

**THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL PROTECTION ON WOMEN HEADED
HOUSEHOLDS IN THE VILLAGE OF VADDAVAN BATTICALOA
DISTRICT**

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ABSTRACT

As a result of the war in Sri Lanka there are many war widows, each with their stories of resilience. Now that the 26 year war has come to an end, there is a need for their resilience to be sustained and for these women to be included in social protection and livelihood efforts. Through in-depth semi-structured interviews, this dissertation focuses on war widows' experiences of the war and also in the context of post war, and attemptsto study the impact of ongoing rehabilitation programs on their lives in the post war period. This dissertation presents findings based on the field work studies which show the most pervasive economic, physical and psycho- social vulnerabilities that Women Headed Households (WHHs) face in post war areas mostly in rural and interior villages in eastern Sri Lanka. It clearly identifies the key vulnerabilities faced by WHHs, studies the existing social protection services provided particularly to WHHs, and identifies how much access and opportunity WHHs have to participate in the rehabilitation programs. Most of WHHs are getting very little support and have a lack of social protection, however have harnessed their inner strength to face many challenges, including insecurity, financial adversity, ongoing traumas and health problems. This study also tries to identify how the state has addressed these vulnerabilities through ensuring social protection.