

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The aim of this project is to increase the income level of the women headed families of a village in Achchelu Division, which is located in Divisional Secretariat Valikamam East (Kopay) of Jaffna District in Northern Province. The general public, including 100 direct beneficiaries from the Achchelu Division will be directly benefited from this project as the suppliers of raw materials and the total cost of the project is Rs.4 million. Duration of the project is four months. The implementation of project will be done, in parallel to the daily office work and the personal commitments. Therefore there should be a balance between day to day official work and the project work. Data collection time period is limited because most of the public are hurry to go back after their official engagements at the DS office. In practice, many limitations had to be faced in the preparation of this field project study. Those are as follows, due to lack of time, the analysis limited to one Grama Niladhari Division but there are 31 Grama Niladhari Divisions in the Valikamam East Divisional Secretariat, which consists of 4340 women headed families. Among them, 204 women headed families were selected from one GND only which is very difficult to find out the actual needed number of beneficiaries, unless a census among the entire population is carried out.

Organisational analysis and problem identification described present situation of the Divisional Secretariat of Valikamam East. The key problem identified in the project area is that the lack of employment opportunities for the vulnerable women living in the area. Since most of these vulnerable women are women headed households, many social issues like increase in school drop outs, increase in gender based violences and increase in dependency on male members of the family are resulted due to this key problem. In addition, lack of control of financial means affects the ability of women to make decisions according to their own needs. The government mechanism, through the Divisional Secretariat, engages in addressing the social issues through many divisions designated for specific services to the general public such as planning, administrative branch, finance, social services, poverty alleviation, women development and cultural development are few. The institution concerned, Valikamam East Divisional Secretariat has been in operation for more than thirty years but the SWOT analysis revealed the factors affecting the institution to perform towards its objectives. The manpower of this institution is one of the significant strengths along with number of adequate staff with decent knowledge about the local situation are

considered as strengths. As the main weakness existing bureaucracy with multi-layered systems and procedures to serve the public is identified. As the opportunity, availability of local raw material in the area is identified. Change of government policies in relation to livelihood development and women empowerment is referred as the major threat. The details are provided under the Section 2.

The theoretical background of the problem is derived from the livelihood improvement approach as a technique used to improve the lives of people in rural area at Japan in late 1940s and 1950s. Before the nation entered its period of high economic growth infrastructure development, monitoring process and capacity building are the other approaches reviewed under the literature review in order to build a solid framework for executing this field project. The purpose of this field project is to Introducing livelihood Support System for Selected Women Headed Families in Valikamam East Achchelu Division. The proposed framework for the study is consisted of a combination of infrastructure development, capacity building and monitoring process induced livelihood development in the project area. Further, the chapter three, describes the theoretical background to the problem, framework of the study, and description of the technique to resolve the problem. The theoretical background describes the critical features of Monitoring Process and Capacity building. Specifically for community development purposes.

The identified main project objective, is to increase the income level of women headed families in Achchelu Grama Niladhari Division through introducing five number of banana leaf plate making machines within four months, developing a beneficiary monitoring mechanism within one month and by conducting a capacity building programme for 25 staff and 100 beneficiaries within one month. The current situational assessment is done through a detail SWOT & Root Cause analysis which helped to identify external environment and internal environment related to the main issues such as Economic Vulnerability and Dependence, Less Employment Opportunities, Increase of Non-School Going Children and Increase of Gender Based Violences. The infrastructure development component introduced to generate the revenue by selling the 'banana leaf plates' to the customers those are manufactured through the 'banana leaf manufacturing units'. A further consideration is that of the necessity of obtaining social approval. Apart from constraints on women's movements and the restrictions on what women are able to do due to their parenting role, this is the very real problem that the strictly gendered division of labour

entails that there are very few paid positions for which women are hired. If NGOs and Government Organizations are excluded, the kinds of work available to these women are, the poorest paid and most insecure. Where work is available, poor women are unlikely to have either the education, skills or training required for it. Political powerlessness Individual women have no place in the political institutions of the village, and this is most clearly manifested in the need for male representation of female interests.

Finally, the recognized components of the proposed field project, to be improved the income level of women headed families in Achchelu Grama Niladhari Divison, will be implemented by introducing the banana leaf plate making mahcines whcih will be operated by the identified beneficiries from the vulnerable women as described in this report. By creating additional source of income for the beneficairies, will lead to address the social issues, specifically helps to reduction in school drop outs, reduction in gender based violences and reduction in dependency on male members of the family.