

Developing models to improve sustainable livelihoods for community- based on the potential of indigenous knowledge of ethnic minorities

Current situation and measures drawn from four case studies about ethnic minorities Ede, Dak Lak and Gia Rai of Mong, Dao of Lai Chau



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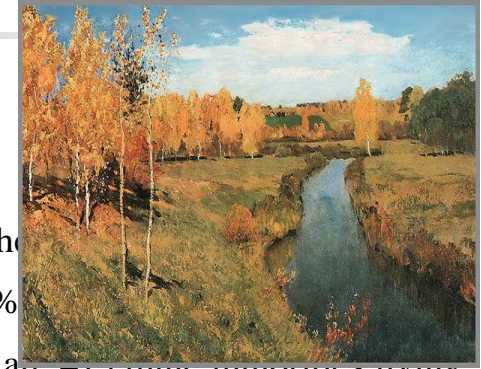
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I. Current status and impacts on the livelihood development of indigenous knowledge

Lai Chau and Dak Lak are two provinces located at particular mountainous uplands in two distinct zones

Lai Chau is located in Northwestern and there are 20 ethnic groups living together for over 30%; Mong people account for 30%; Dao people account for around 7%

Dak Lak is located in the Southwestern of the Annamite Mountains and there are 41 ethnic minorities living there. For instance, of all ethnic minorities, E De account for 13.9%; Mong people accounts for 10%; M'ngong people accounts for 4.4%; Gia Rai people account for 0.8% ...



Through case studies about 04 ethnic minorities on the spot Ede, Gia Rai of Dak Lak and Mong, Dao of Lai Chau in 2010-2013, we can retrieve some comments on the types of livelihood capital and livelihood activities as follows:



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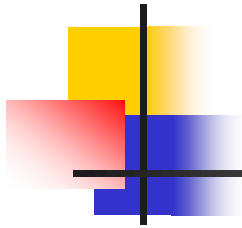
(1) The types of livelihood capital

Sources of capital, asset resources for sustainable livelihoods have 5 basic types (physical, financial, social, human and natural) which have been gradually improved in both quality and quantity in which especially, physical capital (infrastructure investment and upgrading ...); finance capital is increasingly stronger (income is increased, poverty reduced, more job opportunities, ability to access to preferential loans is easier ...; human capital about physical, mental and the mind is significantly improved.

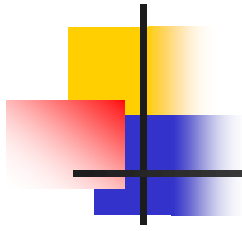


However, there are still some problems raised as follows:

- Physical capital in some places is not guaranteed. Infrastructure is limited. Especially, inter-communal and inter-village traffic is in very difficult situation. Almost 30% of communes have no roads for cars to travel in 4 seasons , 2% of rural communities and villages do not have roads for motorcycles, 30% of communes do not have authorized health centers and permanent schools yet...
- Social capital is limited: cooperation in production, especially the cooperation with other ethnic minorities living in the same area is still limited. There is still the existence of self-insult, and sometimes ethnic prejudice. The role of traditional organizations as well as customary laws, villages regulations is declining



- Weak financial capital: financial income is mainly based on the cash income earned from cash savings, hired labor, selling of agricultural products, handicraft products and state subsidies...
- Human capital is inadequate: weak physical strength shows indicators of height, weight as well as life expectancy is lower than the national average, people. The situation of illiteracy is still high



Natural capital is increasingly scarce: production land is reduced, forest products are exploited exhaustively and devastated seriously, the rights to use and own forest and forest land of ethnic minorities is limited, more degraded forest areas, water contamination due to indiscriminate exploitation, not being able to manage natural resources ...


(2) About the livelihood activities

- Agricultural production and natural resource exploitation are two important livelihood activities of ethnic minorities
- Capital constraints and lack of livelihood sustainability has a strong impact on the livelihood activities such as:
 - + Livelihood is still heavily simple, traditional agricultural farming techniques are mainly based on the exploitation of natural experience is essential, yet accessible and the use of scientific progress-technology into production.
 - + Livelihood on traditional craft is not high, primarily for onsite consumption, less use for exchanging, buying and selling in the market.

2. Indigenous knowledge of ethnic minority communities

Indigenous knowledge refers to the knowledge that people in a community that has been accumulated. Indigenous knowledge is accumulated intellectual capital in the process of formation and development of the oldest ethnic minority communities. Indigenous knowledge has the following characteristics:

- Based on experience formed during the initial experience
- Regularly tested
- Adapting to cultural characteristics and the environment, consistent with the natural environment and social communities.
- Dynamic and ever-changing.



3. Positive impact of Indigenous knowledge to livelihoods

Indigenous knowledge is closely connected with the life of the ethnic minorities and the historical experience of the vast majority of local knowledge. It is the knowledge related to the environment, production methods, animal husbandry, cultivation crop (as the South, used to dry teak leaves put in jars pots with green beans, black beans, corn for preservation by terracing, land leveling and laying stone, used "plow" of Mongolia is consistent While plowing on slopes of ... Indigenous knowledge is reflected in gallant folk songs, anecdotal stories, legends and cultural practices of ethnic minorities. Sometimes it is preserved as memory, rites, rituals and dances. Sometimes it is stored in the form of objects handed down from father to offspring, or from mother to daughter



■ Indigenous knowledge in the use, protection and management of natural resources

The lives of ethnic people are always closely connected with nature, especially the three resources: forests, land, and water resources. Thus, the exploitation, utilization, protection and management of these resources (exploit forest products, watershed protection, wildlife protection, water protection, land ...) are always respected.

The first group of knowledge refers to the value specified in the customary law and the conventions of each ethnic community. This is a product that contains the value of traditional knowledge which is important to define the behavior of all members of the community for the use and exploitation of natural resources.

4 ethnic minorities live mainly on agriculture, hence traditional knowledge systems in this area are quite diversified. The knowledge of arable land (land and special select): Mongolian capital in Lai Chau with local knowledge about the process clearing terraces (select areas where land slopes, the lower slope of 400, there are sources natural water or spring water extrusion relatively flat and thick humus); Dao ethnic knowledge in selecting land for shifting jungle, bamboo forest, where muck ...; Ede and Jarai people have the skills to select land for cultivation, near the boat landing and avoid the destruction of wild animals; moral cultivation plots closed ...

Knowledge of the calendar system of agricultural products also is considered to be formed in practice traditional agriculture. The calculation is based on the agricultural calendar understanding of the characteristics of growth and development of crops and livestock, in the evolution of natural conditions, climate and farming characteristics peculiar.

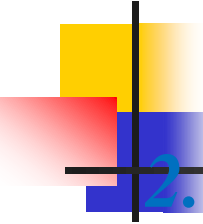
Each ethnic group has the traditional craft nature distinct identity of our peoples, it contains the special value of knowledge, express creativity and proficiency in each of their products. 4 peoples have a similar number of crafts such as weaving, knitting, carpentry ... In addition, each nation has its own traditional crafts such as nature: Mongolia with casting forging plowshares very healthy, cutting roots, reeds, dry soil plowing steep rocky areas with depths from 10 to 15 cm; forged barrel and drilling in ... water drilling methods; embroidery unique contours of the Dao with embroidery and delicate patterns on fabric or clothing; hunting and taming wild elephants, renowned winemaking needs of ethnic Ede, Gia Rai has become the product of goods and services bring high economic value ...



- Indigenous knowledge of folk medicine and health care

All peoples forming the knowledge of folk medicine and traditional health care knowledge. It's the knowledge that helped the ethnic communities themselves to address the threats from disease and preserve their race. Even in the context of recent years, the government has invested and interested in health systems which are developed in a more modern than the area but could not meet all the needs of the people. Besides, the province was divided into various areas, and the transportation system is not developed, communications system is limited that hinders people's access to health services. Now local knowledge of folk medicine and community health care has been the ultimate cure for the most common diseases in the communes, districts and border.

4 Both ethnic minorities have the traditional knowledge of operating and managing the communities that the most valuable knowledge which affect the existence of each ethnic group are the institutional villages and rural communities and the general rules of the relationship, the relationship adjustment in the community in the form of customary law and conventions. In regard to the institutional villages (for ethnic Hmong, Dao) and wholesale (for ethnic Jarai and Ede), this is the unit which is fairly stable colony where meetings of a few dozen, and several households (for trade).



II. The livelihood improvement measures based on local knowledge of the potential richness of ethnic minorities 4 spot (E De, Gia Rai, Mong, Dao)

2.1. Measure 1: To propagate awareness campaign

This is one of the most important measures to improve the quality and enhance the livelihoods of the people in accordance with cultural and local knowledge. The propaganda to raise awareness not only perform with fellow 4 objects minorities (E De, Gia Rai, Mong, Dao) but also applies to groups of staff in the system politics is most relevant staff basis.



2.2.2. Research and a number of related policies conducted, issued, and amended

Along with organizations to effectively implement the above policies, the current status and livelihood capital of 4 nations requires supplementing and perfecting the system of policies, which take into account on the issued and modified policies as follows:

- Policy on infrastructure investment: the implementation of the investment policy of infrastructure development as currently distributed,, on average, although there are difficulties on the expansion process. Most of the beneficiaries in terms of financial resources has limited government assistance which is the main cause leading to communal villages (can not definitively settle the policy contents).
- Policy on Natural Resources
- The government should study and issue a number of new policies to improve human and social capital for the ethnic minorities in general and the four ethnic groups, in particular.

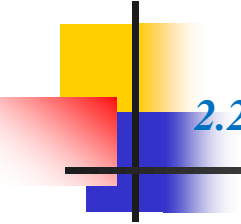


2.2. Measures 2: policies formulated to improve the livelihoods which are consistent with culture and indigenous knowledge of the people

2.2.1 Organizing effective implementation of existing policies related

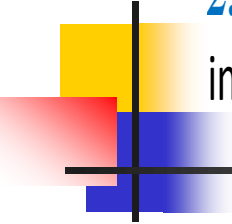
- Policies related to strengthening physical capital and natural capital
- Policies related to capacity building and financial capital
- Policy on human capital and social capital





2.2.3 Renovating and building mechanisms to implement the ethnic organizational policies

To improve the livelihoods which are consistent with the cultural values of state support is very important. However, records show that the capital livelihoods and livelihood of ethnic minorities in general and 4 ethnics Ede, Gia Rai, Mong, Dao were particularly inefficient, unsustainable. System policies remain incomplete, inconsistent in terms of both the management and implementation. Fairness among the community and regions is not guaranteed. Need to implement innovative mechanisms to build organizational policies, but the first thing that needs to quickly institutionalize is the process of developing and implementing policies.



2.3. Measure 3: Transfer of scientific progress and technical compatibility with the culture, indigenous knowledge

To improve the livelihoods of ethnic minorities 4 spot can not just rely on the experience available indigenous knowledge of local people and communities. It is a must to transfer scientific progress - in the engineering and manufacturing life on a consistent basis with cultural values, local knowledge of each ethnic group. Integrating scientific knowledge - a modern technique on local knowledge of each ethnic group: need for in-depth research, to appreciate the value of science and discovery aspects, the point defects, limiting , or no longer compatible on the basis of scientific advances - modern technology to replace, preserve and promote the highest knowledge of indigenous people and communities, especially the technical knowledge.


2.4. Measure 4: Development of staff with a reputation of 4 ethnic minority

Starting from the point of view to solve the problems related to livelihood and culture of the 4 ethnic minority, the ethnic self-determination and the implementation with great help and effectiveness of external (state and other components) is not visible. However, with the current level of development, the self-awareness to the people and improvement of the livelihood decisions on the promotion of good cultural values, removal of outdated cultural factors that matter extremely difficult to solve if no one is aware of them, understanding of these issues to mobilize and lead the organization to the people and communities to follow.

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2.5. Measure 5: Building a model for sustainable livelihood development potential based on local knowledge

- Package Modeling
- Build model traditional festival beliefs and values of each ethnic
- Build-propagation model for 4 at the base of two ethnic minority provinces
- Develop integrated model between indigenous knowledge with scientific knowledge - a modern technique
- Develop model practices habits change backward

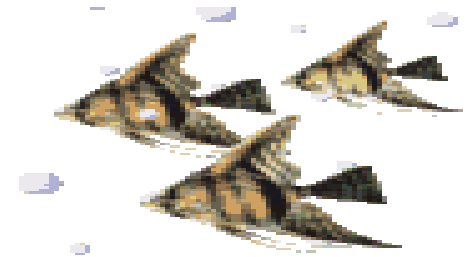


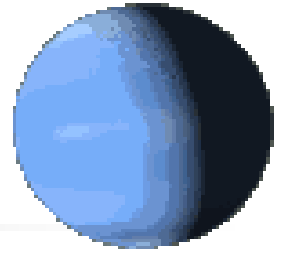
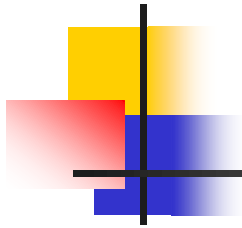
III. Building practical models

1. Consistent with social and ethnic minorities on the implementation model
2. Completing the theoretical model and the actual model building
3. Household Selection and signed engagement model
4. Building technical support model
5. Trainings technical knowledge and market
6. Visiting the model
7. Inspection and monitoring the construction process models
8. Implementation model results

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2.6. Measure 6: Strengthened financial resources

This is the key measures and are prerequisites to the above measures that organizations can be successful or not. From propaganda measures, raising awareness, measures of policy mechanisms, measures transfer of science and technology to build measures of staff, and the prestigious building measures models require funds for implementation.