

**CAPACITY BUILDING IN WOMEN'S NETWORKS BASED
IN MYANMAR: THE ROLE OF EMPOWERMENT AND
DIFFERENT TYPES OF CAPITAL**

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Statement of original authorship

I certify that the work presented in this dissertation has not previously been submitted for a degree nor has it been submitted as part of requirements for a degree except as fully acknowledged within the text.

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ACRONYMS

ASEAN - Association of South East Asian Nations
AIDS- acquired immune deficiency syndrome
AUD- Australian Currency Dollar
DFID - Department for International Development
DSW- Department of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
EU- The European Union
FAO - The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
FHH - Female-headed households
GNI - Gross National Income
HIV- human immunodeficiency virus
IFAD- International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFRC- International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies
INGO - International Non-Governmental Organization
IPO- Input-Process-Output
LDC - Least Developed Countries
MMRD- Myanmar Marketing Research and Development
MoU- Memorandum of Understanding
NGOs - Non-Governmental Organization
NRC - National Registration Cards
OECD - The Office for Economic Co-operation and Development
ONS - Office for National Statistics
PE - Peer Educator
PM- Participatory Mapping
PPM- Participatory Process Map
Po NJA- The Post-Nargis Joint Assessment
PTSD - Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
SLF - Sustainable Livelihood Framework
STI - Sexually Transmitted Infection
TCG- The Tripartite Core Group (ASEAN-UN-Myanmar)
The US government- The United States Government
TPEW- Trained Peer Educator Women

UN -United Nations

UNDP- United Nations Development Programme

UNESCO- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNFPA- The United Nations Fund for Population Activities or United Nations
Population Fund

UNISDR- United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

UNOCHA- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

USA – The United States of America

V1- the poor performing village

V2- the medium performing village

V3- the best performing village

WFS- Women Friendly Spaces

WHO- World Health Organisation

(Myanmar language)

A Khun Hlut Zae- A tax-free market place

Form 10 - the permanent resident document

Ko-Htu-Ko-Hta - Help the self to help others

Kyat- Myanmar currency

Metta- Giving loving kindness

Ngwe-Shin - the wealthy villager

Sin-Ye-Tha - the poor villager

Sone-Se-Yar - Women Friendly Space

Swaen-aer' - Strength

Swaen-yae' - Capability

Tatmadaw - the military

Thar-hman - the middle class

Thu-Gyi - the village head (Local Authority Figure)

ABSTRACT

This study examined the roles of empowerment and different types of capital in relation to women's levels of capacity building. It focused on women survivors of the 2008 Cyclone Nargis disaster who were involved in a 30-month INGO project created to aid their recovery. In order to analyse the women's levels of capacity building, three villages were selected from the same geographical locations in order to compare their situations before, during and after the INGO's project. A social capital conceptual framework, adapted from the World Bank, was integrated with an input-process-output model to assist the analysis of documents and data gathered through qualitative interviews and focus groups. The various forms of data collated were triangulated and analysed using Nvivo software. The findings confirm that the capacity building approach undertaken by the INGO was appropriate to support sustainable capacity building, empowerment and different types of capital development for the women concerned. It was also determined that training provision alone was not sufficient for their ongoing capacity building and empowerment. The research findings identified three new themes: participation; engagement and mutual respect, as a precursor to trust, indicating that in this case they were necessary for the women to gain the most benefit from development efforts. It is anticipated that the finding will be of assistance to researchers and practitioners associated with women's capacity building and empowerment and, in particular for those involved in humanitarian projects and disaster response and recovery across the globe and specifically, in relation to Myanmar.