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วารสารความเป็นธรรมทางสังคมและความเหลื่อมล้ำ

ทุนทางสังคมกับความมั่นคงการดำรงชีพของแรงงานตัดเย็บเสื้อผ้านอกระบบใน สปป. ลาว การวิเคราะห์โมเดลสมการโครงสร้าง

Social assets and livelihood securities of the informal garment workers in Lao PDR: Using a structural equation model

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[ก]**หน่วยปฏิบัติการวิจัยความมั่นคงของมนุษย์และความเท่าเทียม สถาบันวิจัยสังคม จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย**

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บทคัดย่อ

การศึกษาครั้งนี้มีจุดประสงค์เพื่อทดสอบทุนทางสังคมที่ส่งผลต่อความมั่นคงในการดำรงชีพของแรงงานตัดเย็บเสื้อผ้านอกระบบในผู้ประกอบการครัวเรือนใน สปป. ลาว การทดสอบสมมติฐานของการวิจัยนี้ได้เก็บกลุ่มตัวอย่างการวิจัยด้วยวิธีการสัมภาษณ์แบบมีโครงสร้างจำนวน 335 รายจาก 5 กลุ่ม คือ แรงงานเครือญาติ แรงงานอิสระ แรงงานรายวัน แรงงานในชุมชน และ แรงงานอุตสาหกรรม ในเวียงจันทน์ สปป. ลาว ระหว่าง พ.ศ. 2560 ถึง พ.ศ. 2561 โดยใช้การวิเคราะห์องค์ประกอบเชิงยืนยัน ด้วยการวิเคราะห์โมเดลสมการโครงสร้าง ใช้โปรแกรมลิสเรล เวอร์ชั่น 11 เพื่อทดสอบสมมติฐานของสมการโครงสร้าง ได้ตรวจสอบความสอดคล้องของโมเดล พบว่าโมเดลตามสมมติฐานสอดคล้องกลมกลืนกับข้อมูลเชิงประจักษ์โดยสถิติที่ใช้ทดสอบ คือ χ^2 = 44.310, df = 25, P = 0.0100 < 0.01, RMSEA = 0.0480 < 0.05, NFI = 0.952 > 0.90, CFI = 0.982 > 0.90, และ R^2 = 1.080 < 2 ผลลัพธ์ได้ชี้ให้เห็นว่าทุนทางสังคมส่งผลทางบวกต่อความมั่นคงใน

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การดำรงชีพของแรงงานตัดเย็บเสื้อผ้านอกระบบ (λ = 0.16, *t*-value = 4.43, $p < 0.01$) ซึ่งเป็นไปตามสมมติฐานทั้งหมด

คำสำคัญ: ทุนทางสังคม; ความมั่นคงในการดำรงชีพ; แรงงานตัดเย็บเสื้อผ้านอกระบบ; ผู้ประกอบการภาคครัวเรือน; สปป. ลาว

Abstract

This article aims to test the social assets that influences on livelihood securities of the informal garment workers in home-based enterprises in Lao PDR. Testing the hypothesis, data collection was conducted with 335 structured interviews of five informal working groups (i.e. kinship, self-employment, combines, neighbouring, and female industrial) in Vientiane, Lao PDR between 2017 and 2018. Using confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) with structural equation modelling (SEM) approach analysed by the LISREL 11 for Mac. The good fitness indices of model showed that χ^2 = 44.310, *df* = 25, P = 0.010 < 0.01, RMSEA = 0.048 < 0.05, NFI = 0.952 > 0.90, CFI = 0.982 > 0.90, and R^2 = 1.080 < 2. The results indicate a positively influenced between social assets and livelihood securities (λ = 0.16, *t*-value = 4.43, $p < 0.01$), thus supported all hypotheses.

Key words: Social assets; Livelihood security; Informal garment workers; Home-based enterprises; Lao PDR

Introduction

Social assets in the informal workers in Lao PDR are accordingly based on the millennium development goals for achieving livelihood securities (Rigg, 2007; Daovisan & Chamaratana, 2018; Daovisan et al., 2019) One important of social assets is influenced on livelihood securities (Rigg, 2006) noted that the poor informal labour markets' assets (Chamaratana & Daovisan, 2019) This finding is consistent with Kim et al. (2016) found that social assets can recover disruption of the poor livelihood securities to participate in the informal economy. According to Gericke et al. (2018) suggests that social assets of livelihood securities are facilitated for informal worker accesses to employment in the labour markets. Belcher et al. (2013) and Gayen, et al. (2019) examined that social capital (job searching methods, trust, and strong ties) rather weak ties network accessing the informal labour markets.

Some scholars have examined the social assets (support, trust, participation, relationship, interaction) influenced on livelihood security by testing CFA with SEM (Williams et al., 2015; Daovisan & Chamaratana, 2018) Previous article confirmed that social assets (networks, trust, reciprocity, and long-term relationships) has a positive effect on livelihood security of the informal workers in the labour markets (Chamaratana & Daovisan, 2019) By testing the social capital (employment relations, interaction with workplaces, and local social networks) has positive effect on livelihood securities (Ogando et al., 2017). Social capital is the outcome of the interactions between workers and employers, which have a positive association with livelihood secuities. (Shah et al., 2019)

The informal Laotian workers have sought to hypothesise the social capital effects on livelihood securities in the informal economy (Durham et al., 2014; Daovisan & Chamaratana, 2018; Chamaratana & Daovisan, 2019) Some quantitative data shows that social assets are related to such human, financial, and physical assets, are dealing with country levels (Rigg, 2006; Martin & Lorenzen, 2016) While these factors may help predict the mode of entry into livelihood securities, they do not account for informal economy of the key drivers of social assets. Moreover, because many studies (see Rigg, 2006; Durham et al., 2014; Gerlitz et al., 2016; Chamaratana et al., 2018; Daovisan & Chamaratana, 2018) focus on having livelihoods (resources and needs), thinking livelihoods (quality of life and satisfaction) and doing livelihood (meaningful actions and social assets).

A few studies have hypothesised the effects of social assets on livelihood securities of the informal garment workers in Lao PDR. Some literatures have tested the social assets in examining livelihood securities at the country levels in capitalism (Behtoui, 2016; Asuyama, 2020) Social assets are differently tested as multifactor of individual, group, organisation and country levels. Originally, Woolcock (1998) hypothesised a positive effect of social assets on norms and networks in collective action. Previous studies tested the direct effect of social assets on livelihood securities (Durham et al., 2014; Manolom & Promphakping, 2016; Daovisan & Chamaratana, 2018) where there is limited test the social assets of the informal home-base garment workers in Lao PDR.

This article hypothesises the social capital effects on livelihood securities in the informal home-based garment workers of Lao PDR. The article is motivated by three objectives. First, this article develops social assets in the context of a centrally planned socialist to a market-oriented economy of Lao PDR. Second, this article expands the scope of livelihood security of the informal

garment workers in Lao PDR. Finally, the article hypothesises social assets have a positive effect on livelihood securities literature by empirically testing the SEM model.

Literature review

Coleman (1988) classified that social assets are formed by bonding capital (trust and social participation) and bridging capital (social support, network, and resources). Woolcock (1998) defined that social assets are based on the personal relations, interactions, groups, network ties, and relationships. Putnam (2000) and Smith (2017) identified that social assets associated with bonding, bridging, and linking assets in the context of western societies. The bonding capital assets form of support, engagement, participation, and social interaction. Due to the bridging capital assets form of trust, interpersonal relationship, social group, exchanging resources, and network ties. Linking social assets forms of connections, knowledge, and necessary ties.

Tymon and Stumpf (2003) defined that social assets form of the relationship ties as actor benefits and reciprocity of informal workers. Currently, Chamaratana and Daovisan (2019) tested that social asset associated with network groups, but the informal garment workers are linked, interacted, trusted, and participated effect on strong network ties. Previous studies have noted that social assets connected to group engagement, strong network ties, exchanging resources and share vision (Tijunaitis et al., 2019). Meagher (2019) found that social assets associated with trust and relationships as “work together and employment together”. According to Iuga and Cioca (2013) defined the relationship of employment activities, connected with employer needs, and network ties.

It is important to note that social assets associated with network ties may contribute to the relationship of workers engaged and employers connected (Brzezi**ń**ski, 2013; Piasna, 2018) The evidence reveals that, both interaction and relationship network ties of the informal worker. In a similar vein, Scoones (2009) suggested that informal worker networks are close–text–based on livelihood outcomes and employment security. Some scholars pointed out that social assets can motivate workers proactive in employment activities, which relates to their livelihood expectation (Hussein & Nelson, 1998) This article examines the social assets may contribute proactive employment activities and livelihood securities of the informal garment workers in Lao PDR.

Hypothesis

This article examines the social assets as observed variables that positive effects on livelihood securities as the dependent variables. This article hypothesises a positive effect on family support (H_1), worker trust (H_2), community support (H_3), community participations (H_4), neighbouring relationship (H_5), employment relationship (H_6), household interaction (H_7), and household relationship (H_8) associated with livelihood securities. Following the hypothesis model and posit that:

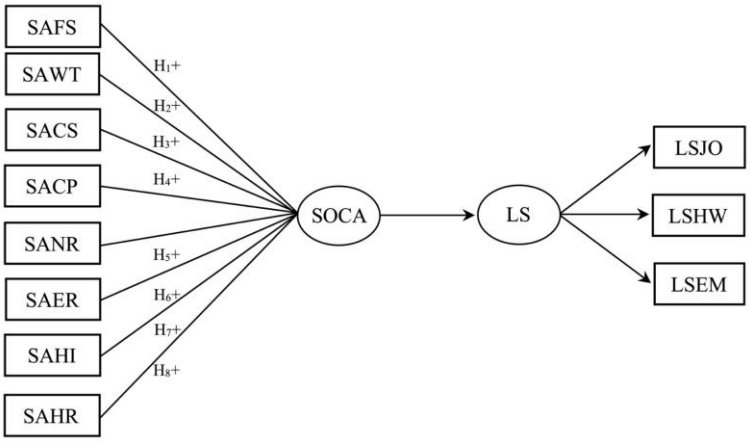

Figure 1. Conceptual model

Methods

This article was located in the informal economy in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The empirical evidence was based on the 4th Population and Housing Census in 2015 on Lao Statistic Bureau survey, a survey indicated the 580 informal garment workers lived in Xaythany, Vientiane capital, Lao PDR (PHC, 2015) Using a purposive sampling of 335 informal garment workers in home-based garment enterprises from December 2017 to December 2018. The sample size was calculated as *f*-test of variance proportion in multiple regression and correlation analysis (Cohen, 1988) Determining random started by selecting every k^{th} element in the frame, where *k*, which provided sampling interval. From the remaining test of confident, it showed that 0.924 reliability statistics undertaken 95% level with Cronbach's Alpha (Cronbach, 1984)

Structural equation modelling (SEM) approach to test the effect factors between observed and latent variables (Jöreskog, 1973) to confirm with CFA by using LISREL 11 for Mac. Before doing SEM approach, for observed variables—PRELIS syntax (SAFS, SACS, SACP, SANR, SAWT,

SAER, SAHI, and SAHR). For latent variables—PRELIS syntax of livelihood security (LSJO, LSEM, and LSHW). Construct validity of structured schedule interviews was set of measure items actually represents theoretical latent construct: this study assessed the social assets ranged from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree).

Results

Descriptive analysis

In the first stage was tested the descriptive analysis, accounted for 8.1% male, female comprised 91.9%, ages between 18 and 25 years old is about 45.8%. The proportion of marital status equivalent to 68.4% marriage, family sizes 4 to 6 averaged 66.3%, and educational level (primary school) approximately 49%. Table 1 presents the demography characteristics. Table 2 illustrates the descriptive analysis. Table 4 presents the intercorrelation among variables.

Table 1. Demographic characteristics

Demographics	Characteristics	%
Gender	Male	8.1
	Female	91.9
Age (years)	18–25	45.8
	26–35	30.8
	36–45	17.7
	46–60	5.7
Marital status	Married	68.4
	Single	26.5
	Divorce	5.1
Education level	Primary school	45.8
	High school	33
	Vocational training school	21.2
Experiences	< 1 year	24.4
	2-5 years	39.8
	> 6 years	35.8
Worker skills	Low-skills	48.2
	Skills	36.7
	High-skills	15.1

Table 2. Descriptive analysis

Items	Measuring scale	Mean	St. Dev.	*p*-value	*n*
SAFS	1 to 5 scale	2.890	1.374	0.253	335
SAWT	1 to 5 scale	3.036	1.472	0.346	335
SACS	1 to 5 scale	2.931	1.478	0.439	335
SACP	1 to 5 scale	3.137	1.403	0.857	335
SANR	1 to 5 scale	2.901	1.445	0.416	335
SAER	1 to 5 scale	3.110	1.440	0.516	335
SAHI	1 to 5 scale	2.994	1.433	0.651	335
SAHR	1 to 5 scale	3.012	1.406	0.243	335
LSJO	1 to 5 scale	3.940	0.974	0.000	335
LSHW	1 to 5 scale	3.042	1.533	0.381	335
LSEM	1 to 5 scale	3.490	1.424	0.000	335

Table 3. Intercorrelation

Variable	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
1. SAFS	–										
2. SATW	0.280*	–									
3. SASP	0.399*	0.095	–								
4. SACP	0.182*	0.099	0.244*	–							
5. SANR	0.145	0.245*	0.217*	0.261*	–						
6. SAER	0.342**	0.299**	0.281**	0.255*	0.369**	–					
7. SAHI	0.301**	0.094	0.432**	0.274*	0.360**	0.404**	–				
8. SAHR	0.216*	0.197*	0.168	0.275*	0.294*	0.353**	0.330**	–			
9. LSJO	0.058	0.158*	–0.067	–0.007	0.079	0.082	0.058	-0.096	–		
10. LSHW	0.335**	0.277*	0.232*	0.160	0.203*	0.284**	0.288*	0.193*	0.593**	–	
11. LSEM	0.402**	0.416**	0.339**	0.254*	0.291**	0.424**	0.350**	0.272*	0.200*	0.447**	–

Note: *$p < 0.05$, **$p < 0.01$

Measurement model

After assessing the eligibility of scales for measuring the relationship among variables, tested measurement model. The initial model was conducted with an exploratory factor analysis (EFA). The KMO showed greater than 0.798, the model provides testing with the confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) with SEM. The Bartlett's Test of Sphericity ($p < 0.01$), which correlated matrix of the CFA model. The best fitness of model values (RMSEA $\leq$ 0.05, GFI $\leq$ 0.90, NFI $\leq$ 0.90, CFI $\leq$ 0.90 and $R^2 \leq 2$).

Table 4. Comparison of initial and fit model

Model	Acceptable model	Initial model	Fit model
Chi-square (χ^2)/degree of freedom (*df*)	$\chi^2/df < 5.00$	50.93/29	44.31/25
Normed fit index (NFI)	> 0.90	0.746	0.938
Comparative fit index (CFI)	> 0.90	0.873	0.937
Goodness-of-fit index (GFI)	> 0.90	0.903	0.945
Adjusted GFI (AGFI)	> 0.90	0.884	0.985
Standardised root means square residual (SRMR)	< 0.08	0.085	0.051
Root-mean-square error of approximation (RMSEA)	< 0.05	0.059	0.048

CFA model

After testing SEM, the model showed valid and acceptable, which was tested with CFA model. The model illustrated a positive effect between social assets and livelihood securities of the informal garment workers in Lao PDR. The CFA model was adequate the good fitness model ($\chi^2 = 62$, $df = 25$, P = 0.010 < 0.01, RMSEA = 0.048 < 0.05), respectively. The goodness of fit index values (GFI = 0.982 > 0.90, NFI = 0.945 > 0.90, and ACFI = 0.985 > 0.90 and $R^2 = 1.080 < 2$). The model results showed that social assets ($\lambda = 0.16$, *t*-value = 4.43 > 2.58), which is statistically significant ($p < 0.01$). (See Figure 2).

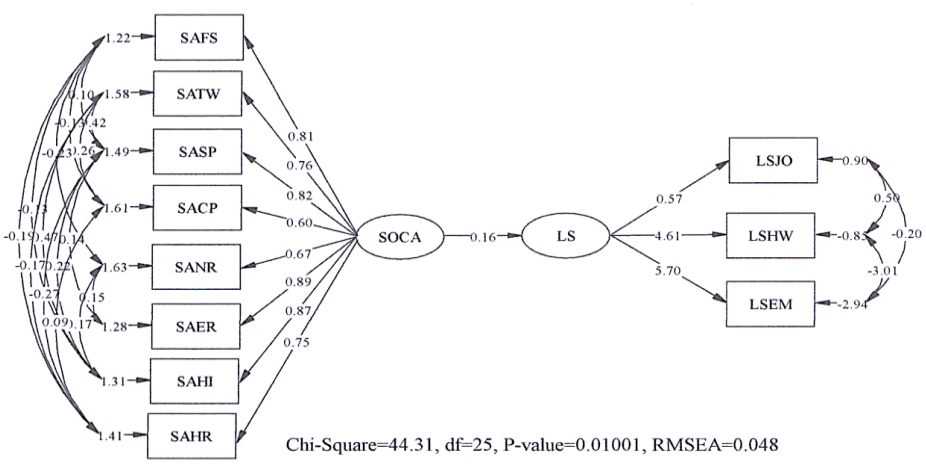

Figure 2. SEM with CFA model

Hypothesis testing

To test the hypothesis, the social assets showed a positive effect on livelihood securities of the informal garment workers in Lao PDR. The findings indicated that family support (λ = 0.812, p < 0.01), thus supported H_1. The association of worker trust (λ = 0.762, p < 0.01), which supported H_2. The path coefficient of community support (λ = 0.824, p < 0.01), supporting H_3. The community participations (λ = 0.604, p < 0.01), corroborating H_4. Testing H_5, the community participations show a positive effect (λ = 0.671, p < 0.01). The neighbouring relationship (λ = 0.890, p < 0.01), which directed support H_6. The probability of employment relationship illustrated a positive effect (λ = 0.867, p < 0.01), thus supported H_7. The household relationship (λ = 0.751 p < 0.01), which supports (H_8). With regard to the effects revealed between social assets and livelihood security, as can be seen in the Table 5.

Table 5. Summary of hypothesis testing

Hypothesis	Influencing factors	Path	λ	*t*-value	Sig.	Results
H_1	SAFS ⟶ LS	+	0.812	12.71**	p < 0.01	Supported
H_2	SAWT ⟶ LS	+	0.762	12.32**	p < 0.01	Supported
H_3	SASP ⟶ LS	+	0.824	12.47**	p < 0.01	Supported
H_4	SACP⟶ LS	+	0.604	10.47**	p < 0.01	Supported
H_5	SANR⟶ LS	+	0.671	11.56**	p < 0.01	Supported
H_6	SAER⟶ LS	+	0.890	15.36**	p < 0.01	Supported
H_7	SAHI ⟶ LS	+	0.867	13.35**	p < 0.01	Supported
H_8	SAHR ⟶ LS	+	0.751	12.51**	p < 0.01	Supported

Note: ** p < 0.01 (t- value > 2.58) * p < 0.05 0.05 (t-value > 1.96)

Discussion and conclusion

This article examines the social assets and livelihood securities of the informal garment workers in Lao PDR. The results showed the goodness model of eight dimensions, which supported all hypotheses. It is important to note that social assets (family support, community support, community participations, neighbouring relationship, worker trust, employment relationship, household interaction, and household relationship) have a positive effect on livelihood securities of the informal garment workers. The model has confirmed that all hypothesis ($p < 0.01$), which is probably due to the acceptance. In the context-conducting of the socialist norms is proactive of social assets corresponding in the study. The finding is clearly emphasized for social assets can lead the livelihood securities of informal garment workers in Lao PDR.

This finding is consistent with Behtoui (2016), Daovisan and Chamaratana (2018), Chamaratana and Daovisan (2019), and Shah et al. (2019) illustrated that social assets of the informal garment workers associated with job security, employment wellbeing, and household wellbeing in Lao PDR. Following the bridging and bonding perspective of social assets as acts of livelihood securities (Belcher et al., 2013; Durham et al., 2014; Gerlitz et al., 2016), depending on strong network ties, social support, and interaction of employment activities in Lao PDR. This is supported of social capital (Woolcock, 1998; Putnam, 2000) on livelihood securities (Scoones, 1998) showed a positive effect of trust, support, interaction, and relationship of workers and employers.

Williams et al. (2015), Behtoui (2016) Chamaratana and Daovisan (2019), Gayen et al. (2019), Asuyama, 2020) revealed greater connected with workers and employers associated with strong network ties and relationship. This implies that the informal garment workers in Lao PDR, forming social assets are highly connected with job security, employment wellbeing, and household wellbeing. According to Martin and Lorenzen (2016), Chamaratana et al. (2018), and Shah et al. (2019) suggested that social assets associated with strong network ties, relationship, engagement and participation may effort of informal employment in Lao PDR. To evaluate the social assets, this study found a positive effect on trust, relationship, support, and participation, which contributes to the livelihood securities of the informal garment workers.

This article suggests that a complex of social assets, which supports the family worker trust, community engagement, and participations. The informal garment workers claimed that support the neighbouring relationship, strong network ties and household interaction may involve employment

activities in Lao PDR. Besides that, it might be reasonable to form of social assets can help worker to participate in the informal economy. To be truly effective, the informal workers are close-related association with social assets via labour skills may require a means of livelihood securities. Based on the CFA model, it was suggested that social assets should be developed causal direction can be compared by using non-and cursive models to improve informal worker studies.

This article has some limitations. First, this research used a purely CFA with SEM, with data collected with specific structured interviews. Second, data for this research were specifically collected data in Vientiane, Lao PDR. Third, as data were collected from only the informal garment workers in home-base enterprises, the findings may not be generalized to include those in other countries. In the future studies could explore social capital in the qualitative approach such micro data area-bases. It must be noted that an in-depth interview, so that results can be generalized with practices.

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