

Title: Poverty Alleviation Responses to Globalization in Vietnam

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Abstract:

I review globalization's impact on Vietnam and report on up to four initiatives from local Catholic NGOs in partnership with NGOs in the U.S. that respond to the changes brought about by these forces of globalization. The first is a skills training program aimed at poor less educated young women from the rural areas. These women are trained in the area of domestic help. The program also finds placement for the trainees with good families. The objective is to provide skill, job placement, and development of self-esteem. The second initiative is development of housing for off-campus housing at Da Lat University. The purpose of the house is to provide needed housing for poor students from rural areas and in particular to promote a community living and fellowship. The students organize the operations and the activities of the house. There is a spiritual component in the activities of the house. The third initiative is a housing project for migrant workers from the rural areas to the industrial district in Binh Duong. The objectives of the program are similar to that of the student boarding house. The fourth initiative is in the planning stage. It is a training center for electronics assembly workers in central Vietnam. The consumer electronics for export industry is booming in Vietnam and creates a big demand for workers. The program seeks to fill the role of training and placement but will be aimed at the rural poor population. Globalization creates changes and opportunity in the economy and society. These efforts are attempts to take these opportunities to help the poor in a humane, Christian spirit.