THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOUSEHOLDS ECONOMICS: A CASE STUDY IN DOAN BAI, HIEP HOA, BAC GIANG

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ABSTRACT

Women are always an important and abundant force in the workforce, playing a crucial role in all areas of social life. Doan Bai is a local area currently in the process of building a new countryside, where the economic role of households is crucial in generating income for the people and contributing to the socio-economic development of Hiep Hoa district. This research article explores the role of women in the development of the households economics, focusing on the case study in Doan Bai commune, Hiep Hoa district, Bac Giang province. By using data collection methods such as surveys and in-depth interviews on the level of women’s involvement compared to men in various economic activities of households economics, the research team identifies the role of women in (1) Agricultural production, cultivation, and animal husbandry, (2) Different stages of household production and business activities, (3) Managing the households economics, (4) Decision-making in the economic activities of the household. The research findings emphasize the increasing importance of women in developing the households economics. As a result, the research team proposes some discussion recommendations to enhance women’s role in the development of the households economics.

Keywords: Women, the role of women, households economics, development of households economics, Doan Bai commune, Hiep Hoa district, Bac Giang province.

1. INTRODUCTION

It can be said that, in modern life, women play a very significant role. If the family is considered the cell of society, then women are regarded as the nucleus of this cell (Tran Thi Thu Luong, 2023). The households economics is a specific form of organization in agricultural production,
and one of its aspects is the family production method. When performing their roles, both women and men need to utilize resources within the family and community, benefiting from the results created by themselves and the community. To examine the role of women in the development of the households economics, the research group chose Doan Bai commune as a typical case.

Doan Bai commune is located in Hiep Hoa district, Bac Giang province, and is divided into 12 hamlets: An Hoa, An Lap, Bai Thuong, Khanh Van, Phu Khe, Tam Dong, Tan Son, Dong, Sau Nua, Giua Nua, Cau Nua, Phu Thuan (wikipedia.org, 2023).

The research will examine the role of women in the development of the households economics in Doan Bai commune. The households will be categorized into two main groups: those primarily engaged in farming and animal husbandry, and those primarily involved in production and business activities. The study will also investigate the role of women in managing the households economics, in income-generating activities, in decision-making for household economic activities, and in their participation in classes to enhance educational qualifications. Based on the information gathered through desk research, interviews with local women, and social surveys, the study draws some observations and evaluations regarding the role of women in the development of the households economics and proposes some discussion points to enhance further the role of women in Doan Bai’s economic development.

2. THEORETICAL BASIS AND OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOUSEHOLDS ECONOMICS

2.1. Households economics

The households economics is a specific form of organization in agricultural production, and one of its aspects is the family production method, which involves gender division of labor (Nguyen Hong Linh, 2017).

The households economics is an economic unit that significantly contributes to the overall economic development of the country. Empowering women’s roles in the development of the households economics is not only a way to help families escape poverty and become prosperous but also contributes to promoting overall socio-economic development. This is an effective way to emancipate women. The concept of a households economics signifies that its members share a common bloodline and marital relationship, with a shared economic foundation. It is an economic model that takes the family as a unit and organizes production and business activities (Hoang Thi My Hanh, Le Thi Anh, 2022).
The households economics is a business organization owned by the family, where members contribute jointly to the collective economic activities in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, or other production and business areas as stipulated by the law (Mai Thi Thanh Xuan, and Dang Thi Thu Hien, 2013). Households economics is a relatively common form and has developed in many countries worldwide. The survival of this production form is transforming to become a significant part of society, contributing significantly to the economic and social development of each country (Do Thi Thanh Son, 2022).

According to Mai Thi Thanh Xuan, and Dang Thi Thu Hien (2013), the identification of a households economics can be based on the following main characteristics:

- The households economics is formed through a unique organizational structure within the family. Members of the household share ownership of assets as well as their business results.
- The households economics primarily exists in rural areas, operating in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. Another part engages in non-agricultural activities to varying degrees.
- In the households economics, the head of the household is both the owner and a direct laborer. Depending on specific conditions, additional labor may be hired.
- The production scale of the households economics is typically small, with limited capital investment. The production is characterized by self-sufficiency, aiming to meet the direct consumption needs of the household.
- The production process relies heavily on manual labor and traditional tools, resulting in low labor productivity. Therefore, the accumulation of the household is primarily based on family labor.
- The management and professional expertise of the household head are limited, mainly relying on experience passed down from previous generations. Consequently, the household head’s understanding of laws, business, and the economic market is restricted.

2.2. Overview of research on the role of women in the development of households economics

Women always play a crucial and significant role in the workforce within society. They contribute significantly to all aspects of life. Women make substantial contributions to socio-economic development, recognizing and exerting their roles in agricultural production, non-agricultural economic sectors, social activities, and rural community development (Le Thi Minh, Nguyen Thi Tam, Tran Viet Dung, 2019). Numerous experimental studies have consistently highlighted the role of women in various aspects of general life and, particularly, in the economic development of households. The research by Lam Le Ha and Thai Thi Duy Ngan...
(2019) demonstrates that the role of women in the family has been affirmed through their primary responsibilities such as managing household chores, financial matters, participating in community activities, nurturing family relationships, and educating children. However, for significant family decisions like being listed as the head of the household or appearing on property documents, the proportion of husbands making these decisions is much higher than that of wives. The study also reveals variations in the roles and decision-making authority of women among different groups, such as women in farming, women laborers, and women in administrative/professional positions. Based on these findings, recommendations include developing training materials tailored to different groups of women to enhance the roles and decision-making power of women in Kien Giang families during this new period.

Many experimental studies have illustrated the role of women in the economic development of the household in various locations, such as Hua Thi Chau Giang’s research (2013) on the role of rural women in households economics development in Phu Binh district, Thai Nguyen province, and Vuong Thi Van’s study (2009) on the role of women in rural households economics development in Phu Luong district, Thai Nguyen province.

The research article on the role of women in the households economics development in Dai Tu district – where women constitute the majority of the population in Thai Nguyen province, authored by Le Thi Minh, Nguyen Thi Tam, Tran Viet Dung (2019), has highlighted the significant contributions of women to the socio-economic development of the district. Women have recognized and played vital roles in agricultural production, non-agricultural economic sectors, social activities, and rural community development. The article employs methods of data collection, synthesis, and analysis to examine the role of women in Dai Tu district in the economic development of farmers’ households, as well as the obstacles hindering women’s progress in the process of innovation and economic development in rural areas. The results of the article reveal that the contributions of women have not been duly acknowledged in economic and family life. Consequently, the article proposes feasible solutions to better harness the roles of this workforce.

Another article on the role of Tay ethnic women in Na Ri district, Bac Kan province, in accessing and managing household resources (Nguyen Thi Gam, Luong Thi A Lua, 2019) assesses the current status of Tay ethnic women’s roles in accessing and managing household resources. The article utilizes statistical analysis and comparative methods with 375 research samples investigated in Na Ri district, Bac Kan province. The research results demonstrate that Tay ethnic women play a crucial role in accessing and managing the capital of family households, adopting scientific and technical approaches, and gaining access to information. Tay ethnic women in Na Ri district, along with their husbands, make decisions related to the management and use of household resources. Regarding scientific and technical access, women
participate in various training courses related to gender knowledge, household economic development, farming techniques, animal husbandry, forestry, and disease prevention. In terms of accessing information, women primarily obtain information from organizations, relatives, and markets. Based on these research findings, several recommendations have been proposed to enhance the role of Tay ethnic women in accessing and managing household resources.

Nguyen Hong Linh’s study (2017) revealed that both women and men, in fulfilling their roles, need to utilize resources within the family and community, benefiting themselves and the community. The article is based on providing general information about the economic situation of households in three communes/towns in Ba Vi district, Hanoi while analyzing various aspects of the research approach on the role of women in the economic development of households. From this, several observations and evaluations about the role of women in the economic development of family households in the area were drawn, including (1) Women’s role in agricultural production is manifested through aspects such as farming and animal husbandry activities; (2) Women’s role in business and household service activities; (3) Women’s role in the management of family finances, including agricultural product sales and financial management; (4) Women’s contribution to household income; (5) Women’s role in decision-making regarding family economic activities. The active participation of women in almost all economic activities of the household, from agriculture to business services and financial management, has affirmed their role, along with other family members, in the process of developing the family’s economy.

The article by Pham Ngoc Nhan, Su Kim Anh, Le Tran Thanh Liem (2014) on the role of rural women in the economic development of households pointed out the role of women in the economic development of households in Phung Hiep district, Hau Giang province. This role is demonstrated through various aspects: (1) Women’s role in production management and operation; (2) Women’s role in income-generating production activities; (3) Women’s role in science, technology, and social activities; (4) Women’s role in controlling agricultural resources; (5) Women’s role in improving educational levels. Specifically, in asset management and production operations, women have a very low representation compared to men (25.3%). The time women contribute their labor to generate income for the family is very high (27.1% of the total time in a day). The research results also show that women have less involvement in deciding to apply scientific and technological advances in their fields. However, in controlling financial resources on the farm, women are generally evaluated more than men; in most cases, either the wife or both the husband and wife decide on the use of the family’s financial resources. The study also suggests some solutions to enhance the role of women in the economic development of households in the research area.
Regarding the role of women in the economic development of Thai Nguyen province, the study by Hoang Thi My Hanh, and Le Thi Anh (2021) affirms a new breakthrough phase in the women’s movement in Thai Nguyen, achieving significant accomplishments and contributing to the province’s economic development during the period of industrialization, modernization, and international integration.

The study by Nguyen Thuy Trang, Vo Hong Tu, and Nguyen Phu Son (2013) on the role of Khmer ethnic women in the economic development of households was conducted to address specific objectives: (1) The contribution of Khmer ethnic women to the economic development of households; (2) Solutions to enhance awareness of the role of women in the community. Rural assessment methods, with household participation and investigation, were the main tools used to collect information. The research results indicate that women make a significant contribution to the total income of agricultural households, accounting for about 58%, or 28 million VND per year, and they participate in decisions on most aspects of the livestock sector. Specifically, the study addresses the contribution of women to family income; the role of women in production, household activities, and social work; and the decision-making rights of women in production and household activities.

In the study on the role of ethnic minority women in the Central Highlands region, looking at the economic and social development from the case of Lam Dong province, Nguyen Thi Bich Thu (2016) pointed out that ethnic minority women in the surveyed areas have primary responsibilities in childcare and unpaid household work; at the same time, they actively participate in the productive labor activities of the family. However, their involvement in other community activities such as meetings, community activities, and external communication is limited.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

To conduct the research, the research team employed two methods: desk research and a comprehensive review of studies on the role of women in the development of household economies through academic databases, including Researchgate, ScienceDirect, IEEE Xplore, Scopus, Emerald, Insight, Taylor & Francis Online. Additionally, Google Scholar and other sources related to women and their roles in the development of household economies were used. Social surveys were conducted, including questionnaire distribution to women in Doan Bai commune, Hiep Hoa district, Bac Giang province, and data were collected and analyzed using Excel software.

In the desk research method, the research team examined the literature on the role of women in the development of household economies at the local level. The focus was on the characteristics
and roles of women in households engaged in either of the two main economic activities: agriculture (cultivation and animal husbandry) and production business. The roles of women in managing household finances, income generation, decision-making in family economic activities, and participation in educational programs to enhance their qualifications were explored. The research team constructed a survey questionnaire to investigate the role of women in the development of the households economics in Doan Bai commune, Hiep Hoa district, Bac Giang province.

The survey questionnaire was developed in both hard copy and a Google Form format. A pilot survey was conducted with 12 women in Doan Bai, including 10 using the hard copy questionnaire and 2 using the Google Form (Link). A total of 257 survey questionnaires were distributed, with only 220 effectively collected, comprising 170 hard-copy responses and 50 responses via Google Form. The remaining surveys were excluded due to errors (respondents did not answer all questions). The collected survey data were synthesized, statistically analyzed using Excel, and then interpreted to support the research objectives. Some questions in the survey were designed on a Likert scale of 5 points, where:

1. Very low priority
2. Low priority
3. Neutral
4. High priority
5. Very high priority

The research team collected survey data, calculated the average values of the aspects covered in the survey, and assessed the level of perception based on the calculated values. The team used the following scale for evaluation:

- Distance value = (Maximum - Minimum) / n = (5-1)/5 = 0.8
- The average value of aspects calculated falls within the range:
  - 1.00 - 1.80: Very low priority
  - 1.81 - 2.60: Low priority
  - 2.61 - 3.40: Neutral
  - 3.41 - 4.20: High priority
  - 4.21 - 5.00: Very high priority
4. The role of women in household economic development in Doan Bai, Hiep Hoa, Bac Giang - seen from survey results

4.1. Description of survey participants

Figure 1. Age participating in the survey

Source: Survey results from 220 women in Doan Bai, Hiep Hoa, Bac Giang

Of the 220 people participating in the survey, 35 people under the age of 30 accounted for 16% - accounting for the lowest participation rate. The remaining three age ranges do not differ too much, accounting for 27-29% of the survey results. This shows that the survey results will reflect a fairly comprehensive range of survey subjects ranging in age from young to old.

Figure 2. Number of Doan Bai women who are heads of households

Source: Survey results from 220 women in Doan Bai, Hiep Hoa, Bac Giang
Figure 2 shows that the majority of household heads in Doan Bai will not be women with 190 answers accounting for 86% of the answers being “no”. The remaining 14% (30 people) who participated in the survey answered that the head of the household is a woman. This is not only characteristic of Doan Bai but also suitable for most other rural areas. The results of an in-depth interview with a woman in An Hoa village revealed: “Women only become heads of households when their husbands are away on business or temporarily absent, and this role is only on paper, but in reality, the roles of women and men are not affected by who is the head of the household.”

**Figure 3. Participant’s educational level**

Source: Survey results from 220 women in Doan Bai, Hiep Hoa, Bac Giang

From Figure 3, it can be seen that the majority of survey participants have at least a basic level of education - completing a primary school program, and nearly half of survey participants have only completed the secondary school program, corresponding to 102 survey participants. The number of participants completing high school and elementary/intermediate/college/university programs are 15.91% (35 people) and 3.64% (8 people) respectively. This shows that women’s access to higher education is still limited. There is only 1 special case in the survey results with Doan Bai women who are illiterate and 31 people (14.09%) are literate but do not go to school.
Figure 4. Percentage of women in Doan Bai villages participating in the survey

Source: Survey results from 220 women in Doan Bai, Hiep Hoa, Bac Giang

Figure 4 shows that 39% of the survey results came from women in An Hoa village (in the research team, there was 1 member from An Hoa and the research team’s supporter was also living in An Hoa, Doan Bai), the results from other localities are divided equally, not too different, from about 5% to 9%, Phu Thuan village has 3 respondents.

Figure 5. Main type of business of households

Source: Survey results from 220 women in Doan Bai, Hiep Hoa, Bac Giang

Through figure 5, it can be seen that households in Doan Bai mainly participate in production and business (63%), only 37% are households involved in farming and animal husbandry. Characteristics of Doan Bai is a new rural area. Although the type of production and business accounts for a higher proportion than farming and animal husbandry, production and business activities are mainly within households and the main input source is from agricultural activities.
The results in Table 1 show that “Income-generating work” is highly prioritized by Doan Bai women compared to the jobs listed above with an average score of 4.36 and of which 110 participants rated this job at level 5 - High priority. Even though they work very hard to generate income, they always prioritize “Health care” as the top priority with the highest average score at about 4.50. The jobs prioritized by Doan Bai women are “Housework” and “Teaching children” with average scores of 4.15 and 3.74, respectively. This shows that in addition to giving priority to income-generating work and health care, Doan Bai women still spend time and attention on housework and raising children, showing a passion and diligence in women of this locality. As for “Entertainment” and “Rest”, the average scores of 2.83 and 3.63, respectively, are considered to be at a normal level, but rest seems to be slightly better when looking at the detailed data available, there are 116 participants prioritized this item. Finally, participating in “Social Work” has not been given much attention or interest by Doan Bai women, so the average score for this activity is 2.65 - the lowest among the data in the survey.
4.3. The role of Doan Bai women in household economic development

The study examines the role of Doan Bai women in household economic development, with two types of household economies considered in the study: (i) participating in farming and animal husbandry; (ii) participate in production and business.

Table 2. Women’s participation in household economic development, with households participating mainly in farming and livestock farming

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role in Economic Development</th>
<th>Participate less than men in the family</th>
<th>Participate as men in the family</th>
<th>Participate more than men in the family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women’s participation in farming activities</td>
<td>Number (people): 8</td>
<td>Number (people): 23</td>
<td>Number (people): 51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percentage (%): 10</td>
<td>Percentage (%): 28</td>
<td>Percentage (%): 62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s participation in animal husbandry activities</td>
<td>Number (people): 11</td>
<td>Number (people): 41</td>
<td>Number (people): 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percentage (%): 13</td>
<td>Percentage (%): 50</td>
<td>Percentage (%): 37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The role of women in management and production operations</td>
<td>Number (people): 10</td>
<td>Number (people): 44</td>
<td>Number (people): 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percentage (%): 12</td>
<td>Percentage (%): 54</td>
<td>Percentage (%): 34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role in deciding the scale and organization of production</td>
<td>Number (people): 27</td>
<td>Number (people): 37</td>
<td>Number (people): 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percentage (%): 33</td>
<td>Percentage (%): 45</td>
<td>Percentage (%): 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The role of women in applying science and technology to production activities</td>
<td>Number (people): 32</td>
<td>Number (people): 27</td>
<td>Number (people): 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percentage (%): 39</td>
<td>Percentage (%): 33</td>
<td>Percentage (%): 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role in controlling land resources and production input factors</td>
<td>Number (people): 23</td>
<td>Number (people): 54</td>
<td>Number (people): 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percentage (%): 28</td>
<td>Percentage (%): 66</td>
<td>Percentage (%): 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The role of women in mobilizing financial resources to serve production activities</td>
<td>Number (people): 15</td>
<td>Number (people): 34</td>
<td>Number (people): 33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percentage (%): 18</td>
<td>Percentage (%): 41</td>
<td>Percentage (%): 40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Survey results from 82 women in Doan Bai from households mainly involved in the farming and animal husbandry economics.
Results from Table 2 show that women’s participation is equal to men’s in farming activities, accounting for 28%, meanwhile, participation more than men, accounting for 62%. In addition, in animal husbandry, women participate equally with men, accounting for 50% and the proportion of women working more than men in the family accounts for 37%. The above two things can be seen with households participating in the crop and livestock farming economics, women play a very important role and contribute a lot. On the other hand, women play an important role in management and production operations with 54% of results showing that women contribute equally to men and 34% show that they contribute more than men. This may be a positive sign of the change in views on the role of women in household economic management in society seen in Doan Bai through the research team’s survey results. Along with that, 45% of survey results show that women participate with men in deciding on the scale and organization of production. This can show consensus and collaboration in family decision making. In the application of science and technology to production activities, there is the largest participation of men (39%), but up to 33% of survey results show that women also participate with men in the family and it can be seen that this is a sign of the transition to a modern and creative production model with the contribution of women, increasing the role of Doan Bai women quite a lot in the family.

Table 2 results also show that women’s participation is as high as that of Doan Bai men (66%) in controlling land resources and production inputs, reflecting the equal role of women with men in managing resources and land in family agricultural production. Not only do men in the family participate (41%), but women also participate strongly (40%) in mobilizing financial resources necessary for production activities. This shows that the role of women in the household is very important in maintaining and developing farming and animal husbandry businesses for families in Doan Bai.

Table 3. Women’s participation in household economic development, with households mainly participating in the production and business economics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Participate less than men in the family</th>
<th>Participate as men in the family</th>
<th>Participate more than men in the family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number (people)</td>
<td>Percentage (%)</td>
<td>Number (people)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s participation in selling to customers</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s participation in delivering goods to customers</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Women’s participation in consulting and customer support | 9 | 7 | 68 | 49 | 61 | 44

Women’s participation in finding customers | 16 | 12 | 36 | 26 | 86 | 62

Source: Survey results from 138 women in Doan Bai whose households mainly participate in the production and business economics.

Table 3 shows the role of women in family **business and production activities** in Doan Bai. Women mainly participate more than men in many important aspects of household production and business activities. In particular, women play an important role in **sales** (59%), pointing to the diversity of women’s roles in the supply chain. At the same time, women’s greater participation in **consulting, customer support** (44%) and **finding customers** (62%) is an important factor supporting the development and maintenance of family businesses. For **deliveries**, the roles of men and women are almost the same with a ratio of 57%. Table 3 is a positive picture of women’s contribution to family economic development in Doan Bai.

Table 4. Women participate in household economic management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation in household economic management</th>
<th>Participate less than men in the family</th>
<th>Participate as men in the family</th>
<th>Participate more than men in the family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number (people)</td>
<td>Percentage (%)</td>
<td>Number (people)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s participation in production and business capital management</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s participation in income management</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s participation in managing profits from household economic activities</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Survey results from 220 women in Doan Bai, Hiep Hoa, Bac Giang
A strong demonstration of the role of women in family economic management in Doan Bai is that women not only participate in managing production and business capital but also bear important responsibility in family’s income and profits management. With 41% of women participating more in managing capital for production and business, 70% participating in managing income sources, and 75% participating in managing profits from family economic activities, women play a significant role in shaping family business strategy and family financial management. These results are the basis for affirming the importance of Doan Bai women in household economic management.

**Figure 6. The main income earner in the household**

Through figure 6, it can be seen that women play a very important role in generating income in the family and with that, women’s income generation is quite equal to that of men in the family. This is shown by 81% of respondents saying “both” and 13% of respondents saying they were women. Very few families participating in the survey have only one man generating the main income for the family. Data show that only about 6% of people involved in the household have a man as the main income earner.

**Table 5. Women participate in deciding household economic activities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women’s participation in deciding the stage and scale of household economic activities</th>
<th>Participate less than men in the family</th>
<th>Participate as men in the family</th>
<th>Participate more than men in the family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number (people)</td>
<td>Percentage (%)</td>
<td>Number (people)</td>
<td>Number (people)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Women’s participation in loan decisions for household economic development | 39 | 18 | 151 | 69 | 39 | 18
---|---|---|---|---|---|---
Women’s participation in work assignment decisions in the households economics | 13 | 6 | 39 | 18 | 168 | 76
---|---|---|---|---|---|---
Women’s participation in investment decisions expands household economies | 33 | 15 | 122 | 55 | 65 | 30

Source: Survey results from 220 women in Doan Bai, Hiep Hoa, Bac Giang

From table 5, Doan Bai women participate in household economic activities decision with an equal role as men in the family with 64% participating in decisions about stages and scale, 69% participating in decisions on development loans, and 55% participate in decisions on expansion investments. Women not only play an important role in performing work but also make an important contribution to the management and development of the family economics. In addition, survey results show that women play an important role when 76% of women decide to assign more work than men in the family. All of the above data shows that the decision-making of household economic activities in Doan Bai is largely participated, contributed and decided by women, proving the important role of women in household economic activities.

**Table 6. The person will participate in classes to improve their educational level**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Both</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number (people)</td>
<td>Percentage (%)</td>
<td>Number (people)</td>
<td>Number (people)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participate in classes to improve skills and access science and technology</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participate in classes to improve access to information</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
First, with classes to *improve skills and access to science and technology*, women tend to account for a higher proportion (40%) than men (15%) when comparing only the two genders. This shows that the role of women in *improving the educational level* of the family is very necessary. Next, with classes to improve skills and access information, both men and women in the family participate in large numbers, with a participation percentage of 54%. This may indicate that both genders appreciate the need for improved qualifications and access to information. In addition, classes related to *gender knowledge* receive the most attention from women (56%). As for household economic management classes, women account for 70% while men account for a lower proportion (30%). This may reflect the greater role that women play in improving their education.

5. Some exchanges and recommendations

Based on analysis and comparison of the level of participation in production and business activities between women and men in Doan Bai commune, the study shows that women play an important role in household economic development. Women are extensively involved in most farming and animal husbandry activities as more or equal workers than men. This is consistent with the household economic situation and the characteristics of the potential labor force in the study area. This is a positive sign of a change in perspective on the role of women in household economic management in society in Doan Bai when women play an increasingly important role in income-generating activities and make decisions on household economic activities.

Women mainly participate more than men in many important aspects of household production and business activities. Women are not only a key labor force, deeply involved in economic activities, but also the main income contributor to the households economics. In addition, women also participate in the organization of household economic management, which is clearly shown by the proportion of women in economic management and decision-making of household economic activities. In addition, women also play an important role in product distribution and play a key role in management, revenue and expenditure of agricultural activities.
The active participation of women in most household economic activities, from agricultural and business activities to financial management, has affirmed the important role of women in household economic development. In order to promote and improve the role and participation of women in household economic activities, the research team proposes some suggestions as follows:

First, The government needs to further promote propaganda to raise social awareness about gender in the process of industrialization and modernization of rural agriculture. Strengthen propaganda about the position and role of women in all aspects of social life, not limited to household economics, propagate not only to women but also men in society.

Second, women play an important role in household economic development, from farming, animal husbandry, business to household financial management. To promote the role of women, it is necessary to further improve knowledge in all aspects for women so that they can access science and technology, because basically through analysis and observation, the research team recognizes. It is seen that Doan Bai women’s level of knowledge and access to science and technology is at an average level. Therefore, it is necessary to encourage and create conditions for Doan Bai women to participate in learning and constantly improve their awareness, professional qualifications and access to science and technology.

Third, According to the sharing of social work staff at Doan Bai, there still exist some women who have low self-esteem, inferiority complex, peace of mind and are influenced by the ideology of favoring men and looking down on women. Therefore, they are afraid to express their opinions and argue with men even though their opinions are reasonable and accurate, which limits women’s role in household economic development. Therefore, departments and women’s associations need to mobilize women in the area about their importance and remove psychological barriers that affect the promotion of their role in household economic development.

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