

**THE ROLE OF SELF HELP GROUPS IN BUILDING CAPACITY OF
WOMEN-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS: A CASE STUDY FROM A VILLAGE IN
THE BATTICALOA DISTRICT**

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ABSTRACT

Women and girls are affected in particular ways on the basis of their gender within conflict situations. The death, disappearance or migration of men, or abandonment by their husbands means that women, in addition to their traditional role of care-giver, have to take on other responsibilities of being the primary provider and of ensuring the security and maintenance of families. Therefore the emergence of women-headed households (WHHs) is inevitable.

The capacity development of women heads of households is a process in which women challenge the existing norms and culture, to effectively promote their wellbeing. The participation of women heads of households in self help groups (SHGs) make a significant impact on their capacity development in social and economical aspects. This study addresses the capacity development of WHHs through SHGs in the village of Nagapuram in the District of Batticaloa. The information required for the study has been collected from both primary and secondary sources. A random sampling method has been followed for the selection of research participants. The results of the study revealed that the SHGs have had a greater impact on the development of the capacity of women heads of households especially in the areas of skills and knowledge.

Key words: Women-headed Households, Women heads of households, Self Help Group and Capacity development