

THE SITUATION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY POLICIES IN THE ETHNIC MINORITIES AREA IN THE SOUTHERN REGION

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The issue of ensuring social security and taking care of the welfare of the people in general and ethnic minorities in particular, including ethnic minorities in the Southern region is a consistent policy of the Party, the State, the National Assembly and Government, this is the basic solution to reduce poverty sustainably, improve people's living standards, at the same time contributing to socio-political stability. During the past years, the Party and State have always paid much attention to and invested heavily in ethnic minority areas, poor districts, extremely difficult villages, coastal communes and islands; comprehensively implementing support and assisting policies for ethnic minorities. The system of social security policies for ethnic minorities has been promulgated quite fully and comprehensively, covering the fields of social security, including job creation support, social insurance, social assistance and ensuring minimum access to social services (education, health care, insurance, housing, clean water, information, employment, hunger eradication, poverty reduction,...) which has contributed to improving the material and spiritual life of ethnic minorities. Therefore, in order to ensure a sustainable social security policy for ethnic minorities in the coming years, priority should be given to a number of fields such as investment in essential infrastructure, development of human resources, vocational training associated with job creation, use of ethnic minority cadres, multidimensional approach poverty reduction and sustainable poverty reduction... This is an important basis to contribute to poverty reduction and improvement of the people's living standards day by day; thereby developing rapidly and sustainably in ethnic minority areas.

Keywords: *Social security policy; Ethnic minority areas; Southern Region.*

1. Introduction

The Southwest region is a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious land, considered a particularly important strategic area in terms of security, defense and foreign exchange and integration with other countries in the region, establishing and protecting the sovereignty of the border, sea and island in the southernmost part of our country. With a population of about 14 million people, in which, the Kinh, Khmer, Hoa and Cham people are the ethnic groups with a large population. The Khmer ethnic group has a population of about 1.3 million people, the Hoa ethnic group has about 800,000 people, the Cham ethnic group has over 26,000 people. The majority of ethnic minorities live in remote, isolated and extremely difficult areas, their main occupation is agriculture, forestry, fishery and aquaculture. A part of ethnic minorities, especially the Chinese and Cham live by trading services and handicrafts.

Ethnic groups in the Southern region have long-standing close relationships with their compatriots abroad. This is a place where there are conditions to develop human resources from various ethnic groups, with multiple livelihood methods according to traditional production and business practices and indigenous knowledge capital of each ethnic group. However, in general, there is a significant difference in the level of development, standard of living and quality of life among ethnic groups, between Khmer, Cham with Kinh and Chinese, between the Khmer, Cham and Kinh and Chinese areas in the Southwest region. Meanwhile, the implementation of socio-economic development guidelines and policies of localities is still inadequate, has not fully brought into play the potentials and strengths of the region, strengthening intra-regional linkages and inter-regional linkages, regional linkages to support the sustainable development of ethnic minorities in this region.

2. Research overview

Regarding the issue of social security in general and the implementation of social security policies for ethnic minority areas, including ethnic minorities in the Southern region in particular, has been researched by many authors, in which some typical research works such as: Nguyen Thi Bich Ngoc, Dang Do Quyen, “Assessment of the current situation of social security policies for ethnic minorities in Vietnam”, Website of Institute of Labor and Social Sciences, July 16th, 2015; Bui Sy Tuan, “Promoting social security policies in ethnic minority areas”, People’s Electronic Newspaper, April 19th, 2018; Minh Phuong, “Social security policies have created impetus for poverty reduction for ethnic minorities and mountainous areas, Website of the Ethnic Minority Board of Quang Binh province, October 18th, 2019; Reporter, “Focusing on social security in ethnic minority areas so that no one is left behind”, Vietnam Social Insurance website, July 11th, 2019; Nguyen Duy Thuy (Monograph, 2019), Institute of Social Sciences in the Central Highlands, “Social security for ethnic minorities in Dak Lak province, Publishing House of Social Sciences, 2019; Nguyen Thi Kim Oanh, “Some solutions to promote the implementation of social security policies for ethnic minority areas”, Electronic State Management Journal, September 17th, 2020; Chi Kien, “Communes and villages in ethnic minority areas continue to enjoy social security policies”, Government Electronic Newspaper, dated January 18th, 2021; Bui Sy Loi, “Social security policy for ethnic minorities and mountainous areas in the period of 2011-2020. Issues that need attention in the period of 2021-2030”, Journal of Ethnic minorities Research, Volume 10, Issue 1, March, 2021; Ha Giang, “Timely implementation of social security policies in ethnic minority and mountainous areas”, Portal of Vietnam Fatherland Front, dated October 26th, 2021; Thu Trang, “Ensuring social security in ethnic minority areas”, Electronic Information Portal of Bac Kan province, issued on March 2nd, 2022... The above researchs have analyzed and assessed in depth and comprehensively the current situation, limitations and causes of limitations of poverty reduction and social security programs and policies in ethnic minority and mountainous areas in general in recent years, this is a valuable document to inherit, helping the author to evaluate, analyze, clarify, supplement and improve the content of this research. From there, discussing more social security issues posed to ethnic minorities and mountainous areas in the period of 2021-2030, and at the same time providing some basic solutions and suggestions, recommendations for the Party, State, National Assembly, Government, Central Vietnam Fatherland Front and related agencies in the coming time.

3. Research Method

The article uses some basic methods such as Secondary document collection method; in addition, the method of synthesis, evaluation and analysis of available documents is used to clarify the implementation of social security policies for ethnic minority areas, including social security policies for ethnic minorities in the Southern region.

4. Research result

4.1. Overview of the implementation of social security policies in ethnic minority areas in the Southern region

The Party, State, National Assembly and Government have comprehensive policies towards ethnic minorities, policies suitable to the characteristics of each region and have entered the lives of the people as Decree No. Resolution No. 24 -NQ/TW of the 7th Plenum of the 7th Central Committee (IX session) on Ethnic Affairs, Resolution No. 21-NQ/TW dated January 20th, 2003 of the Politburo on orientations, tasks and solutions for socio-economic development and ensuring national defense and security in the Southwest region from 2005 to 2010 and specific policies such as: Directive No. 68-CT/TW, dated April 18th, 1991 of the Sixth Party Central Committee Secretariat on work in the Khmer ethnic minority area; Circular No. 03-CT/TW, dated October 17th, 1991 of the 6th Party Central Committee Secretariat on the work of the Cham people; Directive No. 62-CT/TW, dated November 8th, 1995 of the Secretariat of the Party Central Committee, term VI, and Directive No. 501/TTg of August 3rd, 1996 of the Prime Minister on the implementation of a number of policies towards with the Chinese.

In addition to general policies of the region and specific policies, the Party and State have issued policies, programs and projects to be implemented in ethnic minority areas such as: Decision No.135; Decision No. 134, Decision No. 74/2008/QD-TTg on a number of policies to support settlement of residential land, production land and job creation for poor ethnic minority households, difficult life in the Cuu Long river delta (now Decision No. 29/2013/QD-TTg); Decision No. 167/2008/QD-TTg on policies to support poor households in housing; Decision No. 32/2007/QD-TTg on lending capital for production development (now Decision No. 54/2012/QD-TTg); Decision No. 33/2007/QD-TTg on supporting migrants to implement sedentary cultivation and settlement for ethnic minorities; Decision No. 102/2009/QD-TTg on policies to directly support people from poor households in a difficult area... Since then, making positive changes to the rural areas, the material and spiritual life of the people has been gradually improved, the poverty rate in ethnic minority areas has decreased

by 3-5%/year each year. The socio-economic infrastructure has been strengthened. With many central and local funds, the provinces and cities in the Southwest region have invested and supported over VND 2,000 billion for Programs such as 134, 135, 74, 102, 32 and a number of other characteristic policies in ethnic minority areas... Program 135 phase I, focusing on building infrastructure for 207 communes with special difficulties and 44 commune cluster centers, 48 communes have completed the program's objectives; Phase II invests in the construction of 181 communes and 162 hamlets with special difficulties, many communes completing the program's objectives. For Program 134 and additional and integrated policies, localities have supported over 96,000 houses, supporting 2,500 households to settle down, creating jobs for over 22,700 workers, changing occupations for 65,746 households, supporting to create jobs for 16,680 households, supporting residential land for 5,235 households, production land for 6,734 households, have policies to support loans for production development for tens of thousands of households... It can be said that programs and policies have had a positive impact on the lives of ethnic minorities and mountainous areas, in which Program 135 is considered a "brand" to be very familiar to the Party Committee, the government and the ethnic minorities in ethnic minorities and mountainous areas. Program 135 has proven its position as a major and most important poverty reduction program, effectively supporting socio-economic development in extremely difficult, mountainous, remote and border areas. The results of the Program have contributed to putting Vietnam on the list of the most successful countries in the world in terms of poverty reduction and economic development in the past two decades. The program has changed the face of mountainous areas, especially difficult ethnic groups; people's lives have been gradually improved; the poverty rate decreased rapidly; The people's intellectual level and the management and administration capacity of the political system at all levels, especially the commune-level government has been raised, gradually meeting the management and administration of socio-economic development in the particularly difficult communes; production practices and techniques of ethnic minorities have changed in the direction of commodity production; the proportion of villages with electricity, roads, classrooms, cultural houses, village health centers, irrigation works increased; the great unity bloc of nations is strengthened; political security, social order and safety are maintained. The lives of ethnic minorities have been significantly improved. There are more and more models, examples, effective production cooperative groups, many ethnic minority farmers overcoming difficulties

and escaping poverty are praised. The percentage of households using electricity is over 90%, households having audio-visual equipment over 95%, the percentage of poor households among ethnic minorities decreases year by year. The people have quite comprehensive development conditions, making practical contributions to raising people's knowledge, eradicating hunger and reducing poverty, taking care of people's health... National solidarity is promoted, political security is maintained. social order and safety are maintained.

4.2. The economic life of ethnic minorities in recent years has been maintained and improved in some aspects

In general difficult conditions, when many major issues are prioritized for implementation such as economic restructuring, growth model renewal, arrangement of public non-business units,... have positively impacted social security. The effective implementation of social security tasks is even more difficult. However, in order to improve the spiritual and material life of the people, the Party and State always pay attention; local authorities at all levels and branches focus on implementing support policies for poor, near-poor households and ethnic minority households. In particular, the issue of ensuring social security is considered as one of the key tasks, especially for ethnic minorities.

Through the process of policy implementation, socio-economic conditions in ethnic minority areas continued to remain stable, with many aspects of development. The life of a part of the people has been gradually improved, the percentage of poor and near-poor households among the ethnic minorities has decreased by 3 - 5%/year; good and rich households increase. The production and husbandry situation continued to be maintained and stabilized, increasing in some places over the same period. Many models, typical, production cooperation groups apply scientific and technical advances to bring high efficiency. The situation of labor shift also changes with the economic restructuring.

4.3. Regarding education, training and vocational training in ethnic minority areas have been changed and developed positively

Education policy in ethnic minority areas has always been enhanced to improve the quality of teaching and learning at boarding schools for ethnic minorities, the training for recruitment, pre-university preparation is interested by the localities to meet the aspirations of students after graduating from high school with conditions to improve their professional qualifications, suitable to the new situation of labor demand, jobs with high technical skills. The scale of vocational training increased, the qualification structure shifted sharply to long-

term vocational training (vocational intermediate level, vocational college).

The labor market transaction system has developed in a diversified and widespread manner, operating more and more vibrantly and flexibly to better meet the needs of consulting, introducing jobs for employees in the labor market.

Policies to support residential land, production land, vocational training, job creation, change occupations in difficult life for poor ethnic minority households according to Decision No. 74/2008/QĐ-TTg of the Prime Minister to be very practical in creating jobs for poverty alleviation.

4.4. About health, health care for the people is interested in investment and development

Health work in ethnic minority areas is constantly being strengthened, consolidated and developed to meet the people's needs for medical examination and treatment. The medical facilities are interested in investing and building up to standards, the staff have improved professional qualifications; the medical examination and treatment for the subjects as prescribed is well done. The localities fully implement the grant of health insurance cards to poor households, partially or completely support the near-poor households. The subjects participating in social insurance and voluntary health insurance are increasing gradually. In addition to implementing effective health policies, functional agencies also coordinate to organize free medical examination, distribution of medicines and gift giving to ethnic minorities, poor households, near-poor households in remote areas on the occasion of national holidays and traditional New Year.

4.5. Cultural and spiritual life, information and propaganda work continues to be promoted

Besides social security policies, including labor and employment market policies, social insurance policies, health insurance, social assistance policies,... The work of taking care of cultural and spiritual life for the ethnic minorities areas are also interested in implementation by all levels and sectors. The construction of cultural life, traditional festivals, religions and beliefs and activities associated with grassroots cultural institutions... in the localities has made great progress. The mass movement of culture, art and sports developed quite strongly among the Khmer people. Radio-television programs and local newspapers published in ethnic languages are constantly improving their quality, making an important contribution to well performing the task of propagating the Party and State's undertakings and policies.

4.6. Some exist, limitation

- Some localities, organizations and among ethnic minorities, the awareness of social security

is still not deep and complete. Many policies have been promulgated, but the implementation in strategic planning, as well as each specific social security policy, is not systematic, incomplete and inconsistent.

- The social security service system is constantly developing, but most of it is still in public non-business organizations. The participation of the social community and non-state enterprises in providing social security services is not much, not diversified and not based on the community in the direction of socialization.

- The more society develops, the stronger the transition to a market economy and deeper integration into the world economy, accompanied by more social risks. Since then, the need to ensure social security is more diversified and abundant and the target group of social security increases, while the ability to expand coverage and subsidy levels of the social security system is still low, so the capacity to withstand risks, people's incidents are still not high and ineffective.

- In terms of living economy, besides the achievements, ethnic minority areas in the provinces still have some limitations: Some social security indicators are still low, the rate of poor households according to the new criteria is still high, especially in ethnic minority areas compared to the common ground. Many production models are effective but the prices of agricultural products are still low and unstable; income from agricultural production of the people is still difficult, no profit or little profit, as a result, many farmers leave their land to work. Meanwhile, input costs for production are continuously increasing, consumption and prices have not yet reflected the relationship between supply and demand for agricultural products. The orientation of planning the structure of crops and livestock is still ineffective in many places, in many cases, after harvesting, crops and livestock have to be sold at a loss or even cannot be sold.

Many models, typical in production and business are effective, but the replication of the model has not been promoted much. Some policies to support production, production materials (capital, land, seedlings,...) for the people are somewhat effective but do not meet the actual requirements and the implementation is still inadequate. The living and production conditions of poor households are still difficult, even those who do not have land to directly participate in production, only engage in agriculture at the stage of renting or hiring, but it is also difficult to find stable jobs in the countryside. This has led to an increasing phenomenon of labor migration to big cities to find work, which partly affects the management of society in many aspects. Infrastructure in ethnic minority areas is still facing

many difficulties, greatly affecting the access and application of science and technology in production and life of the people. Besides, the demand for housing among poor ethnic minority households is still high. The current situation of environmental sanitation and environmental protection in ethnic minority areas has not been paid due attention; environmental conditions affecting the health and life of the people still take place, the percentage of households using hygienic latrines and clean water for daily life is still low.

- Regarding education and training, the implementation of the recruitment regime for ethnic minority students is still inadequate in terms of enrollment sources, structure of industries, occupations and qualifications. In addition, some localities have not really paid attention to and have specific policies for students recruited during their studies as well as job assignments after graduation. Currently, the unemployment rate for post-graduate candidates is increasing.

- Vocational training and job creation for ethnic minority households and workers still have many shortcomings; teaching contents and methods in some places are only short-term and have not yet met actual requirements; training has not been combined with job creation. Many workers are trained but do not have jobs or do jobs that are not suitable for their trained occupations.

- Regarding health care for people in remote areas, there are still many difficulties and inadequacies. In many places in the region, there are still many epidemic diseases according to the weather, especially hand, foot and mouth disease and dengue fever in children; the rate of women suffering from gynecological diseases and under-five children suffering from malnutrition is still about 30% in some places, the percentage of households using hygienic water is still low.

- About culture - information: The creative activities of artists and artisans to serve the spiritual needs of ethnic minorities are still limited, the quantity is small and the quality is not high. The number of ethnic minority artisans in sculpture, patterns and motifs of the worshiping facilities mainly follows the tradition without schools, training classes and the inheritance team is very few. Despite the attention of authorities at all levels for the activities of professional art troupes, there are still many difficulties in terms of actors, life, other conditions as well as encouragement of artistic creation. The reporters, newspapers and publications for the distribution of ethnic minorities are very few; the quality and duration of radio and television programs in ethnic minority languages have not yet met the needs of the people. Artists who are ethnic minorities who have been conferred

with the State's titles are very few compared to their dedication and contributions.

5. Discussion

In order to better implement the social security policy in the coming time, achieve the goal of sustainable poverty reduction, improve the quality of life among ethnic minorities, the article offers the following discussions:

Firstly, it is necessary to organize an investigation and assessment to serve as a basis for formulating vocational training policies to suit the qualifications and characteristics of each ethnic group, each subject group and locality, while giving priority to business development in locality to attract local workers who are ethnic minorities. Developing the labor market, linking labor supply and demand, many people have jobs with a guaranteed income and reduce unemployment.

Secondly, continue to well implement comprehensive development policies on economy, culture, health care, education, security and defense,... in the Khmer ethnic region, to meet local socio-economic development requirements. In particular, focus on training high-skilled workers in association with creating stable jobs, in order to increase income for workers and gradually improve the economic and living conditions of the local people. Mobilize many resources for investment and development. Prioritize solving pressing difficulties of the people, investing in sustainable poverty reduction. Promote the role of internal resources, participate in planning, management and supervision of the implementation of policies of the masses and the whole society.

Thirdly, there are synchronous policies to invest in agriculture, farmers and rural areas. In which, production orientation, crop and livestock structure, market orientation need to be appropriate. Strengthen guidance on application of science and technology to production; orient the planning of agricultural production areas, specialized cultivation areas, gradually improve the quality of agricultural products. There is a policy of product offsetting, agricultural product price insurance, solutions on output for agricultural products, ensuring reasonable profits, maintaining income from agricultural production for farmers. Having a separate and clearer credit policy for ethnic minority households, at the same time paying attention to creating better conditions for people to access social borrowing policies.

Fourthly, along with economic development is the continuous growth of the social security system, especially the social insurance policy, health insurance has promoted the role of columns in the social security system. However, the implementation of social insurance and

health insurance still has many limitations. Many businesses and employees do not really understand all the benefits that social insurance and health insurance bring; the documents related to the implementation are slow to come to life, the policy on social insurance and health insurance has many shortcomings that make people not enthusiastic to participate. Therefore, in the coming time, there needs to be a comprehensive reform, in the immediate future, Vietnam Social Security needs to accelerate the reform of administrative procedures, in order to attract maximum people to participate in voluntary social insurance and health insurance.

Fifthly, continue to improve the social allowance regime on the basis of the minimum standard of living of the whole society and promote socialization, encouraging personal efforts to ensure the subject's living standard average or higher. Actively prevent natural disasters, affecting labor, employment and people's income, especially in rural areas and areas frequently affected by natural disasters. Diversify types of social assistance and social relief, switch to providing social assistance services operating for not-for-profit purposes. Creating opportunities and giving priority to social policy beneficiaries to access economic resources, essential public services, equality in education, training, vocational training, job creation, health care, housing, cultural information...

Sixthly, continue to promote the promotion of human rights for ethnic minorities, especially the elderly, children and people living in lonely and disadvantaged situations. Concentrate resources on protection and care for children with special circumstances (orphans, disabled children, street children...); especially to prevent and deal with abused and violent children, children working in arduous, toxic and dangerous conditions,... towards comprehensive physical and mental development for all children, creating a premise to develop high-quality human resources for the future.

Seventhly, create a really healthy and favorable cultural environment for the preservation, preservation and development of cultural heritage. Interested in investing in developing professional art troupes in some provinces. Establishing mobile communication teams of Cham art and culture in provinces with a large number of Cham people. In particular, it is necessary to increase the duration and quality of broadcast programs in ethnic languages, arrange rich and harmonious contents.

Eighthly, intellectuals, artists, people working in the field of cultural theory and criticism have an important role in preserving, promoting and developing national culture. They are not only the main creative force, adding new features to the national culture; but also make a practical contribution to the exchange with the

cultural quintessence and advanced civilization achievements of the time. Therefore, it is necessary to have a reasonable priority policy in training and retraining these forces to meet the immediate and long-term needs of preserving the national cultural heritage. At the same time, it is proposed to consider and confer high titles of the Party and State for individuals and collectives who have made great contributions to the development of national culture and art for artists and art troupes; recognition of historical and cultural relics at all levels for ethnic minority religious worship establishments that have made great contributions to the cause of national defense and preservation.

6. Conclusion

It can be said that social security policy has always been a major undertaking and task of the Party, State, National Assembly and Government, especially showing the good nature of the social system and having important significance for socio-political stability and sustainable development of our country in the current context. During the development process, under the direct leadership of the Party, policies towards ethnic minorities and mountainous areas in general and in the Southern region in particular have always been approved by the Party and State, especially in policies, programs of social security, labor and employment, which have created positive changes for ethnic minorities and mountainous areas, including ethnic minorities in the Southern region. In recent years, the poverty rate in ethnic minority areas has decreased significantly, faster than the overall poverty reduction rate of the whole country, this is a great effort of our Party and State.

Therefore, in order to ensure a sustainable social security policy for ethnic minorities in general and in the Southern region in particular in the coming time, it is necessary to strongly transform direct support policies into policies creating opportunities for ethnic minorities to rise out of poverty by themselves and improve their lives. In particular, priority should be given to the following areas: investment in essential infrastructure, human resource development, vocational training associated with job creation, employment of ethnic minority cadres, poverty alleviation of multi-faceted access and sustainable poverty reduction in the spirit of Resolution No. 88/2019/QH14 dated November 18th, 2019 of the National Assembly approving the Master Plan for socio-economic development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas in the period of 2021-2030 and Resolution No. 120/2020/QH14 dated July 15th, 2020 of the National Assembly approving the investment undertakings of the national target program for socio-economic development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas in the period of 2021-2030.

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TÌNH HÌNH THỰC HIỆN CHÍNH SÁCH AN SINH XÃ HỘI VÙNG ĐỒNG BÀO DÂN TỘC THIỂU SỐ Ở KHU VỰC NAM BỘ

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Vấn đề bảo đảm an sinh xã hội và chăm lo phúc lợi cho người dân nói chung và đồng bào dân tộc thiểu số nói riêng, trong đó có đồng bào dân tộc thiểu số ở khu vực Nam Bộ là một chủ trương nhất quán của Đảng, Nhà nước, Quốc hội và Chính phủ ta, đây là giải pháp cơ bản nhằm giảm nghèo bền vững, nâng cao đời sống của nhân dân, đồng thời góp phần ổn định chính trị xã hội. Trong suốt những năm qua, Đảng và Nhà nước luôn quan tâm, đầu tư nhiều cho vùng đồng bào dân tộc thiểu số, các huyện nghèo, xã thôn bản đặc biệt khó khăn, xã bãi ngang ven biển, hải đảo; thực hiện toàn diện các chính sách hỗ trợ, giúp đỡ đối với đồng bào các dân tộc thiểu số. Hệ thống chính sách an sinh xã hội đối với đồng bào dân tộc thiểu số đã được ban hành khá đầy đủ và toàn diện, bao quát các lĩnh vực an sinh xã hội gồm hỗ trợ tạo việc làm, bảo hiểm xã hội, trợ giúp xã hội và đảm bảo tiếp cận ở mức tối thiểu các dịch vụ xã hội (giáo dục, y tế, bảo hiểm, nhà ở, nước sạch, thông tin, việc làm, xóa đói, giảm nghèo...) đã góp phần nâng cao đời sống vật chất và tinh thần cho đồng bào các dân tộc. Do đó, để bảo đảm chính sách an sinh xã hội bền vững đối với đồng bào dân tộc thiểu số trong những năm tới, cần ưu tiên quan tâm đến một số lĩnh vực như đầu tư cơ sở hạ tầng thiết yếu, phát triển nguồn nhân lực, đào tạo nghề gắn với giải quyết việc làm, sử dụng cán bộ người dân tộc thiểu số, giảm nghèo tiếp cận đa chiều và giảm nghèo bền vững... Đây là cơ sở quan trọng góp phần giảm nghèo, nâng cao đời sống của đồng bào ngày một tốt hơn; từ đó phát triển nhanh, bền vững vùng đồng bào dân tộc thiểu số.

Từ khóa: Chính sách an sinh xã hội; Vùng đồng bào dân tộc thiểu số; Khu vực Nam Bộ.