



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Solutions To Improve The Effectiveness Of Sustainable Poverty Reduction Policies In Vietnam

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Received: Sep 17, 2024 Accepted: Nov 20, 2024	Poverty reduction policy is a major policy of the Party and State of Vietnam. The implementation of this policy has improved the material and spiritual life of the poor; narrowing the gap in development levels between regions, localities and between ethnic groups and population groups. Aim of this study was to finding solutions to improve the effectiveness of sustainable poverty reduction policies in vietnam. The achievements in poverty reduction in recent years in Vietnam have contributed to sustainable economic growth and social justice, which have been highly appreciated by the international community. However, the poverty reduction results are not stable, the gap between rich and poor between regions and population groups has not been narrowed, especially in districts with high poverty rates. Poverty reduction policies are still overlapping, scattered, lacking systematicity, many policies have not encouraged the poor to actively strive to escape poverty. Therefore, this article proposes a number of solutions to improve the effectiveness of poverty reduction policies in Vietnam today.
Keywords	
Policy	
Poverty Reduction Policy Sustainable Poverty Sustainable Poverty Reduction Policy	
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INTRODUCTION

Problem statement:

Sustainable poverty reduction policy is one of the social security policies that the Party and State of Vietnam focus on to improve the quality of life for people (Tri et al., 2021). In the current context, the issue of social security development is being affected by the Vietnamese economy, however, poverty reduction policy is still focused on by Vietnam (Fritzen, 2002). Because taking care of people's lives, reducing poverty is one of the major goals of Vietnam, especially when the whole country is having major policies to restore and develop the economy (Pushkareva, 2020). In recent times, poverty reduction policies in Vietnam have been issued and implemented effectively (Nguyen et al., 2020). However, in reality, due to differences in population quality, socio-economics, culture, etc., the policy implementation process requires practical and local-appropriate solutions to bring about higher efficiency. Aim of this study was to finding solutions to improve the effectiveness of sustainable poverty reduction policies in vietnam.

METHODOLOGY

Theories related and methodology

Some theoretical issues on poverty reduction policy

Some related concepts

Poverty is a multidimensional concept that is both easy and difficult to define. Poverty is often described as a situation in which individuals, households and communities lack the resources to generate income sources that can maintain a level of consumption sufficient to meet the needs for a full and prosperous life. According to this approach, poverty is a state of material deprivation. Poverty is a situation in which a part of the population does not enjoy and satisfy basic human needs, which have been recognized by society depending on the level of socio-economic development and local customs and practices. Poverty reduction policy is a social policy that is important in the socio-economic development of the country. The poverty reduction program is a measure to reduce poverty. Poverty reduction programs are often implemented in the form of low-interest loans, income support or human resource development projects for the poor, especially in rural, remote and isolated areas.

Therefore, poverty reduction policies are all policies and solutions of the State, society or can also be solutions of the poor themselves with the aim of improving the material and spiritual life of the poor, contributing to narrowing the gap between rich and poor, the difference in living standards between ethnic groups, between urban and rural areas and population groups. Sustainable poverty reduction policies are a set of decisions by the subject exercising public power in choosing solutions, goals and policy tools to reduce poverty sustainably. Improve the quality of material and spiritual life for the poor, contributing to narrowing the gap between regions, ethnic groups and population groups.

Significance of implementing sustainable poverty reduction policies.

The system of mechanisms and policies for poverty reduction is increasingly supplemented and improved, creating conditions for poor and near-poor households to fully access basic social services. Therefore, implementing sustainable poverty reduction policies is extremely important, namely:

First, supporting the poor and poor households to overcome the minimum living standard, access basic social services according to the national multidimensional poverty standards, contributing to improving the quality of life, sustainable poverty reduction, limiting the negative impacts of natural disasters and epidemics. Second, promoting the implementation of inter-regional socio-economic development policies, strengthening the connection between developed regions and disadvantaged regions; having policies to support and encourage enterprises to invest in difficult areas, associated with ensuring national defense and security. Third, improving the capacity of officials working on poverty reduction. In order to carry out poverty reduction work, in recent times, officials in charge of the work have been sent by localities to study, train, and receive training courses related to the work. Through training courses, the professional qualifications of the team of officials working on poverty reduction have been improved. Officials working on poverty reduction in communes have acquired some basic knowledge about management skills and organizing the implementation of programs, policies, projects, and planning for poverty reduction work.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Sustainable poverty reduction policies in Vietnam today

(Standards for measuring the poor in Vietnam today)

The poverty line is a measurement criterion to determine the poor (or non-poor) to benefit from the State's poverty reduction support policies to ensure fairness in implementing poverty reduction policies. Before 2015, Vietnam assessed poor households mainly through income below the poverty

line prescribed by the Government. With that standard, many households have escaped poverty but their income is still near the poverty line, causing a high rate of re-poverty. In this situation, the Prime Minister issued Decision No. 1614/QĐ-TTg, dated September 15, 2015, approving the overall project "Converting the poverty measurement approach from unidimensional to multidimensional for the period 2016 - 2020". Accordingly, the poverty line for the period 2016 - 2020 is built in the direction of: using a combination of both income poverty lines and the level of lack of access to basic social services. Specifically:

- Income criteria, including: minimum income living standards, income poverty standards, average income living standards;
- Level of deprivation in access to basic social services, including: access to health, education, housing, clean water and sanitation, access to information.

However, by 2021, the Government issued Decree No. 07/2021/ND-CP, dated March 15, 2021, stipulating multidimensional poverty standards for the period 2021 - 2025. Accordingly, the decree stipulates criteria for measuring multidimensional poverty for the period 2022 - 2025, including:

- Income criteria:
 - + Rural areas: VND 1,500,000/person/month.
 - + Urban areas: VND 2,000,000/person/month.
- Criteria for the level of shortage of basic social services
 - + Basic social services (06 services), including: employment; health; education; housing; domestic water and sanitation; information.
 - + Indicators measuring the level of shortage of basic social services (12 indicators), including: employment; dependents in households; nutrition; health insurance; education level of adults; school attendance of children; housing quality; average housing area per capita; domestic water source; hygienic toilets; use of telecommunications services; means of accessing information.

This is the basis for measuring and monitoring the level of shortage of income and access to basic social services of the people; is the basis for determining the subjects to implement poverty reduction policies, social security and planning other socio-economic policies for the period 2021 - 2025.

3.2 Current status of implementing sustainable poverty reduction policies in Vietnam

3.2.1 Contents of implementing Vietnam's current poverty reduction policies.

Vietnam's poverty reduction policies are issued under many different documents, the most specific of which is Decision 90/QĐ-TTg in 2022 of the Prime Minister approving the National Target Program on Sustainable Poverty Reduction for the 2021-2025 period. The National Target Program on Sustainable Poverty Reduction for the 2021-2025 period is implemented nationwide, focusing on poor districts and particularly disadvantaged communes in coastal and island areas. From there, it can be seen that Vietnam's poverty reduction policy for the period 2021 - 2025 has shown the following contents:

a) Policy objectives

The general objective of the poverty reduction policy for the period 2021 - 2025 focuses on implementing multidimensional, inclusive, sustainable poverty reduction, limiting poverty relapse and poverty emergence; supporting the poor and poor households to overcome the minimum living standard, access basic social services according to the national multidimensional poverty standard, improve the quality of life; supporting poor districts and especially disadvantaged communes in coastal and island areas to escape poverty and extreme poverty. Strive to reduce by half the number

of poor and near-poor households by 2025; the poverty rate according to the multidimensional poverty standard is maintained at 1.0% - 1.5%/year. To achieve the poverty reduction target in this period, Vietnam's poverty reduction policies aim at the following contents:

b) Contents of sustainable poverty reduction policy

The content of sustainable poverty reduction policy is expressed through projects of the national target program. The national target program for sustainable poverty reduction includes the following projects:

Project 1: Support investment in developing socio-economic infrastructure in poor districts, communes with special difficulties in coastal and island areas

Project 01 includes 2 sub-projects, including:

Sub-project 1: Support investment in developing socio-economic infrastructure in poor districts, communes with special difficulties in coastal and island areas.

- Objective: Build essential regional infrastructure to serve people's lives, production, and circulation of goods in poor districts, communes with special difficulties in coastal and island areas; support poor areas to develop socio-economic infrastructure, improve people's quality of life and promote economic growth.

Sub-project 2: Implementing the Project to support some poor districts to escape poverty and extreme hardship in the period of 2022 - 2025 approved by the Prime Minister.

- Objective: Support some poor districts to escape poverty and extreme hardship in the period of 2022 - 2025; contribute to improving the quality of life for people, promoting economic growth and sustainable poverty reduction.

Project 2: Diversifying livelihoods, developing poverty reduction models

- Objective: Support livelihood diversification, building, developing and replicating poverty reduction models and projects to support the development of production, business, services, tourism, start-ups, and business start-ups to create jobs, sustainable livelihoods, good income, improve the quality of life and adapt to climate change and epidemics for the poor; contributing to the goal of economic restructuring, labor restructuring, promoting national cultural values, protecting the environment, economic growth and sustainable poverty reduction.

Project 3: Support for production development, improving nutrition

Project 3 includes the following sub-projects:

Sub-project 1: Support for production development in the agricultural sector

- Objective: support the improvement of agricultural, forestry, fishery and salt production capacity; promote the development of linked production according to the value chain, apply high technology to innovate production methods and techniques, ensure food security, meet nutritional needs, increase income; associated with production planning, local production restructuring projects towards commodity production, improve productivity, quality, production efficiency, develop potential products, strengths in the locality, create added value for producers, and escape poverty sustainably.

Sub-project 2: Nutrition Improvement

- Objective: Improve nutritional status and reduce stunting, provide health care, improve the physical condition and stature of children under 16 years old in poor households, near-poor households, households that have just escaped poverty and children living in poor districts, communes with special difficulties in coastal areas and islands.

Project 4: Developing vocational education and sustainable employment

Project 4 includes the following sub-projects:

Sub-project 1: Developing vocational education in poor and disadvantaged areas.

- Objective: Developing vocational education in both scale and quality of training, supporting vocational training for the poor and people living in provinces with poor districts, closely linking vocational education with job creation, sustainable livelihoods, increasing income and improving the quality of life.

Sub-project 2: Support for workers to work abroad under contract

- Objective: Promote activities to send workers living in poor districts, especially disadvantaged communes in coastal and island areas to work abroad under contract; support training activities to improve foreign language proficiency and vocational skills for workers before going to work abroad under contract, contributing to job creation, income increase and sustainable poverty reduction, especially for workers from poor households, near-poor households, newly escaped poverty households, workers in poor districts, especially disadvantaged communes in coastal and island areas.

Sub-project 3: Support for sustainable employment

- Objective: Provide labor market information, diversify job transactions, connect labor supply and demand, support sustainable job creation for workers, prioritizing workers from poor households, near-poor households, and newly escaped poverty households; Workers living in poor districts, especially disadvantaged communes, coastal areas and islands.

Project 5: Housing support for poor and near-poor households in poor districts.

Objective: support housing for about 100,000 poor and near-poor households in poor districts with safe, stable housing, capable of withstanding the impacts of natural disasters, contributing to improving the quality of life and sustainable poverty reduction.

Project 6: Communication and information poverty reduction.

Sub-project 1: Information poverty reduction

- Objective:

+ Support poor households, near-poor households, newly escaped poverty households; people living in poor districts, especially disadvantaged communes in coastal areas and islands to use telecommunications services, access information, and reduce information poverty;

+ Improve the capacity and operational efficiency of the grassroots information system; Ensure that 100% of communes with particularly difficult socio-economic conditions, island communes and island districts have a functioning radio system, serving well the work of information, propaganda and management and operation at the local level;

+ Strengthen information and propaganda to serve political tasks, essential information for society, especially providing information about mountainous areas, remote areas, border areas, islands, information for people living in communes with high poverty rates, ethnic minority areas, including information on knowledge, skills, models, experience in labor, production and business; communicate to raise awareness and responsibility of the whole society and the poor in poverty reduction work, ensuring sustainable social security;

+ Increase access to essential information for the community; Ensure that 100% of communes with particularly difficult socio-economic conditions, island communes and island districts have public information points to serve people using essential information services, contributing to promoting socio-economic development in these areas.

Sub-project 2: Communication on multidimensional poverty reduction

- Objective: Strengthen communication, raise awareness and responsibility of the whole society on multidimensional, inclusive and sustainable poverty reduction to arouse the spirit of self-reliance and self-reliance to escape poverty of people and communities; improve access to and benefit from legal aid, mobilize resources to achieve the goal of sustainable poverty reduction; disseminate typical examples, initiatives and good models on poverty reduction to promote, replicate and spread in society.

Project 7: Capacity building and monitoring and evaluation of the Program

Sub-project 1: Capacity building for implementation of the Program.

- Objective: Improve the capacity of staff working on poverty reduction at all levels to support the poor to escape poverty, prevent and limit people from falling into poverty; ensure the implementation of the Program in accordance with the objectives, the right subjects, effectively and sustainably.

Sub-project 2: Monitoring and evaluation

- Objectives:

+ Establish a synchronous and comprehensive monitoring and evaluation process and system to meet the requirements of Program management;

+ Organize monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Program, ensuring the implementation of the correct objectives, the correct subjects and legal regulations.

Regarding policy implementation solutions

To achieve the policy objectives, the State has used many synchronous solutions at the same time to reduce poverty, including a number of important solutions such as: investing in building infrastructure for poor districts, especially disadvantaged communes, coastal and inland areas; investing in building infrastructure for disadvantaged communes, border communes, safe zone communes, villages and hamlets in ethnic minority and mountainous areas; supporting production development, diversifying livelihoods and replicating poverty reduction models; communication and information to serve poverty reduction, supporting employment for poor households, supporting education and healthcare for children of poor households, etc. Regarding the budget for implementing the policy (Cook, 2006).

The total capital for implementing the Program for the 2021-2025 period is at least VND 75,000 billion, of which the central budget capital is VND 48,000 billion, the local budget capital is VND 12,690 billion and other legal mobilization is VND 14,310 billion.

Achievements and shortcomings in implementing sustainable poverty reduction policies in Vietnam

Achievements: In order to achieve the goal of reducing the rate of poor households according to the targets assigned by the National Assembly and the Government every year. People have been proactively striving to escape poverty, proactively organizing production, livestock, crop farming activities, creating livelihoods, and generating income in accordance with the practical conditions of each locality, in the context of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

According to the Government's report on the implementation of the National Target Program on Sustainable Poverty Reduction, the estimated rate of poor households according to the multidimensional poverty standard in 2023 is 2.93%, down 1.1%; the rate of poor households in poor districts is about 33%, down 5.62%, the rate of poor ethnic minority households is about 17.82% (down 3.2%), meeting the target assigned by the National Assembly and the Government (Ngo, 2018). Thus, currently the whole country has more than 1.58 million poor and near-poor households in multidimensional dimensions. Some shortcomings in the implementation of sustainable poverty reduction policies in Vietnam today.

In addition to the achieved results, the process of implementing sustainable poverty reduction policies in Vietnam today has encountered some shortcomings that have affected the effectiveness of policy implementation in localities.

First: the issuance of documents to implement policies at localities is still slow, affecting the progress and implementation process of policies.

Many localities have not completed the documents guiding the implementation of the Program as prescribed in Article 40 of Decree No. 27/2022/ND-CP dated April 19, 2022 of the Government stipulating the management mechanism and organization of the implementation of national target programs such as: (i) Regulations on the mechanism of integrating capital sources to implement national target programs"; (ii) Documents implementing specific mechanisms in investment management for small-scale projects with non-complicated techniques; (iii) Issuing a mechanism for organizing the implementation of production development support activities; (iv) Regulations on decentralization of management and organization of the implementation of national target programs... In addition, the proposed list of some investment projects is still scattered, fragmented, overlapping, and not in line with the objectives of the Program. - Some guiding documents after being issued still have problems affecting the implementation of the Program at the local level, especially problems with guiding documents on the use of funds in projects or instructions on sustainable vocational education...

Second, the capacity of cadres working on hunger eradication and poverty reduction.

The capacity of cadres implementing sustainable poverty reduction policies is still limited. Most of the cadres working on poverty reduction at the grassroots level are part-time, frequently change, and have a large workload, so it is difficult to perform well the assigned tasks (Xiaoyun and Remenyi, 2013). Moreover, poverty reduction requires cadres to be enthusiastic, sensitive and creative in addition to professional expertise, but localities have not considered this a necessary issue to arrange cadres to suit the needs of the job. Some cadres working on poverty reduction are not really dedicated to their work, have not been attached, connected, or deeply involved in the lives of the poor, ...

Third, state management work.

Poverty reduction programs are not implemented synchronously, causing waste, because State resources are still difficult. In addition, the management, dissemination, and propaganda of policies, laws, and poverty reduction are not regular, not drastic, and not commensurate with the requirements of the task (Brenton and Chemutai, 2020). There are not many rewards and incentives for people to escape poverty. The application of science and technology to production has not been effective, but the lending and use of loans have not been well integrated with the transfer of science and technology such as agricultural extension, fishery extension, etc. The coordination between members of the steering committee is not tight, the reporting system is sometimes not timely, and the staff working on poverty reduction in the commune is unstable, affecting the advisory work for the local poverty reduction committee (Hussein, 2024). The identification of subjects in some communes is inaccurate, leading to a part of the poor not being able to access the project policies in

the program. Meanwhile, a non-poor segment has access, and monitoring and management of loan projects in some communes is not strict, leading to ineffective use of loans.

Fourth, policy dissemination activities

Propaganda and education activities, raising awareness in some localities are not regular, not very effective, the poor still have a heavy mindset of waiting and relying on the State's support policies, limiting the effectiveness of the State and community's support. That requires policy dissemination activities to have specific solutions and be suitable for each locality so that the process of implementing sustainable poverty reduction policies is highly effective. Aldo studies shows effective policies connected to researches on socio-economic growth (Hang et al, 2021; Dt Hien et al, 2021).

CONCLUSION

Poverty reduction is one of the regular and important tasks that must be closely linked with the socio-economic development plan, building new rural areas and implementing policies to ensure social security. Therefore, implementing a sustainable poverty reduction policy requires proactive mobilization, combination, and integration of investment resources in a synchronous, focused, and key manner. Creating conditions for people to continuously improve and raise their spiritual and material living standards; ensuring social equity and stability, contributing to sustainable development. In recent times, under the leadership of the Party, the management and administration of the State, the participation of political and social organizations, the efforts of the entire population, in which the government has a plan to build and distribute social welfare, aiming to increase wealth and reduce poverty, Vietnam has achieved many high results in poverty reduction, contributing to improving the quality of life for the people.

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CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest

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