Feminization of Microfinance -
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SAAPE
Sri Lanka has Female face ???
Population

- Population is 20.3 M
- F: M = 100 : 94
- 24.3% are headed by women.
- 89,000 war widows and around 20,000 female-headed households.
- In Jaffna alone, 80% of the total households headed by widows, divorced, or unmarried women.
- 5.3% in parliament, 4.1% in Provincial Councils and 22% in local government, women in ministerial positions is 6.7%.
Women’s contribution in National Economy

- Women participate in the labor market than men (38.2%, as compared with 77.1% men)
- Women make up 100% of midwives, 90.2% of nurses, and 71.2% of teachers, informal sector and care work.
- 81% of those traveling abroad for work finding employment as housemaids.
- Woman as the highest foreign exchange earners in Sri Lanka, with 6 billion USD in 2014 through housemaids.
- Next foreign exchange generating industries are Textile and Garment (44%), Tea (14%), Rubber and Rubber based products (8%).
Case study

Sutha 40 years old, children age 15 - Girl, 12 - Boy, 9 - Girl

Husband is a heavy vehicle driver in Qatar

They lost everything in 2007 war in east and started life from crutch and bought a house after going to Qatar

Took many micro credit loans (more than 6)

Without telling her husband she pawned the house deeds to some people for 5 lakhs, now it grow to 9 lakhs

Credit collectors comes home at night, she lives without husband, some villagers treated her as a sex worker by the time credit collectors has asked for sexual bribe and some approach the daughter instead of repayment money.

She left the village with children to far away place, without proper leaving certificate children couldn’t join school, 16 yrs was dropped out and didn’t do O/L exam. Son staying with grandmother in some other place and irregular to school he is reported to be violent in school, 9 yrs. staying with aunt in some other village.

When she went to bank to get the money for deed to repay the money bank don’t give loan as she don’t job to repay the loan.

She left children and went to middle east as house maid.
Reflection on case study

What are the challenges she faces as a woman?

- Economy
- Cultural
- Social
- Safety and security
- Resource and control
- Access to social security
Recommendation

• Society / community must come together to fight against micro credit
• Demand conciliation from state
• State come up with regulation on micro finance companies
• State should have mechanism to monitor the micro finance companies
• There should be active movement to fight against MF in SA
Conclusion

- Micro finance / credit is NOT women’s issue alone, it is our issue, its men’s issue, community issue.
- It's National issue.
- Our Countries borrowing MACRO level, Women borrowing at MACRO level.
- Micro finance / credit is not empowering women but exploiting women and VIOLATING their fundamental rights.

- **SRILANKA (all SA) HAS FEMALE FACE**
- **Micro finance - Rubbing salt into a raw wound!**