

**HO CHI MINH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICS**

**HO VAN MUNG**

**FACTORS AFFECTING THE POVERTY STATUS OF  
ETHNIC MINORITY HOUSEHOLDS IN THE  
MOUNTAINOUS AREA OF KHANH HOA PROVINCE**

**SUMMARY OF DOCTORAL DISSERTATION**

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## INTRODUCTION

### 1. The urgency of the dissertation topic

Poverty has always been a matter of great concern for nations, including Viet Nam, as it represents a global socio-economic phenomenon. It exists not only in underdeveloped economies but also in those with developed economies. Viet Nam has consistently regarded poverty reduction as a key and overarching objective throughout its socio-economic development. The country has committed to achieving the United Nations' development goals, as announced during the Millennium Summit in 2000. According to the United Nations, Viet Nam is among the few countries that have achieved some Millennium Development Goals ahead of schedule, including eradicating extreme poverty. On October 12, 2022, at the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly's Economic and Financial Committee, Viet Nam, as a representative of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), reaffirmed its commitment to poverty eradication, sustainable agricultural development, and food security.

Although Viet Nam has made remarkable progress in poverty alleviation in recent years, significant challenges remain to sustain these achievements. Poverty reduction rates vary across regions and population groups. The poverty rate remains high in the Northwest region (32.7%), the coastal North Central region (19.3%), and the Northeast and Northwest areas (17%), where ethnic minorities constitute a large proportion of the population.

In Khanh Hoa province, there were 12,874 poor households in 2021, accounting for 3.86% of the population (based on the new standard for 2022–2025). However, ethnic minority households represent a substantial proportion of the poor households. Notably, the poverty rates in the two mountainous districts, Khánh Sơn and Khánh Vĩnh, are alarmingly high at 47.43% and 45.90%, respectively. This is particularly concerning given that Khanh Hoa is considered a relatively affluent province in Viet Nam. It is one of the 18 provinces capable of balancing its budget and contributing to the central government. However, the existence of two districts with such high poverty rates is noteworthy.

Moreover, Khanh Hoa has set a goal of becoming a centrally governed city, as outlined in Conclusion No. 53-KL/TW of the Politburo on December 24, 2012. This goal will not be achievable unless the poverty rate among ethnic minority households in mountainous areas significantly decreases. Thus, identifying the factors influencing poverty and understanding the root causes of poverty among ethnic minority households in these districts are crucial for formulating comprehensive and sustainable poverty reduction policies for this region.

Given these considerations, the author selected the topic “**Factors Influencing Poverty among Ethnic Minority Households in the Mountainous Areas of Khanh Hoa Province**” for the doctoral dissertation. The objective is to analyze factors affecting poverty among ethnic minority households in these areas, providing insights to help local governments and management agencies devise practical poverty reduction policies. These policies aim to sustainably improve income levels and access to basic social conditions for poor ethnic minority households, in alignment with the development goals outlined in the 17th and 18th Provincial Party Congress Resolutions and the Politburo’s Resolution No. 09-NQ/TW dated January 28, 2022, on the construction and development of Khanh Hoa Province until 2030, with a vision to 2045.

## **2. Research Objectives and Tasks**

### ***\* Research Objectives***

The objective of this dissertation is to identify the factors influencing poverty among ethnic minority households in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa Province; analyze the impact of these factors on poverty among these households; and, based on the findings, propose solutions to improve poverty conditions for ethnic minorities in this region.

### ***\* Research Tasks***

- Provide an overview of research related to poverty and the factors influencing it, identifying areas of consensus, research gaps, and directions for the dissertation.

- Systematize and clarify theoretical and practical foundations regarding poverty and its influencing factors, with a specific focus on ethnic minority households.

- Analyze and evaluate the current state of poverty among ethnic minority households in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa Province.

- Examine and assess the current state of factors affecting poverty among ethnic minority households in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa Province, identifying achievements, limitations, and underlying causes.

- Propose a system of solutions aimed at improving poverty conditions for ethnic minority households in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa Province, meeting the socio-economic development requirements of the province in the near future.

## **3. Research Questions**

- What factors influence poverty among ethnic minority households?
- What is the current state of poverty among ethnic minority households in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa Province?

- How do the identified factors affect poverty among ethnic minority households in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa Province?
- What solutions and policies should be implemented to improve poverty conditions for ethnic minority households in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa Province?

#### **4. Research Subjects and Scope**

##### **\* *Research Subjects***

The research subjects of the dissertation are the factors influencing poverty and the extent of their impact on the poverty situation of ethnic minority households in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa province.

##### **\* *Research Scope***

- *Spatial Scope*: The dissertation focuses on poor ethnic minority households in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa province, with case studies in Khánh Sơn and Khánh Vĩnh districts.

- *Temporal Scope*: The research covers the period from 2017 to 2023. Secondary data were collected during the period 2017–2023, while survey data were collected between October and December 2021.

- *Content Scope*: The dissertation analyzes the factors affecting poverty and their influence on the poverty status of ethnic minority households.

- *Study Population*: The study involves surveying poor ethnic minority households in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa province.

#### **5. Research Methods**

- *Analysis and Synthesis Methods*: Based on secondary data, the dissertation employs analysis and synthesis methods to derive systematic results, scientific conclusions, and evidence-based insights.

- *Statistical Analysis and Comparison Methods*: These methods are used to summarize data and information to analyze and evaluate the research content, identify the poverty status of ethnic minority households in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa province, and examine the effectiveness and limitations of state policies in local practice.

- *Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA)*: EFA is employed to reduce and summarize data after assessing the reliability of measurement scales using Cronbach's Alpha, eliminating unreliable variables.

- *Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) and Hypothesis Testing using Structural Equation Modeling (SEM)*: SEM allows simultaneous testing of theoretical relationships among latent and observed variables and evaluates measurement errors within a single model.

## **6. Contributions of the Dissertation**

### ***Academic Contributions***

- Regarding the approach: The novelty of the dissertation lies in its dual approach. It simultaneously measures and analyzes traditional factors (assessing perceptions of poverty to clarify *Objective Poverty*) and approaches poverty from the perspective of the poor themselves (evaluating *Subjective Poverty*) through their self-assessment of their household's poverty status.

- The dissertation proposes a research model to measure the impact of various factors on the poverty status of ethnic minority households.

- The dissertation introduces the inclusion of the "perception of the poor" as a new factor in the research model. This factor aims to measure its influence on poverty status, highlighting that the "perception of the poor" directly impacts households' efforts to escape poverty. If individuals are satisfied with their current income, assets, and living conditions, they may not exert efforts to escape poverty, as they do not perceive themselves as poor

### ***Practical Contributions***

- Identifies the influence of various factors on the poverty status of ethnic minority households through research conducted in Khanh Son and Khanh Vinh districts of Khanh Hoa province.

- Analyzes and evaluates the state of poverty, as well as the current situation and the extent of the impact of different factors on the poverty status of ethnic minority households in Khanh Son and Khanh Vinh, addressing both objective and subjective dimensions of poverty.

- Proposes solutions to improve the poverty situation of ethnic minority households in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa province specifically, and in other regions with similar conditions more broadly.

## **7. Dissertation Structure**

In addition to the Introduction, References, and Appendices, the dissertation is organized into five chapters.

## Chapter 1

### OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH RELATED TO THE DISSERTATION

#### 1.1. OVERVIEW OF STUDIES ON POVERTY AND FACTORS AFFECTING POVERTY

- *Studies on Poverty*: Research on poverty and poverty conditions has garnered significant attention from scientists and research institutions, resulting in numerous published studies. These works primarily focus on analyzing poverty situations and identifying factors influencing poverty. Two main approaches are evident in these studies: The first approach examines and analyzes poverty based on measurement criteria defined by national or regional poverty standards across different periods. The second approach assesses poverty through scales rooted in the perceptions and experiences of the surveyed population (the poor). These studies often employ quantitative models to identify and evaluate the factors influencing poverty and their impact, tailored to the specific subjects and scope of each research project.

- *Studies on Poverty Among Ethnic Minorities in Viet Nam's Mountainous Regions*: Research focused on poverty among ethnic minority communities in mountainous areas has primarily aimed at analyzing and evaluating poverty conditions, the causes of poverty, and poverty measurement criteria. The structure of poverty and the underlying causes among ethnic minorities in specific study areas are delineated within individual studies. These works highlight the persistent poverty status, the progress of poverty alleviation over time, and the causes of poverty from various perspectives, including access to resources and the capacities of poor individuals and households.

- *Studies on Factors Influencing Poverty*: Research on the factors affecting poverty has identified numerous determinants, depending on the subjects, objectives, and scope of each study. The dissertation synthesizes various influential factors, categorized into groups such as: Resource availability and access to resources; Personal attributes of the poor, including capacities, skills, and access to opportunities; Characteristics of natural conditions; Social conditions and living environments; Social structures; Perceptions and attitudes, including beliefs in fate or destiny; External factors, such as luck or health-related issues, including illness and disease.

#### 1.2. GENERAL EVALUATION OF REVIEWED STUDIES

##### - **Overview of related research:**

Through the review, it can be observed that researchers have examined various dimensions of poverty, including the poverty experienced by ethnic minorities, poverty reduction models, and solutions tailored to specific target

groups. Methodologically, these studies have integrated multiple approaches to measure poverty and analyze its causes.

*Regarding factors influencing poverty:* Each study adopts different perspectives to explain the current state of poverty, its causes, and the impact of influencing factors. These analyses address poverty in general and specifically the poverty experienced by ethnic minority households, focusing on individual factors such as natural conditions, infrastructure, and cultural community characteristics.

**- Research gaps and dissertation directions:**

+ Gaps in research approaches: The review highlights diverse approaches to analyzing factors affecting household poverty. However, these approaches generally fall into two categories depending on the research's purpose and context: (i) Traditional approaches utilizing direct measurement variables to analyze factors influencing household poverty. (ii) Measurement scales to assess indirect or perceived factors affecting household poverty. There has been no research combining both methods, presenting a clear "gap" in this topic.

+ Gaps in measuring the perceptions of the poor: Studies on poverty and its conditions often rely on specific indicators and criteria. Measuring poverty through the self-perceptions of individuals about their own and their family's situation remains an unexplored research area that warrants further investigation.

+ Gaps in surveyed subjects: The review indicates that previous studies, based on different research objectives, contexts, and resource conditions, have been conducted within specific locales and with distinct subjects. However, there is a lack of research addressing factors influencing the poverty of ethnic minority households in the mountainous regions of Khanh Hoa province. These households, primarily from the indigenous Raglai ethnic group, exhibit unique cultural characteristics, customs, and traditions, which distinguish them as a critical subject for research.

+ Dissertation directions: Building on the reviewed studies, this dissertation proposes identifying factors influencing the poverty of ethnic minority households. It aims to combine two approaches: The traditional approach using direct measurement variables to analyze factors influencing household poverty. A perception-based approach employing measurement scales to assess indirect factors influencing household poverty. By integrating qualitative analyses and validating quantitative models, the dissertation will identify the impacts of various factors on the poverty of ethnic minority households in Khanh Hoa province. Furthermore, it will propose directions and solutions for poverty alleviation among these households in the future



## Chapter 2

### THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK ON FACTORS INFLUENCING THE POVERTY STATUS OF ETHNIC MINORITY HOUSEHOLDS

#### 2.1. OVERVIEW OF POVERTY AMONG ETHNIC MINORITY HOUSEHOLDS

##### 2.1.1. Some concepts of poverty and poverty among Ethnic Minority Communities

- *Concept of Poverty:* In this dissertation, the term "poverty" is used interchangeably with "poverty status." This concept of poverty is based on the approach of fulfilling basic human needs, such as food, clothing, housing, education, and healthcare. A deficiency in one or more of these needs is considered as poverty.

- *Poverty among Ethnic Minority Households in Mountainous Areas:* Within the scope of this dissertation, poverty among ethnic minority households in mountainous areas refers to households of ethnic minorities residing in mountainous regions, with a per capita monthly income of 1.5 million VND or less and experiencing deficiencies in three or more indicators measuring the deprivation of basic social services.

##### 2.1.2. Approaches to Poverty

Poverty is a complex phenomenon influenced by multiple factors and can be examined and assessed from various perspectives. Depending on the applied viewpoint and the aspects that need to be highlighted, different poverty analyses can be conducted. Among the many studies on poverty reviewed, poverty can be approached based on the source of information used, and it can be classified as either objective poverty or subjective poverty.

###### 2.1.2.1. Objective Poverty

Objective poverty refers to a measurable and quantifiable condition of poverty, determined by specific criteria, typically based on economic indicators such as income, consumption, and access to essential goods and services. It is defined by factors that are independent of individual opinions or perceptions. Instead, it relies on observable data and socio-economic information about households to assess the poverty status of the subjects under study. In the approach to objective poverty, two types of poverty are commonly discussed: absolute poverty and relative poverty.

###### 2.1.2.2. Subjective Poverty

The subjective approach to poverty is based on the concept of utility in economics. Utility refers to the subjective perception of an individual's welfare.

Although it is a central concept in economics, it has often been overlooked in poverty research and measurement. According to this approach, individuals possess the most accurate information about their own circumstances and are best positioned to assess whether they are in a state of poverty.

## **2.2. FACTORS AFFECTING THE POVERTY STATUS OF ETHNIC MINORITY HOUSEHOLDS**

### **2.2.1. Demographic Factors and Living Conditions of Households**

The demographic characteristics of ethnic minorities, such as family structure, gender, health status, educational level, marital status, asset ownership, and land resources, directly influence the poverty status of ethnic minority households in Viet Nam.

Studies by the World Bank, Halman & van Oorschot also highlight the factors related to household characteristics, including family size, dependency ratio (percentage of adults without income-generating activities), head of household gender, household assets (land, production tools, housing, etc.), employment rates of adult household members (type of employment, self-employed or salaried), income sources of the household, and average education level, all of which directly affect the poverty status of households.

Based on the results of the reviewed studies, the thesis proposes the following research hypothesis:

*Hypothesis H1: The living conditions of households have a direct positive impact on multidimensional poverty among ethnic minority households.*

### **2.2.2. Natural Conditions and Social Infrastructure of Ethnic Minority Households**

The UNDP (2016) emphasizes that geographical characteristics have an impact on the poverty status of ethnic minorities.

Research by Quang Tran and colleagues demonstrates that community-based factors, such as access to transportation and postal services, play an important role in reducing both the incidence and intensity of poverty.

The World Bank has categorized environmental factors that influence poverty as follows: 1) Factors at the regional level, including issues such as limited access to markets and social services, geographical/social disparities due to lack of infrastructure, access to basic resources like land and land quality, natural conditions (weather, etc.), state management, and inequality; 2) Factors at the community level, including access to public goods and services (healthcare, education, etc.) and infrastructure (electricity, water, roads, etc.).

*Hypothesis H2: The natural conditions and social infrastructure of ethnic minority households have a direct positive impact on multidimensional poverty in this region.*

### **2.2.3. The Will to Overcome Poverty Among Ethnic Minority People**

The awareness of overcoming poverty and the spirit of resilience play a significant role in the poverty status of ethnic minorities. When the ethnic minorities still rely on the government, even though short-term support from authorities may assist them in escaping poverty, the long-term risk of falling back into poverty remains high.

*Hypothesis H3: The lack of determination to overcome poverty among the people in ethnic minority households has a direct positive impact on multidimensional poverty in this region.*

### **2.2.4. The Quality of Education in Ethnic Minority Households' Areas**

The quality of education is a crucial foundation for providing the necessary work skills, contributing to increased employment opportunities and income for the people. Moreover, the quality of vocational education affects workers' skills, job prospects, and income generation, which can reduce poverty. Improving education quality is key to sustainable poverty reduction (Nguyễn Khánh Tuệ, 2022).

*Hypothesis H4: The limitations in the quality of education in the areas of ethnic minority households have a direct positive impact on multidimensional poverty in this region.*

### **2.2.5. Government Policies for Poor Ethnic Minority Households**

The government plays an essential role in addressing this issue through the formulation and implementation of policies aimed at reducing poverty and improving the quality of life for its citizens. For ethnic minority households, the impact of government policies is one of the most important levers helping them escape poverty.

It is evident that the government policies for poor households, including ethnic minority households in mountainous areas, play a critical role in alleviating poverty in Viet Nam. Based on this, the research hypothesis concerning this relationship can be formulated as follows:

*Hypothesis H5: The limitations in accessing government policies for poor ethnic minority households have a direct positive impact on multidimensional poverty in this region.*

## **Chapter 3**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1. APPROACH AND RESEARCH METHODS**

##### **3.1.1. Research Approach**

This dissertation approaches the study of poverty among ethnic minority households in mountainous areas from both a systems perspective and a public management approach.

The systems approach is employed to analyze and evaluate poverty within ethnic minority households in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa province in relation to internal and external factors of the community. This approach clarifies the influencing factors related to households and the environment, utilizing methods to assess poverty from both objective and subjective dimensions. The public management approach focuses on clarifying factors related to government actions, particularly state policies aimed at addressing poverty, with the goal of reducing poverty among ethnic minority households in the mountainous regions of Khanh Hoa province.

##### **3.1.2. Research Methods**

This dissertation combines both qualitative and quantitative research methods, utilizing surveys and Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) for analysis. The qualitative analysis methods used in this dissertation include synthesis and generalization techniques, as well as statistical and descriptive methods combined with comparisons to clarify the nature of the research problem. Quantitative research is employed to investigate the poverty status of households, while also engaging experts and local managers to assess the factors influencing poverty and the effects of government poverty reduction policies on improving the poverty situation of ethnic minority households.

The dissertation simultaneously uses two methods to measure the factors affecting the poverty status of ethnic minority households: (i) a direct measurement method for fixed factors related to the household, representing four groups of factors influencing poverty; (ii) a multidimensional subjective poverty measurement method, using a scale to assess household perceptions of their poverty status with key influencing factors, including: 1) Household living conditions; 2) Natural conditions and social infrastructure; 3) The will to escape poverty; 4) Education quality in mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa; 5) State policies for poor households.

##### **3.1.3. Data Sources and Data Collection Methods**

###### ***3.1.3.1. Secondary Data Sources***

Secondary data collection involves gathering published materials relevant to the research topic, including official statistical reports published by the Party and State agencies. These include survey reports conducted by specialized agencies and local authorities. The main sources of secondary data include statistical documents, socio-economic surveys, and reports from agencies such as the Provincial Party Committee, the Provincial People's Committee of Khanh

Hoa, the Khanh Hoa Statistics Bureau, the Department of Labor - Invalids and Social Affairs, the People's Committees of Khanh Son and Khanh Vinh Districts, and the People's Committees of the surveyed communes. Additionally, publications from the Khanh Hoa Statistics Bureau, such as the Khanh Hoa Statistical Yearbook (from 2015 to present) and thematic statistical survey reports, are also used.

### **3.1.3.2. Primary Data Sources**

Primary data is collected through surveys using questionnaires designed for the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa province.

The procedure for collecting primary data via survey questionnaires is as follows:

Step 1: Conduct qualitative research and in-depth interviews with experts to design the survey questionnaire.

Step 2: Conduct a pilot survey.

Step 3: Conduct the official survey.

The official survey forms are designed for specific groups of subjects: (i) Household survey forms; (ii) Expert and manager survey forms.

### **3.1.4. Sampling Method and Sample Size**

- *Sampling method*: The dissertation conducts a survey of ethnic minority households using a non-probability sampling technique, specifically quota sampling. The decision on sub-populations was based on the proportion of poor households in two mountainous districts of Khanh Hoa Province (Khanh Vinh and Khanh Son) to allocate the number of survey samples.

- *Sample size*: The dissertation surveys 600 poor households in two districts in the mountainous region of Khanh Hoa Province. The research sample size for these two districts is 600 questionnaires. The allocation of survey samples to each locality is determined based on the total number of poor households in both districts and individual communes. Therefore, the number of survey samples for Khanh Son District is 252 questionnaires, while for Khanh Vinh District, it is 348 questionnaires, as shown in Table 3.1 below.

**Table 3.1: Number of Poor Households Surveyed in Each Locality within the Research Sample**

No.	Locality Name	Total Number of Households	Total Number of Poor Households	Poverty Rate of Each Locality as a Percentage of the Total Poor Households in the Two Districts (%)	Number of Survey Samples (Samples)
I	Khanh Son District	7.190	1.746	42	252
II	Khanh Vinh District	10.259	2.369	58	348
<b>Total</b>				<b>100</b>	<b>600</b>

*Source: Author's calculations and data from the Khanh Hoa Department of Labor, Invalids, and Social Affairs.*

### 3.2. MODELS FOR ASSESSING THE FACTORS AFFECTING POVERTY AMONG ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN THE MOUNTAINOUS AREA OF KHANH HOA PROVINCE

The dissertation employs two quantitative models to clarify the factors influencing poverty among ethnic minorities in the mountainous regions of Khanh Hoa Province:

#### 3.2.1. The First Model

Model 1 examines the fixed household factors affecting the probability of falling into poverty for the households themselves. The dissertation applies the logistic regression method (Binary Logistic) to identify and analyze the likelihood of poverty among ethnic minority households in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa Province.

#### - Proposed Research Model:

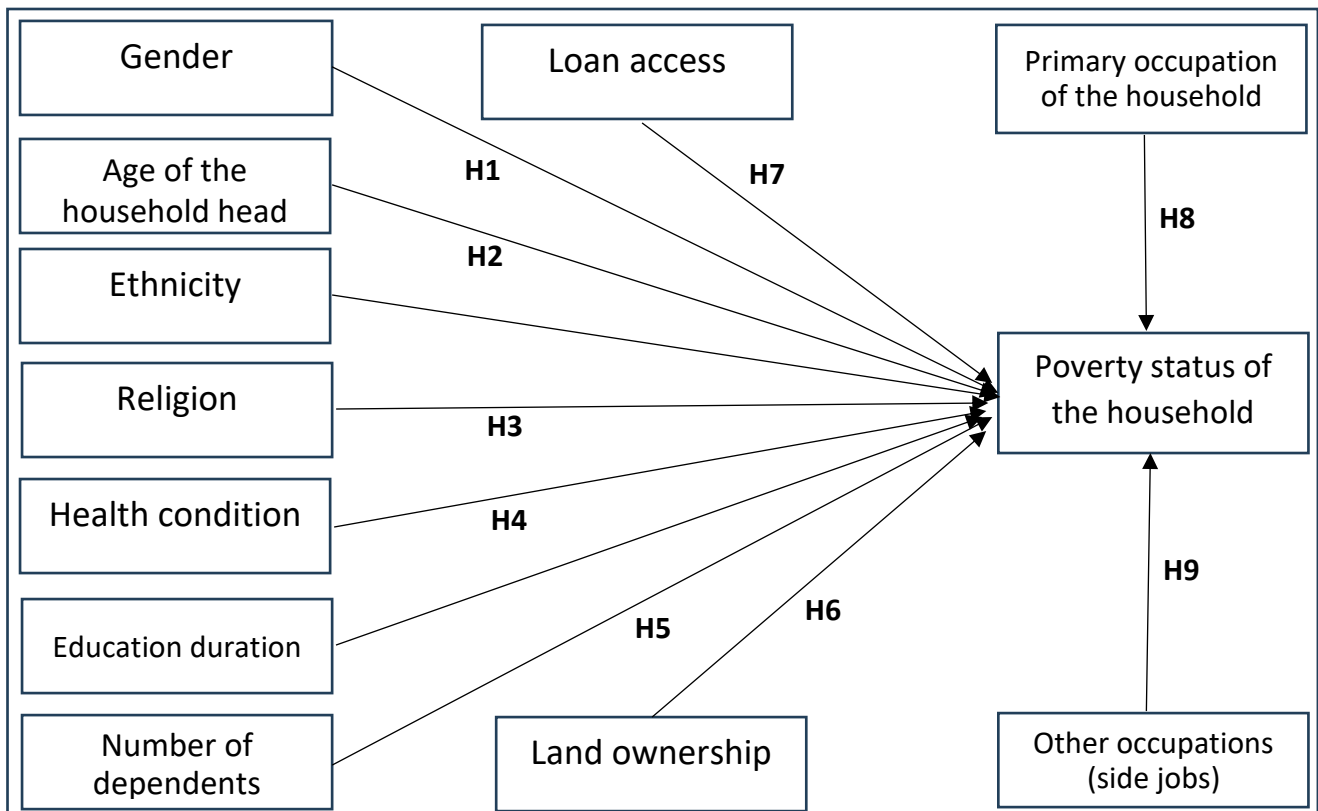


Figure 3.1: Model 1 - Fixed Household Factors Influencing the Probability of Poverty Among Ethnic Minorities in the Mountainous Regions of Khanh Hoa Province.

#### 3.2.2. The Second Model

Model 2 measures subjective (multidimensional) poverty of the surveyed population and the factors influencing subjective poverty by using the Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) approach.

The dissertation employs reliability analysis, Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA), and Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) to assess the reliability of

measurement scales for both dependent and independent variables. The model includes one dependent variable, which is the multidimensional subjective poverty status of ethnic minority households in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa Province, and five independent variables:

- Living conditions of the household;
- Natural conditions and social infrastructure;
- Willingness to overcome poverty;
- Quality of education in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa;
- State policies toward poor households.

*Construction of Measurement Scales:*

The dependent variable and independent variables in the model are measured using a 5-point Likert scale. The measurement scales for these variables are developed using two main approaches:

Based on theoretical frameworks related to each variable to construct initial scales;

Refining and supplementing the scales through expert interviews.

After developing the survey questionnaire, which includes specific variables and scales, the researcher conducted a pilot survey to ensure clarity and accuracy. The scales and questionnaire were then adjusted and finalized.

The dissertation employs Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) as a technique to summarize and reduce data after testing the reliability of the scales using Cronbach's Alpha coefficient, excluding variables that do not meet reliability standards.

*Development of Research Hypotheses and Proposed Second Model:*

**Research Hypotheses:**

*Hypothesis H1:* The living conditions of ethnic minority households positively influence the multidimensional poverty status of ethnic minorities in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa Province.

*Hypothesis H2:* Natural conditions and social infrastructure in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa Province positively influence multidimensional poverty in these areas.

*Hypothesis H3:* Limited willingness to overcome poverty among ethnic minorities in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa Province positively influences multidimensional poverty in these areas.

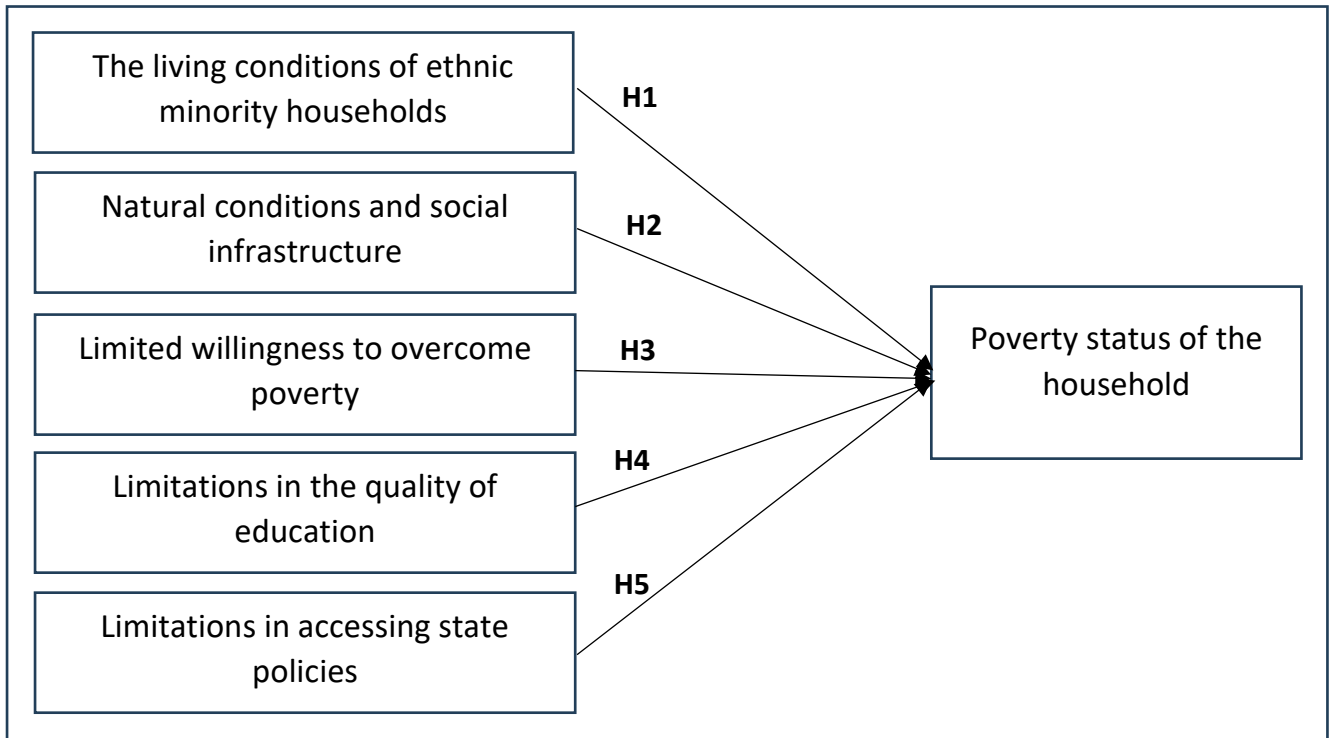
*Hypothesis H4:* Limitations in the quality of education in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa Province positively influence multidimensional poverty in these areas.

*Hypothesis H5:* Limitations in accessing state policies for poor households

among ethnic minorities in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa Province positively influence multidimensional poverty in these areas.

**Proposed Research Model:**

Based on theoretical foundations and related studies, the factors influencing the poverty status of ethnic minority households in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa Province are:



*Figure 3.2: Model 2 - Factors Influencing Multidimensional Poverty Among Ethnic Minority Households in the Mountainous Areas of Khanh Hoa Province*

## Chapter 4

### POVERTY STATUS AND FACTORS AFFECTING THE POVERTY OF ETHNIC MINORITY HOUSEHOLDS IN THE MOUNTAINOUS AREA OF KHANH HOA PROVINCE

#### 4.1. OVERVIEW OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC SITUATION, POVERTY STATUS, AND THE IMPLEMENTAION OF POVERTY REDUCTION POLICIES IN KHANH HOA PROVINCE

- *Natural Conditions:* Khanh Hoa is a province located in the South Central Coastal region with 9 districts, towns, and cities. The province has two economically disadvantaged mountainous districts, Khanh Son and Khanh Vinh, with a total of 21 communes and towns within region III, and areas I designated for ethnic minorities and mountainous areas for the period 2021-2025 (approved according to Decision No. 861/QĐ-TTg, dated June 4, 2021, by the Prime Minister).



- *Poverty Status of Ethnic Minorities in the Mountainous Areas of Khanh Hoa Province:* In the two mountainous districts of Khanh Hoa, the ethnic minority population constitutes the majority, with several ethnic groups such as T'ring, Co Ho, Ede, Rắ Lay, etc., with the Rắ Lay and T'ring ethnic groups being predominant (over 90%).

The scale of ethnic minority poor households in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa is quite large, with a high proportion of households having between 3-6 people, accounting for nearly 80% of the surveyed households. The income structure of poor ethnic minority households in Khanh Hoa's mountainous areas mainly comes from labor work (68.2%) and farming (13.5%). Other sources of income account for a negligible proportion. Regarding the poverty situation in these two mountainous districts of Khanh Hoa: According to data from 2021, the number and percentage of poor households in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa according to the new standards for the period 2022-2025 are as follows: Khanh Son District: 3,530 poor households, accounting for 47.43%; Khanh Vinh District: 4,831 poor households, accounting for 45.90%.

- *Implementation of Poverty Reduction Policies for Ethnic Minorities in Khanh Hoa's Mountainous Areas:* The provincial government has implemented several poverty reduction policies for ethnic minorities in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa, including: (1) Policies to support access to education for ethnic minority children, such as meal subsidies, scholarships, and exemption from tuition fees for poor students in ethnic minority areas; (2) Healthcare policies, such as 100% health insurance contributions for individuals from poor households and ethnic minorities in disadvantaged economic and social areas; (3) Policies to support ethnic minorities in production and family economic development in the mountainous districts; (4) Infrastructure investments for ethnic minority areas in the province.

## **4.2. FACTORS AFFECTING POVERTY AMONG ETHNIC MINORITIES IN KHANH HOA PROVINCE FROM SURVEY RESULTS**

### **4.2.1. Local Management and Expert Assessment of the Causes of Poverty in Ethnic Minority Households in Khanh Hoa's Mountainous Areas:**

The study surveyed 71 local officials and experts in poverty reduction, including the Department of Labor, Invalids, and Social Affairs, and officials from specialized departments in two districts, Khanh Vinh and Khanh Son, in Khanh Hoa province.

*Firstly*, regarding policies to support production and vocational training for poor households:

*Secondly*, regarding policies to create jobs and support product consumption for poor households:

*Thirdly*, regarding policies to support education and training for poor households:

*Fourthly*, regarding healthcare policies for poor households:

*Fifthly*, regarding policies supporting access to culture and information:

*Sixthly*, regarding policies to improve living conditions.

#### **4.2.2. Results from Measuring Factors Affecting Poverty Using Quantitative Models**

##### ***4.2.2.1. Reliability Testing of Measurement Scales:***

The Cronbach's alpha method was used to test the reliability of the measurement scale, assessing the relationship between the observed variables (survey questions). Variables with item-total correlations below 0.3 were eliminated, and the scale was considered reliable when the Cronbach's alpha coefficient was greater than 0.6 (Nunnally & Burnstein, 1994). However, if Cronbach's alpha exceeds 0.95, there may be redundancy among the variables in the scale.

##### ***4.2.2.2. Results of the Model Analysis Identifying Factors Affecting the Probability of Poverty in Ethnic Minority Households:***

From the analysis, 4 variables were found to be statistically insignificant at the 5% significance level, including: Household head's gender, Household head's health status, Family borrowing, and Family's economic activities. Additionally, the age variable only had statistical significance for the age group 31-40 years.

##### ***4.2.2.3. Model Testing and Hypothesis Validation Using CFA***

##### **Measurement Scale Testing**

**Table 4.1: Summary of Measurement Scale Testing Results**

Measurement Scale	Number of Observations	Reliability (Cronbach's Alpha)	Extracted Variance (%)	Value
State Policies for Poor Households	18	0.976	69.49	Achieved
Determination to Overcome Poverty	5	0.875	58.39	Achieved
Living Conditions of Households	5	0.734	59.24	Achieved
Natural Conditions and Social Infrastructure	3	0.765	57.27	Achieved
Quality of Education in the Local Area	3	0.769	52.26	Achieved
Multidimensional Poverty	3	0.750	59.89	Achieved

Source: Calculations from survey data

### Testing the Research Model

The results of testing the causal relationships between independent factors and the dependent factor "Multidimensional Poverty" are presented in Table 4.16. Most of the independent variables show a positive effect with statistical significance (at the 1% level) on the dependent factor. However, the "State Policies for Poor Households" factor has an influence with a statistical significance level of 6.1%, and the "Quality of Education in the Local Area" factor does not show statistical significance ( $p > 10\%$ ) on "Multidimensional Poverty".

### Testing Research Hypotheses

Based on the results of the SEM model analysis, the results of testing the research hypotheses are presented in Table 4.2.

**Table 4.2: Results of Research Hypothesis Testing**

Hypotheses	Expected Effect (+/-)	Testing Result (Support/Reject)
H1: Living conditions of ethnic minority households in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa have a positive impact on multidimensional poverty in the region.	+	Accepted
H2: Natural conditions and social infrastructure for the people in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa have a positive impact on multidimensional poverty in the region.	+	Accepted
H3: Limitations in the determination to overcome poverty among the people in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa have a positive impact on multidimensional poverty in the region.	+	Accepted
H4: Limitations in the quality of education in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa have a positive impact on multidimensional poverty in the region.	+	Rejected
H5: Limitations in accessing state policies for poverty reduction for ethnic minorities in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa have a positive impact on multidimensional poverty in the region.	+	Accepted

*Source: Calculations from survey data*

### 4.3. GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF THE POVERTY STATUS AND FACTORS AFFECTING POVERTY AMONG ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN THE MOUNTAINOUS AREA OF KHANH HOA PROVINCE

#### 4.3.1. General Assessment of Poverty Status Among Ethnic Minority Communities in the Mountainous Area of Khanh Hoa Province

First, the poverty rate of ethnic minority households in the mountainous area of Khanh Hoa Province constitutes the majority of the total poverty rate in the province.

Second, most of the poor ethnic minority households in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa engage in informal labor, with very few households relying solely on agriculture.

Third, the education level of household heads is relatively low.

Fourth, the household size is large. Survey results show that the average household size in this region is larger than the national average (about 3.6 people per household), with 4-10 people per household, accounting for about 70% of the total surveyed households.

### **4.3.2. Causes of Poverty Among Ethnic Minority Communities in the Mountainous Area of Khanh Hoa Province**

#### ***4.3.2.1. Causes Related to Natural Conditions and Local Economic-Social Infrastructure***

The quantitative research results indicate that the factor "Natural conditions and social infrastructure" (DKXH) with  $\beta=0.345$  is statistically significant in explaining the poverty status of ethnic minority communities in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa Province.

#### ***4.3.2.2. Causes Related to Household Factors***

Specifically, the factor "Living conditions of the household" has the strongest influence on "Multidimensional poverty" ( $\beta=0.443$ ), followed by the influence of the factor "Will to overcome poverty" (YCTN) with  $\beta=0.400$ .

#### ***4.3.2.3. Causes Related to State Management***

Estimates from Model 2 show that limitations in accessing state policies on poverty reduction for ethnic minorities in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa have a positive effect on multidimensional poverty in this region. Additionally, Model 1 also shows that when households are allocated land by local authorities, the probability of poverty decreases by 0.356 times with a statistical significance level of 1%. In other words, state policies have an impact on the poverty status of ethnic minority households in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa Province.

## **Chapter 5**

### **DIRECTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POVERTY REDUCTION FOR ETHNIC MINORITY HOUSEHOLDS IN THE MOUNTAINOUS REGION OF KHANH HOA PROVINCE**

#### **5.1. NEW CONTEXT AFFECTING THE POVERTY SITUATION OF ETHNIC MINORITY HOUSEHOLDS IN THE MOUNTAINOUS AREAS OF KHANH HOA PROVINCE**

##### **5.1.1. International Context**

- Sustainable development is and will continue to be an inevitable trend for

global economies, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic. Countries worldwide are now fully aware of the crucial role of sustainable development.

- The rapid development of science and technology under the impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution presents both challenges and opportunities for Khanh Hoa Province to address the poverty issues faced by ethnic minority communities in the mountainous areas.

### **5.1.2. National and Provincial Context**

2024 and 2025 are the final years to successfully achieve the poverty reduction targets set for the first phase of the National Target Program for Socio-economic Development of Ethnic Minority and Mountainous Areas in the 2021-2025 period.

In the coming years, the situation in Viet Nam will undergo significant changes, which will affect the poverty situation and poverty reduction efforts for ethnic minority households in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa Province.

Since the implementation of Resolution 09 by the Politburo on "Building and Developing Khanh Hoa Province by 2030, Vision 2045," the local economy and society have achieved significant accomplishments.

## **5.2. PERSPECTIVES AND OBJECTIVES OF POVERTY REDUCTION FOR ETHNIC MINORITY HOUSEHOLDS IN THE MOUNTAINOUS AREAS OF KHANH HOA PROVINCE**

### **5.2.1. Government's Perspectives and Objectives on Poverty Reduction for Ethnic Minority Areas**

Poverty reduction, particularly in ethnic minority regions, has always been a goal and a central task in Viet Nam's National Target Programs. We are currently in the final years of implementing the 2021-2025 National Target Program for Sustainable Poverty Reduction.

### **5.2.2. Khanh Hoa Provincial Government's Objectives on Poverty Reduction**

#### **5.2.2.1. General Objective**

To implement multidimensional, inclusive, and sustainable poverty reduction, minimizing the risk of falling back into poverty and preventing new poverty. Support for poor households to exceed the minimum living standards, access basic social services according to national multidimensional poverty standards, and improve quality of life and income. Support the two districts of Khanh Son and Khanh Vinh to achieve sustainable poverty eradication.

#### **5.2.2.2. Specific Objectives**

- Annually, the multidimensional poverty rate (including both poor and near-poor households) in Khanh Son and Khanh Vinh districts will decrease by at

least 7% per district. By the end of 2025, these districts will meet the criteria for escaping the status of "poor district."

- The income of poor and near-poor households in Khanh Son and Khanh Vinh is expected to increase by 1.8 times compared to 2020.

- By the end of 2023, there will be no poor households with members who are revolutionary contributors in Khanh Son and Khanh Vinh.

- By 2026-2030, the districts of Khanh Son and Khanh Vinh aim to have no households fall back into poverty.

#### ***5.2.2.3. Main Tasks and Targets***

- Support investment in the development of socio-economic infrastructure that connects regions, serves public needs, production, trade, transportation of goods, and provides essential social services. Priority will be given to investing in critical infrastructure, including roads, schools, healthcare facilities, bridges, electricity networks, and irrigation systems.

- Support the establishment and expansion of various poverty reduction models and projects that promote production, business, services, tourism, entrepreneurship, and startup businesses to create sustainable livelihoods, employment, and income for poor and near-poor households, newly escaped-poor households, and the local population in these districts.

- Strive to ensure that 80% of the working-age population in poor households in these districts will receive support to enhance agricultural and forestry production capacity, ensuring food security, meeting nutritional needs, and increasing income.

- Aim to support at least one member of each poor and near-poor household in the working-age group to secure sustainable employment.

#### ***5.2.2.4. Indicators for Addressing Deficiencies in Basic Social Services***

- Employment deficiency

- Healthcare deficiency

- Education deficiency

- Housing deficiency

- Access to clean water and sanitation deficiency

- Access to information deficiency

### **5.2.3. Tasks in Poverty Reduction Efforts in the Mountainous Areas of Khanh Hoa Province**

#### ***5.2.3.1. Key Tasks***

Implement solutions to support poverty reduction based on the causes of poverty and the extent of basic social service deficiencies faced by poor households. This includes effectively implementing support measures such as

vocational training and employment programs; preferential credit schemes; technology transfer; support for poor households with insufficient land for production; assistance with housing, healthcare, education, and improving the knowledge and literacy of poor and near-poor households.

Continue to innovate and enhance the effectiveness of communications and dissemination of the Party's guidelines, as well as government policies and laws related to poverty reduction. Focus on methods that raise awareness among poor households about their own roles and responsibilities, encouraging them to proactively participate in vocational education programs, technology transfer, organizing their lives, striving for economic development, and effectively utilizing state resources. Poor households should be encouraged to seek guidance and support from the government, the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, political and social organizations, and the community to achieve sustainable poverty eradication without relying on external aid. Research mechanisms or methods to encourage and motivate poor and near-poor households to overcome difficulties and rise out of poverty.

#### ***5.2.3.2. Specific Tasks***

Focus on effectively implementing the National Target Program for Sustainable Poverty Reduction in the period of 2021 - 2025, in conjunction with the National Target Program for Building New Rural Areas and the National Target Program for the Socio-Economic Development of Ethnic Minorities and Mountainous Areas for the same period, as well as related projects, programs, mechanisms, and policies to promote socio-economic development in the two districts.

Ensure that the two impoverished districts receive support for the development of regional infrastructure that serves the needs of residents, production, commerce, and the provision of basic social services. Prioritize essential infrastructure investments, including: transportation roads, schools, healthcare facilities, bridges, electricity infrastructure, and irrigation systems.

Focus on supporting the development and replication of poverty reduction models and projects that promote production, business, services, tourism, startups, and the creation of livelihoods, as well as specialized production methods tailored to the natural, economic, and social characteristics of each locality. These efforts aim to generate jobs, create sustainable incomes, and adapt to climate change and disease conditions for poor, near-poor, and recently escaped-poverty households.

Review land use planning and ensure the effective use of production and forest land, provide production land for households that lack or do not own land,

and adopt measures to prevent and address illegal land transfer practices among ethnic minorities.

### **5.3. PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POVERTY REDUCTION AMONG ETHNIC MINORITY HOUSEHOLDS IN THE MOUNTAINOUS AREAS OF KHANH HOA PROVINCE**

#### **5.3.1. Continue implementing policies to support economic development and enhance access to basic social services for Ethnic Minority Populations in the Province**

- Increase infrastructure investment to reduce disparities between mountainous areas and other regions.
- Effectively and comprehensively implement state policies for poor households.
- Design and implement policies that provide practical and effective livelihood support for ethnic minority households.

#### **5.3.2. Continue developing advocacy programs to raise awareness among Ethnic Minorities to change outdated customs that hinder economic development, poverty reduction, and community upliftment**

- Enhancing propaganda measures combined with education to raise awareness among ethnic minority communities in the province is a crucial solution to this issue.

The provincial government should maximize the role of the Fatherland Front and other social organizations in understanding the psychology and habits of ethnic minorities, conducting direct propaganda efforts, and influencing changes in their perceptions and habits.

- The Provincial People's Committee should assign the Department of Information and Communications to collaborate with relevant units to organize training courses aimed at improving the capacity of local officials directly involved in propaganda activities at the grassroots level, thereby developing a professional and effective team of information and communication officers at the community level.

#### **5.3.3. Strengthen state management in the field of poverty reduction**

- Enhance the capacity of poverty reduction officials at all levels to support the poor in overcoming poverty and to prevent new cases of poverty.
- Ensure the effective planning and implementation of local poverty reduction efforts. Plans should be specific to the causes of poverty, aligned with the objectives of relevant programs, and suitable for each locality.
- Reform mechanisms for the implementation of poverty reduction policies, ensuring that poverty alleviation programs are carried out systematically and effectively.



- Conduct periodic reviews and assessments of poor and near-poor households in line with regulations to ensure timely, accurate, and fair identification of such households.

- Regularly monitor, evaluate, and inspect the implementation of poverty reduction policies and solutions to address challenges and obstacles at the grassroots level.

- Periodically organize mid-term and final evaluations of the implementation of poverty reduction programs, ensuring effective monitoring and reward systems for outstanding achievements in poverty reduction.

#### **5.3.4. Recommendations to the Government and the National Assembly**

*Recommendations to the Government:* We propose that the Government direct relevant ministries and sectors to review and propose necessary policies and legal frameworks for the implementation of the National Target Program for Sustainable Poverty Reduction during the 2012-2025 period.

*Recommendations to the National Assembly:* It is essential to establish and pass a specialized law on ethnic affairs to create a legal framework for implementing economic and social development programs and policies for ethnic minorities and the mountainous regions, meeting the practical needs of the current situation.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on a multidimensional approach to poverty research, considering both objective and subjective aspects, this dissertation has developed a theoretical framework from the perspective of economic management to explore and clarify the factors influencing the poverty status of ethnic minorities in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa Province. Two quantitative models were constructed to highlight the fixed factors of household heads and the households of ethnic minorities that impact the likelihood of falling into poverty in these households. At the same time, the dissertation identifies factors affecting the subjective poverty status of ethnic minority households.

The research results identified three main groups of causes affecting the poverty status of ethnic minorities in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa: causes related to natural conditions, local economic and social infrastructure; household-related factors such as the age of the head of the household, education level, and household size; and factors related to state management.

Based on the research findings, the dissertation focuses on proposing solutions to address the household-related factors to contribute to reducing the

poverty situation among ethnic minority households. These include enhancing support for access to education to improve the cultural level of ethnic minorities; strengthening propaganda and education to raise awareness among ethnic minorities about poverty reduction and socio-economic development, and improving their determination to escape poverty. The dissertation also proposes solutions for provincial authorities, including improving the economic-social infrastructure conditions and refining the management activities of the Khanh Hoa provincial government to address the poverty situation of ethnic minorities in the region.

The dissertation makes contributions in constructing a research framework based on both approaches to measuring the poverty status of ethnic minorities in Khanh Hoa's mountainous regions. This includes combining both subjective and objective measures of poverty within the same research subject—poverty among ethnic minority households in the mountainous areas of Khanh Hoa. This approach enables the dissertation to provide a multidimensional and accurate view of poverty, overcoming the common overemphasis on fixed factors (such as expenditure, income, and access to social services for the poor) while neglecting the perception of poverty held by the poor themselves. Based on these research results, the dissertation enriches the current methods of poverty assessment in Viet Nam in general and specifically for ethnic minorities.

The findings also reaffirm previous conclusions made by researchers, particularly that poverty reduction is not merely about increasing material conditions, healthcare, and education access but also requires attention to the perception of poverty among the people. This must be integrated into the formulation and implementation of policies, laws, and strategies for poverty alleviation in Viet Nam.

Although many efforts have been made, the limitations of the study, such as the restricted survey area and the influence of the respondents' perceptions on the survey results, prevent the sample size from being larger. These limitations also open avenues for future research topics.

## LIST OF AUTHOR'S PUBLISHED WORKS RELATED TO THE DISSERTATION

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