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# Capacitar a los empobrecidos: desarrollo de capacidades y reducción de la pobreza en las comunidades Khmer de Tra Vinh

Duong Van Khanh<sup>1\*</sup>, He Xuesong<sup>2</sup>, Thi Thanh Nga Nguyen<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Social and Public Administration, East China University of Science and Technology, Shanghai 200237, China and Department of Social Work, Dong Thap University, Dong Thap 870000, Vietnam.

\*Corresponding Author: E-mail: [dvkhanh@dthu.edu.vn](mailto:dvkhanh@dthu.edu.vn);  
ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0003-0507-9782>

<sup>2</sup>School of Social and Public Administration, East China University of Science and Technology, Shanghai 200237, China.

E-mail: [cedarhe@ecust.edu.cn](mailto:cedarhe@ecust.edu.cn); ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3455-9879>

<sup>3</sup>Faculty of Accounting, Thai Nguyen University of Economics and Business Administration, Thai Nguyen 250000, Vietnam.

E-mail: [nguyenthnhngatn@gmail.com](mailto:nguyenthnhngatn@gmail.com); ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0000-3973-0607>

**Resumen.** La pobreza sigue siendo un importante motivo de preocupación en numerosos países de todo el mundo, y en Vietnam persiste, sobre todo entre las minorías étnicas. Este estudio explora los factores que influyen en la pobreza de las minorías étnicas del distrito de Tra Cu, provincia de Tra Vinh, en el delta del Mekong vietnamita, utilizando la teoría del enfoque basado en las capacidades de Amartya Sen, un enfoque multidimensional de la pobreza y el marco de medios de vida sostenibles del DFID. Se realizaron revisiones teóricas para comprender las teorías relacionadas con la pobreza. La investigación emplea un método cuantitativo, analizando los datos de 420 participantes mediante cuestionarios. Se utilizó el SPSS 25.0 para obtener el alfa de Cronbach, el análisis factorial exploratorio (AFE) y los resultados del modelo de regresión lineal. Los resultados indican que las deficiencias en la capacidad de vida, la capacidad de producción y la capacidad de desarrollo contribuyen a la pobreza de las minorías étnicas en el distrito de Tra Cu, provincia de Tra Vinh. En particular, la capacidad de desarrollo ejerce la influencia más significativa en la pobreza de los hogares, seguida de la capacidad de vida y la capacidad de producción. A partir de estos resultados, se proponen recomendaciones para ayudar a los hogares empobrecidos a lograr una reducción sostenible de la pobreza.

**Palabras clave:** etnia jemer, alivio de la pobreza, soluciones, enfoque de capacidades, Vietnam.

## Empowering the impoverished: capacity building and poverty reduction in Tra Vinh's Khmer communities

**Abstract.** Poverty remains a significant concern in numerous countries worldwide, and within Vietnam, it persists, particularly among ethnic minorities. This study explores the factors influencing the poverty of ethnic minorities in Tra Cu District, Tra Vinh Province, Vietnamese Mekong Delta, utilizing Amartya Sen's capability approach theory, a multidimensional poverty approach, and the DFID's framework of sustainable livelihoods. Theoretical reviews were conducted to comprehend poverty-related theories. The research employs a quantitative method, analyzing data from 420 participants through questionnaires. SPSS 25.0 was utilized for Cronbach's Alpha, Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA), and Linear Regression model results. Findings indicate that deficiencies in living capability, production capability, and development capability contribute to the poverty of ethnic minorities in Tra Cu District, Tra Vinh province. Notably, development capability exerts the most significant influence on household poverty, followed by living capability and production capability. Based on these findings, recommendations are proposed to assist impoverished households in achieving sustainable poverty reduction.

**Keywords:** Khmer ethnic, poverty alleviation, solutions, capability approach, Vietnam.

### INTRODUCTION

Poverty represents a formidable impediment to individual, communal, and national development. The underprivileged often encounter restricted access to critical social services, including employment, education, healthcare, and information, hindering their prospects of breaking free from the shackles of poverty. As elucidated by the World Bank, poverty is not merely defined by low income and consumption but also encompasses aspects such as low educational attainment, compromised health, inadequate access to fundamental services, and precarious living conditions (World Bank, 2018).

Education emerges as a pivotal determinant of development opportunities, as underscored by Tierney, who highlighted the constrained developmental prospects of those with limited educational access (Tierney, 2015). Nations grappling with suboptimal education systems encounter challenges in sourcing an adept workforce. A distressing surge in global poverty, exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic-induced economic downturn, saw the number of individuals living in extreme poverty rise to an estimated 50 million between 2019 and 2020 (Development Initiatives, 2021). As of 2021, an alarming 698 million people, constituting 9% of the global population, subsisted on less than 1.9 USD per day (Development Initiatives, 2021).

The etiology of poverty is diverse, encompassing both objective factors such as deficient infrastructure, climatic complexities, and subjective elements including lack of knowledge, inadequate investment, low educational attainment, disease, and compromised health. Alex attributes poverty in Africa to the limited ability of the impoverished to influence social processes, public policy, and resource allocation, coupled with restricted access to essential skills, knowledge, education, and

personal development (Alex, 2014). Factors contributing to poverty in Nepal, as outlined by Prasad Acharya et al, include inadequate human capital, absence of remittances, large family sizes, absence of land ownership, and restricted access to nearby markets (Prasad Acharya et al., 2022).

Localized studies, such as Huynh's (2011) exploration of non-agricultural households in Duc Hoa District, Long An province, identified average education levels, limited access to credit sources, and the duration of schooling as prime factors influencing poverty and low income (Huynh, 2011). Vien's (2012) investigation into farmers in Tan Hiep District, Kien Giang province, identified variables such as the number of household laborers, farming land area, attendance at agricultural extension sessions, road accessibility, total capital, and water access as determinants of low income (Vien, 2012). Truong (2013) delved into the causes of low income in border communes in Tay Ninh province, pointing to household occupation, work experience, education levels, household labor numbers, dependency ratios, farming land area, income-generating activities, and access to credit as pivotal factors (Truong, 2013).

The capability approach, as advocated by Hong Ha Nguyen (2017) and Diep Thanh Tung (2017), emerges as a potent strategy for empowering the impoverished to break free from the shackles of poverty. Recommendations include organizing vocational training courses, formulating targeted credit policies, developing specialized infrastructure, promoting cultural and religious structures, and enhancing healthcare facilities (Hong Ha Nguyen, 2017; Tung, 2018). While Vietnam has made strides in poverty reduction, certain regions, including Tra Vinh province, continue to grapple with persistent poverty. Tra Vinh, a province in the Vietnamese Mekong Delta, is characterized by a substantial Khmer ethnic population, constituting 31.5% of the provincial populace (Nguyen & Phuoc, 2010). Notwithstanding concentrated efforts in socio-economic development and poverty alleviation, Tra Vinh Province still harbors areas facing enduring poverty challenges. At the close of 2019, Tra Vinh Province housed 9,214 impoverished households, representing 3.22% of the total households (H. H. Nguyen & Kien, 2022). By the conclusion of 2020, Tra Vinh Province retained Tra Cu District as its sole impoverished District, with two extremely challenged communes in coastal and island regions (Bich Nguyen, 2021). In response to this persisting challenge, this research aims to identify the factors influencing poverty among ethnic minorities in Tra Cu District, Tra Vinh province, it points out the specific methods and lessons for improving the capacity of Khmer poor people in the poverty reduction policy, effective countermeasures to improve these capabilities. Utilizing the capacity approach, the study endeavors to propose sustainable poverty alleviation solutions.

## THEORETICAL REVIEW

### **Amartya Sen's capability approach theory**

Amartya Sen's Capability Approach delves into the concept of capability as the amalgamation of the ability to perform functions or achieve goals. Essentially, capability signifies the real freedom individuals possess to impart meaning to their lives. It refers to the array of valuable functions that an individual can effectively access, representing their effective freedom to choose different combinations of functions or ways of life that they value (Hick, 2012). This broad concept encompasses an individual's ability or strength to accomplish specific functions. Sen posits that this capacity constitutes human freedom, manifesting as real opportunities for well-being, and reflecting the freedom

to lead one type of life over another. He emphasizes the multifaceted nature of human capacities, extending beyond a singular dimension, allowing a focus on various functional aspects of life such as literacy, health, or political freedom.

Sen argues that evaluating people should center on their capacity to live well, rather than solely on material wealth or happiness. Human development, according to Sen, involves expanding people's capacity to choose. In this context, poverty signifies the exclusion of fundamental opportunities and options for human development. Basic elements of human development, such as a long, healthy, and active life, good living conditions, freedom, decency, confidence, and respect from others, are considered essential. Poverty, in Sen's view, extends beyond the mere lack of essential conditions for material life; it encompasses the deprivation of basic capabilities. Premature death, severe malnutrition, persistent diseases, illiteracy, and other vulnerabilities reflect this deprivation. Sen crucially distinguishes between poverty as a lack of capacity (capacity poverty) and poverty in terms of low income (income poverty), contending that these two perspectives are interconnected.

### **Multidimensional Poverty Approach**

As defined by the United Nations, poverty is the inadequacy of minimum capacity to participate effectively in social activities (David, 2005). It extends beyond material insufficiencies to include aspects such as insufficient food, clothing, education, medical care, land for cultivation, and employment opportunities. Poverty encompasses insecurity, lack of rights, exclusion, vulnerability to violence, living in precarious conditions, and lacking access to clean water and sanitation.

Multidimensional poverty is evaluated through both income and non-income criteria. Concerns related to malnutrition, illiteracy, disease, unhappiness, and despair contribute to the concept of multidimensional poverty. Lack of economic participation and a voice in society or politics can lead to exclusion, preventing individuals from enjoying the benefits of socio-economic development. Multidimensional poverty, indicated by a lack of basic social services, is measured by the international Multidimensional Poverty Index, encompassing health, education, and living conditions. This index complements traditional income-based poverty measurements.

There is a broad consensus among countries, politicians, and scholars that poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon, indicating an insufficiency or unsatisfactory level of basic human needs. Multidimensional poverty represents a state in which individuals fail to meet at least their fundamental life needs.

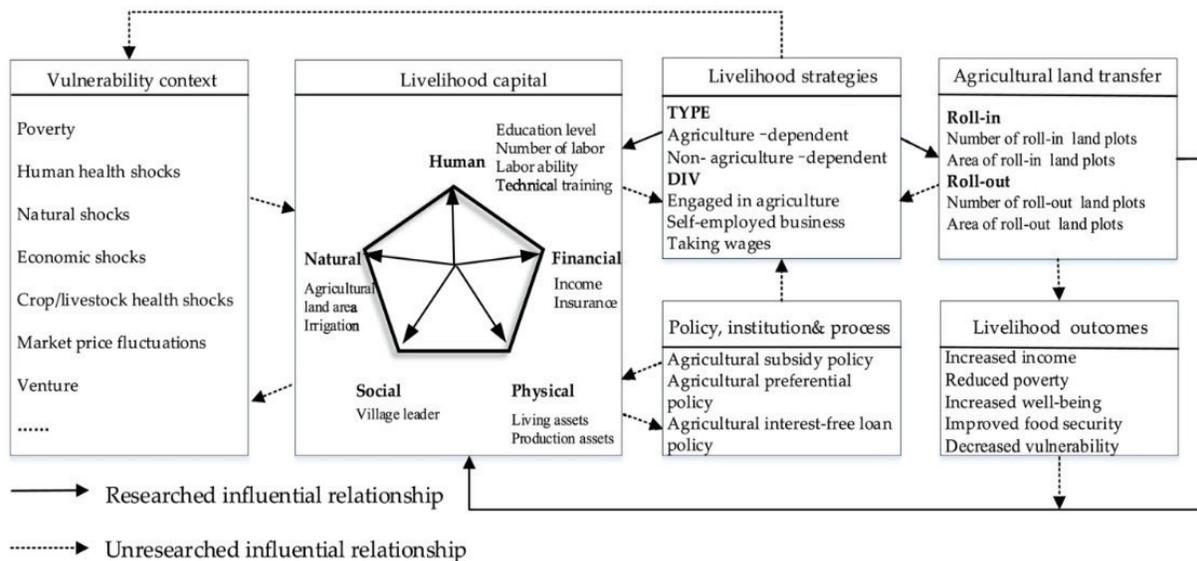
### **DFID's framework of sustainable livelihoods**

The concept of livelihood has been a central concern for forums and scholars globally, providing foundational principles to address issues such as hunger eradication, poverty reduction, job creation, and the improvement of living standards. The United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) defines livelihood as encompassing "the capabilities, resources, and activities necessary for a means of living for people" (Department for International Development (DFID), 1999). It signifies the integration of natural, economic, social, and cultural resources held by individuals, households, or social groups. These resources can either generate income to enhance material living standards or be exchanged to meet diverse life needs. Chambers and Conway describe livelihood as inclusive of the capabilities, resources, and activities essential for an individual's means of living (Chambers & Conway, 1992).

The DFID's framework of sustainable livelihoods, detailed in the "Sustainable Livelihoods Guidance Sheets" published in 1999, aims to promote policies and actions for sustainability and poverty reduction (Department for International Development (DFID), 1999). The key components of this analytical framework can be summarized as follows:

Firstly, the livelihood framework considers factors that directly impact livelihoods, encompassing: 1) the priorities individuals recognize in the process of livelihood development; 2) the livelihood strategies they choose to pursue those priorities; 3) the institutions, policies, and socio-political organizations crucial for their access to assets or opportunities and for the resulting livelihood outcomes; 4) the livelihood approaches of individuals and households towards the five types of capital and their effective utilization of all capital types; 5) living conditions, which include economic, technological, demographic trends, shocks, and seasonal variations (Ashley & Carney, 1999).

**Figure 1.** DFID's framework of sustainable livelihoods  
(Department for International Development (DFID), 1999)



Secondly, the livelihood analysis framework consistently places people and their livelihoods at the center of livelihood development, emphasizing their pivotal role in the development process.

Thirdly, the livelihoods framework recognizes that policies, institutions, and processes significantly impact access to and utilization of assets, thereby influencing livelihoods. Moreover, the framework of sustainable livelihoods analysis is considered a comprehensive approach in the examination of livelihoods and sustainable livelihoods development. It emphasizes that people do not exist in isolation within an area or community. Studies have underscored the necessity to identify livelihood development opportunities and limitations related to livelihoods from multiple perspectives, including region, level, and sector. This involves applying livelihood analysis across regions, sectors, social groups, and families to understand the diverse factors affecting people, recognize the multitude of strategies employed to secure their livelihoods, and understand the various outcomes they pursue.

Fourth, people's livelihoods are analyzed concerning land ownership and access to capital or capital assets. The household livelihood analysis framework revolves around two central concepts. First, the concept of livelihood is often understood and used in different ways and at different levels. Second, the concept of "capital" for livelihood is crucial. The Sustainable Livelihoods Analytical Framework posits that people utilize various types of household livelihood capital to make a living. Theoretical research suggests that individuals rely on five types of capital assets—or forms of capital—to ensure livelihood security, reduce poverty, and eradicate poverty. These include physical capital, financial capital, social capital, human capital, and natural capital. These types of capital represent both inputs and outputs in the household livelihood development process.

Finally, the sustainable livelihoods framework exhibits both strengths and weaknesses. In terms of strengths, Caroline Moser has summarized three main points: 1) A person-centered approach transforms the household livelihood framework, incorporating diverse groups' participation in the livelihood development process; 2) The cross-sectoral focus allows livelihood users to address all policy issues relevant to the poor in each sector, covering access to livelihoods, financial services, markets, labor, fair employment opportunities, and personal security; 3) An interdisciplinary approach recognizes multiple social entities with different sources of income, challenging the assumption that rural residents are exclusively farmers (Moser & Dani, 2008). However, the household livelihood framework also faces weaknesses, notably: 1) At the organizational level, the framework's emphasis on multiple domains makes its application more challenging; 2) At the political level, the livelihood analysis framework has not received due attention, neglecting gender, political, market relations, and factors affecting sustainable livelihoods; 3) In practice, the household livelihood framework struggles to effectively explain the connection between micro and macro levels, where people use different types of capital to earn a living and escape poverty.

## METHODOLOGY

The research aims to investigate the impact of living capacity, production capacity, and development capacity on the poverty of impoverished households in Tra Cu District, Tra Vinh Province, Vietnam. Subsequently, the study proposes solutions to alleviate poverty in these households.

The participant pool comprised 420 Khmer households, representing the most economically challenged households across five communes (Tan Hiep, Ham Giang, Ngai Xuyen, Kim Son, and An Huu Quang) in Tra Cu District, Tra Vinh Province. The researcher employed a convenient sampling method to collect data. A questionnaire, utilizing a five-point Likert scale (ranging from 1 for strongly disagree to 5 for strongly agree), was directly distributed to the participants. The questionnaire comprised 19 scales categorized into three groups of independent variables (living capability, production capability, and development capability) and one group of dependent variables (causes of poverty).

Upon data collection, a quantitative method was applied to analyze the gathered results using SPSS ver 25. Cronbach's Alpha reliability and the exploratory factor analysis (EFA) method were employed to assess the scales. According to Peterson, a scale is deemed acceptable and well-evaluated if it satisfies two concurrent conditions: Firstly, the overall Cronbach's Alpha coefficient must exceed 0.7. Secondly, the corrected item-total correlation, representing the correlation coefficient through total variables, should be greater than 0.3 (Peterson, 1994).

Furthermore, a Linear Regression Model was utilized to investigate the impact of independent variables on the poverty status of Khmer households in Tra Cu District, Tra Vinh Province.

**TABLE 1.** Research Methodology

Classification	Item
Target	Poor households in Tra Cu District, Tra Vinh Province.
Sampling procedure	Convenient sampling method.
Sample size	420.
Questionnaire	Likert scale, directly survey.
Quantitative method	Cronbach's Alpha coefficient > 0.7. EFA > 0.3. Linear Regression Model: check correlation between independent variables and dependent variable.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Out of the 420 questionnaire papers distributed, 403 were deemed valid, with the remaining considered invalid. The research results are outlined below:

### *Validity Verification of Scale (Exploratory Factor Analysis)*

Table 2 illustrates that the Cronbach's Alpha values for all scales of independent variables exceeded 0.80, satisfying the research requirements. All independent variables were deemed suitable for inclusion in the rotation matrix analysis.

**TABLE 2.** Validity Verification of Scale (Independent variables).

		Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Squared Multiple Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
LC	LC1	11.4690	11.280	.827	.863	.864
	LC2	11.6476	11.866	.805	.820	.870
	LC3	11.9429	12.099	.838	.908	.862
	LC4	11.9801	11.010	.856	.930	.856
PC	PC1	25.0819	23.304	.815	.928	.875
	PC2	25.1315	23.110	.834	.951	.873
	PC3	24.9752	24.557	.872	.964	.869
	PC4	24.8859	25.320	.847	.952	.871
	PC5	24.7692	25.815	.826	.930	.872
	PC6	24.8859	26.678	.824	.921	.874
	PC7	24.6725	27.261	.791	.883	.876

**TABLE 2. Continuación**

		Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Squared Multiple Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
DC	DC1	15.1960	15.909	.855	.923	.850
	DC2	15.8437	16.286	.803	.882	.860
	DC3	15.2804	17.541	.856	.932	.848
	DC4	15.1563	17.784	.846	.933	.850
	DC5	14.8610	21.020	.742	.776	.861

Note: LC: Living capability; PC: Production capability; DC: Development capability.

Table 3 further verifies the validity of the scale for the dependent variable, indicating that all Cronbach's Alpha coefficients for the scales exceeded 0.8, surpassing the threshold of 0.70. Additionally, all scales exhibited Correlated Item-Total Correlation greater than 0.3, qualifying them for inclusion in the matrix rotation analysis.

**TABLE 3. Validity Verification of Scale (Dependent variable).**

		Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Squared Multiple Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
COP	COP1	8.3871	1.531	.904	.832	.834
	COP2	8.4442	1.879	.842	.769	.896
	COP3	8.1216	1.629	.798	.660	.920

Note: COP: The causes of poverty.

***Factors Analysis on Factors Affecting***

**TABLE 4. KMO and Bartlett's Test.**

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.		.751
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	15948.659
	df	120
	Sig.	.000

KMO, measuring the suitability of factors analysis, yielded a value of 0.751, surpassing the acceptable threshold of 0.5. The Bartlett sphericity verification (df = 91, sig. = 0.000) confirmed the appropriateness of factors analysis.

**TABLE 5.** Total Variance Explained

Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings		
Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
14.059	67.871	67.871	14.059	67.871	87.871
6.225	25.444	93.315	6.225	25.444	93.315
1.409	2.071	95.386	1.409	2.071	95.386

**TABLE 6.** Rotated Component Matrix<sup>a</sup>

	Component		
	1	2	3
PC2	.861		
PC4	.854		
PC1	.822		
PC5	.820		
PC3	.814		
PC6	.806		
PC7	.772		
DC2		.835	
DC4		.794	
DC1		.761	
DC3		.756	
DC5		.750	
LC1			.811
LC3			.791
LC2			.761
LC4			.622

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.  
 Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.

<sup>a</sup>Rotation converged in 6 iterations.

Table 5 reveals three factors with eigenvalues greater than 1.0, explaining a total variance of 95.386%. The rotation matrix categorizes the 16 scales into three groups of factors affecting poverty (Table 6).

**Regression Model**

**TABLE 7.** Model Summary<sup>b</sup>

R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
.841 <sup>a</sup>	.707	.705	.19440	1.983

<sup>a</sup>Predictors: (Constant), Development capability, Production capability, Living capability.

<sup>b</sup>Dependent Variable: The causes of poverty.

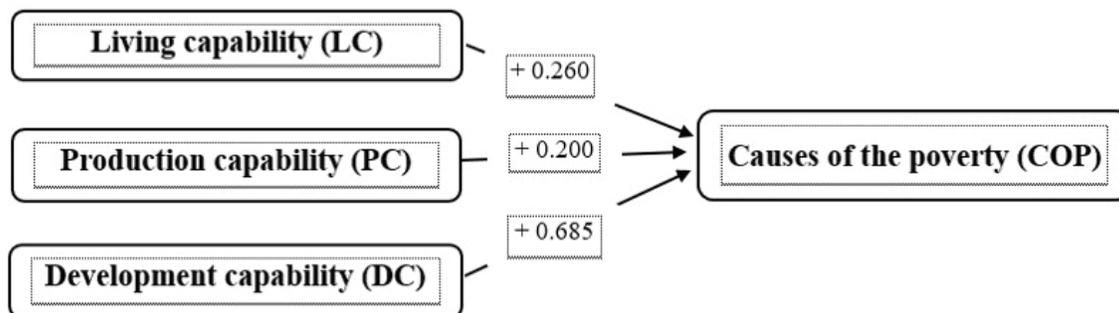
**TABLE 8.** Coefficient<sup>a</sup>

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
1 (Constant)	1.748	.197		8.890	.000
Living capability	.146	.058	.260	2.536	.012
Production capability	.152	.039	.200	3.886	.000
Development capability	.416	.074	.685	8.293	.000

The regression model aimed to unveil the relationship between independent and dependent variables. Table 8 shows that three independent variables—Development capacity (DC), Living capability (LC), and Production capability (PC)—positively and significantly influence the poverty of poor households. Development Capacity exerted the strongest influence (Beta coefficient adjusted by 0.685), followed by Living Capability (Beta coefficient adjusted by 0.260) and Production Capability (Beta coefficient adjusted by 0.200). The regression equation illustrating the poverty of poor households in Tra Cu District is presented as follows:

$$COP=0.685*DC+0.260*LC+0.200*PC$$

**CHART 1.** The Research Result



## DISCUSSIONS

Quantitative results from the questionnaire indicate a positive correlation between Living Capability (LC), Production Capability (PC), Development Capability (DC), and the poverty of poor households in Tra Cu district, Tra Vinh Province. The lack of these capabilities contributes to poverty. Development capacity demonstrated the most substantial influence on poverty (Beta coefficient  $B=0.685$ ), followed by Living capability ( $B=0.260$ ) and Production capability ( $B=0.200$ ). Living capability encompasses factors such as house size, housing structure, transport infrastructure, health care, and drinking water. Production capability includes arable land, mechanization level, agricultural knowledge, resilience to natural disasters, and occupational capability. Development capacity involves demographics, educational attainment, language proficiency, access to information, self-reliance, community participation, and motivation to escape poverty.

This aligns with existing studies by Nguyen Quang Tuyen and Nguyen Thi Ngoc Mai (Q. T. Nguyen & Nguyen, 2016), Negash, Etsay, and Aregay (Negash et al., 2019), Hong Ha Nguyen (Hong Ha Nguyen, 2017), Ha Hong Nguyen and Nhan Van Nguyen (H. H. Nguyen & Nguyen, 2019), and Le Dinh Hai and Nguyen Lan Huong (Hai & Huong, 2022). Trani et al emphasize health, education, employment, material well-being, social participation, psychological well-being, and physical security as dimensions of poverty. Lack of access to health care and education, unemployment, and insecurity contribute to poverty (Trani et al., 2015). Akona suggests a positive relationship between household size and poverty, a component of Living capability (Akona, 2014). Borko includes factors like land size, access to credit, and market access in Production and Development capability, all negatively associated with poverty and he mentions land shortage, soil fertility, market access, and off-farm employment opportunities as dimensions of poverty (Borko, 2017).

## CONCLUSION

This research adopts a multidimensional approach to understanding poverty, considering various aspects affecting households, such as land scarcity, limited healthcare access, inadequate education, insufficient transportation, lacking infrastructure, and restricted capital access. The study incorporates Amartya Sen's capability approach, focusing on living capability, production capability, and development capability. The primary objectives were to identify factors influencing poverty in Tra Cu District, Tra Vinh Province, and propose solutions for sustainable poverty alleviation. The findings reveal a positive relationship between living capability, production capability, development capability, and poverty. Development capability emerges as the most influential, followed by living capability and production capability.

Given word and time constraints, the research primarily relied on questionnaires as the research instrument, targeting households in Tra Cu District, Tra Vinh Province. Future research could enhance the methodology by incorporating interviews and secondary research, expanding the sample size to include households from other Districts in Tra Vinh Province. Recognizing potential psychological impacts on questionnaire responses is essential for ensuring data accuracy.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

To facilitate sustainable poverty reduction, several recommendations are proposed:

Firstly, it is necessary to have separate policies for each group of poor/near-poor households suitable to the circumstances of the household and each specific location. The State needs to review and classify groups of poor/near-poor households according to their ability to escape poverty in order to have appropriate support measures. For example, households that are not or are unlikely to be able to escape poverty, such as those who are unable to work due to illness or old age, need to strengthen policies for “fish”. On the contrary, households with working capacity need to support “fishing rods” such as loan support for production development, vocational training in accordance with market requirements, etc. It is necessary to limit cash policy support. Households that are not chronically poor need to clearly define the duration, route of support and support conditions to avoid dependence.

Second, it is necessary to review and adjust the implementation of credit policies to ensure that the program achieves its goals. Although credit policy plays an important role in the state’s poverty reduction, there are still many limitations. The State needs to assess and categorize borrowers in a clear and transparent manner and clearly grasp the borrowing purposes of households. Loan sources should be diversified with many different borrowing and repayment methods, considering the increased loan term and level in accordance with the household’s borrowing needs and purposes. At the same time, it is necessary to give more autonomy to households receiving credit support. Besides, it is necessary to have a mechanism to closely monitor the purposes of using loans of households and to handle cases of improper use of loans.

Third, it is necessary to develop criteria for assessing poor households/out of poverty in the direction of multidimensional poverty approach to properly identify the status of households. The state should be more flexibility in formulating criteria for selecting poor households/out of poverty suitable to the locality. It is necessary to base on the situation of the locality, to develop appropriate criteria to evaluate households, for areas with high living standards, it is necessary to raise the poverty line, towards building a multidimensional poverty line related to aspects such as health, education, housing, market access, etc.

Fourth, there should be policies to encourage investment to create more off-farm jobs to help diversify income sources for people. Local governments need to have policies to encourage investment or support local small businesses to expand production to diversify jobs, associated with stable income from available resources and the characteristics of each locality. Accordingly, households with little land or those with abandoned fields link together and apply the model of growing clean vegetables to export to foreign countries.

Fifth, the policy of subsidizing education does not stop at tuition fee exemption or reduction for poor/near-poor households. Investment in education is an opportunity to help the poor improve their lives and raise their incomes. Therefore, the education subsidy policy needs to expand more support, create conditions for children to go to school such as subsidizing part of the cost of school supplies, scholarships for poor students who overcome difficulties with a large number and higher value. At the same time, it is necessary to propagate in the direction of helping poor households realize the long-term benefits of education, encouraging households to send their children to school.

In conclusion, implementing these recommendations requires a collaborative effort between the government, local authorities, and communities, emphasizing flexibility and adaptability to address the unique challenges faced by households in Tra Cu District and similar regions.

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