

**LIMITATIONS TO WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN POST-WAR  
RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT: A CASE  
STUDY OF KANAGARAYANKULAM NORTH,  
VAVUNIYA, SRI LANKA**

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**by**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This study focuses on the limitations for women's participation from their cultural and social point of view. The study location has been selected based on my experience in working as a staff representing my organization through a shelter support programme.

This study explores the limitations to women's participation from their own perspectives and from that of their community. It attempts to examine the gaps between the ways in which women and their communities understand participation and the ways in which it is represented in organisational documents and policies. The study consisted of a survey among 30 women and in-depth interviews with 5 women from the Kanagarayankulam Division in Vavuniya North DS Division in Vavuniya District followed by in depth interviews carried out with a selected few women members.

Study identified several limitations in this village with regard to the full participation of women in development activities. This study concludes that the participation of women is understood in two dimensions; one is the practical participation and the other through the understanding of participation from the women's point of view. The practical participation is influenced by the level of vulnerability, collective response towards recovery, level of education, endurance to the losses, social norms, cultural beliefs, women's priorities, ownership of resources, type and number of livelihoods. The same factors influence how women perceive participation and thus the experience of women shapes how they participate and how they perceive it. The study also shows how, women have adapted to changing situations in adverse conditions through increased contribution of planning, labour and other skills.