



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Impact of Poverty Reduction Policies on Economic Development of Ethnic Minority Groups In Dong Van District, Ha Giang Province, Vietnam

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Received: Sep 14, 2024 Accepted: Oct 25, 2024	<p>This study aims to analyze the impact of poverty reduction policies on the group of factors affecting the economic development of ethnic minority groups in Dong Van district, Ha Giang province, Vietnam. The research sample is from 573 survey questionnaires of ethnic minority households in Dong Van district, Ha Giang province. Data were cleaned and analyzed using SPSS 22.0 software using the partial least squares structural equation model (PLS-SEM). The results of the study of ethnic minority communities in Dong Van district, Ha Giang province show the positive and main impact of poverty reduction policies on the economic development of ethnic minorities. Accordingly, 5 factors all affect the economic development of ethnic minorities in order of importance: Government policies, Natural conditions, Economic conditions, Politics, Environment, and Culture - Society. The study provides policy makers with valuable insights into the impact of factors on the economic development and living standards of ethnic minority groups. The study focuses on the northern border region of Vietnam, in Dong Van district, Ha Giang, which is an area of strategic importance for economic development and national security. The difference is that this regional study will provide insights into the ethnic minority economic dynamics of a specific area that has not been widely studied.</p>
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Poverty reduction policy	
Dong Van District	
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Impact	
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INTRODUCTION

In recent times, the Party and the State of Vietnam have issued many poverty reduction policies along with large resources to support investment in the development of ethnic minority areas. Therefore, studies on poverty in ethnic minority areas are exploited in many aspects, such as the current situation and solutions for poverty reduction, poverty reduction policies for ethnic minority groups, assessment of the impact of poverty reduction policies on ethnic minority groups, poverty reduction models for ethnic minority communities, (Dang & Nguyen, 2017)... In the world, theoretical studies proposing solutions for poverty reduction, diversifying household livelihoods with poverty reduction have proposed appropriate poverty reduction solutions, but have only focused on exploiting poverty aspects from the perspective of policy beneficiaries (N. S. Nguyen, 2012). In Vietnam, in addition to theoretical studies, in recent times there have been a number of studies clarifying factors affecting poverty reduction and poverty reduction policies. The analysis by Le & Nguyen (2018) focused on analyzing the policy system for mountainous areas and ethnic minority areas in the period 2011-

2015 and 2016-2020, specifically stating and analyzing the advantages and achievements as well as the limitations and weaknesses in the implementation of these policies. In particular, *Journal of Ethnic minorities research No. 4 (2021) D. To* contributed to clarifying the effectiveness of policies, a number of recent studies have focused on evaluating poverty reduction policies... specifically through the benefits of people with DID models or OLS regression models to analyze the impact of credit policies (UNDP Viet Nam, 2018). In particular, many studies have in-depth evaluated and analyzed poverty reduction policies on the lives of ethnic minority households (Pham, 2021). However, up to now, there have not been many studies focusing on analyzing the impact of poverty reduction policies on a specific locality, especially with assessments of border areas such as Dong Van district, Ha Giang province. Dong Van is a mountainous district of Ha Giang province, with a poverty rate much higher than the average of Ha Giang province and the whole country. In reality, the implementation of poverty reduction policies for ethnic minority groups faces many difficulties and obstacles, such as limited awareness of people and officials about poverty reduction work; allocation of investment resources, promotion of investment efficiency... are still inadequate.

In this study, we assess the impact of the poverty reduction policies of the Government of Vietnam on the economic development of ethnic minority groups in the northern border areas of Vietnam through a survey in Dong Van district, Ha Giang province. We interviewed ethnic minority groups in the border areas of several communes in Dong Van district, Ha Giang province about the impact of the poverty reduction policies of the Government of Vietnam on economic development in their communities. In this study, we interviewed ethnic minority groups in the border areas of Dong Van district, Ha Giang province about the impact of the poverty reduction policies of the Government of Vietnam on economic development and improving living standards in their communities. The results of the study of ethnic minority communities in Dong Van district, Ha Giang province show that the poverty reduction policies have a positive and significant impact on the economic development of ethnic minority groups. Accordingly, 5 factors all affect the economic development of ethnic minority groups, ranked in order of importance: (1) Government poverty reduction policy, (2) Natural conditions (3) Economic conditions, (4) Politics, environment (5) Culture - Society. The findings of the study provide policy makers with valuable insights into the impact of factors on economic development and living standards of ethnic minority groups. The recommendations of the study can provide information for policies to promote sustainable economic development while contributing to improving the effectiveness of ethnic minority poverty reduction policies in Dong Van district in the coming time. These results suggest that in order to improve the living standards of ethnic minority groups in the northern border areas of Vietnam in general and Ha Giang in particular, local authorities need to pay attention to the effectiveness of poverty reduction policies. The main contents of the article include section 2 illustrating the research area, section 3 describing the literature review and developing the hypotheses, section 4 introducing the conceptual framework and methodology, section 5 providing the results and discussion and section 6 offering some implications and conclusions.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study used primary data collected by the authors from a survey using a sociological investigation method on more than 573 ethnic minority households in 5 communes of Sung Trai, Lung Cu, Ma Le, Dong Van, and Ho Quang Phin in Dong Van district. The survey content was to provide opinions on the impact and influence of factors on the economic development of ethnic minority groups, including poverty reduction policies.

The research sample was taken from ethnic minority households in Dong Van district, Ha Giang province. To administer the questionnaire, interviewees were randomly selected through face-to-face meetings, phone calls, etc., which were used to disseminate the questionnaire. The research team received 573 completed results out of a total of more than 600 surveys sent. The data were then

cleaned and analyzed using SPSS 22,0 software using partial least squares structural equation modeling (PLS-SEM).

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Characteristics of ethnic minority households in Dong Van

The household head is an extremely important member, playing a key role in household economic development. Therefore, information about the household is necessary and important in the system of information about the characteristics of the surveyed households. The research team surveyed 600 ethnic minority households in border districts, the number of valid questionnaires collected was 573.6, a rate of 93.75%. This rate ensures the sample size according to the sample size.

Some characteristics of the household heads expressed in the aspects of ethnicity, gender, education level and age. In 573 ballots, there were many ethnic groups, in which the Tay ethnic group accounted for the majority (34.97%), followed by the Nung ethnic group (27.98%), Dao ethnic group (25.65%), etc. Information on the gender of the household heads showed that most of the surveyed households are male (accounting for 52.3%), and most of them had only attended primary school (accounting for 76.68%). Information on educational level also showed that illiteracy still existed in the district, specifically, there were 4 illiterate household heads out of a total of 386 surveyed household heads. In addition, when calculating the age of household heads, the group of authors found that the majority of household heads were between the ages of 51 and 60 (accounting for 50.26%), followed by people over the age of 61 accounting for 24.87%. Thus, in the surveyed ethnic minority households, the head of household is often the oldest person in the family, making important family decisions.

Basic information on household livelihood resources

For ethnic minority households in mountainous areas such as those in border districts, the livelihood resources that need to be considered for household development are labor, agricultural and forestry land and capital. Clean water and clean toilets are necessary conditions for each household. For ethnic minority groups, before enjoying policies to support access to basic services, most households did not have clean water and standard toilets in their daily lives. In border districts, after many years of implementing policies to support ethnic minority groups in accessing basic services, the lives of beneficiary households have changed significantly, the conditions of clean water and toilet facilities of households have gradually improved, meeting the needs of people better and better, improving the quality of life of households. Regarding assets serving production, survey data shows that over 50% of surveyed households have poultry, small livestock and large livestock, 62.3% of households own small-scale industrial tools with an average value of 2.9 million VND.

3.2. Experimental results of analyzing the impact of poverty reduction policies and factors on ethnic minority groups

To evaluate the reliability of the scale for the survey questionnaire deployed in the topic, the research team used the Cronbach's Alpha coefficient.

Table 1. Reliability testing of the scale

Item-Total Statistics					
	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted	Cronbach's Alpha
Ethnic minority groups					0.927
cl1	18.19	30.665	0.509	0.949	
cl2	18.19	26.717	0.856	0.904	

cl3	18.17	26.562	0.902	0.898	
cl4	18.12	26.298	0.896	0.898	
cl5	18.13	26.661	0.887	0.900	
cl6	18.21	28.870	0.699	0.924	
Natural condition					0.902
tn1	10.79	9.076	0.768	0.878	
tn2	10.84	8.956	0.816	0.861	
tn3	10.75	8.973	0.823	0.858	
tn4	10.89	9.410	0.717	0.896	
Economic condition					0.956
kt3	10.02	9.793	0.860	0.951	
kt1	9.92	9.622	0.934	0.929	
kt2	9.89	9.820	0.896	0.940	
kt4	10.02	9.924	0.876	0.946	
Cultural – Social condition					0.946
vh4	8.45	11.924	0.820	0.934	
vh1	8.53	11.165	0.879	0.915	
vh2	8.51	11.387	0.872	0.918	
vh3	8.57	11.290	0.861	0.921	
Security & Politics					0.688
ct4	9.96	7.901	0.050	0.883	
ct3	9.55	5.326	0.634	0.512	
ct2	9.75	5.534	0.642	0.515	
ct1	9.67	5.251	0.725	0.459	
Economic Development					0.814
pt2	10.36	5.931	0.761	0.702	
pt1	10.26	6.169	0.774	0.700	
pt3	10.08	6.279	0.685	0.741	
pt4	10.93	7.840	0.355	0.887	
Government poverty reduction policies					0.869
cs1	14.45	9.517	0.692	0.842	
cs2	14.64	9.712	0.688	0.843	
cs3	14.50	9.688	0.737	0.832	
cs4	14.72	9.767	0.689	0.843	
cs5	14.61	9.507	0.667	0.849	

Source: Data analysis results from SPSS 22.0

Among 7 groups of factors affecting ethnic minority groups, the variables PT4 and CT4 have Cronbach's Alpha If Item Deleted, respectively, of 0.887; 0.883, which are larger than the Cronbach's Alpha coefficient (0.814; 0.688) and the total correlation coefficient is 0.355; $0.050 < 0.4$, so these

two variables are excluded from the study. The remaining variables have Cronbach's Alpha coefficients that meet the requirements with the standard level of Cronbach's Alpha coefficient of not less than 0.6. The variables do not violate the condition of having item-rest correlations of not less than 0.3 and the Cronbach's Alpha coefficient if the variable is removed (Cronbach's Alpha If Item Deleted) does not have a value exceeding the current Cronbach's Alpha, so the variables are not eliminated. The economic development measurement scale has the lowest Cronbach's Alpha coefficient = 0.688. All 7 scales are in the good and very good measurement scale range.

In Table 1, we can also see that variable (CL1) has a Cronbach's Alpha If Item Deleted of 0.949, which is smaller than the corresponding Cronbach's Alpha of 0.927. However, the total correlation coefficient of these variables has a value greater than 0.4, so these variables still ensure reliability (Source: Nunnally, J(1978), Pyschometric Theory, New York, McGraw - Hill).

Table 2. Results of the analysis of extracted explained

Total Variance Explained							
Factor	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings			Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings ^a
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total
1	5.900	20.347	20.347	5.630	19.414	19.414	4.626
2	4.489	15.479	35.826	4.204	14.497	33.910	3.458
3	3.692	12.733	48.559	3.521	12.140	46.051	3.573
4	3.221	11.108	59.666	3.021	10.419	56.469	3.757
5	2.146	7.400	67.066	1.896	6.539	63.008	3.422
6	2.038	7.028	74.095	1.700	5.864	68.872	2.849
7	1.266	4.366	78.461	0.994	3.426	72.298	3.838

Source: Results of the author group

The results of the analysis of the total variance explained (Table 2) show that the Eigenvalues of the 7 factors are all greater than 1, indicating that the 7 factors summarize the information of the research variables entered into the EFA step in the best way. The total variance explained is 72.3% > 50%, which means that the 7 explained factors explain 72.3% of the data variation of the 29 research variables, so the explained variance meets the requirements.

To obtain Table 3 (factor rotation matrix), the research team chose the Promimax rotation method (oblique rotation) of the factors to minimize the number of variables with large coefficients on the same factor. Therefore, the ability to explain the factors will be enhanced. After rotation, the variables with factor loading coefficients less than 0.4 were removed. The factor analysis process for 29 observed variables including the dependent variable all had factor loading coefficients greater than 0.4.

The results of EFA factor analysis based on the survey sample of factors affecting the quality of life of ethnic minority groups have ensured two important values of the scale: convergent value and discriminant value. These 7 measurement scales together help assess the factors affecting the quality of life of ethnic minority groups. All observed variables meet the standards for further testing with confirmatory factor analysis (CFA).

Thus, the scale of factors affecting the quality of life of ethnic minority groups after preliminary assessment includes 7 factors and 29 observed variables. Quality of life is measured by 5 observed

variables; Natural conditions are measured by 4 observed variables; Economic conditions are measured by 4 observed variables; Social culture is measured by 5 observed variables; Politics and environment are measured by 3 observed variables; Economic development is measured by 3 observed variables; Government policies are measured by 5 observed variables.

Table 3. Factor rotation matrix results

Pattern Matrix ^a							
	Factor						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
cl3	0.953						
cl4	0.945						
cl5	0.934						
cl2	0.896						
cl6	0.718						
cl1	0.498						
kt1		0.971					
kt2		0.923					
kt4		0.899					
kt3		0.882					
vh1			0.967				
vh4			0.925				
vh2			0.885				
vh3			0.836				
cs3				0.842			
cs1				0.763			
cs5				0.735			
cs2				0.724			
cs4				0.710			
tn2					0.875		
tn3					0.865		
tn1					0.773		
tn4					0.771		
ct1						0.948	
ct2						0.833	
ct3						0.750	
pt1							0.951
pt3							0.784
pt2							0.778
Extraction Method:	Principal Axis			Factoring.			
Rotation Method: Promax with Kaiser Normalization.							
a. Rotation converged in 6 iterations.							
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Source: Results of the author group

Table 4. Results of unstandardized SEM model analysis

Scale	Estimate	S.E.	C.R.	P
Politics → Economic Development	0.076	0.022	3.475	***
Economic Conditions → Economic Development	0.051	0.018	2.914	0.004
Culture - Society → Economic Development	0.067	0.017	3.99	***
Natural Conditions → Economic Development	0.261	0.03	8.61	***
Government Policy → Economic Development	0.753	0.043	17.679	***
Economic Development → Ethnic Minority Groups	0.375	0.053	7.073	***

Source: Results of the author group

From Table 4, we have the SEM model with unstandardized estimated coefficients. The factors proposed in the study are all statistically significant (P value < 5%)

$$\text{Model 1: } PT_i = 0.076CT_i + 0.051KT_i + 0.067VH_i + 0.261TN_i + 0.753CS_i + e_i$$

$$\text{Model 2: } CL_i = 0.375PT_i + e_i$$

The analysis results show that all 5 groups of factors have a positive impact on the economic development of ethnic minority groups. Increased economic development increases the quality of life of ethnic minority groups. The factors in the model are consistent with the initial hypothesis. The coefficient of determination $R^2 = 0.923$ for Government policy, Natural conditions, Economic conditions, Politics, environment, Culture - Society explains 92.3% of the variation in the economic development of ethnic minority groups. The sig value of F = 0.000 so the regression function is appropriate.

Table 5. Results of standardized SEM analysis

Scale	Estimate
Politics → Economic Development	0.08
Economic Conditions → Economic Development	0.061
Culture - Society → Economic Development	0.085
Natural Conditions → Economic Development	0.287
Government Policy → Economic Development	0.688
Economic Development → Ethnic Minority Groups	0.294

Source: Results of the author group

Table 5 shows the estimated standardized regression coefficients corresponding to the factors Government Policy, Natural Conditions, Economic conditions, Politics, Culture - Society respectively equal to 0.688; 0.287; 0.085; 0.08; 0.061. It can be seen that all 5 factors affect the economic development of ethnic minority groups in order of importance: (1) Government policy, (2) Natural conditions (3) Economic conditions, (4) Politics, environment (5) Culture - Society. In addition, with the estimated standardized regression coefficient of the economic development factor (PT) being 0.294, economic development has an impact on ethnic minority groups in Dong Van, Ha Giang.

The Government's poverty reduction policy is the factor that has the strongest impact on the economic development of ethnic minority groups ($\beta = 0.688$). The system of ethnic policies and

economic development in border areas and in Dong Van, Ha Giang, which has been issued and implemented, has supported ethnic minority groups in economic development, sustainable poverty reduction, developing education - training, health care, culture, developing human resources and building a strong grassroots political system. The programs have brought positive effects on the material and spiritual life of ethnic minority groups in Vietnam. Thanks to that, ethnic minority groups have developed more strongly, richly and diversely, and their material and spiritual life have improved significantly compared to before the renovation period, in all aspects of life. The poverty rate in especially difficult communes, villages and hamlets decreased by an average of 3.5% per year.

In addition, the Government also has a policy of investing in developing infrastructure for the northern border region. The transport infrastructure has been developed, roads and bridges have been upgraded, especially the border belt road system including routes 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, road 12 running parallel to the northern, northeastern (Vietnam - China) and northwestern (Vietnam - Laos) border routes have been invested in and built, opening up great trade opportunities for the northern border mountainous provinces. Regarding irrigation works, the State and a number of northern border provinces have focused on prioritizing investment capital to build many large and important irrigation works, basic small irrigation works have been upgraded, renovated, newly built, solidified thousands of lakes, dams, and canal systems to ensure water supply for production needs, rapidly increase the area of rice fields and serve the daily life of ethnic people in the area. Electricity and water in ethnic border areas have also been improved a lot. In the development of clean water supply networks, the northern border provinces have so far invested in building over 20,000 works to supply domestic water with a capacity of over 30 million m³/day and night. Water plants in all cities, towns, and provincial capitals have basically been newly invested in or renovated to increase capacity. Most border towns and districts have invested in building clean water supply systems in a synchronous manner. The shortage of domestic water in many highland areas, especially in mountainous areas, has basically improved. All these factors have helped improve the quality of life of ethnic minority groups, creating a basis for improving their livelihoods.

Natural conditions are the second factor influencing the economic development of ethnic minority groups ($\beta = 0.287$). Ethnic minority groups in Dong Van live in an area with many types of terrain, mainly rocky mountains, many different microclimates, so the soil is also different. This allows the region to develop a diverse agriculture with many types of crops and livestock. The flora of the border forest is closely related to the flora in Southeast China. In the forest, there are many families and varieties of plants, typical of the tropical monsoon flora. According to biologists and foresters, these plants have so far been reported in surveys to have about 300 species of subtropical plants.

Economic conditions have a positive impact on the economic development of ethnic minority groups ($\beta = 0.085$). The specific economic sectors of the region such as agriculture, industry, trade, services, etc. are the basis for the development of the local economy as well as the regional economy. Regarding agriculture, many localities have now developed in the direction of combining agricultural and forestry production with the cultivation of medicinal plants, fruit trees, livestock, etc. Some localities have formed concentrated production areas in the direction of specialization and brought higher economic efficiency. Traditional handicrafts, along with the development of tourism and trade, have had stable output with higher profits than before. In particular, with their own strengths, the northern border provinces in general and Dong Van district in particular have favorable conditions to develop tourism, trade and border gate economy. In recent times, the tourism industry and localities have focused on investing, exploiting and developing tourism in ethnic minority areas. Tourism activities are increasingly rich and diverse, exploiting both natural and cultural resources, in traditional and modern ways. The attractiveness of tourism in ethnic and mountainous areas has gradually increased, the potential value and vitality of many tourism resources have been exploited and affirmed, bringing about clear socio-economic effects. Tourism activities contribute to the conservation and diversification of biodiversity, protection of the ecological environment and natural

landscapes. Tourism development will be one of the important livelihood resources of ethnic minority groups, creating job opportunities, transforming and diversifying livelihood activities, increasing income, and improving the living standards of ethnic minority groups. Thanks to that, tourism activities contribute to transforming the economic structure and developing the socio-economy here. At the same time, tourism contributes to awakening, restoring and promoting the traditional cultural values of ethnic minority groups; directly contributing to the preservation, promotion and honoring of the unique and distinctive cultural values of ethnic minority communities. Trade and commercial exchange activities with China are taking place vigorously, facilitating the development of trade, tourism, services, and international relations. All these changes have helped ethnic minority groups boost production and business, develop the economy, and improve their material and spiritual lives.

Culture and society are the final factors affecting the economic development of ethnic minority groups. Each ethnic group has its own cultural nuances, both expressing ethnic identity and contributing to the enrichment and diversity of the common culture. In recent years, the grassroots cultural system has attached importance to discovering, preserving and promoting traditional cultural values, building and discovering new values in literature and art of ethnic minority groups. Many traditional cultural values, good customs and practices of ethnic groups such as folk belief festivals, ethnic cultural festivals, languages, writings, costumes, traditional crafts, games, performances, folk songs, folk dances... have been and are being preserved and developed. Culture directly shapes the lifestyle and personality of people, highlighting the unique cultural features of each ethnic group. Promoting culture and consolidating traditional values in Dong Van has stimulated tourism development, thereby creating a new look for the mountainous and ethnic minority areas. When life is less difficult, social values are created, culture is also preserved and maintained, these are two interrelated aspects to reach the ultimate goal of developing ethnic minority areas both materially and spiritually.

DISCUSSION

The results of the model study have shown that poverty reduction policies impact the economic development of ethnic minority groups, however, this result has not shown the specific nature of the impact. Therefore, to clarify this impact, the research team used descriptive statistics from the survey results.

Thus, through the assessment of four policy groups, vocational training and employment policies, support policies to facilitate the poor's access to basic services, credit policies, and specific support policies, the study has clarified the important contributions that each policy group brings to the poverty reduction process in Dong Van district. The research team used a survey form to survey people's opinions, from the perspective of beneficiaries of the policies, and obtained the results as shown in Table 6.

Table 6. Ethnic minority households' assessment of the implementation of poverty reduction policies (Unit: %)

Criteria	Rating level				Percentage respondent
	Low	Average	Good	Excellent	
Policies on vocational training and employment	55.1	31.6	13.3	0	62.50

Policies on basic service access support	4.4	29.7	65.9	0	66.67
Policies on credit	36.8	31.6	31.6	0	62.50
Policies on special support	19.4	24.8	55.8	0	100

(Source: Survey data of over 200 ethnic minority households in 2023)

In the period of 2018 - 2022, the poverty reduction policies have been deployed synchronously and promptly throughout the district. The implementation results of the 4 policy groups show that the policies that bring the most obvious effectiveness are the specific policy group, the second is the policy group supporting basic services, the third is the credit policy and the slowest effectiveness is the vocational training and job creation policy group. This shows that, due to the characteristics of the area with a large ethnic minority population, people's awareness is not high, so they are more interested in the immediate benefits, not yet aware of the sustainable effectiveness brought about by vocational training and job creation policies.

CONCLUSION

This paper studies the impact of poverty reduction policies on the economic development of ethnic minority groups in Dong Van, Ha Giang - a locality in the northern border region of Vietnam. Accordingly, 5 factors all affect the economic development of ethnic minority groups, ranked in order of importance: (1) Government poverty reduction policies, (2) Natural conditions (3) Economic conditions, (4) Politics, environment (5) Culture - Society. The findings of the study provide policy makers with valuable insights into the impact of factors on economic development and living standards of ethnic minority groups. The recommendations of the study can provide information for policies to promote sustainable economic development and contribute to improving the effectiveness of ethnic minority poverty reduction policies in Dong Van district in the coming time. These results suggest that in order to improve the living standards of ethnic minority groups in the northern border areas of Vietnam in general and Ha Giang in particular, local authorities need to pay attention to the effectiveness of poverty reduction policy implementation.

Nghiên cứu này có một số hạn chế mà các nghiên cứu trong tương lai có thể cải thiện. Đầu tiên, mẫu có thể được mở rộng sang các vùng khác của Việt Nam. Bên cạnh đó, bài báo này chỉ tập trung vào tác động của chính sách giảm nghèo và một số nhân tố khác đến phát triển kinh tế chung của dân tộc thiểu số tại Đồng Văn. Các nghiên cứu trong tương lai có thể mang lại bức tranh toàn diện hơn bằng cách xem xét các yếu tố quyết định khác.

This study has some limitations that future studies can improve. First, the sample can be expanded to other regions of Vietnam. Besides, this paper only focuses on the impact of poverty reduction policies and some other factors on the overall economic development of ethnic minority groups in Dong Van. Future studies can provide a more comprehensive picture by considering other determinants.

AVAILABILITY OF DATA AND MATERIALS

Data supporting the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon request.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The authors declare that the research was conducted without any commercial or financial relationships that could potentially create a conflict of interest.

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AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

Anh Van Vu designed the project and wrote the manuscript. Ngoc Thi Tran participated in the design and helped in writing the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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