

**MICRO ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT AND LIVELIHOOD
RECOVERY OF THE CONFLICT AFFECTED HOUSEHOLDS:
A CASE STUDY OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS FROM
BATTICALOA DISTRICT SRILANKA**

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL COMPLETION OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE IN DEVELOPMENT
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ABSTRACT

This study sought to find out the contribution of different assistance/aid provided to women's micro enterprise development and livelihood recovery of the conflict affected households in Batticaloa district. Using a qualitative methodology, the study examined the changes in the income of the women entrepreneurs, their impact on the livelihood recovery and new productive asset creation of their households. Eravur Pattu Divisional Secretariat Division was selected for this study. Purposive sampling was used to ensure representativeness of different types of trades. Study findings show that although the general indicators reflect positive impact among women entrepreneurs due to different types of assistance provided, in terms of income, gross profit and living standards the results are ambiguous. The common types of assistance provided by different sectors were loan, grant, training and material. The study finds no evidence of significant contribution of increased income in the creation of new productive assets. From the findings, 'loan' and 'raw material' have directly contributed in the increase of income and contributed in the improvement of food habits, access to health service and housing of some of the women entrepreneurs. Training has made insignificant contribution in the growth of the enterprise and the overall livelihood recovery. It was reported during interviews with women entrepreneur and key informants that networking, market linkages, less capital, debt and interrupted supply of raw material are some of the key challenges faced by women's micro enterprises. Very minimal collective actions and knowledge sharing among women entrepreneurs were observed. The study recommends that there could be: close monitoring mechanisms, coordination among relevant actors, development of results-based management system, increased amount of loans, need based training, less ambitious and realistic target by organizations, consideration of special needs and practical issues of women.

Key words: Women's Micro-Enterprise, Development Assistance, Livelihood Recovery, Poverty, Productive Asset

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