

Research Article

Factors Affect the Woment' Role in Households Economic Development in Rural Area (Through a Survey in Trieu Son District, Thanh Hoa Province)

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Abstract: Based on survey data of the Thesis "*The Role of Women in Household Economic Development in Rural area in Thanh Hoa Province (Case Study in Trieu Son District)*". The paper analyzes the factors affect the role of women in economic development. The results show that in addition to health factors, women are also influenced by many other objective and subjective factors. According to the author, there is a relative difference in perceptions of the roles and factors that affect the role of women in economic development between men and women that is social prejudices.

Keywords: Influencing factors, The role of women, Family economic development, Rural economic development, Women in economic development.

Introduction

Women play a very important role in the development of the human being. In addition to family contributions, they are now clearly visible in all other social fields. However, the women's role is still impacted by subjective and objective factors from social life. This has greatly influenced their rights and status in society.

Based on the research results of the thesis entitled "*The Role of Women in Household Economic Development in Rural area in Thanh Hoa Province (Case Study in Trieu Son District)*", The article study some of the factors that influence the role of women in household economic development, with the following main contents:

- (1) Social policy directly affects the role of women in household economic development;
- (2) Low access to information is a direct factor that impacts to the role of women in economic development;
- (3) Gender inequalities are factors that hinder the role of women in household economic development;
- (4) Low education level limits women to play a role in household economy;
- (5) Health is an important factor affecting the role of women in household economic development.

Methodology

This research is combined between qualitative and quantitative methods and conducted in 03 villages; Hop Ly, Hop Thang and Tho Binh in Trieu Son district, Thanh Hoa province with 210 questionnaires. Of these, 30.5% were male and 69.5% were female. By age group, 17.6%

were from 18 to 25 years old, 26.7% were from 26 to 35 years old, 30.5% were from 36 to 45 years old and 25.2% were from 46 to 60 years old. By education level, there were 4.3% illiterate, 32.4% primary, 38.6% lower secondary, 23.8% upper secondary and 1.0% middle and high school, no college or university. By the living standard (average income per month), 34.7% of income was 2 million VND, 43.3% was from 2-3 million VND, and 21.9% was over 3 million VND. 20 in-depth interviews (10 women, 10 men), 20 semi-structured interviews, 2 focuses on group discussions.

Results

1. Social policy directly affects the role of women in household economic development

The study found that 41% of men loans were based on asset mortgages, while only about 27% of loans were from women. The loan is still inadequate that is the main factor lead to inequality when women take part in household economic development in Vietnam in general and, in Rural area in Thanh Hoa province in particular.

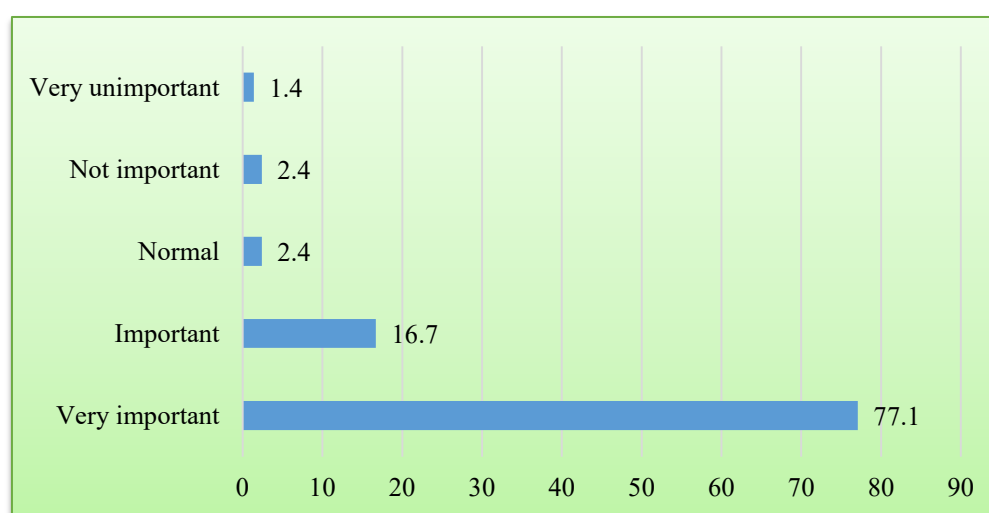


Figure 1. Impact of social policies on women (%)

Looking at the table we can see that the assessment of the level of social policy factors has a great influence on the role of women in the current household economic development. 77.1% indicates thought that it was very important. Strengthening and having appropriate policies for women in household economic development is a factor that promotes and alleviates inequalities in rural poverty when women participate in household economic development now.

The large gap in interest between policy objectives reflects the fact that social policies for women have so far been inclined on labor mobilization rather than on training to foster and improve the management capacity of women, shared on this issue the district Women's Union staff also said that:

“At present, policies that encourage women to participate in productive development of the Party and the state, on the one hand, they have had a positive impact on the number of women involved in management and leadership in economic development. However, these policies are too biased towards the mobilization of individual self-reliance, which has not actually opened up many professional training courses for these staffs to improve their capacity in business management”(Focus group discussions, Trieu son district Women's Union staff).

In the studied regions, the percentage of women own land use rights is very low, accounting for only 18.6% while men is 78.6%. So from the position of co-use with the husband, the wife has fallen into the position of the followers, has no right to decide. Men as householder have more legal and economic power over other family members. *“Normally, it's okay, but when we need to borrow money, mortgage is very inconvenient, because my husband is far away, he can't go home immediately in necessary circumstances, when we want to borrow they ask to deal directly with the house holder, so sometimes we have the opportunity to borrow money but we cannot”* (Female, 37 years old, trading in Hop Thang commune). The lack of a name in the land use right certificate limits the approach to credit and other rights of the women such as transfer or inheritance.

2. Low approach ability to information is a direct impact factor in the role of women in economic development

Because women have to undertake a large amount of work in the family so the opportunity for them to communicate extensively, participate in community activities to get information is very rare. Especially in remote rural areas, people are less likely to be exposed to the media and other forms of information transmission. This problem greatly affects the development of household economic production, because they are unable to access useful information channels to absorb into agricultural production, so capacity and productivity Economic development will not be high (Trieu Son District People's, 2009, 2010, 2011).

Table1. People are the main Human Resources in community activities (Unit: %)

Participants	Husband	Wife	Both	Another
Village meeting	33,8	24,8	39,5	1,9
Training course	52,9	39,5	4,8	2,9
Propagandes, Policy	51,9	33,3	10,0	4,8

Women have very little time for work involved in community activities, they have to work in large amounts all day without rest, their husband mostly participate in community activities they did not have much access to useful information from policy lectures on rural development agriculture, they participate state policy propagandas less 1.6 times than man (51.9% compared to 33.3%). the training course less 1.3 times (52.9% compared to 39.5%), meeting in the neighborhood 1.36 less times (33.8% compared to 24.8%).

Women have very little time to participate in the training sessions, which directly affects their ability to access useful information in agricultural production. This inequality also affects the productivity growth of each household because women make up to more than 50% of the major productive forces in today's farming families.

The poor women is also a group of people with low education and lack of knowledge about economic development, the survey asked 146 people, 88 people of them have got are secondary school education or more, most of these families multi are well-off, while the 58another have under secondary education level (illiteracy, primary education). These households are usually middle-income and below average. Women with low levels of education often find it difficult to access information from training sessions, because many people are illiterate, so they also restrict their access to information to improve their produce .especially in important training sessions on pest and disease control techniques, cultivation techniques and animal husbandry. This is the reason why women have not risen out of poverty. The ability to acquire information from the training sessions also directly affects the women economic development, because the lack of knowledge and information will push

many women to improper application. This has a direct impact on the application of these advances to the economic development in the family, so it is often applied in practice but the economic effect is not achieved as desired.

Table 2. Women's access to information at study sites (n = 210) (Unit: %)

Information resources	Hợp Lý village	Hợp Thắng village	Thọ Bình village	Average
1. Relatives	9,0	10,0	11,0	10,0
2. marketing	55,8	51,2	52,9	53,3
3. personal experience	89,9	95,1	93,6	92,9
4. Policy Bank	33,8	33,5	30,0	32,4
5. Women's Unions	44,9	43,5	42,9	43,8
6. local government	3,5	3,1	2,1	2,9

The study also showed that women are often collected information through the Women's Union (44.8%), through the Policy Bank (32.4%), through relatives and friends (10%). Business exchanges such as shopping (53.3%) or accumulation from personal experience (92.9%). But personal experiences are not often correct, lacking in accurate and unadjusted information, they are accrued from traditional labor, accumulated from long year experience (No.56 Bridge report, 2000).

Many new crops and livestock change from season to season, so if there is no certain knowledge about farming, it will be very difficult to get economic effect as expected.

Table 3. Demand of households in Trieu Son district (Unit: %)

STT	The needs that people need in production today	Husband	Wife	Both
1	Learn about breeding techniques	21,0	52,9	26,1
2	Cultivation techniques	38,1	46,2	15,7
3	Economic management techniques	50,0	33,3	16,7
4	The technique opens the sub- occupation	41,4	39,5	19,0
5	Health care techniques	26,2	56,7	17,1
6	Gardening techniques	81,0	4,2	14,8
7	Techniques on pest control	60,0	14,3	25,7
8	Technique for growing commercial plants	71,9	7,1	21,0
9	Needs	65,0	26,0	9,0

It can be seen that the demand in production activities of the households in the research area is very high. The expansion of knowledge, skills of husbandry, cultivation and sub-occupation, all of them now become an urgent need with farmers, especially the poor women, they help farmers increasing productivity of plants and animals, increase income and develop household economy. However, the introduction of new scientific and technological advances through extension programs has not much paid attention to the target and the practical groups in the rural areas; they are women, especially the poor women (Table 3).

The important problems are gender equality, increase the number of participants, the content training courses, and especially participated women in training sessions. On the other hand, in order to develop the household economy with high effectiveness, besides the personal experience it needs to enhance the learning from the training sessions to develop the household economy. Particularly, the women who are the main contributors to household economic development.

3. Gender inequality is a factor that hinders the role of women in household economic development

In our country, perception, habits of thinking and customs, inequality between women and men have ingrained in the mind of man into the idea "gender prejudice". Practical backward, ancient, feudal ethics "Three obedience and Four Virtues" is encouraged to hold to bind the women, trampling on the feelings and dignity of the women ... gradually they become the man's brutality behavior towards women. This idea gradually becomes the norm, routine, without the protection of law, it still has the effect of coercion, adjust the man's behavior towards women (Quang Dai Tuyen, 2009).

Therefore, men have often thought that the natural function of women are family and children, so everything in the family must be done by women, men only work important work, not share family works with women.

"From now on, Homemakers are the work of women, so it is better when men should not get involved in. On the other hand, men do not have good skill and do not like to do the Homemakers, I do not do it, I want to do the complicated works"(Male, 46 years old, agricultural production in Tho Binh commune).

"We are men and the key people in the family, so it is important to spend more time on the important work, on the other hand we have to go to work, are too busy with social work, so we cannot do house work" (Male, 38 years old, agricultural production in Hop Thang commune).

The existence of the thought of gender prejudice has stifled the creativity of women, limiting their dedication to society and family. The women were weighed on by pregnancy, child care and domestic housework. This is a great obstacle for them to focus their energy, time, wisdom on production and social and political activities. Therefore, many women are as not brave; creative as men and they meet many difficulties in social communication.

Inequality in land ownership, the lack of opportunities for land management and use, asset management, and production management affect the economic and social equality of women.

The gender prejudice not only reflects the land use right but also the decision-making power in other aspects of family life, For example, in the case of building houses, husbands (51%), important work (65.2%), or buying and selling house and land are also unequal.

In summary, Women's social and economic positions are lower than men because they are limited in economic possession and decision making to the important work. "My husband usually make decision to buy and sell house and land, I only have to contribute comments, many times my contributed opinions don't stop my last husband decision making" (Female, 42, agricultural production in Tho Binh).

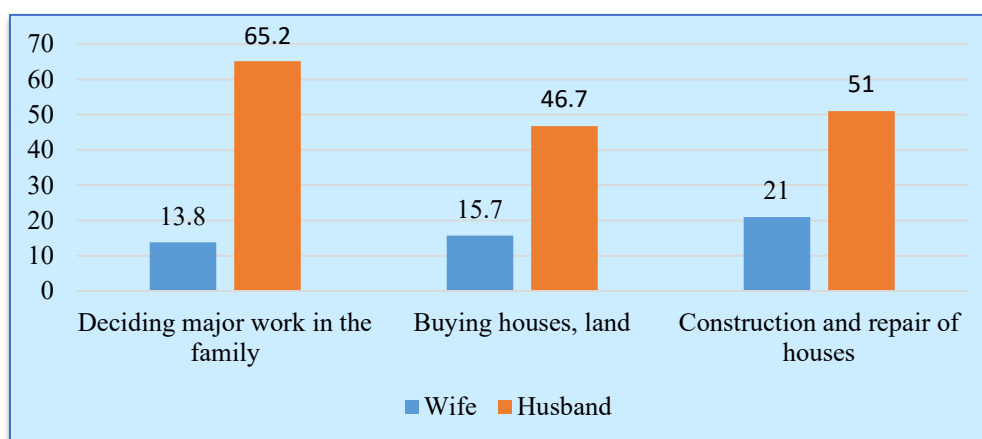


Figure 2. The right to decide on the main tasks in the family (%)

Women in remote and ethnic minority areas have very little opportunity to attend cultural classes. They can't take part in village meetings, haven't much chances to improve household economic and earn money, have no right to make important decisions, they all lead to the socio-economic status of women is lower than men.

Table 4. Working time of women and men during the day (Unit: Hours, minutes)

<i>Time</i> \ <i>Sex</i>	Women	Men
Time for income work	8h 20 minus	8h 05 minus
Time for house work	6h 15 minus	45 minus
Time for eating and relaxing	50 minus	3h 15 minus
Time for social activities	35 minus	2h
Time for sleeping	8h	9h 55 minus
Total average working time / day	14h 35 minus	8h 50 minus

The survey showed that women had to work more 14 hours a day, while men were less 9 hours per day (Table 4). Time of women and men on the same day that there is a large difference, most of women's time is to do household chores like washing clothes, market, while their husband seldom help their wife to do house work, because according to them, from the past, these jobs are still inherited by women, that misconception added to the burden of time for women. Therefore, women have very little time to take care of their own health as well as participate in social work activities.

4. Low education level limits women to play a role in household economy

In rural areas, particularly mountainous media, audiovisual media and books are limited, so female workers are very difficult to learn about breeding and farming techniques, especially, in Tho Binh commune, there are still many economic difficulties, the mass media such as television, books and magazines are still very few, people have little chance to listen and read the useful information from the media to apply in production.

"The people in the commune are facing many difficulties, the magazines and books are also limited, on the other hand many people are illiteracy or low level so it is difficult to apply the progress of science into production" (FGD, CU staff in Trieu Son district).

Women are limited to know about technology and broad knowledge, so they get many difficulties to understand law, find source of investments, know and apply new scientific and technical on production process and real life so the efficiency and productivity work are low.

Table 5. Education level of household head (Unit: %)

Level	Illiteracy n = 9		Primary school n = 68		Secondary School n = 81		High School n = 50		Intermediate and college n = 2		Undergraduate and postgraduate n = 0	
	men	women	men	women	men	women	men	women	men	women	men	women
Total	2	7	17	51	26	55	17	33	2	0	0	0
%	3,13	4,8	26,5	34,9	40,6	37,7	26,6	22,6	3,13	0	0	0

Note: Based on the total sample size (male: n = 64, female: n = 146)

From the data, it can be seen that the disparities in educational attainment of women and men are very clear. The percentage of illiterate women and primary school is much higher than men, at the primary level of 34.9% while the male is only 26.5%. At the Secondary school enrollment was 37.7% and dropped to only 22.6% of high school graduates, while the number of secondary and tertiary men was at a stable level and more than that of females. The education level of junior high school, college and university women is not available, men still accounts for 3.13%. This proves that there is an imbalance in the intellectual level of men and women; especially it is very high in areas with underdeveloped socio-economic conditions.

The results of the study show the reason of disparities in educational attainment between men and women. Women spent most of the time on income activities, housework and caring for family members, so the amount of time they could afford to study was not so great. Low educational level is also a factor that makes women not self-aware of their role in the family. Many women are satisfied with what they have at present, they think that their husbands earn money well that is ok. The husband is the breadwinner in the family, so they do not have to worry anymore. In addition, after a hard working day, they no longer have the need to study, they are satisfied with their education and do not need to change that.

Women have been less educated than men in many respects, many of which have hindered their promotion in all areas, especially in economic development, where women's participation is a great contribution to the development of the country in general and the family in particular. Therefore, the interest in enhancing education for women is the "universal key" in the cause of industrialization-modernization of the current period.

5. Health is an important factor that affects the role of women in household economic development

According to the results of the 2008 Vietnam Living Standards Survey showed that the sexual sick are 68% with female and 64% with men. The illness of the woman is higher than that of the men it reflects the fact that women's health is a particularly worrying issue, especially in rural areas. The rural women's health is worse than the urban women's health: 69.2% and 63.7% (Paul Read, Harry Minas & Steven Klimidis, 1999).

At study time, women mainly undertake the cultivation and husbandry activities; they not only handle most types of production and housework, but their working time also lasting. Women's working time of is longer and more stressful than man's is, in particular in the study area, the women's working time on the average day is over 14 hours, men is under 9

hours, Women have to work 4 hours more than men do. In addition, there are many rural women laborers who work hard during pregnancy, they are still working normally in this time, even they have to work as much as men do, it affects so much to production in economic development as well as their health.

Poor health and physical weakness on the one hand will affect women's physiological psychology; on the other hand they reduce their ability to work as well as their contribution in economic development, So, reducing labor capacity of the women in some extra work of the family, by sharing the burden on their husband, it will be a factor in helping the women to reduce working time and have more time to rest.

The women working time in the field is longer than the men and they are much more affected by environmental pollution, toxic chemicals. In many study areas, there are many polluted lakes and ponds. This is the main source of water for people to use (bath, laundry ...) it is a good condition for mosquitoes, parasites to proliferate, to increase the risk of skin diseases, dengue fever. These problems make the women more strenuous. As well as they effect on labor and their contribution to household economic development.

Lack of nutrition will have a great impact on the women health, affecting the process of participating in household economic production. In the surveyed households, most of the women worked in the fields all day, strenuous and hard, but in the family meal they are very simple and poor nutrition. With the amount of working time is over 14 hours a day, it is difficult to ensure the balance of physical health as well as good health to maintain in the process of economic development.

On the other hand, poor and monotony in cultural life, lack of recreational places, meetings, and lack of information on political, cultural, scientific and technical and economic news are very popular problem in many rural areas. Thus, eradicating poverty in rural cultural life is an urgent requirement of rural industrialization; it also promotes the dissemination of scientific-technical knowledge, raises awareness of rural people, increases the mobilization of available resources and the advantages of the country's resources, attract more forces to participate on the development of household economy, they all contribute to building stronger and stronger homeland. Moreover, it also prevents and eliminates bad habits such as: superstition, gambling, lottery, divination, etc.

Conclusion

The research results show that there are many factors influencing the role of the women in rural household economic development such as education, health, social policy as well as access to information. The access to information is the basic factor which makes the women lack basically necessary knowledge to apply in production and improve productivity for the family. The lack of opportunities for women to access information sources on production knowledge because the men control resources too much; it has significantly reduced the number of participated women in accessing information resources from the training, propaganda. Moreover, gender stereotypes still exist, which makes women feel guilty, self-deprecating, and reluctant to participate in or interact with useful programs or training for applying to household economic development. Therefore, the role of the women is becoming more urgent and needs more attention.

With the important role of the women in the household economy development in rural Thanh Hoa, we cannot deny their great contributions in the process of building and developing the

country in general and household economy development in particular. At present, the rural women are encountering many obstacles or barriers from many aspects; they affect and hinder their role in economic development. Therefore, it is necessary to have proper and timely solutions to help them to improve their role in the family as well as in society.

Conflicts of interest: There is no conflict of interest of any kind.

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