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.

I also certify that the thesis has been written by me. Any help that I have received in my research work and the preparation of the thesis itself has been acknowledged. In addition, I certify that all information sources and literature used are indicated in the thesis.

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