

FACTORS INFLUENCING POVERTY REDUCTION INITIATIVES IN HOAI DUC DISTRICT, HANOI

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Abstract: This article analyzes and evaluates the elements influencing poverty reduction initiatives based on the multidimensional poverty standard method in Hoai Duc district, Hanoi. The analysis of the existing situation has yielded an evaluation of the elements influencing poverty alleviation efforts in the area, specifically: regulatory policy issues, local policymakers engaged in poverty reduction initiatives, and factors pertaining to the impoverished individuals themselves. The findings of the research indicate that in recent years, Hoai Duc district has consistently adhered to policies aimed at supporting local impoverished populations.. Policy authorities have exerted considerable effort to fulfill their responsibilities by providing permanent employment for impoverished households in the district's communes, enabling them to concentrate on their work and alleviate poverty. Nonetheless, limits in their requirements persist, along with challenges in assisting impoverished households in accessing the policies. The inadequate educational attainment of the impoverished constitutes an obstacle that hinders their capacity to assimilate information and knowledge pertaining to science, technology, manufacturing, and the market, etc.

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1. Introduction

Hoai Duc District is an emerging region characterized by a high population density and a varied economy. Nevertheless, impoverished households persist, and the threat of reverting to poverty remains owing to reasons such as insufficient money, inadequate education, unstable employment, and restricted production resources. Comprehending the causes and determinants facilitates the identification of the appropriate strategies for poverty alleviation initiatives. Sustainable poverty alleviation encompasses not only income enhancement but also the consideration of education, healthcare, housing, labor skills, and various social

determinants, including local poverty reduction policies, the human resources executing poverty alleviation initiatives, and crucially, the cognitive capabilities of the impoverished in engaging with these activities. Examining these factors in Hoai Duc facilitates the evaluation of their significant impact, thereby enabling the formulation of suitable and practical policies for the region; support policies can be crafted to align optimally with the local conditions, assisting residents in not only overcoming poverty but also sustaining an improved quality of life and preventing regression into poverty. Establishing a foundation for social welfare and community development initiatives to foster more stable economic conditions for impoverished households. Investigating the

determinants of sustainable poverty alleviation in Hoai Duc district not only enhances the socio-economic development of the region but also significantly helps to the formulation of effective and sustainable poverty reduction policies for the nation.

2. Fundamental principles and literature review

2.1. Fundamental principles

The notion and criteria of multidimensional poverty

The United Nations (UN) defines poverty as the absence of the essential capacity to engage effectively in social activities. Poverty signifies a lack of sufficient food, clothing, educational opportunities, medical care, arable land, gainful employment, and access to finance. Poverty encompasses insecurity, deprivation of rights, social exclusion, susceptibility to violence, existence in hazardous conditions, and lack of access to clean water and sanitation services. (United Nations, 2012). Organizations and scholars fighting poverty frequently offer varying definitions and criteria for assessment and evaluation, depending upon their objectives, viewpoints, and methodologies. The World Bank (WB) claims that poverty encompasses not just material deprivation but also risk, vulnerability, social challenges, and possibilities. World Bank, 2006.)

Poverty is a multifaceted issue characterized by the deficiency or inadequate provision of fundamental human needs. Multidimensional poverty refers to the state in which individuals' basic demands are insufficiently fulfilled.

Alleviating poverty via a multidimensional strategy includes that households show a viable means of livelihood, ensuring their subsistence and protecting the family's survival, while also equipping them to minimize and adapt to risks stemming from unpredictable fluctuations in their livelihood context, thereby preventing a regression into poverty.

The criteria for multidimensional poverty contain an index that includes not only income levels but also factors associated with the deficiency of essential social services (Oxfam and ActionAid, 2010). The global Multidimensional Poverty Index comprises three primary dimensions: health, education, and living conditions. This is a significant measure to augment traditional income-based poverty evaluation method.

2.2. Literature review

The article "*Social Work and Poverty*" by authors Greg Mantle and Dave Back (2010), examines the connection between the practice of community-based social work, policy, and academia. The authors contend that social workers should directly participate in poverty alleviation. This approach is most effective when social workers maintain a close relationship with the local community and provide support that is centered on empowerment and prevention. "Despite a decline in interest among academics, government officials, and professionals in the community-based social work approach in the UK over recent decades, there is potential for a resurgence, with valuable insights to be gained from the implementation of this approach in other nations." (Greg Mantle, 2010).

The World Bank (2006) did research and produced a book entitled "*Beyond the Number: Understanding the Institution for Monitoring Poverty Reduction Strategies*" (Washington, DC), authored by Tara Bedi, Aline Coumdouel, Marcus Cox, Markus Goldstein, and Nigel Thornton. The

research has demonstrated the basis of the relationship in enhancing the framework of comprehensive guidance for poverty alleviation strategies, thus enabling the formulation of policies and the evaluation of their effects on impoverished nations. An examination of policy practices and outcomes has been conducted in several countries, including Albania, Bolivia, Guyana, and Honduras. (World Bank, 2006).

In their study "*The Relationship Between Livelihoods and Poverty Status in Rural Vietnam*," conducted at the University of Economics Ho Chi Minh Khai and Danh (2012) asserted that poverty status is assessed not solely through expenditure or income, but also through living standard indicators that signify the socio-economic welfare of households. The study sought to investigate the correlations between monetary poverty and various socio-economic attributes of households in rural Vietnam through a livelihood framework, while also identifying suitable socio-economic indicators for assessing multidimensional poverty. The research findings validate the existence of a minimum of 10 dimensions for assessing multidimensional poverty, encompassing four categories of livelihood assets. Quantitative and categorical data were retrieved and utilized as relevant indicators for assessing multidimensional poverty. Classifying households according to multidimensional poverty status is statistically more successful, demonstrating enhanced homogeneity within each group compared to classification based on per capita expenditure. The subject also provides a foundation for modifying policies to accommodate certain target groups, so harnessing their strengths to attain the objective of lasting poverty alleviation. (Khai & Danh, 2012).

The report detailing the outcomes of the 2023 survey on poverty and near-poor household presents the implementation results achieved through the sustainable poverty reduction program and objectives set for 2023, encompassing the 2018-2023 period, as conducted by the People's Committee of Hoai Duc District. The study presents data on impoverished and near-impoorished households in 2023, together with the outcomes of implementation and strategies for sustainable poverty alleviation in Hoai Duc district. This research establishes a basis for social workers to determine the prevalence, underlying causes, existing circumstances, and potential solutions to poverty, thereby enhancing the effective application of social work practices to support the impoverished. (People's Committee of Hoai Duc District, 2023).

The "*Multidimensional Poverty Report in Vietnam: Reducing Poverty in All Dimensions to Ensure Quality of Life for Everyone*," published by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), emphasizes the evolving trends of multidimensional poverty and identifies the factors influencing the reduction of multidimensional poverty in Vietnam. The paper specifically examines and identifies vulnerable groups susceptible to multidimensional poverty, including ethnic minorities and individuals with impairments. This paper examined the existing poverty reduction programs and suggested various targeted ways to tackle multidimensional poverty currently. One significant proposed solution is to "enhance the effectiveness of programs and policies through design and implementation," which entails increasing awareness among the impoverished to proactively engage with policies, actively collaborate with

the state to attain poverty reduction objectives, and promote community-based poverty alleviation initiatives. (UNDP, 2021).

3. Methodology of research

The study used the questionnaire interview approach, utilizing quota sampling to gather data from 158 impoverished households residing in the three communes of Duong Lieu, Cat Que, and Minh Khai, located in Hoai Duc District, Hanoi City.

The study employed an in-depth interview methodology: The research involved 15 in-depth interviews, comprising 10 interviews with representatives from households, 3 interviews with officers responsible for enforcing commune policies, and 2 interviews with community leaders.

Method of document analysis: The examination of secondary data will involve utilizing sources from reports

concerning the execution of initiatives aimed at assisting impoverished women within the research area. The approach of document analysis provides the research with a robust theoretical framework, which acts as a basis for exploring the present circumstances of poverty alleviation efforts in the designated area.

4. The current situation regarding the factors affecting poverty alleviation efforts utilizing the multidimensional poverty approach in Hoai Duc district, Hanoi city

4.1. The current impoverishment in Hoai Duc district

As of 2023, according on the survey review reports from the municipalities and towns, the total number of impoverished households in Hoai Duc district has diminished to 582, or 0.92%. The quantity of near-poor families rose to 1,400, representing 2.22%.

Table 1. Data regarding the quantity of impoverished households

No.	Municipality	Aggregate quantity of households	Impoverished household	Percentage (%)
1	Minh Khai	1.806	33	1.83
2	Duong Lieu	3.560	35	0.98
3	Cat Que	4.698	90	1.92
4	Yen So	2.867	22	0.77
5	Dac So	1.246	10	0.80
6	Tien Yen	1.870	37	1.98
7	Song Phuong	3.581	35	0.98
8	Duc Thuong	3.334	40	1.20
9	Duc Giang	3.407	27	0.79
10	Kim Chung	3.666	22	0.60
11	Di Trach	2.130	0	-
12	Van Canh	3.108	13	0.42
13	Son Dong	2.348	17	0.72
14	Lai Yen	2.698	29	1.07
15	Van Con	3.299	41	1.24
16	An Thuong	4.446	23	0.52
17	Dong La	3.277	31	0.95
18	An Khanh	7.949	72	0.91
19	La Phu	3.073	23	0.75
20	Tram Troi	1.658	8	0.48
	Total	64.021	608	0.92

Source: Hoai Duc District Poverty Alleviation Report, 2023

The prevalence of impoverished households in Hoai Duc district is predominantly situated in rural regions. Of the 582 impoverished households, 91.0% reside in rural regions. Merely 9.0% of impoverished households are situated in urban areas. Among the 20 communes/towns in the district, only one commune, Di Trach Commune, is devoid of impoverished households. Nineteen of the twenty communes/towns in the district contain impoverished

households.

In evaluating the poverty rate by locale, there are 13 communes/towns with a poverty rate under 1% and 6 communes with a poverty rate exceeding 1%. Within the survey region of this study, two communes (Minh Khai and Cat Que) exhibit a poverty rate beyond 1%, while one commune (Duong Lieu) demonstrates a poverty rate below 1%.

Table 2. The determinants of poverty

No	The determinants of poverty	Impoverished household	Percentage (%)
1	Some individuals endure severe illnesses that preclude them from employment, while others are single parents caring for young children.	269	46.2
2	Some members frequently experience illness due to expensive ailments, while others are older individuals unable to engage in employment.	141	24.2
3	A family member has a disability.	77	13.2
4	The family members' occupations are precarious; they are unable to secure stable employment and lack adequate vocational training.	75	12.2
5	The family lacks the financial resources to enhance output.	35	5.9
6	There are dilapidated dwellings need construction and restoration.	58	10.0
7	Currently not utilizing potable water sources and hygienic latrines.	11	1.9
8	Insufficient resources for obtaining media information: absence of television and digital set-top box.	40	6.9
9	Challenges in financing children's education across multiple levels	133	22.8
10	Some members engage in social vices and exhibit a lack of diligence in their employment.	28	4.8

Source: Hoai Duc District Poverty Alleviation Report 2023

The factors contributing to poverty among households in Hoai Duc district are highly varied. This indicates a distinct multidimensional poverty scenario. Presently, multiple primary factors contribute to the impoverished conditions of households in Hoai Duc district. Poverty is primarily attributed to severe health conditions, including cancer, dialysis, and heart surgery, as well as poor health, inability to work, and the circumstances of the elderly, single parents raising children, and those who are unemployed. Furthermore, there are various other factors contributing to poverty, such as insufficient capital.

Moreover, various other factors contribute to poverty, including insufficient capital for production development; deteriorated and severely damaged housing; inadequate access to clean water and sanitary facilities; scarcity of assets for information and communication; family members engaged in social vices; and challenges in financing children's education.

4.2. Factor poverty alleviation strategies in Hoai Duc district

The poverty alleviation objective is a significant socio-economic metric of the district. In pursuit of reducing the poverty rate to 0.97% by 2023, the government and citizens of Hoai Duc district have consistently endeavored to adopt policy measures that facilitate sustainable poverty alleviation, enhance living conditions, and ensure social security.

A significant initiative aimed at alleviating poverty in Hoai

Duc district is the subsidy policy designed for households facing extreme hardship. At present, there are 269 households classified as being in extremely difficult situations, which constitutes 46.2% of the total 582 poor households in the district. These families require sustainable solutions to overcome poverty, as the individuals within these households are unable to improve their circumstances on their own. .

In the group, 39 impoverished households afflicted by severe illnesses, incapable of working or self-care, receive supplementary healthcare cost assistance amounting to 50,000,000 VND annually. (Report on the findings of the survey and evaluation of households in poverty and near poverty conducted in 2023). These assistance policies are highly significant, assisting the impoverished in mitigating their medical bills.

The one-time subsidy program is presently implemented in Hoai Duc district for specific categories of impoverished households, adhering to poverty alleviation criteria. According to the report on the findings of the survey and evaluation of households in poverty and near poverty conducted in 2023, 220 homes, representing 37.8% of the total 582 impoverished households, are getting a poverty alleviation stipend according to established criteria. These households have obtained assistance for housing construction and repairs; financial aid for loans; support for preschool and primary education expenses, including tuition fee waivers and reductions; vocational training; and employment placement services.

Table 3. Subsidies are based on poverty reduction for poor households.

No	Objective of assistance	Count of households assisted	Support Level (1000 VND)
1	Monthly stipend	101	8.400.
2	Constructing residential dwellings	11	4.500
3	Residential maintenance	7	3.500
4	Financial assistance for loans	22	100.000
5	Assistance for preschool tuition	4	5.000
6	Complimentary tuition for middle school	24	1.000
7	No-cost secondary education	5	1.500
8	Occupational training, employment placement	30	3.000
9	Advocacy for potable water	5	4.200
10	Assistance for the construction of hygienic latrines	2	5.000
11	Propaganda and mobilization	9	-
	Total	220	

Source: Findings from the poor household assessment in Hoai Duc district, 2023

Furthermore, 74 impoverished homes out of 582 (representing 12.7% of the total impoverished population) received assistance according to two poverty alleviation criteria. Criterion 1 mostly entails the provision of monthly stipends or complimentary health insurance cards, while criterion 2 predominantly encompasses the waiver or reduction of tuition fees for secondary and high school, assistance in the construction or renovation of homes, or the facilitation of employment alternatives. The degree of support for each criterion will vary among them. The minimum assistance level is 750 million VND (for acquiring health insurance cards), while the maximum support level might attain 100,000,000 VND (for home repairs).

Among 582 impoverished households, 14 (2.4%) received assistance based on three criteria, while five households (0.85%) received support based on four criteria. The primary kinds of assistance are monthly stipends, health insurance card aid, tuition fee waivers and discounts, and support for the construction or renovation of homes. The minimum level of help is 750,000 VND (to cover health insurance expenses), while the maximum level of support is 50,000,000,000 VND (for housing construction or repairs). (Report on the findings of the survey and evaluation of households in poverty and near poverty conducted in 2023.)

In the three surveyed communes, the quantity of households requiring assistance to alleviate poverty, based on defined criteria, differs. Minh Khai now has 33 impoverished homes, including 15 households classified as highly vulnerable with little capacity to overcome poverty; 11 households require assistance for one criterion of poverty alleviation, and 6 households need support for two criteria of poverty alleviation. Cat Que currently has 90 impoverished households, comprising 36 households in particularly challenging circumstances unable to escape poverty; 37 households requiring assistance for one criterion; 12 households needing support for two criteria to overcome poverty; and 5 households necessitating aid for three criteria to escape poverty. Duong Lieu Commune comprises 35 impoverished homes, with 30 households categorized as experiencing exceptionally challenging conditions with no prospect of overcoming poverty, and 5 households requiring assistance in one criterion to achieve poverty alleviation.

**Loan assistance policy*

The district social policy bank has collaborated with the district Department of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs, authorized organizations, and the People's Committees of communes/towns to allocate loans to impoverished individuals and other policy beneficiaries through various initiatives. Specifically:

- Loans for impoverished households: A total of 1,697 impoverished households have received loans amounting to 72,254 million VND, thereby assisting 1,536 poor families in investing in production development and alleviating poverty.

- Loans for near-poor households: A total of 1,678 near-poor households have received loans amounting to 72,889 million VND, enabling 1,414 of these households to acquire capital for production development, enhance income, and achieve sustainable poverty alleviation.

- Loans for recently escaped poverty households: A total of 5,937 households that have recently escaped poverty have received loans amounting to 294,474 million VND, thereby enabling these households to continue accessing policy credit support for production development, which contributes to

sustainable poverty alleviation in the district.

To facilitate the access of the impoverished and policy beneficiaries to the government's preferential credit policies, Social Policy Bank in Hoai Duc District has decreased expenses while augmenting the oversight of local authorities and socio-political groups in the management of policy credit capital. In recent years, Social Policy Bank in Hoai Duc District has aggressively collaborated with local authorities and delegated responsibilities to political-social organizations to enhance the operational quality at communal transaction sites. The employment creation loan program not only improves the communication of loan source advantages to the public but also ensures efficient and prompt evaluation and distribution of loan projects. In Yen So commune, throughout 2021 and 2022, the "For the Poor" Fund received donations amounting to 118 million VND, which facilitated the construction and repair of houses and the provision of presents to near-poor households, totaling 90 million VND. At now, Yen So commune has merely 20 houses classified as near-poor remaining. Numerous households receive assistance from local groups to obtain favorable loans for economic advancement. The entire commune aims to further decrease the number of near-poor homes to 7 in 2023. Nguyen Van Thanh, Secretary of the Party Cell and Head of the Front Work Committee of Hamlet 6, reported that from 2020 to 2023, the hamlet received support for 3 households from the Fatherland Front at all levels and various organizations, totaling 200 million VND for the construction of Great Solidarity Houses. The robust residences enabled households to secure assistance from multiple organizations in acquiring loans for economic advancement, thus enhancing their living conditions over time.

For numerous years, the Farmers' Association in Hoai Duc district has actively assisted members in securing favorable loans from the Farmers' Support Fund and financial institutions to enhance productivity. They have effectively established and enhanced exemplary models, including the cultivation and maintenance of Buddha's hand fruit, Dien grapefruit, Taiwanese guava, apple, and late-ripening lychee, as well as the production of safe vegetables adhering to VietGAP standards. This initiative has generated employment for thousands of local workers. Additionally, facilitating access to loans for farmer members' aids in the development of collective economic models and diverse production linkages, addressing the practical demands of commodity agriculture during the era of international economic integration. The late-ripening longan cultivation model has proliferated in the riverside communes, encompassing over 120 hectares, with yields of 15-18 tons per hectare annually, resulting in an income of 500-550 million VND per hectare per year. The local pomelo cultivation model, established for several years, spans 186 hectares, primarily in the communes of Cat Que, Dong La, Yen So, and Duong Lieu, yielding 35-40 tons per hectare and generating an income of 400-500 million VND per hectare per year. Additionally, the apple and guava cultivation model in Di Trach commune has achieved an income exceeding 500 million VND per hectare per year...

In accordance with Directive No. 40-CT/TW dated November 22, 2014, and Conclusion No. 06-KL/TW dated June 10, 2021, from the Central Committee's Secretariat regarding the enhancement of the Party's leadership over social policy credit; Program No. 08-CTr/TU dated March 17, 2021, from the City Party Committee; and Plan No. 159/KH-UBND dated July 1, 2021, from the Hanoi City People's

Committee concerning the “Development of the social security system, augmentation of social welfare, and enhancement of the quality of life for the capital’s residents during the period 2021-2025.” Each year, the district People’s Committee allocates monies from the district budget to the Hoai Duc Social Policy Bank for the purpose of lending to impoverished households and other recipients of social policies. As of September 2023, the total outstanding loans from the Social Policy Bank programs in Hoai Duc district exceeded 378 billion VND, reflecting a growth rate of 25% and achieving 100% of the annual target. (Report on the findings of the survey and evaluation of households in poverty and near poverty conducted in 2023.)

Between 2018 and 2023, Vietnam’s poverty reduction programs and policies, especially those in Hoai Duc district, have significantly improved through the comprehensive integration of previously fragmented and overlapping poverty alleviation strategies. Historically, the framework of poverty alleviation initiatives and policies was assessed as exhibiting considerable redundancy. There is insufficient cohesion among poverty reduction policies, programs, and projects, as well as social assistance, risk prevention, and mitigation policies, programs, and projects across the life cycle (social insurance) and the establishment of support service systems, particularly for the impoverished. The system is presently under assessment and incorporation into the “Plan for Reviewing and Integrating Poverty Reduction Policies for the 2017-2018 Period” (Decision No. 1259/QĐ-TTg, dated August 22, 2017). Nonetheless, the outcomes attained remain constrained.

The extent and thoroughness of poverty reduction measures have facilitated the efficient implementation of multidimensional poverty criteria in the district.

Nonetheless, the constraints in executing poverty alleviation programs are also partially attributable to the intricacy, fragmentation, and redundancy of the current poverty reduction documentation system. Presently, certain documents pertaining to the execution of poverty alleviation programs exhibit redundancy, hence complicating the agencies’ efforts in implementing these policies. Policy for alleviating poverty. Official Letter No. 17332/BTC-NSNN, dated December 6, 2016, from the Ministry of Finance, addresses the execution of poverty alleviation and social welfare policies in accordance with the multidimensional poverty standard for the period 2016-2020. The letter articulates, “in the short term, permit the application of poverty reduction policies for impoverished households based on income criteria; for impoverished households lacking access to essential social services (multidimensional poor households), upon the issuance of support policies by the competent authority and guidance on funding sources for implementation, the support policies for these groups will subsequently be enacted.” In accordance with the intent of this Circular, all support policies for multidimensional impoverished households must be temporarily halted. This circular is deemed to hinder the execution of numerous poverty alleviation measures that adhere to multidimensional poverty criteria, including:

Mr. T.H.X, a social policy officer, asserted: “Presently, numerous poverty alleviation measures are implemented directly for impoverished homes and individuals, irrespective of their income status or multidimensional poverty classification. The frequently enacted policies encompass: healthcare assistance for

the impoverished; educational and vocational training support for disadvantaged students; job creation and labor export initiatives; preferential credit schemes; housing assistance policies; electricity bill subsidies; social assistance for specific community protection groups; legal aid provisions; and support policies for economically disadvantaged ethnic minority women during childbirth, in accordance with regulations.” (T.H.X, Male, 40 years of age)

Poverty reduction policies continue to exhibit redundancy and dispersion, as numerous regulatory documents are insufficient and misaligned with local realities, thereby hindering implementation and diminishing the efficacy of these policies. The strategy of offering material assistance, such as breeding cattle, to impoverished and near-impoverished households remains impractical; the preferential credit support with minimal loan amounts is not adequately aligned with the production cycle of businesses.

The methodology for identifying impoverished and near-impoverished households is regarded as flawed due to its annual updates and reliance on predetermined poverty quotas established by higher authorities, while transitions into or out of poverty occur more rapidly in response to various shocks, such as employment fluctuations, health crises, natural disasters, and epidemics.

T.V.T, a policy-making officer, stated: “The poverty alleviation policies primarily emphasize support and financial assistance, which have not cultivated a proactive mindset among various levels of society, resulting in a dependency mentality both at all levels and among the impoverished.” A trend exists in numerous areas, districts, and communes where individuals aspire to be included on the list of impoverished households to obtain aid. Despite the existence of numerous support policies for impoverished households, these initiatives are fragmented and fail to incentivize upward mobility; the proliferation of such policies, directly linked to the benefits for these households, has resulted in diminished motivation for development, fostering a mindset of dependence, expectation, and reluctance to transcend poverty among certain impoverished households”. (T.V.T, Nam, 45 years of age).

Local authorities encounter numerous challenges in executing policies and providing resources suitable for their regions due to constraints in authority and budget implementation regarding poverty alleviation strategies. Poverty reduction strategies frequently establish ambitious aims, with several policies introduced without adequate budget allocation, resulting in insufficient resources for execution...

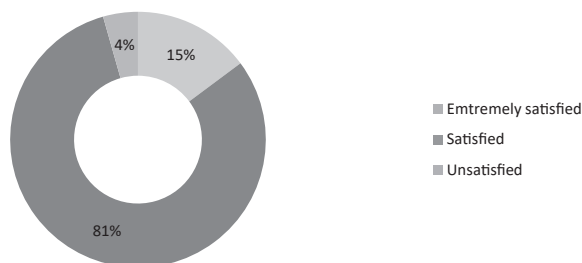
The approaches for poverty alleviation remain limited, lacking sustainability, exhibiting unpredictable production yields, and demonstrating inadequate coordination between production and consumption. Individuals predominantly depend on their own endeavors, devising personal strategies to do business and alleviate poverty.

The execution of poverty alleviation strategies predominantly relies on diverse resources, particularly human resources and additional assets.

Vocational training and employment regulations are essential activities for assisting impoverished individuals and households in securing labor conditions and work prospects. Consequently, we have concentrated on guiding districts, towns, wards, and communes to execute various specific measures, including: assessing the vocational training and employment needs of the impoverished,

offering job counseling and information; collaborating with local enterprises to address employment challenges; and partnering with educational institutions and vocational training centers to facilitate vocational training and employment solutions. Diversifying vocational training methods for the impoverished in the community to align with their abilities, qualifications, and local economic development characteristics, thereby creating opportunities for them to leverage their skills, implement them in family economic development models, attain stable incomes, alleviate poverty, and elevate their social status.

Figure 1. Assessment of satisfaction levels on employment support initiatives for impoverished households



Source: Survey data from the 2024 project

The research findings indicate that 81% of the impoverished population expresses pleasure with employment support initiatives for low-income households, 15% report being very satisfied, while a mere 4% convey dissatisfaction. The figure is minimal; yet, the district must comprehensively address it to alleviate the anxieties of impoverished households regarding support initiatives.

4.3. Determinants of local policy officials engaged in poverty alleviation

Local officials assist in advising and linking impoverished individuals with support programs and initiatives. To attain optimal outcomes, the team of poverty reduction policy authorities, alongside the impoverished individuals, significantly influences poverty alleviation initiatives. The predominance of local officials trained in disciplines unrelated to social work, along with their insufficient understanding of societal issues and substantial workloads, will significantly hinder their ability to critically assess the function of a social worker.

In recent years, Hoai Duc district has executed numerous training programs and policies to augment the capabilities of personnel at all levels, particularly those at the commune and village levels, in implementing multi-dimensional poverty alleviation strategies. Augmenting the capabilities of the poverty alleviation workforce substantially aids in the effective execution of poverty reduction initiatives.

Nonetheless, concerning the equipment and operational methods of the pertinent institutions in executing poverty alleviation measures, numerous restrictions persist. Many regions exhibit a deficiency of proficient poverty alleviation personnel. At present, the majority of personnel engaged in poverty alleviation at the commune level are simultaneously occupied by social culture authorities responsible for Labor, Invalids, and Social Affairs, whereas the primary operations of the Program are executed at the commune and ward levels. The personnel have not had systematic training, and

the substantial workload hinders their ability to execute their designated responsibilities effectively. Furthermore, poverty alleviation efforts necessitate that authorities possess not only professional acumen but also enthusiasm, sensitivity, and creativity to comprehend the local context.

The team of grassroots authorities at the commune, village, and town levels experiences instability and frequent turnover, which negatively affects the management and implementation of poverty alleviation programs within the communities. Furthermore, the policies and regulations that oversee this group of officials at the district and commune levels have not been adequately addressed. The skills and managerial competencies of the program's local personnel vary significantly, impeding the effectiveness of their advisory functions across various levels of government.

Ms. N.T.A's evaluation, derived from comprehensive interviews with poverty reduction policy officials about their influence on policies at the commune and district levels, confirmed the critical importance of this factor: *"Each commune has a team of officials devoted to poverty reduction, possessing expertise, passion for their profession, and significant commitment and enthusiasm."* Nevertheless, the staff remains insufficient in size to fulfill the task requirements. The majority of policy officers have pursued studies in unrelated disciplines, primarily human resource management and law, and some officers possess limited job experience due to their youth. Nevertheless, they consistently endeavor to execute their responsibilities effectively, optimizing their capabilities in their capacity as poverty reduction officers. (N.T.A., female, 39 years of age).

Despite its critical importance, recent years have revealed that the team of poverty reduction policy officials is still quantitatively insufficient, and the capabilities and talents of grassroots poverty reduction personnel are markedly constrained. Deficiencies in cultural understanding and insufficient information regarding perspectives, policies, and protocols on poverty alleviation result in miscommunication with impoverished individuals.

The deficiency in understanding agricultural and fishery extension, management, and capital usage results in generalized support for impoverished households, which fails to effectively impart knowledge on business practices and strategies for overcoming poverty.

The commune has yet to formulate a strategy for communication sessions regarding poverty reduction measures, nor has it linked impoverished households to these policies, resulting in a limited comprehension of these policies among such households.

The primary challenges confronting the impoverished in the participation process are the absence of clear policy explanations and the protracted duration required to implement and obtain assistance. This indicates that the efforts to disseminate information and counsel the public regarding programs, policies, and activities aimed at assisting the impoverished remain insufficient.

The coordination mechanism reveals that poverty reduction programs are still allocated to numerous entities. The simultaneous involvement of numerous entities in poverty reduction measures, coupled with the absence of a designated agency, contributes to the overlapping and fragmented execution of these policies. Poverty alleviation policies remain redundant and disjointed.

Table 4. Assessment of the influence of personnel factors on poverty alleviation initiatives (%)

Magnitude of effect	Loan assistance initiatives	Vocational assistance initiatives	Employment assistance initiatives
Low	0	0	0
Moderate	11.7	4.2	4.4
High	25.8	35.2	36.3
Very high	62.5	60.6	59.3

Source: Survey data for the 2024 initiative

The data reveals that the majority of survey respondents rated the effectiveness of poverty reduction policy authorities as either high or very high, with no participants providing low ratings. This suggests that poverty reduction authorities play a vital role, significantly impacting the success of poverty alleviation efforts. In summary, policy-making officials at the communal and district levels are pivotal in shaping poverty alleviation initiatives. Policy-making officials assist the impoverished in various domains, including disseminating information on accessible loan sources, promoting awareness, guiding them through loan procedures, offering vocational training, and facilitating employment opportunities. In the absence of policy-making officials, the impoverished would lack access to these programs, resulting in diminished efficacy in poverty alleviation.

4.4. The cognitive determinants of the impoverished

The understanding of the impoverished is limited to the phrases “ask – give,” without recognizing their entitlement to seek information and obtain assistance in accessing resources pertaining to finance, healthcare, employment, psychology, and more. This results in their lives being deficient relative to the broader community, and they experience exacerbated hardship when support resources are accessible yet unknown and unattainable to them. Furthermore, their mentality perpetually instills a sense of inferiority, inhibiting them from asserting their rights and resulting in a lack of information of the advantages that, if utilized, could facilitate a sustainable escape from poverty. This poses a barrier in disseminating support activities among impoverished individuals.

Connected programs can fail to fully leverage their inherent advantages. They have not adequately acknowledged the advantages they enjoy, feeling timid and apprehensive when accessing resources intended to alleviate poverty. If the home is reliant and passive, then all influencing conditions are inconsequential. It is essential to assist them in altering their entrenched views regarding their capabilities to enable them to accept resources that will facilitate their escape from poverty.

Comprehensive interviews with the poverty reduction officer disclosed: “*The impoverished individuals themselves play a crucial role; if they lack the resolve to overcome poverty,*

no officer or policy can facilitate their escape from it.” (V.T.H., female, 35 years of age)

The impoverished individuals’ awareness of poverty is constrained. The research findings indicate that a significant proportion of the impoverished respondents own only an elementary education (42.2%) or have not received any formal schooling (28.9%). Numerous impoverished individuals fail to recognize the underlying factors contributing to their poverty, such as procreation of numerous offspring, lackadaisical work ethic, or involvement in social vices, which they ascribe to fate or the absence of equitable regulations that hinder their access to developmental possibilities. Consequently, they lack the awareness to pursue self-improvement and instead habitually depend on and anticipate support from the government and community during challenging times.

The perspective of impoverished households, as well as the broader community, still perceives poverty alleviation programs as charitable acts. As a result, the initiatives aimed at supporting vulnerable groups, especially the impoverished, and facilitating their involvement in poverty reduction efforts have not received adequate recognition. Numerous impoverished homes have a mentality of contentment with their circumstances and demonstrate a reliance on community and governmental assistance. They have not genuinely valued the benefits they receive and continue to feel timid and inferior when obtaining poverty reduction resources. The mindset of dependency constitutes a significant barrier to the implementation of poverty alleviation programs and the optimization of policymakers’ roles in executing these initiatives in Hoai Duc district today.

Significant effort from local authorities and community collaborators is essential to effectively develop and foster self-confidence among the impoverished, enabling them to comprehend the support actions and their associated benefits.

5. Conclusion

Hoai Duc is among the swiftly urbanizing regions of Hanoi. Urbanization presents several benefits; yet, it also poses significant obstacles for the impoverished, particularly in obtaining essential services and accessing the job market. Investigating the determinants of sustainable poverty alleviation in Hoai Duc district not only enhances the socio-economic development of the region but also significantly helps to the formulation of effective and sustainable poverty reduction policies for the nation. Research enables the formulation of support policies that are optimally tailored to the circumstances of the residents of Hoai Duc, facilitating their departure from poverty while promoting sustained improvement in their quality of life and preventing regression into impoverishment.

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