

The life after marriage: Hmong young women, agriculture and technology in Vietnam



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Outline of my presentation

1. Background
2. Research questions
3. Methodology
4. Key findings
5. Implications for agricultural interventions



1. Background: Region

“Zomia” (Scott, 2010): a mountain region of Asia where ethnic minorities are concentrated



<https://www.thedailyliberator.com/zomia-massive-stateless-society-asia/>

1. Background: Youth

Tradition and modern co-existing

- Young men look for a future wife through Facebook
- Listening Korean pop music
- On-line window shopping
- Connected to the global network of Hmong

- Women marry at 15 and living with in-law
- Few opportunities for male labour migration
- Many challenges including cultural barriers in growing cash crops (coffee, fruits)

2. Research questions

- 1) How young women and men negotiate with their family members over prevailing social norms and the expectations of parents?
- 2) How far men and women at different socio-economic groups benefit from labor-saving machines and digital technology for both agricultural and domestic work
- 3) What are needs and interests of young men and women in agriculture?

3. Methodology

6/11



<https://youtu.be/i5I8i0dAGqo>

<https://youtu.be/gKhqMooZHpY>

Key findings:

- The life after marriage “a bird in a cage” for women
- Family needs are prioritized than individual’s
- Young men: limited power and self-confidence.
Incremental change preferred
- Young married women: capacities increased but roles not changed
- Young men’s perceptions about their wives’ capacities in agriculture are negative
- Gender gaps in access to technologies
Men are still primary beneficiaries
- Women’s interests are more and more in non-farming sectors where they can have autonomy



16. Rice cooker

Manual labour work is young women's task



Implications for agricultural interventions:

- Small investment agriculture for young men who have limited power and autonomy in the family
- Mechanization for women (both agriculture and housework)
- Young female role models in agriculture
- The government needs to be aware of agriculture for youth

Thank you



Photo credit: N. Kawarazuka

Photos on this presentation were taken by farmers.



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