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Sustainable Goal Number 5: Awareness of the Level of Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Children among University Students

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Abstract

Gender inequality is a common problem today, the study aims to measure the commonality of SDG5 in education as well as in students' daily lives. The study aimed to assess the level of students' awareness of sexism, and students' opinions on social aspects related to gender discrimination. Provide data and information on the indicators and progress of SDG5 at the local level, monitor and evaluate progress in achieving SDG targets, and provide solutions to promote engagement and support activities related to SDG 5. From there, the shortcomings can be identified and serve as a basis for further research activities in the area. In addition, the research article will contribute to promoting communication activities on SDG5. Using quantitative and qualitative methods, with the participation of 150 students for quantitative methods and 11 students for qualitative methods. The results show that students have a high level of awareness about gender inequality, and understand that gender inequality should not happen. However, there is a part of students who have mixed views about women's rights, through the research also offers solutions to achieve SDG5 in Vietnam.

Keywords: *Sdg5, sustainable development, gender equality, FPT university, student.*

1. Introduction:

In September 2015, the 2030 agenda was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure the prosperity of all nations and the point is 17 sustainable development goals, specifically 169 goals and 232 targets (United Nations, n.d). Sustainable Development is developed on the basis of the Millennium Development Goals. In September 2000, the United Nations Summit adopted the Millennium Declaration with eight Millennium Development Goals. Has a solid foundation so the Sustainable Development goals are bigger, more inclusive, conceptual, and related to many humanistic fields, each of which will be closely linked to development, the success of one goal will bring good results to another, completing the shortcomings of the Millennium Development Goals and Agenda 21 leaving no one behind (United Nations, n.d)

To have more of an overall look at the 17 Sustainable Development goals, they will be divided into 4 main areas. The first area of focus is on people, investing in people will help create a

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prosperous society, leading to a modern and fair society where individuals are empowered and equal in all aspects. The second area is ensuring climate and environmental adaptability, climate change poses a significant threat to human society today. To prepare for natural changes, sustainable development measures are being implemented, such as using renewable energy sources, promoting nature conservation efforts, and employing environmentally friendly technologies. In the third area of focus, we have prosperity and collaboration, by actively supporting businesses, investing in infrastructure, and fostering young enterprises, as well as establishing international connections, a prosperous global community can be built, fostering solidarity and constant mutual support, thereby leading to comprehensive development. The final area of focus is promoting justice, peace, and inclusive governance. Addressing social inequalities, encouraging individual expression, aiming for a just society where everyone has a collective voice, freedom of speech, and freedom of action, as well as respecting others' perspectives, conflicts can be peacefully resolved, and equal opportunities can be provided for everyone. These four areas of focus form the foundation for a shared vision of a sustainable future.

Gender equality, this goal is always especially important. Nearly 35% of women worldwide have experienced physical or sexual violence by their partners (United Nations, n.d.). Globally, 30% of women have experienced physical or sexual violence by their partners in their lifetime (United Nations, n.d.). Adolescent girls, young women, women belonging to ethnic and other minorities, transwomen, and women with disabilities face a higher risk of different forms of violence (United Nations, n.d.). Empowerment of women, focusing on gender equality, and creating opportunities for women and girls is urgent, a prerequisite for other goals. Only when women and girls are recognized, another UN goal has just been completed.

The main objective of this research is to estimate the awareness of students at FPT University about the Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG5. Determine whether education in different places leads to differences in students' perceptions of SDG5, gender inequality is a top concern, only when SDG5 is improved will other goals be accomplished. Research wants to estimate whether university students will have a higher awareness, and behavior about SDG5, and would like to have a more diverse perspective on SDG5. From there, provide solutions to improve the situation as well as improve SDG5 for students

2. Literature Review

The Global Gender Gap Index assesses the current situation and progress on gender equality and is the oldest indicator to track the progress of closing the gender gap since its inception in 2006 (WEF, The Global Gender Gap, 2022). In 2022, the gender gap global has shrunk by 68.1%. According to the WEF, at the current rate of development, the world will take another 132 years to achieve perfect equality (WEF, The Global Gender Gap, 2022). This figure represents a slight improvement over 4 years compared to the estimate for 2021 (136 years) - According to Open Development Vietnam n.d. Sustainable Goal five includes six specific targets to promote gender equality and empower women and girls globally.

Target 1: Conclude the discrimination against all women and girls in the world

This includes addressing and eliminating harmful practices, prejudices, and negative social norms imposed on women and girls, ensuring fairness for all. The international community needs to recognize the essential role of women and girls in society, and countries should integrate gender issues, empowering women and girls in policy-making activities to enable their

full and equal participation in a nation's development.

Target 2: Scratch out violence and domestic violence against all women and girls

According to a United Nations study in 2020, about one-third of women worldwide have experienced some form of violence in their lifetime. Additionally, a national survey on violence against women in Vietnam in 2019 revealed that nearly two-thirds of women (almost 63%) experience one or more forms of physical, sexual, psychological, and economic violence, as well as controlling behavior by their partners, during their lifetime. Furthermore, about 32% of women face current violence (within the last 12 months). To end violence against all women and girls, proactive measures should be implemented to prevent any violent behaviors and create a safe environment for them.

Target 3: Eliminate harmful customs

Completely eliminate harmful customs affecting women and girls such as child marriage, bride kidnapping, female genital mutilation, etc. This can be achieved by increasing awareness of gender equality rights, implementing laws and policies to protect women and children, and developing gender education programs. Addressing these customs requires the collective efforts of government agencies, non-governmental organizations, communities, and individuals.

Target 4: Recognize unpaid care and housework and encourage sharing of responsibilities within the family

Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work by providing public services, infrastructure, and social protection policies, as well as promoting shared responsibilities within households and families. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), women perform about 76.2% of unpaid domestic work globally, which is approximately 3.2 times more than men. This imbalance in household chores creates a perception that it is solely a woman's duty. Therefore, social protection policies should be implemented to support homemakers, and the society should understand that gender equality implies recognizing the importance of household work and promoting equitable division of tasks within families.

Target 5: Empower women and guarantee their participation in leadership positions

The representation of women in leadership positions is generally lower than that of men due to various barriers faced by women when seeking high-level positions. These inequalities stem from gender bias and lack of trust in women's ability to make important decisions or lead organizations effectively. This requires cultural change, specific policies and laws, investment in education and capacity-building for women, and creating an enabling environment for women's engagement and contribution to political activities.

Target 6: Ensure universal access to healthcare services and sexual and reproductive rights

As agreed upon in the Beijing Platform for Action, the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and their review conferences, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights for all individuals (UNWomen, n.d). Currently, women and girls face difficulties in accessing their healthcare due to reasons such as financial constraints, lack of education, and socio-cultural barriers. For instance, according to a report by UNFPA and the Cancer Council New South Wales in 2020, cervical cancer ranks as the sixth most common cancer in Vietnam, with 4,177 new cases and 2,420

deaths in 2018. However, HPV vaccination coverage and cervical cancer screening rates remain low in Vietnam. A 2021 study showed that only 12% of women and girls aged 15-29 receive HPV vaccination, and only 28% of women aged 30-49 undergo cervical cancer screening. To ensure comprehensive education on sexual and reproductive health, provide affordable healthcare services, and distribute services equitably to protect the health of all women and girls.

These six goals under Sustainable Goal 5 aim to promote gender equality and empower women and girls, Sustainability Goal 5 also offers three ways to do it. First, restructure to empower gender equality for women and girls to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance, and natural resources, suitable with national laws (UNWomen, n.d). The second is to enforce the use of technology, especially information and communications technology to empower women (UNWomen, n.d). An advanced country has a high percentage reduce gender discrimination. Last, through and implements the policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality for all women and girls at all estates (UNWomen, n.d).

About Sustainable Development Goal 5 in Viet Nam, Viet Nam is a country in Southeast Asia (SEA), in a favorable geographical position for the process of cultural exchange between Vietnam, China, and India so that is the reason Viet Nam has been influenced by Confucian thought, this ideology partially influenced the gender equality of Viet Nam. For example, In Vietnam, women are deemed responsible mainly for raising children and housework (United Nations, n.d.). Today, Vietnam is making efforts every day to close the gender equality gap. However, this takes time and comes with constant daily effort. Vietnam has improved 4 places on the World Economic Forum (WEF) 2022 Global Gender Gap ranking, from 87th to 83rd out of 146 countries, with a score of 0.705 /1 (WEF, The Global Gender Gap, 2022). Besides, in Viet Nam has a depraved custom is impactful to SDG5 of Viet Nam name is wife kidnapping, which appears in the highland of Viet Nam and especially is in H'Mong ethnic people. Because Viet Nam pays more and more attention to the protection of cultural traditions and customs from ancient times. However, it brings the development of depraved customs. According to Ainuru Altybaeva: "Bride kidnapping is not a tradition, it's a crime" (UNWomen, n.d). Actually, the nature of the custom of catching a wife is not bad, it is a subculture of the people in the Northwest, but this custom has been abused, also affecting SDG 5 of Vietnam and in some cases becoming acts of coercion, losing the freedom of girls, causing their future to be closed.

3. Research

A survey of 150 FPT university students about SDG 5, the focus of the survey is to be able to understand the popularity of SDG5 among students, measure awareness, determine to understand students' attitudes towards SDG5, make suggestions to improve the situation as well as improve SDG5. Data from students' answers will be statistically analyzed to find useful information and draw research conclusions.

3.1. Sample/Participants

The survey will be sent to students of FPT University. There is no age or gender difference also there is no focus on an academic year or industry. When participating in the survey, all participants were aware of the issue of gender discrimination and the Vietnamese ideology of male chauvinism. The research interview participants were 11 out of 150 survey respondents,

the interviewers gave their own views on the issues in the given interview questions.

3.1.2. Instruments:

According to the mixed-method approach (Hesse-Biber, 2010). Use quantitative and qualitative methodologies. Particularly the instruments included a 5-point–Likert - scale questionnaire and individual interviews, the quantitative method is implemented through a set of 19 questions divided into three parts. Part 1 begins with a yes/no question to determine students' understanding of SDG5. Part 2 is a set of 13 questions related to the achievement of SDG5 to determine whether the perception and prevalence of SDG5 are high or low. The last is part 3 consists of 5 questions related to the extent of SDG5 promotion in each student area. In part 2 of the quantitative approach, use a 5-point Likert scale (1 = a few, 2 = little, 3= average, 4 = high, and 5 = very high).

Qualitative use of individual interviews includes nine question.

3.1.3.Data collection procedures and data analysis:

The survey was conducted on Google form and all questions were used in Vietnamese to facilitate the survey participants. Then all the collected data will be converted into English. The low or high data of the survey will outline the awareness and prevalence of SDG5 where the participants live.

The depth interview is conducted in two ways, one is through Google Meet, and the other is done directly outside because the time when conducting depth interview falls on the holiday after the final exam at the university. The answers to the depth interview are entirely in Vietnamese and will be recorded and handicraft translated into English. Depth interview focuses on social questions related to SDG5 in order to exploit individual perspectives and perspectives of participants. Nine questions in the depth interview set include:

Question	
1	In the places where you have lived, have you witnessed any cases of inequality in education?
2	Forced into marriage has been appearing, do you see any situation in your area?
3	According to you, the reason made girls from 16 to 18 drop out of school to get married, is usually those marriages don't have happy endings, what is the cause?
4	Companies are still afraid of women becoming managers because they fear that maternity leave affects the quality of the company's work. What do you think about this issue?
5	Often victims of domestic violence are women. Recently, there was a case where a woman threw her child down from the second floor because her husband assaulted her. Do you think women are not fully aware of their rights in terms of gender equality?
6	Have a perspective that women should not be driving. Recently, the fact that women driving Grab, Bee, or some ride-hailing app is often canceled, what is your opinion on this issue?
7	Recently, there have been many cases where women are often judged for the way they dress and are often the target of attacks and being hidden cameras and posting it on social media like the case of a girl wearing a backless shirt. But while the boys were naked on the street but people do not care about that. What do you think about this issue?
8	In some the family, the son has more rights than the daughter. The household is just for the daughter and women in the family, Son and men in the family do not do anything, they just sit and talk. Give your opinion about this situation.

9	What do you think about in some job positions females paid been wage less than males but the volume of work still the same.
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4. Results

4.1. Result collected from the questionnaire

Table 1: Demographic Backgrounds

Demographic Available		Frequency	Percent
Gender	Male	61	40.7
	Female	87	58
	Other	2	1.3
FPT Campus	Can Tho	144	95.4
	Ha Noi	1	0.7
	Ho Chi Minh	5	3.3
	Quy Nhon	1	0.7
Academic year	K14 (2018-2022)	2	1.3
	K15 (2019-2023)	3	2
	K16 (2020-2024)	53	35.3
	K17 (2021-2025)	85	56.7
	K18 (2022-2026)	7	4.7
Home town	An Giang	17	11.9
	Bac Lieu	7	4.9
	Bac Ninh	1	0.7
	Ca Mau	5	3.5
	Can Tho	42	29.2
	Vinh Long	17	11.9
	Ha Noi	1	0.7
	Hau Giang	14	9.7
	Kien Giang	10	7
	Long An	1	0.7
	Soc Trang	16	11.1
	Thanh Hoa	2	1.4
	Tien Giang	1	0.7
	Tra Vinh	4	2.7
	Dong Thap	5	3.5
Nam Dinh	1	0.7	

Table 2: Awareness about SDG5

	Yes	No
Have you ever known and learned about SDG 5	29.3	70.7

Based on (Table 1), we can see that the majority of participants are female, accounting for 58%, while the remaining 40.7% are male and other accounts for 1.3%. Since the surveyed area is FPT University students, all participants are university-level and belong to the FPT University system. The majority of participants come from Can Tho Campus, accounting for 95.4%, followed by 3.3% from Ho Chi Minh Campus, Quy Nhon Campus accounts for 0.7%, and Ha

Noi Campus also accounts for 0.7%. The participants' age ranges from 18 to 23 years old - according to the survey on academic year, the participants are currently studying in K17 (56.7%), K16 (35.3%), K18 (4.7%), K15 (2%), and K14 (1.3%). Regarding hometown (has 144 responded to this question) since the majority of participants come from Can Tho Campus, it also leads to the majority of hometowns being located in the southern region of Vietnam. An Giang (11.9%), Bac Lieu (4.9%), Bac Ninh (0.7%), Ca Mau (3.5%), Can Tho (29.2%), Vinh Long (11.9%), Ha Noi (0.7%), Hau Giang (9.7%), Kien Giang (7%), Long An (0.7%), Soc Trang (11.1%), Thanh Hoa (1.4%), Tien Giang (0.7%), Tra Vinh (2.7%), Dong Thap (3.5%), Nam Dinh (0.7%). As we can see, the participants mainly come from the southern region of Vietnam (96.5%), while a smaller percentage comes from the northern region (2.1%) and the central region (1.4%).

From the first question (Table 2) there were negative signals. The number 71.1% of people surveyed had never learned or even heard about SGD5. This is a warning alarm for the goal of gender equality and women's empowerment by 2030 when currently one of the goals on human rights has not been disseminated to the majority of respondents.

Table 3: Determine whether the perception and prevalence of SDG5 are high or low:

Question	N	A Few	Little	Average	High	Very High
1. Your level of cognition of gender equality	150	2	1.3	12.7	54	30
2. The level of cognition about gender equality of people around you	150	1.3	6	48.7	31.3	12.7
3. The level of performance towards SDG 5 where you live	150	5.3	16	36.7	33.3	8.6
4. The level of sexism where you live	150	8	12	42	27.3	10.7
5. The level of violence against women where you live	150	24	27.3	23.3	17.3	8
6. The extent of exploitation of women where you live	150	30	22.7	20	18.7	8.7
7. The extent of forced into marriage (for girls under 18 years old) where you live	150	47.3	18	11.3	17.3	6
8. The extent of unsound customs to women and girls where you live (forcing them into marriage, causing physical or mental health)	150	44.7	16	18.7	14	6.7
9. The extent of women doing housework where you live	150	5.3	10	34	36	14.7
10. The extent of respect for women just staying at home and doing household where you live	150	6.7	8.7	36.7	35.3	12.7
11. The extent to which women appear in the leadership apparatus where you are working or studying	150	5.3	12	37.3	36.7	8.7
12. The level of ensured reproductive health (maternity leave) where you are working or studying	150	4.7	6.7	26	44.7	18
13. The extent of women's empowerment (through media) is promoted where you live	150	5.3	8	37.3	38	11.3

Number of participants who suppose that they have a "high" to "very high" awareness of gender equality (according to a 5-point Likert scale) respectively 54% and 30%, 12.7% perceive themselves as having an average awareness of gender equality. In the first step, we can understand that: although the majority of the participants have never heard or known about SGD5, partly they are aware of issues of gender equality

When asked to rate the awareness of people around participants about gender equality, the rate changed significantly when 48.7% of participants rated the perception of people around them about gender equality at the "average" level, 31.3% of people rated "high", 12.7% rated "Very high", and the number of "small" reached 6%. Depending on various factors, participants do not rate the gender equality perception of those around them as "high:" and "very high", just under a half rated "Medium", it brings the result that "Medium" increased significantly and the "very high" rate decreased significantly. This crisis can be from generations, communication, and contact of the participant joining the survey with those around them. Regarding the level of action to achieve gender equality, the percentage of people choosing "average" accounted for 36.7%, "high" 33.3%, "little" 16%, "very high" 8.7%, and very little 5.3%. Once again, we can see a proportional between awareness and action on gender equality, which shows that it is very important and urgent for people to be informed about SDG5. When asked more widely about the extent of sexism where the survey respondents live, the rate remained largely unchanged at "average" 42%, "high" 27.3%, "little" 12%, "very high" 10%, and "a few" 8%. Show that the living habitat in a certain area will generally affect the perception and action of the people in that area.

The extent of violence against women in the place participants live has positive signs when 24% of survey respondents rate it as "A Few", and 27.3% think it "Little". But there are still bad signals when 23.3% rate it as "Average", 17.3% think violence against women in their place is "high", and 8% is "very high". Thus, the condition of violence against women is still happening in some areas and someplace need alarming. The violence still continues, which means that women's equal rights are still being seriously violated.

About aspect of the exploitation of women, more than 50% of the respondents rated it as "little" and "a few", 20% rated it as "average", 27.4% rated "high" to "very high". Although more than half of the survey respondents showed positive, bad signals still account for a large proportion of the survey results. Existing issues such as violence and exploitation of women have not been fully resolved, even unresolved.

The problem of child marriage, forced into marriage, affect violates children's rights has been overcome, 47.3% said that there are "a few" cases of child marriage in the area where they live, and 18% rate the situation of child marriage in the area where they live is little, 11.3% that average and 17.3% and 6% think that the situation where they live is high to very high. This shows a strong growth in awareness of the problem of child marriage in the present day when the percentage of child marriage has been overcome. However, this situation has not been completely resolved.

Regarding the extent of unsound customs against women and girls, 44.7% said that where they live there are "a few" unsound customs, 18.7% on "average", 16% in "little", 14% high, and 6.7% very high. Most gave positive responses about where they lived about customs but still found that the "high" and "very high" levels were still somewhere that had not been thoroughly resolved and still exist to this day.

The percentage of women doing housework in the areas where the respondents live is: 36% accounted for "high", 34% reached 'medium', 14.7% reached high, 10% "little" and 5.3% "a few". The above figure shows that the extent of women doing housework today has changed compared to the previous period when we were affected by Confucian ideology, most women thought that their duty was doing housework.

The degree of respect for women just staying at home and doing housework: 36.7% rated "Medium", 35.3% rated "high", 12.7% said "very high", 8.7% rated "little" and 6.7% found that "a few". This gives a positive signal that the role of women as housewives has been given more appreciate

The extent of women joining the leader in the place of the survey respondents obtained the following results: 37.3% "medium", 36.7% "high", 12% "little", 8.7% "very high", 5.3 % "a few". It can be seen that the level of women in leadership is being distributed unevenly in different areas. When the ratio "very high" and "a few" just has a small difference.

Regarding the reproductive health (maternity leave) in the area of the survey respondents, the signals were quite good when 44.7% rated "high", 26% rated "average", 18% "very high", 6.7% rated "little" and 4.7% "very little". This shows that ensuring maternity leave for women is being done very well.

The extent of the promotion of women's empowerment through the media, participants gave the results: 38 % "High", 37.3% "average", 11.3% "very high", 8% "little", 5.3% "a few". The number shows that the media has somewhat reached young people about gender equality.

The extent of the promotion of women's empowerment through the media, participants gave the results: 38 % "High", 37.3% "average", 11.3% "very high", 8% "little", 5.3% "a few". The number shows media about gender equality pretty well, the media has somewhat reached young people about gender equality but we need to more propagate about gender equality.

Table 4: Propaganda sources about SDG 5

Question	Answer	Frequency
The sources you have heard about SDG5	School and University	70
	Newspaper	68
	Television	74
	Government	22
	Friends	1
	Social network	3
	Never heard	16
The source you usually find on gender equality and women's empowerment	School and University	61
	Newspaper	98
	Television	98
	Government	30
	Social network	3
	Never heard	4
How did your school mention SDG 5	Never said	66
	Competitive	34
	Class meetings	28
	Extracurricular activity	57

Question	Answer	Frequency
	Talk show	1
	Survey	1
Information from the newspaper you receive about SDG5 is by form	Never heard	50
	Papered newspapers	38
	Electronic newspaper	81
	Social Media	1
Information about SDG 5 from the local government where you live is by form	Never heard	80
	Banner	42
	Sub-quarter meetings	22
	Women's Union	1
	Local media	39

In the first question, when asked about the sources from which participants heard about SDG5, television (74), newspaper (68) and school (70) were the sources from which participants heard about SDG5, followed by government. (22), friend (1), social network (3), shows that in Vietnam there has also been the popularization of SDG5, and the first question also resulted in 16 participants. Having never heard of it from any source, it can be seen that SDG5 has not really been widely distributed in Vietnam's educational environment when the participants are all at the university level. Therefore, it is necessary to take more action and actively propagate in education and communication channels to widely disseminate gender equality. Coming to the second question, when talking more clearly, we replaced the word SDG5 with gender equality, since then the never heard results have been reduced to only 4 never heard participants, besides newspaper (98), television (98), school (61), government (30), social network (3). It can be seen that, although SDG5 is not widely mentioned, gender equality is still actively propagated and educated, which is a positive sign in achieving SDG5 for Vietnam. Better yet, we should still use: "SDG5" to propagate and raise people's awareness about women's rights, but also because when SDG5 is widely known, people will also know more about it. more about the 17 sustainable development goals, not only achieving the goals of SDG5 but also helping to achieve other sustainable development goals. Next was the question about how the school mentioned SDG5 to participants. The results showed that 66 participants had never been clearly mentioned by the school about SDG5, extracurricular activity (57), competitive (34), class meeting (28), talk show (1), and survey (1). Through the results, it can be seen that the school did not actively mention SDG5 to students. The educational environment is an environment that students come into contact with every day and an environment that easily educates students about SDG5. is not given too much attention, the number of participants who have not been clearly disseminated about SDG5 from school is still quite high, however, besides that, the number of participants who have been educated about SDG5 through extracurricular activities shows quite good signs, However, there should still be educational sessions, banners, propaganda activities, and live talk shows about gender equality in schools as well as sustainable development goals in a complete and serious way. Question 4 about what form of media information participants received from the media, electronic newspaper (81), papered newspaper (38), social media (1), and the number of participants. heard (50), there is still a fairly high number of participants who never heard, again reflecting the lack of dissemination of SDG5 through the media but a large number of survey respondents have

been disseminated. Through online newspapers, now everyone has been exposed to electronic devices and more social networking sites, Electronic newspapers are also easily accessible to many people, so it is necessary to have strategies in place. media translation related to SDG5 and 17 sustainable development goals, the online world is a place where we can spread the word about gender equality, but it is also necessary to strictly control the information we want to convey because the network Society is a place where information is easily changed, there will be bad information that will change people's perception. Finally, there was a question about SDG5 information that participants received from local authorities, answers never heard (80), banner (42), local media (39), sub-quarter meetings (22), and women's union (1). The local government must actively propagate to the people because local propaganda can change people's minds about gender equality in diverse audiences and demographics. important but not seriously implemented. Local government propaganda sessions on SDG5 will have a positive impact on the achievement of SDG5 goals. Besides, through the Women's Union, we should also educate girls from an early age about the fact that nowadays gender is equal, and they have the right, to have their own benefit, to decide their lives. and above all, always be protected by the law.

4.2.Results collected from depth interview:

The interview was conducted on 11 participants out of 150 who filled out the survey. The interview asked questions related to SDG5 in order to collect the participants' own views and perspectives

Q1: In where you live, do you see any cases of gender inequality in education?

The answer is 14.3% of students think that there is not and 14.3% of students think that there is still gender inequality in education, but it is quite small. And up to 71.4% of students think that this situation is still disseminated

Student 2: "Most students are equal, have the right to take exams, study, and take care of, so there is no inequality"

Student 10: "In some cases, women have more power than men"

Student 3: "There are still some parts of society that have sexism "

Student 4: "Many families in rural areas where education is not important. If they can afford it, they just give priority to paying for the boys"

Student 6: "Teacher give the advice is that the major only suitable for boys, girls do not have enough capacity to study that major"

Student 11: "Many opinions believe that female teachers teaching economics and natural subjects are not as good as male teachers"

Q2: Forced into marriage has been appearing, do you see any situation in your area?

The answer is 37.5% said that there is a situation of forced marriage, 37.5% of the survey is no. Only 25% of students said that in remote areas, this situation occurs.

Student 5: "Family pressures, economic pressures, or maybe an unwanted pregnancy"

Student 1: "If that were to happen, the girls in today's modern society wouldn't listen"

Student 2: "Promise to be married when a child of a family still very small"

Student 3: "Forced into marriage usually happens in remote areas, where ethnic minority living has the high level of being forced into marriage"

Student 4: "Frequently occurs in remote areas"

Q3: According to you, the reason make girls from 16 to 18 drop out of school to get married, is usually those marriages don't have happy endings, what is the cause?

The answer is most of the students gave reason about knowledge, self-awareness, and family accounting for 70%, the opinion about old thinking is 30%

Student 9: "Rooted in old-fashioned thinking, girls should only get married, have children, and take care of their families, studying is not important"

Student 2: "How they can be a good mother if they do not have enough awareness and responsibilities, they are still kittenish and do not cogitate"

Student 5: "...does not have a clear direction about their future or goals"

Student 10: "In some families, they wait for their daughter enough age to get married, duped their daughter, forced them into married to have wedding presents and to cover the cost of the family"

Q4: Companies are still afraid of women becoming managers because they fear that maternity leave affects the quality of the company's work. What do you think about this issue?

Student 2: "Both have equal rights, so why should companies be concerned while childbirth is a woman's privilege?"

Student 8: "They can work from home when they maternity leave"

Student 3: "If a company thinks that maternity leave of women will affect them, I think you should rethink that company"

Student 6: "It is unfair that a woman is forced to choose between family and career."

Q5: Often victims of domestic violence are women. Recently, there was a case where a woman threw her child down from the second floor because her husband's family assaulted her. Do you think women are not fully aware of their rights in terms of gender equality?

The answer is 50% of students said that women are not aware of their rights in marriage. But besides that, there are also 30% think that the reason comes from family and society which makes them not dare to protect their rights. And 20% said that they have given too much importance to old concepts, and are also influenced by old concepts.

Student 3: "...a part of it is because that woman lacks understanding in protecting her rights in marriage"

Student 5: "The old generations were still influenced by outdated thinking, so they accept the resignation..."

Student 2: "...The women who have been domestic violence think that because they get married so they must listen and follow the husband no matter what their husband does"

Student 6: "Some people want to rise up against, but they don't dare because they are afraid of the stereotypes of society"

Student 7: "Women think that they have to suffer, they are incogitable of prerogative that they must have"

Student 10: "We should educate and disseminate knowledge from the time girls are in school so that girls should know how to protect themselves"

Q6: Recently, there have been many cases where women are often judged for the way they dress and are often the target of attacks and being hidden cameras and posting it on social media like the case of a girl wearing a backless shirt. But while the boys were naked on the street but people do not care about that. What do you think about this issue?

The answer is 100% do not agree with secretly filming women. Besides, 54.5% of opinion about what women wear depends on culture, and 45.5% say modern women have the freedom to dress

Student 1: "From the prejudice into each person, they have assumed that women must dress discreetly"

Student 9: "Vietnam is still a country in the East and the cultures are still in the East, so I think wherever we live, we should live according to that country's culture"

Student 2: "This opinion is quite toxic, it's like taking out the woman as a joke, carrying a lot of prejudice..."

Student 11: "Comment excitedly about based on someone else's physical appearance, that's verbal harassment."

Student 3: "...Put yourself in that situation and see how you would feel if you were judged like that"

Student 8: "...Each person has a style and a way of life so no matter what they wear, what they do, it's their right"

Student 10: "This assessment of women is very outdated"

Q7: Have a perspective that women should not be driving. Recently, the fact that women driving Grab, Bee, or some ride-hailing app is often canceled, what is your opinion on this issue?

The answer is 100% do not agree with this question

Student 6: "Traffic accidents by females are just a part of the number of accidents. Sometimes females can drive better than males. Everything has two sides"

Student 7: "I think this issue is very unreasonable. Since I'm the one who is driven to school by my mother every day, it's normal and I'm still safe now"

Q8: In some the family, the son has more rights than the daughter. The household is just for the daughter and women in the family, Son and men in the family do not do anything, they just sit and talk. Give your opinion about this situation.

The answer is 100% do not agree with this opinion, they think that this is not fair

Student 5: "... This problem was formed by the previous generation. Females have to suffer year to year. No one stands for them so they have to suffer"

Student 4: "This problem appeared in the past, but now society is changing, they are stronger and can talk about what they think, and do what they want"

Student 1: "It's not fair. This usually occurs in the north of Viet Nam. When having a party in the house, males just drink and talk, females have to stuff in the kitchen"

Student 7: "Everyone has different thoughts and perspectives, so they can all stand up to voice their opinions about all matters in the family, regardless of whether they are male or female"

Q9: What do you think about in some job positions females paid been wage less than males but the volume of work still the same?

The answer is 30% agree with this question but 70% are not

Student 4: "If females have a lot of benefits, businesses will be affected. They have a lot of benefits when maternity leave. In this period businesses can recruit a male to replace them and not spend a lot of money."

Student 5: "They bring the same value to the company so managers have to pay the same wage, give the same benefit"

Student 9: "This is very unfair to women. No matter who does it, as long as the results are the same, men and women deserve equal pay"

5. Discussion and Conclusion

Through the survey, we can determine that most survey participants and their respective regions have a medium to high awareness of gender inequality. They understand that men and

women should be equal. However, when asked about SDG5, the majority of respondents answered that they did not know or had never heard of it. Furthermore, when asked where they obtained information about gender equality and social empowerment for women, most answers came from the press and media. This suggests that in the educational environment of Vietnam, there is not much widespread education regarding the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals. According to a study analyzing University Students' Perceptions Regarding Mainstream Pornography and Its Link to SDG5 (Biota et al., 2022), this research shows that children tend to explore gender-related topics at a certain age, using the internet as their primary source. This is alarming because internet searches may lead them to pornographic websites with unfiltered content. The average age at which participants began consuming pornography was found to be 10.4 years old. This is concerning since children are still at an age where they have not even entered adolescence. Starting to consume pornography at such an early age can seriously impact their perception of affective-sexual relationships, as they may generalize and normalize what they see in these videos (Wright et al., 2022). Another study conducted by Bischmann at the University of Nebraska suggests that the age at which children first encounter pornography might be related to the development of certain gender discriminatory attitudes throughout their lives (Bischmann et al., 2017). Based on our research results, it is evident that the educational environment in Vietnam does not prioritize education about SDG5. This can be observed through the lack of gender education in academic settings, with teachers and parents often avoiding discussions on this sensitive issue. However, it is debatable whether this approach is truly beneficial since other research indicates that children will naturally seek out information themselves. The study on students' perceptions of pornography (Bischmann et al., 2017) shows that the content on pornographic websites partly influences children's later perceptions, including actions related to violence and the abuse of women. If these thoughts become ingrained in children as they grow older, it will have a particularly negative impact on SDG 5, especially considering our research findings that show a lack of serious education and dissemination of SDG5. Therefore, if we truly want to plan for SDG5 as an achievable goal, we should start by building quality sexual and emotional education that effectively reaches students. In fact, quality education is the key to ensuring the development of gender equality and empowerment for women, ultimately building a prosperous and sustainable world (Hosein & Basdeo-Gobin & Gény, 2020). In the subsequent questions regarding gender discrimination, exploitation, and violence against women in the participants' living areas, the responses were average or low. This means that gender inequality is still occurring daily around us. It is evident that the level of awareness and promotion of gender equality is insufficient. We need stronger advocacy to make people truly understand the importance of this issue. Achieving gender equality will elevate society to new heights and contribute to its further development. Not only in education, but we also need to promote gender equality in people's daily lives. Surveys show that the promotion of gender equality has not been taken seriously. Local authorities have not shown genuine concern for this issue. They need to actively raise awareness among students and change the mindset of the older generation towards gender equality. Education provided by schools alone is not enough; there needs to be a life-oriented perspective instilled in students from their families. We all know that children mirror the actions of their parents, so it is crucial to disseminate SDG5 at the local level. The survey also indicates that although gender equality is not widely implemented, society is gradually recognizing the power and abilities of women. Questions about the presence of women in leadership positions and empowering women received average to high evaluations. However, in-depth interviews revealed opinions suggesting that granting too many rights to

women would negatively impact businesses. According to the study "Assessment of Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices Towards Gender Equality in Achieving SDG5," the gender pay gap in OECD countries is slowly narrowing. A decade ago, the gap was 14.5%, and now it stands at 13.5%. Furthermore, it has only decreased by 1 percentage point in 10 years. This trend is stable with the findings from the survey, indicating that in OECD countries, the gender pay gap for equivalent work has increased by about 2 percentage points in 10 years. Gender equality is a practical measure analyzing a specific index in women, namely the average wage, with a similar index in men. The World Economic Forum (2019) stated that it will take about 100 years (specifically 99.5 years) to achieve global gender equality. This figure reflects the fact that although everyone is aware of SDG5, society is slow to act on it, and the 100-year estimate reflects that women still need to struggle more for their rights. Furthermore, around 10% of young girls globally aged 15-24 are not attending school. Focusing on the issue of illiteracy, reports describe underdeveloped and developing countries where the enrollment rate of girls and women in educational councils is very low. Moreover, this has a significant impact on women's participation and economic opportunities. There was a participant in our study who disagreed with granting women excessively long maternity leave and was unaware that maternity leave is the right of women. Motherhood is sacred, but if this mindset spreads, it will influence the thinking of the younger generation, leading them to believe that pregnancy will deeply affect their careers and result in consequences such as a rapidly aging population without enough young people to continue developing the country. Empowerment also refers to empowering women politically, socially, and economically to achieve sustainable development goals. Economic empowerment for women is equal distribution in employment, administration, and organization between men and women, as well as relative distribution of income and wages for women compared to men (Kitada & Bhirugnath-Bhookhun, 2019). Additionally, social empowerment encompasses women and girls and their health aspects. It also includes government proposals regarding the mental and physical health of women and girls according to Darmstadt et al. (2019). Currently, there is a phenomenon in Vietnam's ethnic minority areas known as child marriage, which seriously affects the achievement of SDG5. The cause of this issue stems from gender inequality when they believe that Vietnamese women and girls are traditionally considered "less valuable" and must fulfill their family responsibilities as wives, mothers, daughters, and their status is linked to these roles. Gender inequality continues to have negative impacts on educational outcomes, access to sexual and reproductive health services, decision-making rights, and control over resources for girls, thereby contributing to an increased rate of child marriage. Additionally, it also leads to a higher rate of children not attending school. In 2014, the nationwide rate of out-of-school children was 2.1%, with a higher rate among ethnic minority children (6.6%) compared to Kinh ethnic children (1.2%). The difference in the out-of-school rate by gender shows that the rate of out-of-school girls from ethnic minorities at primary and secondary levels is higher at 7.9% compared to 5.5% for boys from ethnic minorities. At the lower secondary level, the nationwide rate of out-of-school children is 6%, with Kinh children accounting for 4.2% and ethnic minority children accounting for 14.9%. The disparity between the Kinh ethnic group and ethnic minority children becomes more apparent at the secondary level, with 19.5% of Kinh children not attending school compared to 47.2% of ethnic minority children (MICS, 2014). Early marriage has a significant impact on the future of girls as it limits their choices and opportunities. Therefore, it is crucial to pay attention to areas with ethnic minority populations when aiming to achieve SDG5. Regular awareness campaigns on gender education and equality for girls in these areas should be conducted actively, providing them with support and encouragement to attend school, both materially and emotionally. Improving this situation will contribute positively to the development of SDG5 in Vietnam, striving for absolute gender equality.

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