

HO CHI MINH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICS

SUMMARY OF DOCTORAL THESIS

**ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY IN PREVENTING AND RESPONDING
TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST ETHNIC MINORITY WOMEN
(A CASE STUDY OF HA GIANG PROVINCE)**

**Field of Study: Sociology
Field Code: 9310301**

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INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale

Domestic violence (DV) is a widespread issue affecting millions of individuals and families worldwide, posing serious public health concerns and violating human rights. Many researches show that violence against women and children significantly impacts their mental and physical health, leading to decreased quality of life, educational achievement, and economic productivity.

In Vietnam, ethnic minority and mountainous regions are considered the "core poor" areas of the country, where literacy levels and living conditions in the area remain low. Women and children in these ethnic minority areas face social and economic disadvantages. Although our Party and State prioritize and implement many programs and policies to prevent domestic violence, Incidents of DV against women from ethnic minority groups still persist. Ha Giang is a mountainous province with 11 administrative districts, where ethnic minorities mainly reside in villages within particularly difficult communes, resulting in low awareness and understanding of the law. Domestic violence, especially against women, remains quite prevalent. In recent years, various intervention measures have been implemented to prevent DV in Ha Giang. Some activities have been successful and have contributed to reducing violence, while others have not achieved results due to the application of measures that are not suitable for the available resources and the cultural-social context. Thus, a significant question arises: Why have community resources not been effectively leveraged to prevent violence against women from ethnic minorities? Based on the aforementioned theoretical and practical issues, this study, titled "**Role of the community in preventing and responding to domestic violence against ethnic minority women**" (a case study of Ha Giang province) has been chosen to undertake by the researcher.

2. Research Purpose and Objectives

2.1. Research Purpose

The research draws upon theoretical and empirical foundations to examine the promotion of community engagement in the prevention and response to DV against ethnic minority women.

2.2. Research Objectives

- Clarifying the theoretical basis for preventing and responding to DV against women; the role of the community in preventing violence against women, DV against ethnic minority women in Viet Nam.
- Assessing the role of the community in preventing and responding to DV against ethnic minority women at the research site.
- Study and identify factors affecting the role of the community in preventing DV against ethnic minority women in Ha Giang.
- Propose practical solutions to promote the role of the community in preventing and responding to DV against ethnic minority women.

3. Research object, subject and scope

3.1: Research object: The research object of the thesis is the role of the community in

preventing and responding to DV against ethnic minority women in Ha Giang province.

3.2. Research subject: Married ethnic minority women and men, officials of departments, branches, socio-political organizations in the research area.

3.3. Research scope:

Space: Hà Giang province in Việt Nam.

Time: Quantitative and qualitative studies from 2023-2024.

Content: the thesis is to examine spousal violence against ethnic minority women; and explore four key roles of the community in preventing such violence among ethnic minority women, namely the roles of socialization, control, support, and the promotion of socio-economic development.

4. Research questions: The thesis will focus on answering the following questions:

- 1) What are the specific roles of the community in preventing domestic violence against ethnic minority women?
- 2) What factors influence the community's role in preventing and responding to DV against ethnic minority women in Hà Giang province?
- 3) What are the solutions to promote the role of the community in preventing domestic violence against ethnic minority women?

5. Research assumption

Assumption No 1: The community plays a crucial role in shaping individuals' attitudes and behaviors toward violence, controlling violent acts, supporting victims, and promoting socio-economic development to mitigate the underlying factors that aggravate to violence perpetrated by husbands against ethnic minority women.

Assumption No 2: The role of the community depends on the following factors: 1) The Government support for community action; 2) The structure and resources of the community subjects such as family, the lineage; socio-political organizations, self-governing organizations of the people; 3) Cultural features, lifestyle, and the degree of socio-economic development attained by the community.

Assumption No 3: The solutions to promote the community's role in preventing domestic violence against ethnic minority women are: (i) Helping the community perform its socialization role of shaping norms and attitudes to reject violence and to prevent domestic violence (DV); (ii) Enhancing the capacity and accountability of both state management agencies and socio-political organizations in implementing their roles in preventing and responding to DV against ethnic minority women; (iii) further promoting community stakeholders' roles to provide support services for victims; (vi) Supporting communities to strengthen their socio-economic development role, which contributes to changing and mitigating the risk of violence against women.

6. Research Methods

6.1. Methodology

The thesis is conducted based on the methodology of dialectical materialism and historical materialism. The theory of change and the socio-ecological theory offer a

conceptual framework for analyzing community efforts to prevent and respond to domestic violence, pointing out the key factors influencing DV and analyzing the implementation of locally grounded interventions within the socio-cultural context of the research site

6.2. Specific research methods

* **Secondary data collection:** A comprehensive set of resources is utilized to explore the prevention and response to DV and gender-based violence (GBV). These include: (1) official documents, resolutions, strategies, and policies addressing the prevention and response to DV and GBV; (2) expert opinions and evaluations from researchers and policymakers on the current situation, strategic directions, and solutions to enhance the community's role in preventing and responding to domestic violence; and (3) both domestic and international studies related to the thesis, which will be applied in the context of the research area.

* **Primary data collection:**

(1) **Questionnaire data collection:** Data were collected through surveys from 385 married women, aged 18–60, from the Tay, Nung, Dao, and Mong ethnic groups in Ha Giang province.

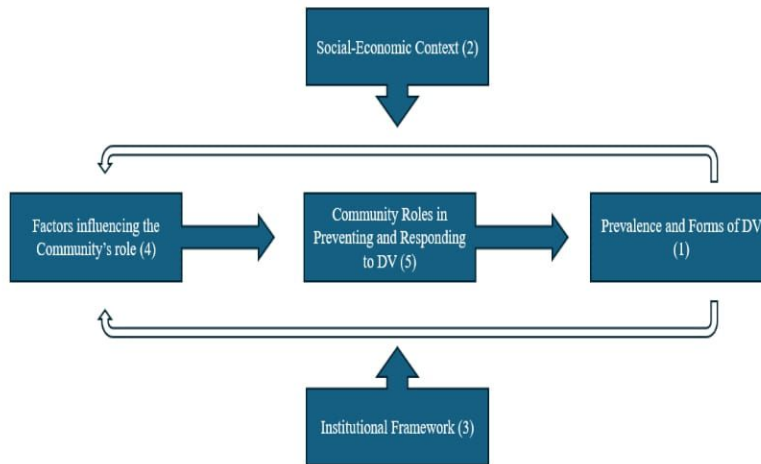
(2) **Research Site:** (i) Nam Khoa commune, Hoang Su Phi district, in western Ha Giang, is inhabited by the Mong, Tay, and Nung (from July 1, 2025, this commune was merged, consolidated, and renamed Ho Thau commune, Tuyen Quang province); (ii) Dao Duc commune, Vi Xuyen district, 20 km from Ha Giang city, contains 19 ethnic groups (from July 1, 2025, this commune was merged, consolidated, and renamed Vi Xuyen commune, Tuyen Quang province).

(3) **In-depth interviews:** (i) 10 civil servants involved in DV prevention and response, including commune police, members of the commune Women's Union, the head of the commune or village, mediation team members, and trusted community addresses; (ii) 20 married ethnic minority women and men living with their spouses.

(4) **Consultation with experts:** 10 individuals were consulted as part of this method, namely 4 leaders and officials from the Ministry of Labor, War Invalids and Social Affairs (specifically from Gender Equality Department, Social Protection Department, Institute of Labor Sciences and Social Affairs, and the National Office of Poverty Reduction); 1 staff of the Ministry of Public Security; 1 leader and 1 officials from the Ethnic and Religious Department and the Policy and Law Department of the Vietnam Women's Union; one leader from the Ethnic Committee; and one expert from the Institute for Family and Gender Studies. In addition, 1 from the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women):

* **Data Analysis Method:** Survey data were processed using SPSS for Windows version 22.0. Analytical methods included descriptive statistics and correlation analysis between groups.

7. Analytical framework



An Analytical Framework on the Role of Communities in Preventing and Responding DV Against Ethnic Minority Women

Interpretation: Examining DV against ethnic minority women within the broader socio-economic and institutional context, to identify the factors influencing the community's role and, in doing so, clarifying the community role in the prevention and response to DV against women.

Key analytical above-mentioned Components:

- (1) **Prevalence and Forms of DV:** the current status of DV experienced by ethnic minority women, categorized into four primary forms: physical, psychological, sexual, and economic violence.
- (2) **Socio-Economic Context:** (i) Economic, social, and environmental characteristics of the region (ii) Features of the residential community.
- (3) **Institutional Framework:** (i) Formal institutions: Policies and legal frameworks of Viet Nam. (ii) Informal institutions: Local customs, cultural practices, and religious beliefs.
- (4) **Factors Influencing the Community's Role of the Prevention and Response to DV against women;** (i) Government intervention and community-based support mechanisms; (ii) Structure, capacity, and resources of community subjects; (iii) Cultural norms, lifestyles, and the level of socio-economic development within the community.
- (5) **Community roles in preventing and responding to DV,** namely (i) Socialization: Shaping norms and attitudes to reject violence; (ii) Social control: Enforcing behavioral standards through communal norms and sanctions; (iii) Support: Providing emotional, social, and assistance to those at risk or affect DV; (iv) Socio-economic development promotion: Addressing underlying socio-economic vulnerabilities in the fact of DV; supporting victims and addressing root causes through development initiatives.

8. Thesis' contributions

8.1. In terms of theory

The thesis title “**Role of the community in preventing and responding to domestic violence against ethnic minority women**” (a case study of Ha Giang province)” is the first study to examine and evaluate the community's role in preventing and

responding to DV against ethnic minority women in Vietnam.

8.2. In terms of practice

This study explores the factors influencing the community's role in preventing and responding to DV against ethnic minority women. It contributes to strengthening policy development and implementation related to the prevention and response to DV against ethnic minority women specifically, and DV more broadly. Its findings provide a reference for more systematic, prevention- and response-focused policy implementation.

9. Structure of the thesis

In addition to the rational, conclusion, and appendices, the thesis is structured into four chapters as follows:

Chapter 1: Literature review

Chapter 2: A theoretical framework for studying the community's role in preventing and responding to DV against ethnic minority women.

Chapter 3: The community's pivotal roles in DV prevention and response: An examination of engagement levels in Ha Giang Province

Chapter 4: Influencing factors and solutions to promote the community's role in preventing and responding to DV against ethnic minority women in Ha Giang

CHAPTER 1

LITERATURE REVIEW

DV is a global issue that affects individuals and families, constituting both a public health concern and a violation of human rights. Many studies have shown that, for women and children, the extent of violence against women and children is closely linked to adverse mental and physical health problems. Moreover, DV is also a significant determinant of diminished quality of life, impaired educational attainment, and reduced economic productivity. Therefore, strengthening community engagement is a critical strategy for the prevention and response to DV.

1.1. A COMMUNITY APPROACH IN PREVIOUS STUDIES

In the social sciences, the community approach is a widely used method that encompasses various definitions and perspectives. A community can be understood as a microcosm of society, where human relationships are interconnected and shaped by emotional bonds and obligations. Western sociologists often adopt an approach based on social relations, as proposed by German sociologist Ferdinand Tönnies in his work *Gemeinschaft und Gesellschaft* (*Community and Society*). Tönnies defines “community” as a social entity characterized by a stable level of cohesion and “unanimity of will” among community members.

In addition to Tönnies’ approach, many scholars have developed new concepts of community. This shows that community approaches in previous studies provide an important foundation for studying the role of communities in preventing and responding to DV, especially DV against ethnic minority women, where traditional and modern forms of community can coexist and complement one another.

1.2 THE REALITY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, AND VIOLENCE AGAINST ETHNIC MINORITY WOMEN THROUGH RESEARCH STUDIES

1.2.1. The prevalence of domestic violence, gender-based violence, and DV against ethnic minority women through research studies

The provision of accurate and reliable data on violence against women is essential for improving the understanding of its prevalence and for identifying effective solutions to prevent and respond to it. In recent years, the World Health Organization, along with organizations advocating for the rights of women and children, has made significant efforts to collect statistical data on DV, particularly DV against women. In Vietnam, the National Study on Violence against Women (2019) provided a comprehensive overview and valuable data on the issue.

Although statistical data provide some insight into DV against women, they represent only a fraction of the actual prevalence. Incidents involving ethnic minority women, in particular, are often underreported and difficult to quantify, as if official statistics typically rely on cases processed by authorities or those accessing support services-mechanisms that fail to capture the full scope and severity of the issue. This data cannot represent the overall prevalence rate.

1.2.2. A review of research on DV Causes and Consequences

Numerous reports and studies have indicated that violence perpetrated by husbands against wives and sexual violence against women are significant causes of mental health issues in women, particularly depression and suicidal thoughts, as well as sexual and reproductive health problems, injuries, and other chronic health conditions.

Factors associated with DV as follows: lower levels of education (both a consequence of and a contributing factor to sexual violence); a history of childhood abuse (both as a perpetrator and a victim); witnessing DV (both as a perpetrator and a victim); antisocial personality disorder (as a perpetrator); harmful alcohol use (both perpetration and victimization); harmful masculine behaviors, including having multiple partners or attitudes that condone violence (as a perpetrator); preferential treatment, with men being assigned higher status and women lower status; limited access to paid employment for women; and low level of improvements in gender equality (such as discriminatory laws, etc.)

1.3. THE COMMUNITY'S ROLES IN DV PREVENTION AND RESPONSE THROUGH RESEARCH STUDIES

1.3.1. The community's role in individual socialization: A Review of Existing Studies

Studies indicate that the prevention of and response to violence against women require solutions aimed at transforming cultural values. However, such values are often preserved and transmitted within communities through institutions such as education and the family. Therefore, further research is needed to explore the mechanisms; particularly those within communities that sustain or transform cultural norms influencing violence against women.

1.3.2. The role of community engagement in controlling violent behavior against women

Research demonstrates that utilize a variety of strategies to control harmful behaviors against women. However, the role of communities in managing such behavior can vary significantly depending on contextual influences. Therefore, additional research is required to investigate the mechanisms and strategies through which communities can intervene to mitigate violence against women by addressing harmful behaviors.

1.3.3. The Role of Community-Based Support Services for Women Survivors of Domestic Violence.

Research has consistently emphasized that the availability of appropriate services and the involvement of relevant organizations are critical components in the prevention of and response to domestic violence. However, an important question remains: how can support services be implemented effectively? The effectiveness of government-led interventions is often limited when they do not incorporate active and meaningful participation from the community.

1.4. THE VALUE OF PREVIOUS RESEARCH AND KEY ISSUES ADDRESSED IN THE THESIS.

Previous studies have pointed out theoretical issues for recognizing, classifying, and

understanding the various forms of violence against women. They have also explored the characteristics of communities and the methods to identify communities. Findings show that the success or failure of an intervention depends on how it interacts with the symbolic, material and relational dimensions of the social environment. However, existing studies have thoroughly examined the influence of the structure and resources of the community-based groups to strengthen the community's role in preventing and responding to violence against women. Building on previous research, this thesis collects and synthesizes data on DV against ethnic minority women in Ha Giang. It aims to clarify the impact of community-based DV prevention initiatives on local perspectives and individuals' responses to violence. The study also explores the processes and approaches through which community organizations engage in and implement efforts of violence prevention and response in varying social contexts.

The summary of Chapter 1

There is a growing body of literature demonstrating the negative effects of DV on the physical and mental health of victims, as well as its broader consequences for families and communities. However, the formulation and implementation of effective interventions to prevent and respond to DV against women and children requires a more comprehensive understanding of the political, social, economic, and cultural contexts, as well as interdisciplinary collaboration among relevant stakeholders. An understanding of community characteristics and its capacity to mobilize available resources to prevent and respond to violence is considered essential for informing appropriate policy adjustments. Unfortunately, there are programs and policies to promote the role of the community in Vietnam such as: communication, provision of support services, they are often conducted unilaterally from the top down instead of a participatory, community-based approach. Therefore, additional research is needed to assess the specific contexts of violence against ethnic minority women to find solutions to promote such the community's role in this regard.

CHAPTER 2: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK FOR STUDYING THE COMMUNITY'S ROLE IN PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST ETHNIC MINORITY WOMEN

2.1. CONCEPTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO DV AGAINST ETHNIC MINORITY WOMEN

2.1.1. Definition of DV against women

This thesis adopts the definition of DV from the 2022 Law on DV Prevention: “an intentional act by a family member that causes or may cause physical, mental, sexual, or economic harm to other family members”.

As the study focuses on violence by husbands against wives, its definition is narrowed to: “*an intentional act by a husband that causes or may cause physical, mental, sexual, or economic harm to his wife.*” To reflect the Vietnamese context, the thesis uses Article 3 of the above-mentioned law to identify and describe 16 groups of DV acts and assess the prevalence of domestic violence.

2.1.2. DV against women prevention and response

The definition of DV against women prevention and response mentioned refers to a comprehensive set of strategies and actions aimed at anticipating, reducing, and ultimately eliminating DV against women; addressing the root causes, including gender inequality, systemic discrimination, and unequal power relations between women and men within the family. DV against women prevention and response requires the active participation of individuals, families, communities, businesses, social organizations, and authorities at all levels. The implementation of such measures calls for a comprehensive and coordinated approach that involves multiple stakeholders across various sectors. The aim is to 1) address the root causes, particularly the power inequality and imbalance between men and women; 2) reduce risk factors and promotes protective factors for both perpetrators and victims at the individual, relationship, community, and social levels; 3) support victims of violence in reintegrating into society and recovering from trauma to rebuild their lives and move forward.

2.1.3. Concept of ethnic minorities and ethnic minority Areas

* **Ethnic minorities:** Ethnic minorities are the ethnicities with the smaller number of population than that of ethnic majority within the territory of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, regulated in Decree No. 05/ND-2011/ND-CP dated January 14, 2011 of the Government on ethnic work.

* **Ethnic minority Areas:** As also stated in the above Decree N.05, ethnic minority areas is the area where many ethnic minorities live together, forming a stable community in the territory of Vietnam. Areas with a significant number of ethnic minorities are communes and villages where ethnic minority households make up 15% or more, as defined in Clauses 1 and 2 of Article 2 of Decision No. 33/2020/QĐ-TTg, dated November 12, 2020, on criteria for delimiting ethnic minority and mountainous areas based on development levels for the period 2021-2025.

2.2. COMMUNITY AND COMMUNITY ROLE IN PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO DV AGAINST WOMEN

2.2.1 Community definition and classification

Definition of community

There are various definitions and approaches to community. A community can be understood as a social system defined by space and time, where members with distinct roles and responsibilities are connected through a collective identity. The definition of community in the thesis is "*a set of social relationships established in a specific way based on what members have in common - usually a common sense of identity*". Accordingly, key elements of a community include residential area, economy, culture, law, and religion.

Community Classification

This thesis applies a common classification of communities into three groups: (i) *Geographic communities:* groups of people living in close proximity within a defined territorial area, identified through neighborly relationships in hamlets, streets, villages, cities, regions, or countries; (ii) *Communities of Culture:* groups sharing ethnic,

linguistic, and traditional traits groups; and (iii) *Community of Organizations*: including families, kinship networks, professional or economic associations, government agencies, and policymaking bodies, at both national and international levels. Based on this framework, the thesis examines the roles of families, kinship ties, government agencies, and socio-political organizations, and other relevant institutions involved in implementing policies and programs aimed at preventing and responding to DV against women.

2.2.2. Community Role in Preventing and Responding to DV against Women

The concept of 'role' is commonly used to describe social expectations associated with specific positions in society, and to analyze how these expectations function. In the thesis, the concept refers to *the functions, responsibilities, and levels of participation of various community groups and institutions—including families, neighbors, socio-political organizations, and local associations—in the prevention of and response to DV against women. It also encompasses the extent to which their actions contribute to either reinforcing or mitigating the factors influencing DV against ethnic minority women.*

The four main roles of the community on DV prevention and response, namely:

1) ***Socialization***: Emphasize the role of the community in shaping awareness, attitudes and behaviors towards violence; identify through the process of transferring values, cultural norms, customs and lifestyles. Cultural practices set up behavioral patterns that influence individuals' perceptions and responses to violence against women. To transform these cultural norms, community members and institutions can carry out interventions such as communication activities and educational programs.

2) ***Social control***: Communities establish rules to regulate the behavior of their members, enabling individuals to distinguish between acceptable and unacceptable actions. By enforcing rules, members are able to differentiate between acceptable and prohibited behaviors. To examine this role, the author analyzes community responses to acts of violence and their treatment of victims, focusing on the measures taken to condemn and punish perpetrators, as well as the support provided to victims

3) ***The community's role in providing support services to women affected by violence***. The research focuses on assessing the nature and impact of available support services for victims. It also analyzes the prevalence and accessibility of services offered by local agencies, organizations, and community members.

4) ***Community's role in Socio-economic Development Promotion***:

Capacity development for both women and men aims to address factors that contribute to the escalation of violence. To clarify the community's role in fostering an environment that mitigates the risk of violence, this study examines the contributions of community actors—such as socio-political organizations, family institutions, and clans—in promoting local socio-economic development.

2.3. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS IN RESEARCH ON THE COMMUNITY'S ROLE IN PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO DV AGAINST ETHNIC MINORITY WOMEN

2.3.1. Theory of change

This theory highlights that community-based actions and changes in social norms are key factors in reducing the frequency, severity, and prevalence of DV. Therefore, evaluating these community interventions involves comparing pre- and post-implementation outcomes to assess the changes they affect.

By applying the theoretical perspective, this thesis examines and evaluates the impact and effectiveness of community-implemented programs, policies, and measures aimed at preventing and responding to violence against ethnic minority women, with the goal of proposing new interventions. Utilizing this theory will also link other activities within the policy program or intervention to the desired outcomes. Simultaneously, it assists in identifying solutions to effectively address the causes of problems that hinder progress and guide decisions on the most suitable approach to implement; consider the comparative advantages, effectiveness, feasibility, and uncertainties of the intervention. By doing so, it identifies assumptions and risks to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the process, thereby contributing to the successful implementation of changes.

2.3.2. Social ecological theory

From the perspective of social ecological theory, this study assesses the impact of individual, relational, and community factors on violence. It uses the theory to design solutions that enhance the community's role in preventing and responding to violence against women. The thesis proposes preventive and responsive solutions that are comprehensive and synchronized across all levels of the social ecological model, including: creating a legal environment that supports women's human rights; fostering a community culture that condemns violence; supporting family relationships based on the principles of equity and equality; encouraging individuals to say no to violence against women, to prevent the promotion of gender-based violence and be equipped with the knowledge to intervene before it occurs.

2.4 VIET NAM NATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK ON DV PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

2.4.1 International commitment on DV prevention and response

Ensuring and protecting women's human rights is a fundamental and strategic task and policy of the Vietnamese Communist Party and the State. Vietnam is recognized as one of the leading countries in developing policies on gender equality and ending violence against women. It has signed and participated in international commitments such as Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); Beijing Platform for Action for the Advancement of Women.

2.4.2 The Vietnamese Communist Party's viewpoints and legal framework on DV prevention and response

*** The Vietnamese Communist Party's viewpoints**

The family is the first source of warmth and the foundation for nurturing and shaping an individual's personality, teaching morality, fostering a civilized lifestyle, and transmitting valuable cultural values. Following President Ho Chi Minh's advice: "To

build a good society, we must take care of building good families”, the Vietnamese Party has since issued numerous documents to guide the development of family life in Vietnam, typically Resolution No. 33-NQ/TW, dated June 9, 2014, of the 12th Party Central Committee on building and developing Vietnamese culture and people to meet the demands of sustainable national development.

*** The Vietnamese laws and policies on DV prevention and response**

Vietnam is making efforts to combat gender-based violence, particularly domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual abuse, and rape. The promulgation of important laws, including the Law on Gender Equality, the Law on DV Prevention and Control, and the Law on Human Trafficking Prevention and Control, demonstrates strong action in improving the legal framework to promote gender equality and prevent and respond to gender-based violence. In addition, sub-law documents such as the national Strategy and National Program on Gender Equality, Prevention of Human Trafficking, Child Protection and Education, and Prevention of DV also help promote actions to prevent and control gender-based violence.

Summary of Chapter 2

Chapter 2 focuses on analyzing the theoretical and practical foundations of the role of the community in preventing and responding to DV against ethnic minority women. The concepts, forms and types of DV against women are also clarified. The thesis examines the concept of the community and its role in preventing and tackling DV against women. To provide a theoretical basis for guiding the collection and processing of data and the preparation of reports, the thesis analyzes the perspectives of two theories: 1) the Theory of Change and 2) the Social-Ecological Theory. Additionally, it introduces Vietnam's legal and policy framework for preventing and responding to violence against women, which serves as an important legal foundation for promoting the community's role in preventing DV against women.

CHAPTER 3:

THE COMMUNITY’S PIVOTAL ROLE IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

PREVENTION AND RESPONSE AGAINST ETHNIC MINORITY WOMEN:

AN EXAMINATION OF ENGAGEMENT LEVELS IN HA GIANG PROVINCE

3.1 OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY AREA

Ha Giang has 10 district-level administrative units and 1 city, 193 communes, wards, and towns, 2,071 villages and hamlets. The province includes 7 poor districts and 133 communes in Zone III of communes and extremely difficult villages, with 81 extremely difficult villages in Zone I and Zone II. The province is inhabited by 19 ethnic groups, the largest of which is the Mong ethnic group, accounting for 32.87%, followed by the Tay ethnic group (23.2%), the Dao ethnic group (15.1%), the Kinh ethnic group (13.1%), the Nung (9.93%), the Giay (2.17%), the Co Lao and La Chi (1.68%), and then the Lo Lo, Pu Peo, Bo Y, Phu La, Pa Then, and Hoa Han (1.05%), along with the San Chay, Thai, San Diu, Muong, and other smaller ethnic groups

Regarding the two areas that were surveyed and investigated as follows:

Nam Khoa commune, Hoang Su Phi district: Located in the southern part of Hoang

Su Phi district, it borders Thong Nguyen commune to the north, Tien Nguyen commune and Quang Binh district to the south, Thong Nguyen commune and Tien Nguyen commune to the east, and Nam Son commune to the west. The commune consists of 9 villages with 595 households and a population of 2,988, including 7 ethnic groups, with the Dao ethnic group being the largest, accounting for 60% of the population.

Dao Duc Commune, Vi Xuyen District: Located in the lowlands of Vi Xuyen, between Vi Xuyen town and Ha Giang city, 10 km north of the district center. Dao Duc has 1,537 households with a population of 6,047 people, representing 12 ethnic groups, including the Tay ethnic group (40.2%), the Kinh ethnic group (32.7%), the Dao ethnic group (13.2%), the Giay ethnic group (8.5%), with the remaining populations consisting of other ethnic groups such as Hoa, Han, Nung, Mong, Co Lao, Pa Then, La Chi, Muong, and Cao Lan. In 2023, the commune had 151 poor households, comprising 559 people, which accounts for 11% of the total. The percentage of near-poor households stands at 8.4%, while non-poor households constitute 80.55%.

3.2 THE SITUATION OF DV AGAINST ETHNIC MINORITY WOMEN IN HA GIANG

Research data from the 2024 thesis indicates that DV against women, particularly DV against ethnic minority women in Ha Giang, still occurs. The study highlights some notable aspects of the current situation of DV against ethnic minority women, as outlined below:

Firstly, among the 385 ethnic minority women who participated in the survey, 17.6% reported having experienced at least one form of violence in the past 12 months. This prevalence rose to 24.4% when considering the period since marriage. Moreover, 18.7% of respondents indicated that they had been subjected to multiple forms of violence since marriage, whereas 13.7% reported experiencing multiple forms within the past year.

Secondly, regarding the frequency of violence, the survey results indicate that 8% of ethnic minority women reported experiencing violence on a regular basis within the past 12 months, while 7.4% reported such experiences since marriage. Additionally, 9.6% of participants reported experiencing violence occasionally over the past year, with this figure rising to 15% when considering the period since marriage.

While the statistics offer a partial view of DV against ethnic minority women in Ha Giang, they likely underestimate the true extent, as many women, particularly those subjected to sexual violence by their husbands face significant barriers to disclosure. The prevalence of violence varies across groups and age cohorts, with women under the age of 30 reporting higher rates and frequencies of violence in the past 12 months than those aged 31 and older which may reflect underlying social and structural vulnerabilities faced by younger women.

3.3. LEVELS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE FOR ETHNIC MINORITY WOMEN IN HA GIANG

3.3.1. The role of community socialization in shaping perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors toward domestic violence

**** The role of family socialization***

DV against women arises from gender stereotypes and prejudices that are formed and perpetuated through the socialization process within families. The research found that ethnic minority communities in Ha Giang still have cultural views that are unfavorable for preventing domestic violence, especially acts of sexual violence. The research saw that these ethnic minority communities continue to hold certain cultural views that hinder efforts to prevent and respond to DV, particularly sexual violence. There is still a misconception that DV is inevitable. Some men interviewed stated that conflicts are unavoidable in a marital relationship, and that hot-tempered husbands may hit their wives, believing it to be normal, as long as it is not serious. The discussions and shared views in the interviews all expressed views that tended to accept and condone the violence, considering it acceptable.

**** The socialization role of organizations in the community***

Organizations such as the Youth Union and the Women's Union have collaborated with the local authority to disseminate and promote legislations on gender equality. The initial efforts have had a positive impact on raising public awareness of gender equality, domestic violence, and regulations, laws and policies related to DV prevention and response.

3.3.2. The community's role in controlling behaviors that perpetuate DV against women

In the context of preventing and responding to DV, the community plays a crucial role in addressing violent behaviors through reconciliation, punishment, and condemnation. In this regard, the work of receiving and handling violent acts such as reconciliation, punishment, and condemnation of violent acts by the community plays an important role. The community also plays an important role in the work of receiving and handling violent behaviors, including reconciliation, punishment, and condemnation. Meanwhile, competent authorities, particularly judicial bodies, are responsible for preparing records, verifying, and handling cases in accordance with the law. It can be seen that law enforcement services in dealing with violence have relatively ensured the availability and accessibility of services for victims. The survey also revealed that the role of judicial institutions, community members often respond to violence and tend to condemn violent behaviors. The community has established various channels to receive and address domestic violence, including village security and order teams and community reconciliation units. 100% of villages in Ha Giang have set up and maintained these teams to handle DV cases. However, while judicial institutions play a pivotal role in addressing such violence, the community's involvement in reconciliation and handling violent acts remains unclear and has limited impact.

3.3.3. Community support for women affected by violence

**** Emotional and material support from family, neighbors, and organizations in the community***

The findings of the thesis reveal that family, neighbors, and friends are key sources of support—both emotional and practical—for ethnic minority women facing domestic violence. These findings also indicate that family members, neighbors, and friends consistently serve as sources of both emotional and material support for ethnic minority women who are DV victims. In reality, women who are victims of domestic violence typically turn to family members, friends, or acquaintances as their initial point of contact for assistance and support.

****Community-based provision of medical, shelter, and legal support services for victims of domestic violence***

In Ha Giang, there are currently 872 trusted addresses in the community, one club to support women at risk of being forced into marriage with foreigners, and 258 shelters to support DV victims. There is only the public social assistance facility-the Social Work Center, headquartered in Ha Giang City which is the only place that receives and supports violence victims; it is quite far from the two surveyed communes. Therefore, the support of this center in preventing and responding to violence against women remains limited.

3.3.4. The community's role in promoting socio-economic development

Poverty and economic difficulties are considered one of the causes and reasons for DV against women. In the two survey areas, economic obstacles were also regarded as a key cause of conflicts, which is a direct factor leading to violent behaviors against many ethnic minority women. Many policy and programs poverty reduction have been actively implemented by socio-political organizations and community organizations. People have participated in government initiatives such as garden renovation, household garden economy development, and livelihood creation. With that support, organizations have conducted interventions to increase the participation rate in the labor force by implementing employment, livelihood, and vocational training policies, microfinance or savings programs, infrastructure development policies, and business model transformations to help households improve their family economic conditions. These economic improvements have contributed to changing cultural norms that perpetuate violence against women and have alleviated economic stress, thereby positively impacting the reduction of such situations of violence against ethnic minority women.

3.4. Obstacles to effective community-based domestic violence prevention and response against women

3.4.1. Traditional community institutions currently play a limited and often ambiguous role in preventing and responding to DV against ethnic minority women

Research findings indicate that, alongside the development of political institutions and the enhancement of governmental organizations, traditional community institutions such as village heads and elders currently serve primarily as supplementary channels, participating in the implementation of interventions aimed at preventing and responding to DV. These traditional institutions assume a somewhat vague role in

receiving and addressing incidents of violence, as well as in preventing its recurrence. Families, clans, and community organizations often provide guidance to women who are victims of violence but neglect to condemn and address the behaviors of the perpetrators. In some cases, families and communities may even normalize violence, perceiving it as a common and acceptable practice.

3.4.2. The community's role in preventing and intervening in violence is not effective without the support of state organizations

Local authority plays an important role in raising awareness and educating the community about domestic violence. The agency is responsible for organizing and supporting communication activities to promote understanding of domestic violence, and also plays a crucial role in providing health, legal, and social services, such as safe shelters for victims. It is also in charge of not only localizing budgets and developing and implementing programs on DV prevention and response, but also conducting socio-economic programs and policies at local level. Community-based organizations such as Youth Union unit, Women's Union and Famer Union and security and order team, conciliation team in the community have close cooperation and coordination with local authority. These organizations often act as an outreach arm of the government in terms of legislative enforcement and implementation. Based on that, the community's role in preventing and responding to DV would be strengthened as if there is no governmental support. Consequently, the role of the community in preventing and responding to DV would face significant challenges without governmental support.

3.4.3. Measures implemented by the state to strengthen the role of the community have fallen short of expectations

** Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities regarding the DV prevention and response have not been conducted effectively:* Based on the analysis above, local authorities have, in recent years, closely coordinated with community-based organizations to propagate and disseminate policies and laws concerning gender equality and the DV prevention and response via various modalities. However, IEC activities have yet to reflect their effectiveness to actually have prominent impacts that help change civil servants and people's awareness, behavior and attitudes. Communication content often merely states legal policy documents, rather than focusing on raising awareness and skills to enable people to prevent and respond to violence themselves.

** Challenges in promoting the community's role in socio-economic development:* Community-based organizations have not fully fulfilled their role in promoting socio-economic development, job creation, and sustainable poverty reduction. While the state entities and other organizations have actively engaged in poverty reduction efforts, the sustainability of the results remains a concern. The proportion of poor and near-poor households shows no notable decline and the phenomenon of households falling back into poverty persists.

**The promotion of the community's role in the prevention, management, and support of victims has been insufficient:* Assistance and support for families and victims of

violence are consistently regarded as a priority intervention. There have been support models executed by the government, but many services are formal, of low quality, and not feasible, such as shelters or trusted addresses within the community. Most respondents have limited information and understanding of these models. The challenge of accessing these addresses can be partly attributed to limited information and the intervention is externally initiated, which reduces the engagement and participation of local residents.

3.4.4. Activities and supportive services implemented by community organizations primarily concentrate on the prevention of and handling of DV incidents, often lacking interventions aimed at victim reintegration or the prevention of recurrence.

At the community level, particularly within the two surveyed areas, response and intervention measures often focus on the application of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities with the aim of transforming cultural norms and practices. These efforts are complemented by socio-economic development initiatives designed to address the underlying economic challenges that drive or perpetuate violence. Several primary victim support and treatment solutions have been implemented, but their widespread availability or accessibility is limited. Community organizations have not yet effectively addressed the core causes that can easily lead to violence through preventive measures.

Summary of Chapter 3

Chapter 3 demonstrates that the community has played several important roles in preventing and responding to DV against women. Although certain family factors can still impede women from reporting victimization, thereby increasing the risk or perpetuation of violence, the support and attitudes of family members nonetheless represent factors with a positive influence on violence prevention and response. Residential patterns exhibit a statistically significant correlation with the rate and severity of DV experienced by ethnic minority women in Ha Giang. Furthermore, the findings indicate that the role of traditional institutions in preventing DV against this group is relatively limited. Consequently, the effective promotion of these institutions' role likely depends on governmental support. Concurrently, governmental initiatives to enhance the community's role remain underdeveloped.

CHAPTER 4

**INFLUENCING FACTORS VÀ SOLUTIONS TO PROMOTE THE
COMMUNITY'S ROLE IN PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO DV
AGAINST ETHNIC MINORITY WOMEN IN HA GIANG**

**4.1. INFLUENCING FACTORS IN PROMOTING THE COMMUNITY'S ROLE
IN PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO DV AGAINST ETHNIC MINORITY
WOMEN IN HA GIANG**

4.1.1. Strengthening institutional and policy enforcement in DV prevention and response

Legislation plays an important role in shaping people's attitudes and behaviors towards

violence and serves as the basic foundation for community organizations to implement solutions to prevent and respond to DV against women. Although Vietnam has a fairly comprehensive legal policy system, law enforcement still faces obstacles such as weak inter-sectoral coordination and ineffectiveness in inspecting and monitoring violence against women. These shortcomings are partially due to inadequacies in the regulations of laws and policies as follows:

* ***Limitations of laws and policies on handling DV and implementing essential social services in preventing and responding to DV against women:*** Certain local documents reflect insufficient gender mainstreaming and remain gender-neutral in their expression. There remains a limited level of knowledge and understanding of gender equality among officials responsible for policy planning and implementation; a lack of human resources and an inadequate budget for gender equality initiatives. Furthermore, standardized criteria do not yet exist for facilities offering support services such as minimum shelter conditions and the knowledge, skills, and professional ethics of their staff working at commune support facilities. A state management agency at the local level has not yet been officially assigned to be responsible for management and accountability regarding gender-based violence. There is a lack of information and coordination among all stakeholders for the collaborative provision of supportive services. These services mostly are provided by state agencies. Consequently, they remain administrative and hierarchical rather than service-oriented, which can create discomfort for victims seeking access.

* ***Policy constraints hinder the promotion of the community's role in socio-economic development:*** Promoting the community's role in socio-economic development is one measure to prevent and respond to DV against ethnic minority women. However, Chapter 3 analyzed that community actors have not been able to perform their role well in implementing poverty reduction policies, partly due to the limitations of existing policy programs.

4.1.2. Community participation in enforcing DV prevention laws and policies remains neither active nor proactive

The prevention of and response to DV against women requires the implementation of multifaceted interventions involving diverse stakeholders, including governmental agencies, socio-political and civil society organizations, religious institutions, and community groups united by shared values and interests. Nevertheless, the prevailing model often adopts a top-down implementation approach for state programs and projects, relying heavily on administrative directives and command-based mechanisms. Following that, efforts to mobilize public participation in implementation are minimal, and the program demonstrates a weak connection to the community. These programs and proposals are carried out exclusively by socio-political organizations. The findings also show that many people, especially young people, rarely participate in socio-political organizations.

4.1.3. The limitation of available resources undermines the effectiveness of government-led initiatives aimed at supporting communities in the prevention of

and response to violence against women

Unless the government provides support, the role community organizations can play in preventing and responding to DV against women will likely be limited. The ability of public authorities to implement laws and policies is a direct factor influencing the role of the community, as the effectiveness of such implementation largely depends on the resources available to these agencies.

4.1.4. Limitations of community-based resources

In villages and hamlets, community communication teams, security and order teams, and mediation teams are established to participate in activities related to the prevention of and response to domestic violence. However, members of these teams are required to handle multiple, concurrent responsibilities. Therefore, their ability and capacity to perform specialized activities is very difficult. Mediation teams and rapid-response teams tasked with preventing and responding to domestic violence, for example, operate without the necessary training on minimum service provision standards or gender-responsive mediation skills, which limits their effectiveness. Such limitations impede the implementation of the principle of delivering essential support services in response to different types of violence, with particular concern for cases involving sexual violence. Currently, the 'Trusted Address – Safe Shelter' model is managed by a respected community member within the village who provides support and counseling to victims of domestic violence. Although the shelter is located within the local community, its facilities remain in poor condition.

4.1.5. Barriers related to psychological factors, cultural norms, traditional customs, and residential patterns of the community

Ethnic minority communities in Ha Giang, including the Tay, Nung, Dao, and Mong, are patriarchal. Women are typically responsible for caring for family members such as children and the elderly as well as performing household duties. Within this community, a gendered stereotype prevails regarding the division of domestic labor, wherein household tasks, childcare, eldercare, and the care of the sick in the family is assigned to women. Socio-economic development has contributed to the gradual transformation of cultural practices among ethnic minority communities in a more positive direction. Notably, cultural practices conducive to violence have progressively diminished or waned; the preponderance of study participants articulated affirmative perspectives regarding violence prevention and response. However, the survey indicates that a significant proportion of individuals continue to hold attitudes that condone violence, particularly sexual violence. Women are often blamed for such violence if they are perceived to deviate from socially defined gender roles and norms.

4.2 SOLUTIONS TO PROMOTE THE COMMUNITY'S ROLE IN PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO DV AGAINST ETHNIC MINORITY WOMEN IN HA GIANG PROVINCE

4.2.1 Promote the community's role in implementing socialization strategies to transform attitudes, beliefs, and cultural norms through communication, education, and the establishment of community dialogue mechanisms.

Violence is often linked to harmful cultural perspectives, customs, lifestyles, and practices that perpetuate violence within families and communities. To effectively prevent and respond to violence, community-based interventions must be appropriately adapted.

The main objective of this solution as follows:

- * Modify community norms, attitudes, and beliefs (including governmental and social organizations, as well as local residential units) with the aim of altering behaviors related to violence;
- * Equip individuals with an understanding of DV prevention and response legislation;
- * Provide knowledge and skills on how victims can seek help through available processes and methods; inform the community about the nearest available services and assistance locations; and educate them on contacting service providers;
- * Strengthen community attitudes and beliefs in the legitimacy and effectiveness of locally led prevention and intervention measures, with the aim of encouraging victims to report incidents, utilize available support services, and reinforce community-based efforts to prevent and respond to violence.

Principles of implementing solutions:

Transforming community behavior by changing norms, attitudes, and beliefs requires a sustained process rather than isolated and fragmented interventions. Based on that, solutions should be implemented in accordance with fundamental principles, such as aligning with the specific characteristics of the community, fostering meaningful participation, and ensuring that community perspectives and voices are considered.

Main solutions to be implemented:

First, launch communication campaigns addressing DV prevention and response, using diverse formats tailored to each target group.

Second, design educational programs that integrate gender, gender equality, and violence prevention and response into primary and secondary school curricula in order to break the silence surrounding DV against women and to foster a culture of respect and non-violence.

Third, support initiatives, skills, and knowledge to enable individuals to establish their own open communication and dialogue channels within the community to prevent and response domestic violence

Four, invest human and material resources in awareness campaigns and training, and community dialogue must be sustained and consistent over time.

Fifth, establish a coordination mechanism to help community institutions and organizations to perform their socialization role. Raising awareness, while a starting and ending point for the program, is inadequate on its own to change behavior; guiding individuals with the change process is necessary.

Sixth, strengthen the family role as a foundational social institution in shaping individual perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors related to violence.

4.2.2. Enhance the capacity and accountability of state agencies and socio-political organizations to enable them to effectively fulfill their roles in the prevention and

response to DV against women.

To create lasting and sustainable change, prevention efforts must be proactive rather than reactive. Therefore, provision of supporting services to women experiencing violence or advocating for an end to violence is insufficient unless communities are encouraged to critically examine the underlying assumptions and norms that perpetuate such violence.

Principles of implementing solutions:

Enhancing the accountability of state management agencies in Ha Giang Province in implementing programs and policies to prevent and respond to gender-based and DV against women; providing these agencies with the necessary support to effectively carry out national programs and proposals aimed at addressing and preventing gender-based and DV.

Solution to be implemented

Firstly, enhance the professional competencies of state officials and relevant agencies/organizations, members of community-based organizations engaged in the provision of support services and the implementation of prevention and response strategies concerning DV.

Secondly, formulate and disseminate practical and readily implementable guidelines and criteria for DV prevention and response that are contextually appropriate.

Third, develop a data collection toolkit and establish a comprehensive database for the prevention and response to domestic and gender-based violence.

Fourthly, foster the coordinated engagement and mobilization of both community-based and governmental institutions in the prevention and response to violence against women, alongside the promotion of gender equality through the enforcement of accountability for perpetrators and the provision of comprehensive victim support services.

Fifthly, institute a robust coordination mechanism among relevant agencies and sectors to streamline the implementation of DV prevention initiatives.

Sixthly, establish an accessible, safe, and confidential reporting mechanism for individuals to report DV incidents to the relevant state agencies.

4.2.3. Promote the role of community actors in providing appropriate and effective victim support services.

Objectives:

Implement culturally sensitive and contextually appropriate support measures, consistent with available resources, ensuring ease of access for all individuals, particularly women from ethnic minority communities. Furthermore, develop comprehensive support services, encompassing programs and policies designed to yield both immediate and sustained benefits in addressing the root causes of violence. Enhance the effectiveness of legal, medical, and psychosocial support interventions and services. This involves delivering victim support and providing counseling services for perpetrators within designated service settings; alongside ensuring continued care and psychosocial support for victims. Government agencies and community organizations

should facilitate linkages between communities and essential services through strategic information dissemination, and fostering an inclusive cultural environment that promotes the acceptance and use of available services

Principles of implementing support services

*A person-centered approach, especially towards victims, is consistently applied throughout the service delivery process. To complement this, Services should adopt a bottom-up approach to promote community initiatives and mobilize local resources.

*Services must be inclusive and readily accessible to all individuals, with due consideration for geographical factors, cultural specificities, community lifestyles, and factors pertinent to diverse social demographics, including age, ethnicity, religion, and regional context.

* The design and implementation of services must consistently respect and uphold the cultural identities, spiritual values, and traditions of local communities.

* Transparency in operations and clear accountability mechanisms for agencies and organizations that deliver services, ensuring trust and effectiveness.

* The community should be engaged in consultations regarding support services, ensuring that all interventions generate sustainable outcomes. This requires the participation of people in all stages of the process from selecting, designing, and implementing support services.

* The implementation of services must be of adequate duration and intensity to ensure their effectiveness in achieving meaningful outcomes. Preventing and responding to DV is a long-term endeavor that cannot be accomplished within a short time frame. Sufficient time should be allocated to facilitate the transformation of community norms, attitudes, and beliefs, as well as to cultivate understanding and cooperation between organizations and the community in the implementation of support services

Solutions to be implemented

Firstly, disseminate comprehensive information regarding available support services within the community, including clear guidelines on how all individuals can access these services.

Secondly, sustain and replicate the model for preventing and responding to gender-based and domestic violence, with the aim of reducing the incidence of DV in ethnic minority areas.

Third, allocate adequate and sustainable resources for programs and projects to provide and maintain essential support services.

Fourth, enhance the capacity of support service providers.

Fifth, monitor and evaluate the performance and outcomes of implemented support services or models.

Sixth, establish regulatory frameworks, processes, and accountability mechanisms that enable community members to provide input, feedback, and complaints regarding the quality of services

Seventh, strengthen cooperation with international organizations and funding agencies to implement support services in the area.

4.2.4. Strengthening the effective role of communities in socio-economic development to mitigate risk factors contributing to violence

The most effective way to take a stance against gender-based violence and DV is by addressing and eradicating the underlying causes of violence, as well as the factors that prevent victims from reporting or resisting such abuse.

First, early intervention measures should be implemented as education enhancement, support housing, healthcare, medical services, recreation, employment, career development opportunities to ensure stable income.

Second, improving community centers, parks, playgrounds, and public infrastructure, along with other relevant programs, is necessary to create dynamic and healthy environments and spaces for community members.

Third, it is important to enhance people's communication skills and help them establish social relationships

Summary of Chapter 4

Chapter 4 study results demonstrate that the community's role in DV prevention and response has depended on how the government's relevant laws and policies are implemented. Due to the absence of governmental support, the organization's capacity for proactive engagement within the community is significantly limited. Consequently, to enhance the community's role, comprehensive solutions are required to address the root causes of violence and the obstacles hindering victims from reporting and accepting their experience. Synchronous and effective measures should be undertaken to promote the community's role in socialization, in addressing and controlling violent behaviors, and in supporting and assisting victims, in order to prevent and minimize the risk of violence recurrence.

CONCLUSION

First, the role of socialization: The study demonstrates that it is with the support of local authorities that socio-political organizations and other entities have been able to implement IEC activities in order to enhance public awareness and shape attitudes and beliefs conducive to violence prevention and response.

Secondly, the community's role in controlling behaviors on DV against women: In Ha Giang, local authorities play a crucial role in addressing and responding to violence through the provision of judicial and law enforcement services. Community members frequently acknowledge and reflect on the role of formal law enforcement and judicial mechanisms in addressing violence. Nevertheless, these mechanisms frequently only deal with considerations of serious violence cases. Within the community, the responsibility for receiving and addressing incidents of violence is primarily assigned to security and order groups, as well as community mediation groups. However, the role of traditional mechanisms such as village elders and village chiefs in conflict management has largely been transferred to the formal state. The role of such traditional institutions in the context of DV management appears to be increasingly ambiguous. The community's role in receiving and addressing violence can hardly be

promoted without the support and encouragement of formal institutions.

Thirdly, regarding the community's role in the provision of support services for women who have experienced domestic violence, the findings indicate that family members, village communities, and organizations have aided victims.

Fourthly, community involvement in promoting socio-economic development has contributed to strengthening the capacities of both women and men to address and mitigate risk factors to the escalation of violence.

Fifth, while community and local authority efforts have aimed to prevent and respond to violence, thereby contributing to reduced violence risks, survey data nonetheless reveals the persistence of DV against women.

Sixth, one of the main reasons why violence against ethnic minority women in Ha Giang persists and victims rarely speak out is due to the continued influence of traditional norms and values upheld within families. The existence of some harmful cultural perspectives, particularly those related to sexual violence, continues to pose a challenge to the effective prevention of and response to domestic violence. This further indicates that the communities have not yet effectively promoted their socialization role. Community-based organizations have not effectively fulfilled their roles in socio-economic development, job creation, and sustainable poverty reduction. The role of the community in managing and preventing domestic violence, as well as in supporting victims, remains vague and largely ineffective due to the absence of effective support mechanisms within formal legal institutions. Community-implemented activities and services currently focus on the prevention and immediate handling of violence. There is a lack of support for victim reintegration and the prevention of violence recurrence, particularly violence and abuse across the lifespan.

Seventh, to enhance the community's role in preventing and responding to DV against women, a synchronized implementation of diverse solutions across multiple levels is crucial. This effort necessitates the coordination and collaboration of all stakeholders, with particular emphasis on the support of state management agencies. Furthermore, enhancing the effectiveness of grassroots institutions in addressing social issues requires cohesive collaboration between state agencies and diverse community actors including families, neighbors, and socio-political organizations. Such collaboration should focus on fostering a culture of mutual support and early intervention through life skills education and conflict resolution training from childhood.

LIST OF RESEARCH WORKS RELATED TO THE THESIS THAT HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED

1. MSc Hoàng Thị Thu Huyền, 2024, “Preventing DV against Ethnic Minority Women (A Case study of Hà Giang Province)”; Political Theory Online Journal <https://lyluanchinhtri.vn/phong-ngua-bao-luc-gia-dinh-doi-voi-phu-nu-dan-toc-thieu-so-qua-thuc-te-tinh-ha-giang-6518.html>.
2. PhD candidate Hoàng Thị Thu Huyền, 2024, “Enhancing Community Engagement in the Prevention and Response to DV against Women in Vietnam”, Political Theory Online Journal, <https://lyluanchinhtri.vn/phat-huy-vai-tro-cua-cong-dong-trong-phong-chong-bao-luc-gia-dinh-doi-voi-phu-nu-tai-viet-nam-6525.html>