policy institutes support and support good voluntary organizations and agencies. of the

diaspora does not bring about a sustainable effect because it depends a lot on the attitudes of the supporters and not from the needs of the people, the aid can also damage the governments of African countries and slow down their growth [3].

A livelihood is a diverse set of capabilities (capabilities), assets (assets) and activities (activities) acquired by people, and usable to meet the needs of life, including the needs of self, family, community and society [5, 6]. According to this understanding, the concept of livelihood includes at least two main components; first, it is the resources possessed by the person/family/community, including knowledge and skills as well as assets, possessions and relationships; second, it is the specific livelihood activities they undertake to exploit the value of motivational resources to serve life's goals. These two parts are closely related and cannot be separated. Resources only come into play through the specifics of activities, and vice versa, activities will not be possible, or cannot be effective without the necessary resources [5, 6].

Regarding the resources owned by individuals / family / communities [6], proposes a classification of resources, including five main sources of capital: human capital; social capital (social capital); natural capital; physical capital; financial capital. Households can participate in activities of mass organizations that bring many benefits to poor households to help them. Overcoming the clustering function of social capital in a small village and among its ethnic minorities, social capital also has a bridging nature, connecting outside other ethnic communities to support households, ethnic minority families in mountainous areas expand their social relations, enhance their knowledge, understanding, skills, and new livelihood experiences. Since then, thanks to social capital, poor ethnic minority households have the capacity to diversify their livelihoods to prevent risks better than the single form of livelihood. Thus, the enhancement of social capital has the potential to contribute to the enhancement of human capital and at the same time can be converted into economic capital [4].

The French sociologist, Pierre Bourdieu, argued that social capital is "a form of capital" associated with permanent and permanent ownership of a network of social relations or with belonging to a stable social group decisions that individuals can mobilize in their strategies and livelihoods. Of course, the volume and potential of social capital varies frequently according to the social relationships involved. The relationship between types of capital (economic, cultural, human and social) of a nature that supports the production and consumption of goods and services [4].

Methods: The study was conducted semi-structured interviews with 400 representatives of Hmong households, in which (65% of men and 35% of women; 58.5% of poor households and 41.5% of escaped households) poor; 80% of occupations are farming, 4.5% of afforestation, 2.5% of trade

and services, 7% of hired workers; Educated, 20.5% do not attend school, 41.7% primary, 30.8% junior high, 9.2% high school, and 1% intermediate, college, university). The questionnaire closely follows the theoretical and practical basis in the process from applying concepts, determining indicators, building scales in the process of developing the questionnaire. The questionnaire was built with 3 parts: i) Collecting general information about the respondents (8 questions); ii) the current situation of the capacity to escape poverty of the Mong ethnic group (build 6 questions); iii) Factors affecting the poverty reduction capacity of Hmong households (build 18 questions). The questionnaire was designed using Likert 5 points from 1 (completely no influence) to 5 (completely influenced).

## 2. Results

Social capital is an important factor that speaks to the relationship of households in production and in society, Connecting brothers and families; Household prestige; the relationship of households in production and in society, if households have good family relationships, good community ties, wide relationships, eager to learn and approach new things, they will have many opportunities to approach new things. capital sources from other individuals and organizations to improve households' ability to escape poverty; Customs and habits; Spiritual practices; The concept of gender; The role of pioneers, people with prestige; informal institutions, farmer groups; public service; The role of business; Impact of poverty reduction policies and programs and projects; market opportunities, risk context [7-9].

According to Table 1, the results of multivariable regression analysis for the value Sig = 0.023, the variables included in the model have variance magnification (VIF) much smaller than 10, showing that the variables included in the model are not, there is multicollinearity. The Durbin - Watson coefficient of the model is 0.64, showing that the model is correlated. The model's adjusted R2 coefficient is 62%, proving that the regression model of the influencing factors of market access capacity of the research is appropriate.

Two factors that are not statistically significant are the relationship with relatives Sig=678; and the relationship with organizations and associations: youth union, veteran's union, women's union Sig = 564, the rest of the other factors affect the ability to escape poverty of the Hmong HHs. The ability to access the product consumption market depends a lot on the education, age group, of the workers in the household, the household has many workers with low age, will have good health, high education and have a good health, many advantages in accessing external factors, easy to bring their goods to exchange with the external market.

**Table 1.** Regression analysis of factors belonging to social capital with ethnicity variable.

Independent variable	Unstandardized regression coefficient (B)	Normalized regression coefficient (Beta)	t-value	Significance level (Sig.)	Variance magnification factor (VIF)
Constant	2.123		3.042	.000	
Relationship of household with relatives	.032	.041	.352	.678	1.463
Relationships with friends	-.143	-.256	-1.324	.022	1.322
Mass organizations (Farmers Union, Women's Union, Youth Union...)	.087	.055	1.424	.564	1.466
The household actively sought out markets to consume their products	.042	.056	1.566	.054	1.546
The household's ability to find markets to consume the products they make	-.134	-.123	-2.100	.011	1.133
Dependent variable: Market access capacity					
Sample capacity: 400					
Value F= 1.534					
Sig value = 0.23, with 95% significance level, indicates that natural disasters, epidemics and lack of production materials have an impact on the ability to escape poverty of the Mong ethnic group.					
Adjustable R2 value = 0.62					
Durbin Watson Value =.064					

The results of the analysis of the data of the 2019-2021 research project

**Table 2.** The influence of market factors on the ability to escape poverty of the Mong ethnic group.

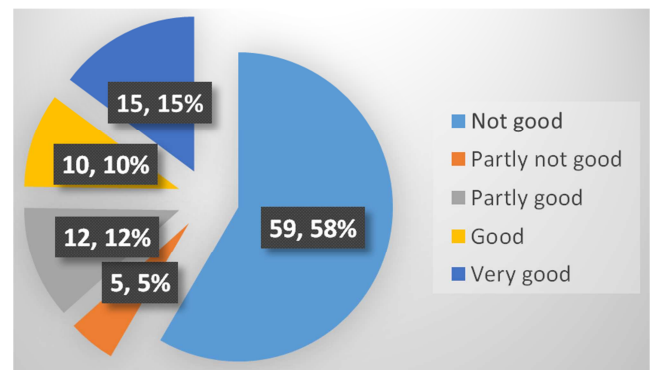
Criteria	Medium	Impact
Market access helps households gain more experience in crop production	2.13	4
Market access helps households gain more farming experience	3.02	1
The household actively sought out markets to consume their products	1.89	6
The household's ability to find markets to consume the products they make	2.03	5
Production planning and financial management of the household	2.52	2
Actively participate in local movements	2.53	3
Overall average	2.35	
The results of the ANOVA test of the difference in scores to assess the influence of policy factors on human resources of the Mong ethnic group		
F-Statistic: 3,036		
Statistical significance level: Sig: 0.003 > 0.05 shows that there is a difference between 6 ethnic groups in terms of factors related to market access.		

The results of the analysis of the data of the 2019-2021 research project

According to the results of the average calculation, it shows that the households that assess the influence of market factors on the ability to escape poverty of the Mong ethnic group first help the household gain more experience in livestock production (3.02), and make plans. production and financial management of households (2.52), actively participating in local movements (2.53)... the average of Mong ethnic group is 2.35, this result can identify accessibility capacity The general market of the Mong ethnic minority households reached a weak level, which also proves that the common ground of social capital of households is still limited. Social relations, village love, and neighborliness are very close, the movement of mutual assistance, contributing to helping households have more capacity to escape poverty and escape poverty sustainably, on the other hand, will always be promoted, spirit and democracy in Vietnam will always be promoted. Neighborhoods are promoted, thereby being able to cooperate and support each other in life as well as in production. Together, we will share information, advocate and propagate the abolition of obsolete conventions, customs, and superstitions.

However, the level of access to social services of the poor is still low, the support of the authorities at all levels and local authorities mainly focuses on areas such as providing information, lack of technical support, while the needs of households such as technical guidance, information on

market access... are not considered.

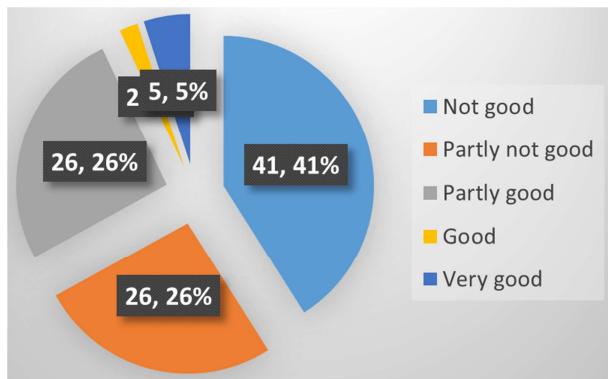


Source: Survey results of the topic, 2019 - 2021

**Figure 1.** Households have actively requested the authorities at all levels to add more means of production to develop the household economy.

Only a small part of family representatives believe that in order to get out of poverty, households can have more means of production to do business, this situation is related to the state's land policy, the division of land and the allocation of land. This is one of the major limitations in promoting people's ability to escape poverty. For Hmong households, their main livelihood is agro-forestry, but there are no side jobs, the ability to diversify occupations to generate income is very limited, so land is an important resource. Most of all,

they can only bring out their full energy if they have land and forests...

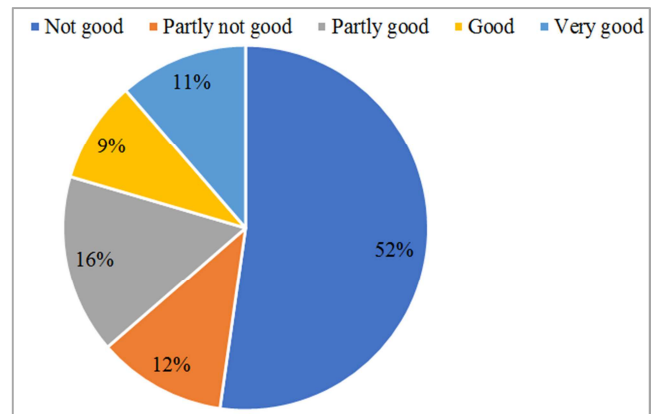


Source: Survey results of the topic, 2019-2021

**Figure 2.** Actively learn and improve skills and experiences to get out of poverty.

Experience skills is one of the important factors to promote the capacity to escape poverty, with 41,41% of the representatives of Mong households saying that poverty due to lack of experience is absolutely correct, with 26,26% saying that that is correct. From this situation, the State Party and associations need to equip and create conditions for people to be trained and equipped with knowledge and skills to rise out of poverty. In the market economy, the interference of human flows, groups of people, etc., many cultural values, indigenous knowledge, and traditional livelihood models proved to be no longer relevant, in contrast to many new knowledge, New culture of production and consumption, new ways of doing business, new opportunities are introduced, and are suitable to the current context, so it is necessary to equip the community with new knowledge, experiences and skills ethnicity.

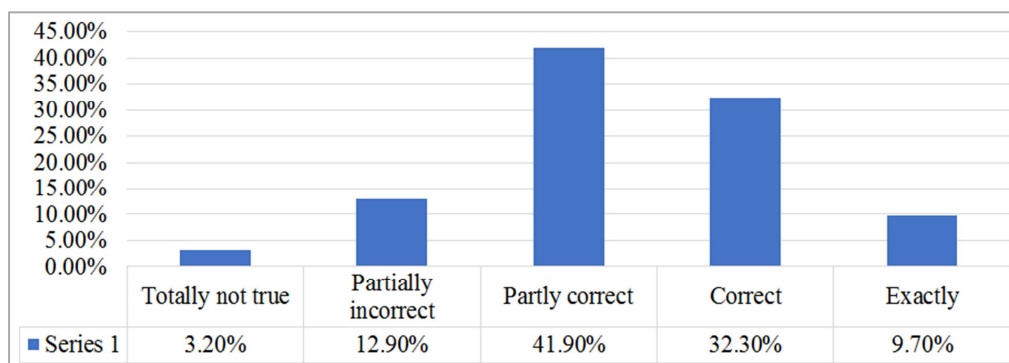
One of the most popular and effective pioneering forms for the ethnic minority community in general and the Mong people in particular is the application of science and technology to production, which is new varieties, new techniques (or improved techniques based on indigenous knowledge) to improve the efficiency of household production models.



Source: Survey results of the topic, 2019 - 2021

**Figure 3.** Comments on the ability of poor households to search for markets for products of the Mong ethnic minority (%).

The Chi - Square test gives the Sig value = 0.023 < 0.05 with a significance level of 95%, showing that there is a correlation between poor households' market access and ethnicity. The market search capacity of poor households is not good, or not good partly accounts for a high proportion, while the number of households with good and very good capacity accounts for a very modest proportion.

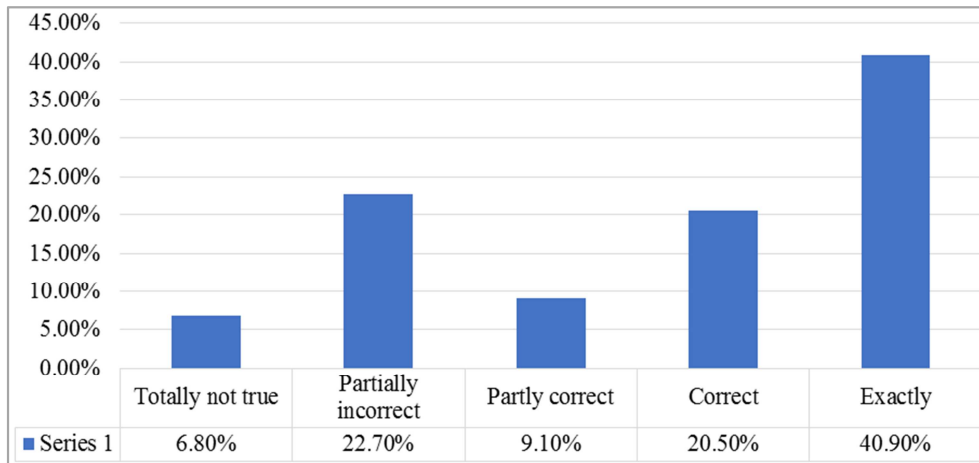


Source: Survey results of the topic, 2021

**Figure 4.** Comments on actively searching for markets to consume products of households escaping poverty (%).

Chi - Square test gives the value Sig = 0.011 < 0.05 with the 95% significance level of these two variables being correlated, the percentage of people who have not actively searched for the product consumption market is still high, ideological beliefs rely on the state, see poverty as normal.

However, this is an important stage that determines the success or failure of the production process of farmers. Therefore, actively seeking outside jobs has a great influence on the ability to escape poverty and escape poverty sustainably of the household.



Source: Survey results of the topic, 2019-2021

**Figure 5.** Poor households want the support of friends to get out of poverty.

Chi - Square test gives Sig value =  $0.035 < 0.05$  with 95% significance level, showing that the support of friends has a correlation with the ability to escape poverty of the Mong ethnic group. The percentage of respondents admitting that they want the help of friends to get out of poverty is true and completely true, accounting for a high percentage, this help is sharing, exchanging production skills, and supporting exchange working day; plant varieties, livestock.... so that households can improve their skills and experience to get out of poverty.

### 3. Conclusion

Social capital used to promote the capacity of Hmong households to escape poverty is still limited, people are still passive, relying on and relying on the government's policies and programs. is a group of poor households who have not actively looked for jobs outside of the locality, their ability to search for product markets is still limited, especially the poor group (more than 70%) of which self-identified as not good or new. a part...., in general, households that have escaped poverty and become rich have relatively good social capital, they combine many jobs to generate income for the household.

Most of the Mong households have relatively limited social capital, such as the ability to borrow capital to use capital, the ability to find outside jobs, the ability to plan and orientate the household economic development strategy. still very limited, self-recognition of Hmong households that they think that they are good accounts for a high proportion (more than 40% of households escaped poverty and 28.9% of poor households), the percentage of poor households who consider their ability to Poor social capital accounts for a high proportion, 51.6% of poor households think that having the ability to learn business experience is not good, and 56% of Mong ethnic households agree that the cause of poverty is due to lack of experience and skills. occupation... this fact greatly affects the promotion of the household's ability to escape poverty.

### References

- [1] Alex Addae-Korankye *Causes of Poverty in Africa: A Review of Literature* American International Journal of Social Science Vol. 3, No. 7; December 2014.
- [2] Asian Bank (ADB), (2009) porterty in the Philippines: causes, constraints and opportunities.
- [3] Bingqin Li, David Piachaud, *Poverty and Inequality and Social Policy in China, 2004.*
- [4] Bourdieu. 1980. Le sens pratique. Paris. De Minuit Publishing House.
- [5] Chambers, R. and Conway, G. R (1992). Sustainable Rural Livelihoods: Practical Concepts for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century", *Discussion Paper 296*, Institute of Development Studies.
- [6] DFID (1999). DFID Sustainable livelihoods guidance sheets.
- [7] Geoff Handley, Kate Higgins and Bhavna Sharma with Kate Bird and Diana Cammack *Poverty and Poverty Reduction in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Overview of Key Issues*, 2009.
- [8] Shanta Paudel Khatiwada, Wei Deng, Bikash Paudel, Janak Raj Khatiwada, Jifei Zhangand Yi Su (2017), "Household Livelihood Strategies and Implication for Poverty Reduction in Rural Areas of Central Nepal, Sustainability", vol 9, issue 612.
- [9] World Bank (2013). *World Bank report on Poverty*. New York. Oxford University Press.
- [10] National Economics University (2010), The concept of poverty in Vietnam, <http://old.voer.edu.vn/module/Kinh-te/...>, updated on September 14, 2015.
- [11] The central programs to implement the Resolution of the XVIII Provincial Party Congress, the Party Committee of Thanh Hoa Province, 2016.
- [12] Project of Stabilizing production, life and socio- economic development of the Mong people, Thanh Hoa province up to 2020.

- [13] Policy scheme to support poverty reduction for communes with high poverty rate in mountainous areas, not in the list of communes with special difficulties (Program 135) of Thanh Hoa province, period 2015-2020.
- [14] Resolution No. 09-NQ/TU of the Provincial Party Committees Executive Committee on strengthening leadership for fast and sustainable poverty reduction in mountainous districts of Thanh Hoa by 2020.