

Chapter 12

University Education Opportunities for Poor Students in Rural Areas

Nguyen Chi Hai

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5975-1824>

An Giang University, Vietnam & Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City,
Vietnam

ABSTRACT

The chapter analyzes the barriers to poor students' access to higher education. Many factors influence this, including economic, support policies, quality of general education, and personal awareness and motivation. Financial difficulties are the biggest barrier as tuition fees, living expenses, and limited access to student loans. At the same time, the gap in education quality between urban and rural areas puts rural students at a disadvantage in their studies and university entrance exams. The chapter proposes improving financial support policies, improving student loans, and supporting living expenses. Improve the quality of general education by investing in facilities, improving teacher capacity, and innovating the curriculum. It is necessary to change the perception of students and parents about the role of higher education, and develop career guidance programs and preferential admission policies. These solutions require coordination between the State, schools, businesses, and society to ensure equal and sustainable learning opportunities for poor students in rural areas.

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INTRODUCTION

Higher education plays an important role in human resource development, promoting economic growth and improving the quality of life of each individual. In modern society, a university degree is not only the key to opening up better employment opportunities but also helps individuals improve their awareness, skills and ability to adapt to the rapid changes of the global economy (Fleming & Grace, 2014). For developing countries like Vietnam, expanding access to higher education is strategically significant in narrowing the gap between rich and poor, improving the quality of labor and promoting sustainable development. However, not all groups in society have equal conditions to access higher education. Poor students in rural areas often face more barriers than their peers in urban areas (Alston, 2007). These difficulties come not only from financial issues but also include the quality of general education, family and social awareness, as well as support from education policies. In this context, studying the opportunities for poor students in rural areas to participate in higher education is important, not only to help create a fair education but also to contribute to building a sustainable society.

A major barrier for poor students is financial problems. Although the State has many support policies such as scholarships, tuition exemptions, and student loans, reality shows that these policies are still not enough to help them completely overcome difficulties (Chesters & Cuervo, 2022). In addition to tuition fees, the cost of living in big cities is also a burden for poor families. This causes many students, despite their good academic ability, to give up their dream of going to university.

The quality of general education in rural areas is also a factor affecting students' opportunities to enter university (Hossain et al., 2012). Schools in rural areas often lack facilities, teaching equipment, and highly qualified teachers. This leads to a gap in academic performance between urban and rural students, making it difficult for many of them to pass the university entrance exam.

In addition, family and social perceptions also have a great impact on the decision to attend university of poor students. Many parents in rural areas still value their children working early to support their families rather than investing in education. In addition, the lack of information about scholarship opportunities, admissions, and career orientation also makes many students lack the motivation and clear plans to pursue their education (Fray et al., 2020).

The chapter analyzes the barriers that poor rural students are facing in accessing higher education, and proposes solutions to improve the situation. The chapter aims to identify factors that affect the ability of poor rural students to participate in higher education, including economic factors, support policies, quality of general education, and social awareness. Evaluate the effectiveness of current support policies and programs, identify limitations, and propose improvement solutions. Propose

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