

MAGYAR GERONTOLÓGIA

15. ÉVFOLYAM KONFERENCIA KÜLÖNSZÁM

2023. 15. évf. Konferencia Különszám

On-line verzió: ISSN 2062-3690

[www.https://ojs.lib.unideb.hu/gerontologia](https://ojs.lib.unideb.hu/gerontologia)

Explore the Motivational Factors Driving Economic Engagement among the Elderly in Rural Area in Lao People's Democratic Republic

Xaypaseuth Soundala¹

¹University of Debrecen, Faculty of Health Science, Hungary

Keywords: rural elderly, economic engagement, motivation, Laos, Phongern

Aim

This exploratory study delves into the motivational factors driving economic engagement among the elderly in rural areas of Laos, a nation in Southeast Asia experiencing demographic shifts towards an aging population. With limited research on this topic in the context of rural Laos, this study aims to uncover the underlying motivations that influence elderly individuals to participate in economic activities. By understanding these factors, policymakers can design targeted interventions to promote economic inclusion and improve the well-being of the elderly population. However, the study also uncovers barriers and challenges faced by elderly individuals, such as limited access to resources, skills, and infrastructure. Recommendations are provided to address these challenges and enhance support systems.

Method

Using PESTLE analysis and mixed-methods approach, the study combines qualitative interviews and survey-based data collection to gain a comprehensive understanding of the motivations behind

economic engagement. Qualitative insights offer personal experiences and perceptions, while quantitative data provide broader patterns and correlations. The sample comprises elderly individuals residing in rural communities, where traditional agricultural practices prevail and resources may be scarce.

Result

Throughout PESTLE analysis was show the economic engagement of elderly individuals in rural areas of Laos, specifically in Phongern village, is influenced by various external factors.

Political factors, such as land tenure policies, agricultural subsidies, and rural development, affect the viability of subsistence farming and other economic activities.

Economic conditions, such as access to markets, credit, inflation rates, and income disparities, significantly impact opportunities for the elderly.

Sociocultural norms, values, and traditions also influence the types of economic activities engaged in by the elderly.

Technological advancements, such as modern agricultural techniques and information technology, can enhance economic engagement, but limited technological literacy and inadequate infrastructure may hinder their participation.

Legal frameworks and regulations, such as land ownership rights and small-scale business regulations, also impact the elderly's economic empowerment.

Environmental factors, such as climate change and natural resource availability, also impact the sustainability of economic activities, and climate resilience and access to resources are essential considerations for the elderly engaged in farming and other activities.

Moreover, The type of economic activities of elderly people in rural area was finding such as subsistence farming, livestock rearing, local market vending, and food processing are the primary economic pursuits. These economic activities play a pivotal role in contributing to the financial well-being of elderly individuals, then the key motivational factors was including financial independence and livelihood, social connections and sense of belonging, preserving traditions and cultural heritage, empowerment and independence. Health condition has mention among several respondents about the relationship between their health condition and their ability to engage in

economic activities, and then the study examines the impact of social support networks, intergenerational relationships, and cultural influences on motivations.

Furthermore, the findings of the survey conducted among a sample of 20 elderly participants provide valuable insights into the many determinants that shape their decision-factors about involvement in economic engagement as following: the financial needs and stability emerge as a predominant concern, with a substantial 50% of respondents considering it extremely important. Additionally, support from family and friends, as well as recognition and respect from others, play significant roles in motivating elderly individuals to participate in economic endeavors. On the other hand, factors such as utilizing existing skills and knowledge, feeling productive and contributing to society, and access to resources and opportunities appear to be of lower importance to this group. It is evident that there is no one-size-fits-all approach, as individual priorities and preferences vary. Recognizing these nuanced motivations is crucial in tailoring economic opportunities and support systems to better serve the unique needs of the elderly population, ensuring their financial security, social well-being, and overall satisfaction.

Conclusion

The importance of economic activities among the elderly, highlighting the interplay of financial independence, cultural preservation, social connections, and well-being. Elderly individuals in Phongern village engage in a variety of economic activities, including subsistence farming, handicraft production, livestock rearing, local market vending, food processing, and small-scale business ventures. They also express a strong sense of cultural preservation.

However, challenges such as limited access to resources, health-related constraints, and evolving family roles need to be addressed.

The study underscores the need for age-friendly policies and community-led initiatives to promote sustainable economic growth and social inclusion.

The author:

Xaypaseuth Soundala

Social work and social economic MA student

University of Debrecen, Faculty of Health Science, Hungary