

## **Youth and Family Study in Mountainous Areas 2006**

Center for Health, Disease, and Environment Research in Mountainous Areas,  
Thai Nguyen Medical College  
*in collaboration with*  
The Population Council

*To be read to the respondent at the beginning of each interview:*

Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am coming from Thai Nguyen Medical College. I am asking you to participate in a research study that will examine how social changes affect the lives of young people and their families in mountainous areas of Vietnam. We would like to ask you questions about your experience in school, your work, your family, and your relationships with your parents, your siblings, your spouse (in case you are married), and your friends. We would also like to ask you about your health and reproductive health practices and your attitudes and aspirations about the future. Some of the questions may be very personal in nature. We will treat such information with utmost confidentiality and ensure that no one can use it against you. No individual will be identified by name in the study. Your information will help us understand your situation better. This will be very helpful for future action for program performance to improve your and your village's livelihood.

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary. I am, thus, asking for your permission to ask the questions for the study. If you do not agree, I will not proceed. If, at any time after the questions begin, you do not wish to answer a question, you are free to do so. You also are free at any time to ask that no further questions be asked.

Someone from the research team may want to return in a few months to ask you additional questions. Is that okay with you?

Thank you very much for your collaboration!

**Guideline for interviews with young people born 1977-1991 (ages 15-29)**

*Note to interviewers: Highlighted questions mean that we would like you to pay more attention. We would like you to probe in greater details on that particular issue (such as historical context, subjective assessment, and specific examples/stories).*

**PREPARATORY INFORMATION**

District	Commune	Village	HH Number

Name of interviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Interview date: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year 2006

Interview start time: \_\_\_\_\_ hr \_\_\_\_\_ min.

Interview end time: \_\_\_\_\_ hr \_\_\_\_\_ min.

Name of respondent \_\_\_\_\_

Sex of respondent \_\_\_\_\_ 1=Male 2=Female

Year born \_\_\_\_\_

Line number of this person in the household roster \_\_\_\_\_

Full name of household head \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to household head \_\_\_\_\_

Name of respondent's father \_\_\_\_\_

Name of respondent's mother \_\_\_\_\_

Does respondent live in the same hhold as his/her parents? \_\_\_\_\_ 1=Yes; 2=No

If no, where do the parents live? Ask for address (HH no., Village, Commune, District, Province)

\_\_\_\_\_

Could respondent speak Kinh fluently? \_\_\_\_\_ 1=Yes; 2=No

If an interpreter is needed, write down name/position in the village of the interpreter

\_\_\_\_\_

## **FAMILY LIFE AND FAMILIAL RELATIONSHIPS**

### ***Parents***

- Were you born here in this village? If not, where were you born? When did you or your family move to this village? Why did you or your family move here?
- What did your father and mother do (their occupation) when you were young (around age 10)? What are they doing now?
- Have you always been living with your parents? If either father or mother is away part of the time, probe why and how long?
- How is your relationship with your parents? Who do you feel more close to – your father or mother? In what way do you feel close to him or her? Do you feel like you can talk to them about everything? Is there anything you don't talk to him/her about? Please give me an example.

### ***Brothers and Sisters***

- How many brothers and sisters do you have? (For each brother and sister, consider asking: how old they are, where they are living, what they are doing, have any of them got married, how often do you see them?)
- How is your relationship with your siblings? Who do you feel closest to? In what way do you feel close to them? Can you talk to them about everything? Is there anything you don't talk to them about? Please give me an example.

### ***Grandparents and other relatives***

- Did you grow up with your grandparents or great-grandparents? Did they live with your family or did they live close by? How often did you visit with them?
- How about other relatives such as uncles, aunts, or cousins? Did you grow up around them? How frequent did you get a chance to visit with them?
- Do you have any relatives living outside this commune? Where are they? How are they related/known to you? What are they doing? How frequent do you see them?
- Have you ever asked relatives/ friends who live outside the village for advice or help on taking exams or applying for jobs? Have they been helpful to you?

### ***Relatives with different ethnic background***

- Do you have any relatives who have different ethnic background compared to you?
- Where are they living? How are they related/known to you? What are they doing? How frequent do you see them?
- Are there anyone in your family and extended family who got married to people of different ethnic minority background? Who are their spouse(s)? How are they related to you?
- What do think is the risk (rui ro) of marrying someone who does not share the same ethnic background? What are the risks? If you think there is no such risk, pls explain why.

## **CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, PRACTICES, IDENTITIES**

- What are cultural activities such as festivals and other social gatherings unique to your ethnic group? Could you give me an example?
- *Questions of identity*: How important is it for you to maintain your identity as a Hmong/Dao/Tay/Nung? For example, how do you feel about retaining traditional practices such as shaving head and dressing in traditional clothes? Do people in your community discuss/talk about keeping traditional practices? Are there any disagreements around these?

## **EDUCATION**

- Are you still in school?

**For those still in school:**

- Which class are you in? Where are you going to school? Is it here in this commune or somewhere else? How far is it from your house (in kilometers)?
- How do you usually go to school? How long does it take to go to school (one way)?
- If it rains very hard, do you still walk or bike to school? Or do you stop going to school that day? How often does this happen during a school year?
- Are there any other reasons that make you not being able to attend classes at school (such as having to work in the field, taking care of younger siblings)?
- Do you enjoy going to school? Why or why not? What do you like most about going to school? What do you dislike most?
- Which subjects do you study in school? Which subjects do you like and dislike most? Why?
- What is the highest level of schooling you wish/hope to attain? Why? What do you think you have to do to reach your educational goal? Do you think you can reach your goal?
- What do you think about the physical conditions of your school? Is your classroom well-equipped? Do you think your classroom is too crowded? Ask about furniture, equipments, places to play sports, bathroom facilities.
- Do you have adequate textbooks, stationery, and clothing to go to school? Do you share these with your siblings? If not adequate, what do you usually do?
- Who pay for your tuition and other school fees? How much does your family have to pay for you per year? Can they afford your tuition? Do they have to borrow money to pay for your and your siblings' education? How often? Have your parents ever discussed financial difficulties with you or your siblings?
- Do you get along well with your teachers? Are the teachers whom you often have contact with of the same ethnic background as you? In case respondent is ethnic minority, ask: Do they speak your ethnic language?
- Do they treat students fairly? Is there anyone in your class who receive preferential treatment from teachers? Who are these students? Kinh or ethnic minority? Who are their parents'?
- How well do you do at school? How about last year? What were your grades (GPA) last year?
- Do you usually study after school? Why or why not? How much time do you spend on doing homework or prepare for classes outside school time? Do you get any help at home when you have problems with homework? From whom?
- Do you think it will help you learn better if you can study in your own ethnic language at school (for example, Dao or Hmong languages)? What do you think is the risk of not knowing Kinh language well?
- Do you go to extra classes at school? Please describe what these are and why students have to attend
- What do you usually do during school break? Do get a chance to review or prepare for the next semester or school year?
- Up until now, were their times that you stopped going to school for over a year? How many times? When? Why did you stop? What made you resume the studies? What did you do during the time?
- Are there times that you want to quit going to school? Why?
- Who in your family has the most say about your education – where to go to school, what to study, whether or not to continue? Is it your parents?
- Do you have any say about this? Was there a time that you disagreed with that decision? Describe what happened next.
- Are your brothers and sisters who are close in age to you (+/- 5 years) still going to school?
- If they are still in school, which grade are they in? Where are they going to school?
- If they are no longer in school, what is the highest grade they attained? Why did they stop going to school? Whose decision was this?

- Who has the highest level of education in your extended family? Tell me about him/her.
- In your opinion, what are the benefits of someone in this village having high education (finishing cap III, cao dang, or dai hoc)?
- What are the risks of someone from your village having high education?

***For those no longer in school or never been to school:***

- Which year did you stop going to school? Which was the highest grade/degree you attained?
  - If respondent has less than 5 years of education, ask if he/she can read and write
- If never been to school, ask: Can you read and write? Where do you learn how to?
- Why did you stop going to school? Whose decision was this? Is it you or your parents, or both? Were you happy or unhappy with the decision? Do you wish you were still in school? Why?
- Do you have any plans to go back to school in the near future? When? Where?
- While you were in school, how did you usually go to school? Where did you go to school? How long did it take to go to school (one-way)? If it rained very hard, do you still go?
- While you were in school, did you enjoy going to school? Why or why not?
- Which subjects did you study in school? Which subjects did you like and disliked most?
- Before stopping going to school, which was the highest level of schooling you hoped to attained? Have you changed your mind since?
- Before you quit schooling, what were the physical conditions of your school? How was your classroom? Was it always crowded? Ask about furniture, equipments, playgrounds, bathroom facilities, etc.
- Back then, did you have adequate textbooks, stationery, and clothing to go to school? Did you have to share these with your siblings? If not adequate, what did you usually do?
- Who paid for your tuition and other school fees? How much did your family have to pay for you per year? Could they afford your tuition? Did they have to borrow money to pay for your and your siblings' education? How often? Did your parents discuss financial difficulties with you or your siblings?
- How well did you do at school before you stopped going to school? What were your grades (GPA)?
- Did you usually study after school? Why or why not? How many hours a day typically?
- Do you think it will help you learn better if you can study in your own ethnic language at school (for example, Dao or Hmong languages)? What do you think is the risk of not knowing Kinh language well?
- Are your brothers and sisters who are close in age to you (+/- 5 years) still going to school?
- If they are still in school, which grade are they in? Where are they going to school? How well are they doing at school?
- If your siblings are no longer in school, what is the highest grade they attained? Why did they stop going to school? Whose decision was this?
- Have you ever thought about going back to school? When? Why? Why not?
- In your opinion, what are the benefits of someone in this village having high education (finishing cap III, cao dang, or dai hoc)?
- What are the risks of someone from your village having high education?
- Who has the highest level of education in your extended family? Tell me about him/her
- What did you do right after you stop going to school (and decided not to go back)? Who did you work for? Your family or someone else?

***\*\*\*If respondent is ethnic minority, ask the following questions:***

- When you first went to school did you speak Kinh?

- If not, how did you communicate with your teachers?
- How well do you speak Kinh now?
- Do you have the opportunity to learn your own ethnic language in school?

### **WORK WITHIN FAMILY (DOMESTIC AND PRODUCTIVE)**

*Note: Housework includes laundry, cleaning, rearing younger siblings/relatives, cooking, taking care of other members of the household.*

- While you were about age 6-10, did you have to do any housework (household chores) for your family? How old were you when you started doing domestic chores? Please tell me what you usually do (description of your work). How many hours did you spend on doing this housework?
- Did/Do these household chores interrupt your studies in school? Why/why not?
- How do these household chores vary over the years as you are getting older? How many hours do you spend each day doing household chores?
- Did your brother do these household chores as well? How about your sisters? Why is the pattern different between male and female?

*Note: Farm work and productive work includes:*

- Breeding pigs, chickens and other livestock/poultry (buying stud animals, feeding, taking care, selling, etc.)
- Gardening (buying plants, taking care, harvesting, selling)
- Farming (cultivating rice, corn, bean, Arteseminine, tobacco, etc.)
- Non-agricultural trades
- Other production activities

- While you were about age 6-10, did you help your family with farming or other economically productive work for your family? What did you do? Did you remember when you start these farm work or productive work for your family?
- Please tell me in details what you did and how long per day it took you to do this work.
- Did/Do these farm work and productive work for your family interrupt your studies in school? Why/Why not?
- How do your tasks on farming and economic work for your family vary over time as you are getting older?
- Did your brother do these farm work or productive work as well? How about your sisters? Why is the pattern different between male and female?
- Who in your family is the primary person managing the income from the farming and other economic activities within the household? Do you have any roles or participate in any decision making about financial issues of the family?
- If it is someone else in your family (such as father, mother, and husband), what do you do when you want to buy new clothes, some books, or other accessories?

### **WORK OUTSIDE FAMILY**

- Have you ever worked for anyone else who are not your family members?
- If not, are you looking for this kind of work now? What are you looking? Have you found one yet?
- When did you start looking? How long have you been looking? Why do you think it takes you a long time?

**For those who have worked outside the family:**

- Who do you work for?
- If it is just periodic, how often do you do this type of work?
- What kind of work are they? Where do you do these work? In this village, this commune, or elsewhere? How far do you have to be away from your house? For how long at each time?
- How old were you when you started working for someone outside your family? Do you remember the reason why you took this work for the first time?
- Did you do this job at the same you were still going to school? Was this your decision or your family's decision to apply to this job?
- How did you get the job? Who introduced you? Is it difficult to get this job?
- Do you like to work for others better than working for your family? Why and why not?
- Do you think you will continue doing this?
- Do you usually get paid? How much do you get paid per day? Have this changed (increased or decreased since you started working)?
- How do you usually spend the money you earn from these jobs? Have you saved some money? Have you given some money you earned to your family? Do you usually spend it on going out or buying stuff?
- Is working for people outside your family a primary source of your income? Do you have other sources of income? Where are they from?
- Aspirations: is this the kind of work that you want to do all your life or do you aspire to do something different. If so what kind of work would you like to do? Do you know anyone who does that kind of work?
- What in your opinion is the best kind of career a person can have from your community? Do you know such a person? Can you aspire to be like him or her? Why or why not?

**Ask both those who have worked outside the family and looking for work**

*Note to interviewers: We want to ask questions to see if people have specific individuals who show the way and act as role models and who they are. Probes should find out as much as possible about common role models such as the one individual who has gone to work in Malaysia.*

- Have you heard of the cement factories in La Hien? Or about the mines in Than Xa? How about service jobs in Thai Nguyen City, Hanoi, or HCMC? Ask about specific persons that they may know about who worked there
- Would you want to work in these places? Why or why not?
- If you have a plan to work outside the village, when?
- What do you think will be the benefits of working outside the family farm? [Higher income, More freedom from the family, More "modernized", etc.]
- What do you think may be the risks of working for someone else, particularly working far away from home?
- Is this your decision or your family's decision to apply to this job?
- Do you agree if a family have several members working outside agriculture and outside the village, their living standard will be better? Please tell me why you agree or disagree?
- Have you heard about job opportunities abroad such as in Malaysia?
- Do you have a plan to apply? Why or why not?
- If planning to go to Malaysia, ask: how did you hear about the job? What do you do to prepare? Is this your decision or your family's decision to apply to this job?

- How much money do you have to pay for fees and transportation?
  - It is very expensive to apply. How do you plan to pay for these expenses?
  - Do you have any information about what you will do in Malaysia? Please tell me what it is.
  - How much will you get paid in Malaysia?
  - What do you think will be the benefits from working in Malaysia (versus working at home or working elsewhere in Vietnam)?
  - What are the risks of working in foreign countries like Malaysia or Taiwan?
  - What are some risks (*rui ro*) associated with a high status job (such as with commuting long distances, losing touch with community when living away, etc.)?
  - What are some risks associated with low status jobs? Farming, local business etc.
  - How long do you plan to be in Malaysia? What will you do when you return?
  - If you haven't had a plan to apply to jobs in Malaysia, do you know anyone who is going to apply? Why are they interested in these jobs? Why aren't you interested in applying? Probe about specific individual and see how different people present the case of these people whose experience may be known
- In your opinion, how useful are what you learned in school to the work you have done in daily life (including both work for your family and work outside family)? Can you apply what you learned in school to your work? Why? Why not?
  - In your opinion, how important is the education for the kind of work you are looking for? Why? Why not?

## **FAMILY ECONOMIC CONDITIONS**

### ***Hunger poverty***

- When you were about age 10, were there times that you went hungry for long periods and your parents could not afford to feed you and your siblings? Could you tell me about this experience?
- Does your family still experience hunger/starvation/ food shortage some time these days? How often? Could you tell me about this experience? If you no longer experience hunger, please tell me in what way your living standard has been improved.

### ***Relative poverty***

- When you were about age 10, were there times that you felt like you were poor because you or your family could not afford to buy certain consumption goods that your friends or neighbor had? Can you tell me specifically about what exactly were these goods?
- Do you still feel like you have less than others around you (Compared to your friends, relatives, and neighbors)?
- What do you think about your family's living standard now compared to the time you were about age 10? Is it getting better or getting worse? In what way?
- In your opinion, what do you think are the reasons that your family's living standard has improved or has not yet improved?
- How well is your family's living standard compared to your relatives in this village? How about compared to other neighbors in this village or villages close by?
- What do you think is the role of children – young people like you – in contributing to household economy? What have you done to contribute to household economy? What you haven't done but think you could do? Are there any ethnic differences in your opinion? [If you are Kinh, compare your experience with Dao/Hmong/Tay/Nung who live around you]

- Do you think if you or your family members experience any financial difficulties, you can turn to relatives who live outside this commune? Why or why not?

### **TIME USE**

- Please tell me about what you do yesterday – from the time you wake up to the time you go to bed.
  - Describe time, activities you do, where it take place, who you do this activity with (or by yourself)
- How often do you do physical exercise such as tai chi, weight lifting?

### **SOCIAL LIFE, SOCIAL NETWORK, DIFFUSION OF IDEAS**

#### ***Contact with the outside world***

- How often do you travel outside this commune or the district? How often? For what purposes?
- What do you think is the benefits of traveling outside this commune or this district? For example, do you feel like you are learning more? Do you think there are any risks to traveling to different places? What are they?
- If you rarely go outside this village, in your opinion, what are the benefits of doing so? What do you perceive as the risks of traveling outside this village?
- In your opinion, how different are these places from your home village in terms of life style and living conditions? Where do you prefer?
- How often do you listen to radio or watch TV? Which programs do you like to watch or listen to most?
  - What do you learn from these programs such as news or drama?
  - Are these characters in TV dramas you watch different from your life?
  - How does what you watch on TV affect your life (esp. women's roles)?
- Ask about perception about risks associated with social networks and choice of entertainment-- watching TV, hanging out, and having fun

#### ***Social Life***

- What do young people in this village usually like to do for entertainment?
- Do they go to karaoke bars? How about playing pool/snooker (bi-a)?
- Do they like to drink or do drugs?
- Have you ever experienced any of this?
- How often do you and your friend hang out (di chôi)? Where do you and your friends go for fun? Is it this village or elsewhere? Do you usually have to spend money when you hang out? How much? Who pay? What time of the day do you hang out with your friends?
- Among friends you hang out with, are there any friends who have ethnic background different from yours? Do you hang out with friends of opposite sex? How often?
- Who do you usually turn to if you run into problems or feeling down? Who do you usually turn to when you need to borrow some money?
- Who is your closest friend? Is the friend Kinh or ethnic minority? Probe which ethnic group.
- Where does he/she live? In this village? How did you get to know each other? How often do you see each other?
- If no longer here, where is he/she now? How often do you keep in touch?

#### ***Participation in activism***

- Have you participated in any organized activities such as Youth Union, Women's Union? Why or why not?

- For those who participated, what did you do? When? Where? What did you learn/get from these activities? How often did you do these activities? Did you have to pay for these activities? Or did you get paid to do these activities? Do you enjoy these activities?
- Are you members of the Communist Party? When did you become a member? What do you see as the benefits of being a Party member?

## **MARRIAGE (Interview both married and never-married)**

### ***For ever married young people***

- How long did you and your spouse know/date each other before you got married?
- What is the ethnicity of your spouse? Is it different from yours? Is he/she from this village or this commune?
- In your opinion what are the risks of marrying someone from outside the communities (particularly that person has different ethnic background?)
- What are the risks of marrying within the communities?
- How did you and your spouse meet each other? Did your family introduce you two? To what extent did your family (your parents) influence your decision to get married and the way the wedding party was organized?
- Please tell me about how your wedding was organized. (For men) How much did you and your family have to pay? (For women) how much did you and your family ask for?
- How are your marriage customs different from other ethnic groups?
- Where did you live right after marriage? For what reasons? Who decided this issue?
- Before marrying this spouse, did you have other boyfriends or girlfriends? How many?
- Did you date with someone outside your ethnic group? What were the reactions of your parents/family when knowing about this?
- How do young people in this community court each other? Where do they hang out?

### ***For those never married***

- Are you seeing anyone right now? Do you have boyfriend or girlfriend? How long have you been together? How did you two meet?
- Is your boy/girlfriend having the same ethnic background? Is this person from this village/commune?
- In your opinion, what are the risks of marrying someone from outside the communities (particularly that person has different ethnic background?)
- What are the risks of marrying within the communities?
- What do you think is the most important criteria for selecting spouse? Is it love, compatibility in terms of education, economic status, ethnicity?
- To what extent does your family (your parents) influence your decision about choosing boyfriend/girlfriend?
- What do you think is the ideal time for man to get married? How about for women?
- In your opinion, what are the most important characteristics young people look for in their future spouse?
- What do you think about pre-marital sex? Is it common to have sex before getting married? Have you heard of anyone in this village or in other villages close by who had premarital sex? Do you approve or disapprove it?

## **HEALTH & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH**

- Could you please tell us about the first signs of puberty (ejaculation for men and period for women)? How old were you then when you experienced puberty?

- How does your culture (Dao/Hmong/Tay/Nung culture) perceive puberty? How is it different from Kinh's?
- Knowledge on pregnancy care? For instance, do you have regular prenatal examination? Did you have nutritious diet during pregnancy? Did you stop heavy work before delivery? Did you have tetanus vaccination?
- Attitudes regarding value of children (for instance, for continuity of family line; taking care at old age, labor)? How has this attitude towards value of children changed recently?

**\*\* For these two questions, probe about ethnic differences as they perceive it. Are Dao values different from Kinh/ Nung/ Hmong?**

- Do you know about how to prevent STDs and HIV/AIDS? (For instance, does kissing transmit HIV? Does shaking hand transmit the disease?) Where did you learn this information?
- Have you heard of anyone in this community or anywhere close by infected with HIV?

### **LOOKING AHEAD, FUTURE, GOALS**

- What are the three most important things that you are concerned and worried about?
- What are the three most important personal goals in life?
- How can schools change policy to best achieve your goals?
- What can your family support you to achieve your goals?
- What can the commune leadership do?
- How can the economy best help you meet you goals in life?

**\*\*\*INTERVIEWERS: ONLY ASK QUESTIONS THIS SECTION, IF TIME ALLOWS**

### **MIGRATION & MOBILITY**

- Have you ever lived somewhere else outside this village for more than a month?
- How many times have you been away?
- For each movement, probe: *Where were you? How long?, For what purpose?, What was the means of transportation?, Did you have any information about the destination before you leave this village? If not, why did you go without information? , Did you have relatives or friends living in the destination places?, o make the decision to move –you or your family?, What was the cost of traveling?, Why did you return to the village?, While you were away, did you keep in touch with your family and friends here? How often?*
- Did you like living outside this village? Why? Why not? Where do you prefer to live? In this village or elsewhere? Why?