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Research Article

Life Experience of Ethnic Minorities in Urban of Vietnam: An Analysis of the Social Relationship and Social Networks

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Abstract

This article is a part of a research project supported by Vietnam National University-Hanoi about the social welfare of ethnic people in the urban and industrial zones, aims at identifying and describing the life experiences of these groups in the urbanization process. Shreds of evidence from analysing the social network, social connection, social interaction of research participants in their living and working places, it is found that the ethnic minorities face difficulties in setting their life in the new context. However, they tend to build the social cohesion and to be satisfied with the new life conditions to meet the objectives of having a better life and a job in the new context. The findings from this analysis also show that there is a difference among the living place, age group, gender correlated to the social network, social relation and life experiences in the new context. It is the initial finding from the survey of 600 ethnic people in urban of three provinces of Daklak, Lang Son and Binh Duong of Vietnam.

Keywords: Ethnic minority; Urban; Industrial Zones; Social Relations; Social Experiences; Vietnam

1. Introduction

Vietnam is a country with 54 ethnic minority groups, each of which has its own economic, potential, cultural identity and language. They mostly reside and live in mountainous areas, with a few in the delta, spread over three fourth of the country. Recent findings from GSO (2016) show that the whole country has 171,817 enumeration areas (where the number of ethnic minorities is at 30% or more of the total area population), in which there are 3,380 urban areas and 27,556 rural areas. The number of ethnic minorities has increased significantly from 2009 through 2015, with an average rate at 1.55% annually. The number of ethnic minorities currently living in 3,040 households and the increased

ratio of the family is around 1.6% annually (GS0 2016). With such population size, the number of ethnic minority people living in urban areas of Vietnam accounts for about 10.4% (GSO 2016). The need for a system of support policies, research on ethnic minority life in general and their presence in the industrial zones and urban in particular is an important topic, aiming to promote the social supports, social inclusion, and create the measures to reduce the inequality in development opportunities. This paper is a part of the project number QG.1847 funded by Vietnam National University, Hanoi (VNU) identifies the real picture of the life experiences by ethnic minorities in aspects of social relationships and social interactions. By which, it suggests the implications for supporting activities to promote the participation of ethnic minorities in the urban life and development of social welfare for them.

2. Literature Review

The living conditions of ethnic minorities in urban areas in Vietnam today are one of the most urgent challenges in social development. As they have few opportunities to choose social services including employment due to the economic, cultural and social conditions. Recent studies on the life of ethnic minorities in the urban are viewed as the following aspects:

In urban and industrial areas, the poor is the one most vulnerable to environmental degradation (World Bank 2012, p.17). Meanwhile, the implementation of the subsidy policy does not always reach the urban poor promptly. Reducing risks for the poor in general and ethnic minorities in particular in the urban requires excellent and sustainable growth policies which are adapted to the reality and specific characteristics of the urban life. That needs reforming and renewing on service provision, public investment, and completing the social-economic infrastructure in the urban. Recognising the issue of ensuring social welfare and security for people in general and ethnic minorities in particular in the urban is an essential and significant welfare issue which is a significant point in the sustainable development strategy of Vietnam (Pham Van Duc et al. 2010). In this research, the aspect of social welfare development and sustainability are considered as essential prerequisites to address the other social welfare issues in the current life (Pham Van Duc et al., 2010, p.11). In the research of social welfare in Vietnam, it emphasised that social security becomes a central issue in the country's development strategy. It is implemented by taking care, unceasing the improvement of material and spiritual life of the people which is the highest goal of the cause of socialist construction in Vietnam (Vu Van Phuc, 2012, pp.13-14). It can be found that although each research has a different approach, it has the same purpose of providing solutions to continuously improve the life for people, ensuring the sustainable development (Nguyen Van Chieu 2013).

In addition to the research trend on social security, there are also studies on the situation of the lives of ethnic minorities in urban areas with two main aspects: national-scale studies with several national representative samples, such as population census, survey of living standards; and sampling studies with focusing in urban economy, urban planning, urban culture and lifestyle. In general, this research direction has the advantage of drawing out the characteristics of the process, the specific aspects of urban life to a certain extent. However, this research direction has the disadvantage of having many analytical criteria, less reflecting the characteristics of urban life nationwide. In these studies, the migrant is studied from different perspectives, such as the size of migration flows, the structure of immigrants (Le Bach Duong and Nguyen Thanh Liem 2011). At the same time, studying the effects of urbanization and modernization on the life of ethnic minorities is also of particular interest. These concerns are identified on the cultural life of ethnic minorities in the process of industrialization (Tran Van Binh 2004, Tran Van Binh 2006). In additions, there is research on labour and employment of workers in industrial zones in the northern key economic regions (Ta Thi Doan 2011); and the relationship between ethnic issues and the orientation to formulate ethnic policies in the period of industrialization and modernization (Be Truong Thanh 2002). Dinh Quang et al (2005) introduced the process and characteristics of urbanization in Vietnam and the social-cultural situation in the urban areas. Besides, social-psychological issues of workers in different types of

enterprises were also mentioned (Nguyen Van Nhat et al. 2010, Phan Thi Mai Huong et al., 2013). These researches presented the role and status of workers in society and businesses; worker's perception of government policies towards them and significant issues of the country, life and employment, awareness and behaviour of worker with improving skills, the relationship between leaders and workers in different types of business. La Thi Thu Thuy et al., (2011) described the psychological changes of young workers coming from rural areas as well as changes in housing needs, cultural and spiritual activities, awareness and communication, and adaptation to the urban lifestyle. In specific directions, Tran Thanh Nam (2011) mentioned the spiritual life of Khmer ethnic minority in the renovation process which creates the theoretical basis for analysing the needs and trends on developing the spiritual life for ethnic minorities in the renovation process. And Nguyen Minh Tuan (2013), through research of the life of Ede ethnic group in Daklak, identified the theoretical basis for researching the life changes among ethnic minority groups. This research describes the life condition of Ede ethnic group in two aspects: (i) economic: infrastructure, housing condition, household living amenities, household income, and (ii) non-economic: education, health, recreation, community activities and gender equality.

Besides, Nguyen Van Quyet (2013) in studying the cultural changes of agricultural-rural communities in the process of industrialization, presented the current situation of change in the cultural life of the rural community into the urban life. It also mentions to the changes in the ethics, morality and makes suggestions on having the policies on cultural administration. Researching in cultural changes in the residential community in the urban, Nguyen Dinh Tuan (2013), through research in Hanoi, explores some cultural changes in the community. Tran Nguyet Minh Thu (2014), from findings of the integration process in the urban by free migrant of rural workers in Hanoi, focused on the life of migrants in urban, analyse the current situation of integration in the urban community of the free rural migrant workers. In additions, there are research works about exchanging ideas on the lives of ethnic minorities in the urban areas (Ngo Thi Trinh 2014, Ha Son Nhin 2014, Pham Ngoc Phuong 2014, Dang Phu Thau 2014), while some other studies mentioned more clearly on how to ensure the life in industrial zones for workers (Nguyen Van Du 2006, Nguyen Quang Dieu 2006, Tran Van Chu 2007, Van Tao 2007). A recent paper by Nguyen Van Chieu and Tran Van Kham (2013) focused on the general picture of social welfare for ethnic minority's migrants in the urban.

It can be seen that, in recent studies on the lives of ethnic minorities in urban areas, there is lack of specific studies to identify the social issues, social networks and social experiences in the urban areas. These are significant aspects which need attention as they promote the participation and integration of ethnic minorities in the new habitats, and they are ways for agencies and organisations to manage better and develop the role and involvement of ethnic minorities. To have full participation in urban life, ethnic minorities have more condition to work towards a better life in a new living context.

3. Methodology and Methods

3.1 Research approaches

This research applies three approaches to identifying the social connection of ethnic minorities in urban life:

Firstly, access to the lives of ethnic minorities in urban-based on the review of human development: Human development is the process of expanding opportunities for people to improve the quality of life in a sustainable way (Wattez 1999). The perspective of human development sees the capacity to live a meaning life as an essential goal. As a middle-income country, Vietnam currently has many new development opportunities. However, many challenges need to be addressed, especially if Vietnam wants to overcome the social called "middle-income trap". These include underdeveloped infrastructure and levels of specialisation, and poor competitiveness, weak scientific

and technological level, and lack of skilled workforce. Therefore, a new development approach is needed if Vietnam wants to achieve quality and sustainable growth. In particular, Vietnam needs to focus not only on raising incomes but also on improving human development through the provision of higher quality health and education services, creating decent jobs for a growing young workforce, strengthening governance and building reliable and effective institutions (UNDP 2011).

Secondly, access to the essential services of ethnic minorities in the urban based on the reviews of human capital and social capital: Human capital means the potentiality and ability to generate the health and knowledge to have the better future benefits. Bardhan và Udry (1999) said that human capital is one of the significant factors creating a higher income and living standard as any other assets, especially for poor people. It is the rational concept for making and selecting the criteria framework for analysing the life experiences of ethnic minorities in the urban of Vietnam. The social capital, as a social relationship in term of kinship, community or friendship, is vital in helping the ethnic minority to improve their life and their adaptation in the new living contexts. It is a significant research direction with less given concerns in Vietnam currently.

Thirdly, access to the welfare services of ethnic minorities in urban based on the concept of sustainable livelihoods. This concept is developed from the "Sustainable Livelihoods Guidance Sheets" by DFID in 1999, with reference on promoting the policies and actions for sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction (DFID 1999; Nguyen Van Suu 2010). Besides, the social inclusion approach is also the current trend to identify the social barriers which an individual is facing. Social inclusion is reviewed in the following aspects: (i) social pressure: low household income, rental price, pressure on purchasing household appliances, single-parent family model; (ii) health: low birth weight, childhood injury, immunization, disability, illness assistance, life expectancy, number of people with a mental health condition, suicide rate; (iii) community safety: number of child abuse, crimes, number of imprisoned, number of domestic violence cases; (iv) economy: number of unskilled workers, unemployment, longterm unemployment, ratio of dependants, low income, limited access to information/internet; (v) education: illiteracy rate, school incompletion, early school leaving ratio, post highschool level; (vi) community participation: with different aspects of community activities (Tran Van Kham 2011). These indicators also need to be measured to identify individual inclusion in the current life context of the community. Therefore, it aims to have a specific way of identifying the lives of ethnic minorities in the urban from the perspective of life experiences of ethnic minorities.

3.2 Data collection and analysis

This research uses the following methods on collecting the primary and secondary data to provide specific evidence for the current picture of social relationship among ethnic minorities in urban:

– Document analysis: the focus of this method is mainly on the (i) systematic guidelines and policies related to ethnic minorities, urbanization and common issues raised to ethnic minorities, (ii) research works related to the lives of ethnic minorities in aspects of community participation, employment among ethnic minorities, (iii) research related to urban development, job creation for ethnic minorities; (iv) report, data and annual statistic books about the life of ethnic minorities in the urban. This method is applied to maximize the evidence for designing the research framework, analysing the context and proposing the related measures. In additions, implications from the recent research also support the theoretical perspective for researching the social relationship among the ethnic minorities in the urban life of Vietnam.

– Primary data collection: this article uses data from the research project funded by Vietnam National University-Hanoi. There are quantitative and qualitative data: the former is developed from the in-depth interviews, while the latter is collected from the survey in three provinces of Son La, Daklak and Binh Duong where the urbanization is occurring with a

quick pace. Each locality, 200 ethnic minorities over the age of 18 were selected for this study. The content of this research aims at accessing the living conditions of ethnic minorities in the urban; identifying those factors affecting the implementation of policies and solutions to improve the lives of ethnic minorities in the urban areas in this country. The sample of surveying is described in Table 1 as following:

Table 1: Survey sample

		N	%	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Mode
	Gender	599	100					
1	Male	294	49.1					
	Female	305	50.9					
	Marital status	598	100					
	Never married	177	29.6					
2	Married	397	66.4					
	Divorced/Separated	10	1.7					
	Widowed	14	2.3					
	Age group	598	100	16	69	33.12	11.66	30
	Under 30	303	50.7					
3	From 30 to under 45	190	31.8					
	45 and above	105	17.6					
	Ethnic minority group	601	100					
	No answer	5	0.8					
	Cao Lan	1	0.2					
	Dao	20	3.3					
	Ede	199	33.1					
	Giay	1	0.2					
4	Khme	196	32.6					
	H'mong	16	2.7					
	Muong	10	1.7					
	Nung	23	3.8					
	San Diu	48	8.0					
	Tay	76	12.6					
	Thai	6	1.0					
	Residential model	599	100					
5	Migrating	238	39.7					
	Permanent	361	60.3					
	Province	601	100					
	Son La	200	33.3					
6	Daklak	201	33.4					
	Binh Duong	200	33.3					
7	Time living in the study area (month)	591	100	1	720	211.61	225.53	24

4. Findings and Discussions

In order to explore the level of social experiences that ethnic minorities express their lives and workplace, there are seven questions to measure. These questions cover the following aspects: number of friends (with different groups of people), the extent of visits and being visited with individual social networks, how to solve the life difficulties, the extent to which they are invited to participate and actively participate in social and community activities, activities in the leisure time, social issue experiences in living context and practices in workplaces. The significant findings are identified as followed:

4.1 Number of friends among ethnic minorities

The number of friends among an ethnic minority is explored as in Table 2:

Table 2: Number of friends among an ethnic minority person

		N	Min	Max	Mean	SD
1	Friends are indigenous people	507	0	100	8.82	14.03
2	Friends are migrants from the same home countryside	503	0	100	8.14	13.67
3	Friends are other migrants	498	0	200	8.27	17.51
	Total	538	0	200	8.75	16.27

The average number of friends in the relationship of ethnic minorities is 8.75. This figure is similar in the form of indigenous friends, other migrants and those migrants from the same countryside. However, in the survey data, the indicator of "no friend" is most appeared when talking about friends in their social relationships. Interestingly, friends from the same countryside are lower than other forms of friendship in this study.

4.2 Level of visiting and being visited in daily interaction among ethnic minorities

Table 3: Level of visiting in term of social relationship among ethnic minorities

	Visiting	N	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Mode
1	Relatives in the city	588	1	5	2.53	1.24	1
2	Friends in the city	591	1	5	2.58	1.09	3
3	People from the same countryside	582	1	5	2.46	1.10	3
4	Same neighbours	576	1	5	2.59	1.27	1
5	Workmates	578	1	5	2.57	1.12	3
6	Local people	575	1	5	2.22	1.02	3
7	Local government	582	1	5	1.88	0.94	1
8	Local mass organisation	576	1	5	1.88	0.94	1
	Total				**2.35**	**0.82**	
	Son La				2.22	0.96	
	Daklak				2.69	0.74	
	Binh Duong				2.12	0.60	

Note: the significant level of mean is calculated as (5-1)/5 equals to 0.8, so the level of less than 1.8 is very infrequent, from 1.8 to less than 2.6 is infrequent, from 2.6 to less than 3.4 is normal, from 3.4 to less than 4.2 is frequent, and above 4.2 is very frequent.

It can be seen that ethnic minorities do not often make visits to relatives, friends, workmates or neighbours in the process of working and living in the urban areas. It is noted that the most infrequent level of interaction is the connection with local government and local organisations, but when identifying the level of concentration of responses and opinions revolve around the normal levels in visiting a friend in the city, the people from the same countryside, workmates, and local people. In terms of visiting these objects, ethnic minorities in Daklak tend to exhibit normal levels while those in Binh Duong and Son Lan show infrequent level. The permanent/local ethnic minorities still tend to have a friend and relative visits.

E-ISSN 2240-0524
ISSN 2239-978X

Journal of Educational and Social Research
www.richtmann.org

Vol 11 No 5
September 2021

Table 4: The level of being visited among the ethnic minorities in urban

	Being visited	N	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Mode
1	Relatives in the city	488	1	5	2.22	1.12	1
2	Friends in the city	488	1	5	2.51	1.16	3
3	People from the same countryside	483	1	5	2.30	1.13	1
4	Same neighbours	469	1	5	2.45	1.27	1
5	Workmates	474	1	5	2.37	1.06	3
6	Local people	477	1	5	2.07	0.95	1
7	Local government	478	1	5	1.80	0.89	1
8	Local mass organisation	479	1	5	1.77	0.91	1
	Total				2.22	**0.81**	
	Son La				2.34	*1.06*	
	Dak Lak				2.10	*0.46*	
	Binh Duong				2.16	*0.65*	

Note: the significant level of mean is calculated as: (5-1):5 equals to 0.8, so the level of less than 1.8 is very infrequent, from 1.8 to less than 2.6 is infrequent, from 2.6 to less than 3.4 is normal, from 3.4 to less than 4.2 is frequent, and above 4.2 is very frequent.

It is found that being visited is lower than going visiting in most relationship. There is also a difference among regions, ethnic minorities in Son La are being visited by other friends with a higher level than those in Binh Duong and Dak Lak, but it is still at the level of infrequent. Thus, in comparison with the above table of 3, it is possible to identify a part of the objective activeness in the social relationship of ethnic minorities. An analysis of the regional difference, being visited and going to visit among ethnic minorities in Dak Lak, it is found that the local ethnic minorities show precise degree. In contrast, those in Binh Duong show the lower level.

Ethnic minorities spend more time at work and pay less attention to social relations and community activities. It is identified in many interviews with leaders and ethnic minorities. Some interview extractions are supportive of this argument as:

"In recent years, the youth union of the local ward has created a place for migrated workers and their families to participate through the Project of Gathering young workers of Binh Duong Youth Union between 2011 and 2016. The male workers prefer to music and art performance, while the female ones like legal and reproductive health propaganda. These activities are low efficiency and do not make many changes in their life " (VQD, 48 years old, Thu Dau Mot City, Binh Duong Province."

"I rarely participate in activities in the community, as I work for 10 to 12 hours per day, at leisure time, I only prefer to sleep " (VHT, 23 years old, man, Lao Cai).

4.3   Method of solving difficulties

Table 5: Ways to solve difficulties

		N	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Mode
1	Self-solving	592	1	5	4.28	0.91	5
2	Calling to relatives in the countryside	543	1	5	2.56	1.26	1
3	Asking supports from relatives in the city	537	1	5	2.44	1.10	3
4	Asking supports from migrants from the same countryside	536	1	5	2.25	1.11	1
5	Asking supports from workmates	532	1	5	2.46	1.08	3
6	Asking supports from local people	538	1	5	2.19	1.06	1
7	Asking supports from local government	539	1	5	1.97	1.04	1
8	Asking supports from local unions	538	1	5	1.93	0.97	1

Note: the significant level of mean is calculated as: (5-1):5 equals to 0.8, so the level of less than 1.8 is very infrequent, from 1.8 to less than 2.6 is infrequent, from 2.6 to less than 3.4 is normal, from 3.4 to less than 4.2 is frequent, and above 4.2 is very frequent.

The feedbacks show that when the ethnic minorities encounter difficulties, they often use the method of self-solving at a quite regular rate (the level of feedback focuses around very often); other ways of solving problems are at the average level, in which it is worth noting the role of the local authorities and local unions is quite low. From the findings of go visiting and being visited and problem-solving, it is found that the role of the local government and association has been identified as being quite low.

In term of factor analysis, it has been divided into two groups: self-resolution (one variable) and asking for supports (the other seven variables). The trend of self-solving by ethnic minorities (mean = 4.48) is clearer than asking for supports (mean = 2.27). When analyzing the differences between regions, the mean value of these two groups of factors is expressed as the following table:

Table 6: Method of self-solving problems by ethnic minorities: factor analysis

	Group (mean)	Mean	Son La	Dak Lak	Binh Duong
1	Self-solving	4.28	4.40	4.19	4.13
2	Asking for supports	2.27	2.57	2.57	1.72

It can be seen that ethnic minorities in Son La both have the highest level of self-resolving (at very often) and asking for supports (closed to normal levels). In contrast, the ethnic minorities in Binh Duong show the lower levels in both ways of problem-solving and ask for supports in their life.

4.4. The extent to which they are invited and attend the activities to strengthen social networks

Table 7: Level of social network participation

	Social networks	Being invited (%)	Statistics				
			Min	Max	Mean	SD	Mode
1	Neighbourhood meeting	43.3	1	5	2.76	1.48	1
2	Local election	75.1	1	5	2.96	1.19	3
3	Local festivals	41.7	1	5	2.53	1.21	3
4	Local cultural tourism	35.4	1	5	2.23	1.01	1
5	Workplace cultural tourism	26.8	1	5	2.07	1.08	1
6	Donations	26.8	1	5	2.10	1.10	1
7	Clubs	8.7	1	5	1.68	0.94	1
8	Local unions	18.6	1	5	1.88	1.01	1
9	Home village associations	10.4	1	5	1.67	0.92	1

Note: the significant level of mean is calculated as: (5-1):5 equals to 0.8, so the level of less than 1.8 is very infrequent, from 1.8 to less than 2.6 is infrequent, from 2.6 to less than 3.4 is normal, from 3.4 to less than 4.2 is frequent, and above 4.2 is very frequent.

From the responses in Table 7, it can be seen that the most invited activities for ethnic minorities are local election (75.1%) and neighbourhood meetings (43.3%). In the ethnic minorities' participation in their social networks, almost are at the level of infrequent, except for local election at very frequent, and neighbourhood meetings at the average level. It is also found that the ethnic minorities are being invited more; their participation seems to be higher. There are three networks with less invitation to participate, such as local club, local unions and home village association, which are also those networks with their participation at the lowest level.

When analysing the differences between regions to identify the gaps in participation in these community activities, the statistics show that with these 9 activities, ethnic minorities in Lao Cao have participated more than those in Dak Lak and Binh Duong, with respective mean values at 3.15, 2.80 and 1.64. Ethnic minority women participate at higher than those men (2.56 verse 2.48). In the age groups, the middle-aged group has a higher participation rate than the others with the mean values at 2.63 compared to 2.53 for those at 45 years old and above, and 2.44 for those under 30 years old.

4.4 Leisure time of ethnic minorities

Table 8 describes the activities by ethnic minorities in the leisure time in the urban:

Table 8: Preferred activities by ethnic minorities in the leisure time

		N	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Mode
1	Chat with friends	593	1	5	3.38	1.03	3
2	Sleep or rest	593	1	5	3.84	0.87	3
3	Internet	589	1	5	1.80	0.99	1
4	Cooking, drinking	584	1	5	2.53	1.04	3
5	Friend/relative visitings	589	1	5	2.70	1.05	3
6	Readings	589	1	5	2.20	1.25	1
7	Going to church/temple	590	1	5	2.71	1.44	1
8	Hanging around	589	1	5	2.38	1.11	3
9	Watch TV	586	1	5	3.17	1.39	3
10	Go shopping	590	1	5	2.48	1.12	3
11	Going to the home village	591	1	5	2.41	1.10	3

Note: the significant level of mean is calculated as: (5-1):5 equals to 0.8, so the level of less than 1.8 is very infrequent, from 1.8 to less than 2.6 is infrequent, from 2.6 to less than 3.4 is normal, from 3.4 to less than 4.2 is frequent, and above 4.2 is very frequent.

There are two activities that ethnic minorities often use during their leisure time are sleeping/resting and chatting with friends, while the most infrequent activity is searching the internet. Some other activities are at less frequent level, such as readings, hanging around, or come home village to rest. From the information in table 8, it is found that ethnic minorities in urban, after a long working time, are afraid of spending more time in entertainment activities. The Cronbach's Alpha coefficient of these 11 variables is 0.769; it shows that the content of these variables is consistent with the whole research content. At the same time, when running the factor analysis, with Varimax rotation, the KMO coefficient is 0.793, with Barlette's significant level at 0.000, so these data can be analysed and evaluated statistically. So, these 11 variables are divided into three groups, with an extracted variance of 60.47, it means that factor analysis can explain over 60% of the total sample with the load factor as a followed table:

Table 9: Factor analysis of the use of leisure time among ethnic minorities

	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Friend/relative visitings	.774		
Going to church/temple	.741		
Watch TV	.729		
Hanging around	.669		
Go shopping	.542		
Cooking and drinking	.539		
Going to the home village		.725	
Internet		.701	
Readings		.701	
Sleeping, resting			.795
Chatting with friends			.531
Mean	2.67	2.14	3.61
KMO		0.793	
Barlette's p		.000	
Extracted variance		60.7	

It can be seen that the ethnic minorities in this study tend to perform activities in terms of resting in their free time or chatting with friends at higher frequent level, but in the aspect of resting and relaxing by searching and updating information or returning to the home village is not clearly presented in this study. It shows that ethnic minorities tend to have a clear livelihood in urban currently.

4.5 Social issues encountered by ethnic minorities

Table 10: Experiencing social issues in the daily life of ethnic minorities

		N	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Mode
1	It is difficult to find a stable job	583	1	5	2.77	1.13	3
2	It is competitive to look for a job	585	1	5	2.51	1.12	2
3	Lack of working experiences and skills	583	1	5	2.34	1.16	1
4	Hard and dangerous job	579	1	5	2.21	1.09	1
5	Being mistreated by an employer	585	1	5	1.90	0.95	1
6	Sexually abused	581	1	5	1.44	0.76	1
7	Abandoned by local people	582	1	5	1.55	0.77	1
8	Being underestimated by the local authorities/policemen	582	1	5	1.57	0.82	1
9	Being bullied/threaten	583	1	5	1.59	0.78	1
10	Being discriminated	580	1	5	1.69	0.85	1
11	Stressful in partnership	566	1	5	2.00	0.95	1
12	The pressure to earn money for the family	581	1	5	2.58	1.21	3

Note: the significant level of mean is calculated as: (5-1):5 equals to 0.8, so the level of less than 1.8 is very infrequent, from 1.8 to less than 2.6 is infrequent, from 2.6 to less than 3.4 is normal, from 3.4 to less than 4.2 is frequent, and above 4.2 is very frequent.

The value of Cronbach's alpha of these 12 variables is 0.901, with KMO coefficient at 0.893, and Bartlett significance coefficient at 0.000, it shows that these variables are suitable in the whole study and can be used for factor analysis. Responses in table 10 show that ethnic minorities feel that the most common problems in their life are difficult to find a stable job, pressure on earning money to support family, and highly competitive to look for a job in urban. Responses to other aspects also demonstrate that the living context is quite safe and guaranteed in terms of living condition. With those encountered issues in urban life by ethnic minorities, in analysing the factors, it is found that these 12 issues were divided into two groups as follows:

Table 11: Factor analysis about the life experiences on social issues by ethnic minorities

	Group 1	Group 2
Being bullied/threaten	.882	
Being underestimated by the local authorities/policemen	.858	
Abandoned by local people	.848	
Sexually abused	.812	
Being discriminated	.801	
Stressful in partnership	.652	
It is difficult to find a stable job		.789
It is competitive to look for a job		.882
Lack of working experiences and skills		.858
Hard and dangerous job		.690
Being mistreated by an employer		.573
The pressure to earn money for the family		.585
Mean	*1.64*	*2.38*
KMO	*.893*	
Barlette's p	*.000*	
Extracted variance	*66.56%*	

For group 1, including more variables related to the life experiences in the living areas with the family life, while group 2 covers those issues in an aspect of employment of ethnic minorities. These problems of two sides attract more attention by ethnic minorities in urban life. They identify and tend to the issues related to work more than to those around their life and living context.

In crosstab analysis of regional and gender differences in assessing those problems, ethnic minorities in Lao Cai are more likely to identify those issues related to living context than those in Dak Lak and Binh Duong (with mean value at 1.82 in compared to 1.68 and 1.43 respectively). Meanwhile, the concerns to issues related to the employment of ethnic minority people in Dak Lak and Binh Duong are greater than that of those in Lao Cai (with mean value at 2.43 and 2.47 in compared to 2.17 correspondently). It is found that ethnic minorities in Binh Duong are more interested in employment, while those in Lao Cai pay more attention to living condition and contexts.

4.6 Experiencing social behaviors

Table 12: Experiencing social behaviours in the life of ethnic minorities

	N	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Mode
1 I can afford to find a job in the city by myself	588	1	5	2.85	0.87	3
2 To be fear of unfriend attitude by others in the workplace	587	1	5	2.38	0.85	2
3 To be afraid of being discriminated at work	585	1	5	2.12	1.01	2
4 Feeling to be treated fairly in the living context	583	1	5	3.27	1.01	3
5 Feeling to be low confidence in social interaction with local people	579	1	5	2.40	1.01	2
6 Feeling to be afraid while having contact with local government and unions	585	1	5	2.49	1.15	2
7 To be fearful of being not sympathised by medical staff while visiting health facilities	580	1	5	2.34	1.05	3
8 I cannot become a member of this city	587	1	5	2.11	1.18	1

Note: the significant level of mean is calculated as: (5-1):5 equals to 0.8, so the level of less than 1.8 is very infrequent, from 1.8 to less than 2.6 is infrequent, from 2.6 to less than 3.4 is normal, from 3.4 to less than 4.2 is frequent, and above 4.2 is very frequent.

Responses from this table show that ethnic minorities perceive the positive attitudes in their life at a regular level. It is apparent in the variables of "I can afford to find a job in the city by myself; Feeling to be treated fairly in the living context" in looking at the mean and mode values), and the perceived levels with the negative aspects were around less frequent. It can also identify the experience of ethnic minorities quite smoothly in urban life and the workplace. The level of being afraid to face these attitudes is being studied in order to have the mean comparison in general, and the given information shows that the degree of occurred barriers is clearly identified from the ethnic minorities in Binh Duong, which is higher than that of those in Lao Cai and Dak Lak, (with mean value at 2.61 in compared to 2.60 and 2.31 respectively. It shows that local ethnic minorities rarely meet social barriers as those migrated ethnic minorities face in the new urban life.

5. Discussions and Conclusions

Firstly, the average number of friends of ethnic minorities is around 8, which shows that ethnic minorities do not have too many friends; the social networks still narrow in their life in the urban. Thereby, the extent of visits and being visited is not clearly reflected; ethnic minorities tend to be more active in the social relationship. Notably, they are more active in visiting their social networks rather than being visited by them.

Secondly, in the process of experiencing daily life in urban, ethnic minorities often find specific ways to resolve their problems rather than ask for assistance from their social networks and local authorities. Ethnic minorities in Binh Duong show a way of having supports from others to solve

E-ISSN 2240-0524
ISSN 2239-978X

Journal of Educational and Social Research
www.richtmann.org

Vol 11 No 5
September 2021

problems at the very infrequent level, which is much lower than other aspects in having issue solutions. However, the way in which they dealt with problems by themselves is significantly lower than the way those in Lao Cai and Dak Lak did.

Thirdly, in activities at the living contexts, ethnic minorities are invited to participate clearly in those related to election, neighbourhood meeting, while others are at the lower level. In association with the low level of being invited and active local activities' participation, the social networks of ethnic minorities are also weak. There is a strong correlation between being invited and involved in the local events in the living contexts.

Fourthly, ethnic minorities in urban mostly use their leisure time to have rest and relax to reproduce their labour force. Hence, they have low responded rate on participation activities related to entertainment and social relationship's creation. Livelihood aspect is visible in their life experiences. Despite these difficulties, ethnic minorities experienced their life with an optimistic attitude and satisfied with what they have in their real life.

Finally, in order to promote the activities by ethnic minorities in the urban life, which direct them to have social inclusion, the local governments, employers and rented house owners should create activities to attract the participation of ethnic minorities. The direction towards social inclusion is significant (Tran Van Kham 2011) which is the ways to support not only the ethnic minorities to be safe and confident in the urban life but also to promote their role and have more contribution to the community life. There have not been many activities like that in these areas recently.

6. Acknowledgement

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