

Case Studies from Sri Lanka

INTRODUCTION

Two of the three Sri Lanka studies exemplify what is being done to help urban women help themselves. The work in Henamulla Camp aims at the uplift of women in the shanties around Colombo where the living conditions are as poor as any in rural areas. The Kirillapone Project is focused on all members of slum families in areas due for slum clearance. The other study, in contrast, describes training in rural leadership for women.

The Kaduwela Training Centre trains women who have been selected by their villages to learn skills in crafts, nutrition and health care which they are then expected to utilise in upgrading village life. They then train other groups of village women so that the scheme has a multiplier effect built in. This contrasts with many of the other case studies in this handbook where there is no formal mechanism for enabling one group of women to pass on newly acquired skills to the next.

The Henamulla Camp Scheme is notable for its multi-sectoral organisation. A number of government and voluntary agencies are involved in attempts to improve the quality of life for shanty town inhabitants in general. The Women's Bureau arose out of the felt needs of women for income-generating skills and has diversified into health education and training in management.

The Kirillapone Project, assisted by the US Save the Children Organisation, concentrates on helping women's groups who have got themselves formally represented on the community committees. As well as efforts in health and income generation, the scheme has pioneered attempts to support children who enrol in schools by the provision of food and school books.