

PERSONAL SOCIAL WORK FOR POOR SINGLE WOMEN: CASE IN VIETNAM

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Abstract

Single women from poor households are the group that has to face the risks of poverty because they have to shoulder many roles and responsibilities related to family and social prejudices. Based on a practical survey in Quang Khe commune, Quang Xuong district, Thanh Hoa province, Vietnam on the life of single women in poor households. Since then, the author has found out the factors affecting individual social work and draw some lessons from this subject.

Keywords: Women, single women, poor households, single women in poor households.

Introduction

Poverty is one of the pressing global social problems, it exists in every country, every continent, and without exception. Therefore, during his lifetime, Uncle Ho was a person who always took care of people's lives and paid special attention to the issue of poverty. Immediately after the country gained independence, President Ho Chi Minh considered the "extermination of hunger", hunger eradication, and poverty reduction as important and urgent as eliminating foreign invaders. Implementing Uncle Ho's advice, the work of hunger eradication and poverty reduction has always been identified by the Party and State as both a goal and a requirement for sustainable development. Poverty reduction, therefore, has become a major policy, a national program, rich in humanity, demonstrating the good traditions of the nation during its development of the country.

Promoting the spirit of "leaving no one behind" with the successful application of a new approach, in 2018, Vietnam's poverty reduction rate was controlled, people's lives gradually stabilized, and people's lives were gradually improved. access to basic social services in terms of health, education, housing, clean water, sanitation, and information and communication. People not only have food to eat, clothes to wear, and study, but also eat well, eat well, dress warmly, and dress well; Essential infrastructure to take care of people is getting better and better. By the end of 2020, the national poverty rate is estimated to decrease to 2.75%, and the poverty rate in poor districts will decrease to 24%. The quality of life of people in poor communes has been improved, especially for

poor households, ethnic minorities in mountainous, remote, and isolated areas, and women.

However, besides the achieved results, it can be seen that the poverty reduction results are not sustainable, the situation of falling back into poverty and arising of poverty is still high, especially in mountainous areas, ethnic minority areas, and areas where poverty is frequent. natural disasters and floods. The rate of falling back into poverty in 4 years (2016 - 2019) averages 4.09%/year compared to the total number of households escaping poverty; the proportion of poor households arising is relatively large, on average in the period 2016 - 2019 equal to 21.8% of the total number of households escaping poverty. In particular, single women are the ones who are strongly affected because they are not only the head of the family, but they are also victims of poverty, shoulder the responsibility of feeding the whole family, and lack affection. , guilt, low self-esteem, little social interaction, and stigma from the community... Therefore, limiting the situation of single women from poor households is the task of all levels of sectors in particular and the community as a whole. Generally speaking.

The concept of a single woman in a poor household

In the 1990s, the concept of single women was researched and used. Today, there are still many different views and ways. According to some scientists defined: "Single women are women who are not married or do not want to get married, women who are widowed, divorced, separated or abandoned by their husbands. They may have children (or raise children) or no children. They can live alone or with children, family, relatives."

The concept of single women belonging to poor households is understood as "Women who have two characteristics: poor and single. Those are women who are unmarried or their husbands die or leave their husbands, do not live with their husbands, and raise children alone. Having a living standard lower than the average living standard of the community, not being able to enjoy basic human needs at the minimum level, and lacking the opportunity to choose to participate in the community's development process. Single women from poor households often have low education, raise children alone, have limited awareness, and face many difficulties in life. Mainly they are agricultural workers or small traders, manual workers. These women often have little access to science and technology... not only that, but they also often have difficulty in making decisions about household chores. In society, students are often vulnerable, suffer many disadvantages, and have little opportunity for self-promotion. In particular, they are often paid less than men, even for the same type of work.

The topic of single women from poor households has always attracted a lot of attention from researchers, and domestic and foreign social organizations to offer solutions to help alleviate the difficulties they are facing. In the study "Afghanistan Reform: Opportunities for Afghan Women" (1990), Christensen, and Hanne proposed the role of women in the family and society, then gave lessons and recommendations. for the rights of rural women in rural reconstruction [1]. The publication "Gender Management Initiative and Economic Policy in Asia - Pacific: Gender and Poverty" (2012) has provided definitions and measures of poverty. It also explores how gender interactions affect poverty, the relationship between poverty and family structure, and policies related to poverty processes within the framework of gender interactions[5]. According to Rebecca Lefton (2013), gender, cultural, social, and economic barriers still prevent women from participating in socio-economic development, which hinders efforts to fight against women. Poverty and directions towards sustainable development in the publication "Gender equality and women's empowerment are the keys to reducing global poverty" [2].

In Vietnam, in 1996, the Center for Research on Family and Women published the book "Family without a husband". The content presents in detail the lives of women without husbands (widows, divorces, separations, abandoned husbands, unmarried or unmarried women with children...) in the area. rural North Vietnam in the context of the 80s, and early 90s of the country. Research has shown that women without a husband receive very little support from family, relatives, community, and society[4]. In the book "Divorce - A Case Study in Hanoi" author Nguyen Thanh Tam pointed out that the consequences of divorce affect women and their children a lot. The author has described the real-life situation as well as the reasons, needs, and aspirations of single women raising children after divorce[3]. Author Bui Thi Mai Dong of the Vietnam Women's Academy in the topic "The mood of single women in the current period" has pointed out the factors affecting positive and negative moods. From there, solutions are proposed to enhance the factors affecting the positive mood and limit the factors that lead to the negative mood of single women.[6]

Currently, there are not many studies or official statistics on the number or status of single mothers nationwide. Based on absorbing and selecting the above works and documents, combined with practical surveys in Quang Khe commune, Quang Xuong district to evaluate and systematically analyze the lives of women. single from poor households. In fact, at present, single women from poor households in Quang Khe commune have most of the main source of income for their families based on agricultural production. Some work as hired laborers, accessories, weaving mats, etc. to earn extra income. Despite the precarious nature of their work, their income is low and unstable. Some single women who are raising children to go to school are entitled to a monthly social allowance. Most of the income that single women from poor households generate is still low. In the agricultural sector, the restructuring of plants and animals has changed. raising for them is relatively slow, causing them to fall into a state of embarrassment. Because they lack experience, knowledge, capital, and qualifications, they face many barriers in terms of job opportunities. Most of the subjects are Single women who suffer from inferiority complex and low self-esteem. They all aspire to be respected, assert themselves, and, importantly, be recognized by society to have a strong motivation to rise out of poverty. The need to increase income, the need for health care, the need for psychological consultation, the need for vocational training, ... the need for loans to do business are the highest.

Material life is not guaranteed, so development needs such as participation in social organizations and community integration are not fully met. Participation in cultural and artistic activities and social activities is very limited. In Quang Khe commune, most single women participate in social organizations such as women's unions, farmers' unions, etc. However, they only stop participating in regular meetings to borrow capital and develop capital. economic development, not focusing on improving the spiritual life of its members. Through surveys of single women from poor households in Quang Khe. The author finds that social work activities still have many limitations, not focused, leading to many difficulties in supporting single women from poor households in Quang Khe commune.

Factors affecting social work activities in supporting single women from poor households

Single women from poor households are the main beneficiaries of assistance programs for the poor. There are many subjective and objective factors affecting social work activities in supporting single women from poor households.

Firstly, the factor of single women in poor households affects the quality and effectiveness of social work activities in support such as Health status; Psychological factors; Family circumstances; Income and Awareness, and qualifications.

Second, is the factor of social workers. Social workers are not professional in terms of professional knowledge and practical experience. Therefore, the quality of social assistance in the area is still limited.

Thirdly, Factors related to implementing policies affecting social work activities in supporting single women from poor households

such as Factors promulgating guidelines and policies; The cost factor for implementation; Deployment organization; Personnel work, and human resources.

Fourth, Factors related to local government. The perception of the role of social workers, although there have been many changes, in general, has not been synchronized, and has not yet created strong changes in the political system. and the implementation process, leading to limited coordination in implementation, investment of resources to develop the profession in the locality, people are still afraid, lack of initiative in accessing key services Local authorities are still lacking attention, lack of close guidance.

Fifth, in addition to the above factors, the cultural, traditions, customs, and practices that are clearly defined in each locality, region, and the region also have a significant influence on the political system, the political system, and the political parties. participate in the process of supporting single women from poor households.

Lessons learned from implementing the process of individual social work with single women from poor households in Quang Khe commune, Quang Xuong district, Thanh Hoa province

Personal social work with single women from poor households in Quang Khe commune, Quang Xuong district, Thanh Hoa province has an important meaning, bringing many benefits to clients. However, many complex difficulties require social workers to have professional methods and skills. From the actual activities and research, based on the process of social work that individuals have done with the above advantages and disadvantages, the author draws several lessons learned as follows:

Firstly, To implement the supportive intervention process, it is necessary to have the cooperation of clients, especially single women from poor households. To do this, social workers need to know how to create comfortable, trusting, and cooperative relationships. Cooperation will not take place when a close relationship has not been established.

Second, social workers should not make moral judgments, comments, or condemnations against clients, but should respect client values and differences. At the same time, it is necessary to show equality with the client, avoiding the mistake of thinking that the role of the social worker is important, which creates an upper-lower relationship. Because that will make the client more cautious, and less revealing about themselves, their family, and their problems.

Third, During the intervention process, social workers should use understandable language, not difficult academic language.

Fourth, Among the issues to be solved, consider which are urgent or priority issues to discuss and resolve first. The problem of prioritization may not be the most difficult one, but it is one where the social worker, with her knowledge and skills, can assist the client to solve the problem on his or her own. their.

Fifth, To effectively implement the intervention process, the social worker needs to work with the client to define general goals and agree on specific goals. That way, when you start working, you won't be confused, but you can solve the goals more clearly.

Sixth, During the process of working with clients, social workers need to know how to work closely with local authorities and local mass organizations to be easier to find and connect with. clients with community resources.

Seventh, social workers play a supporting role, connecting clients with resources and always giving the right to self-determination to the subjects, creating conditions for the client to be proactive and independent in solving problems. own topic.

In addition, social workers need to equip themselves with certain knowledge and information related to the needs of their clients. In the process of working and researching, the author realizes that clients always have a need to have their questions answered and they expect social workers to help them figure out how to solve their problems.

Conclusion

The role of social workers in supporting poor single women is an important task with profound political, social, and humanitarian significance, and is a central task in social work and practice. currently ensure the policy of social security, social welfare, and the advancement of women. Personal social work activities to support single women from poor households are not only seen from the perspective of income improvement but also have the meaning of improving participation opportunities, and changing internal perceptions. Party is an important basis for life orientation, employment, education...that is the basic condition in terms of quality and quantity so that the poor in general and poor single women, in particular, can rise out of poverty.

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