

**VIOLENCE AGAINST WIDOWS IN PATRIARCHY CAPITALIST  
SOCIETY ANURADHAPURA DISTRICT,  
NORTH CENTRAL PROVINCE,  
SRI LANKA**



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VIOLENCE AGAINST WIDOWS IN PATRIARCHAL CAPITALIST SOCIETY,  
ANURADHAPURA DISTRICT, NORTH CENTRAL PROVINCE, SRI LANKA

D.W.U.ANURUDDIKA KUMARIHAMI 5037962 SHHS/M

M.A. (HEALTH SOCIAL SCIENCES)

THESIS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: NATRUDEE DENDOUNG, M.A., SUPHOT  
DENDOUNG, Ph.D., LUECHAI SRINGERNYUANG, Ph. D

ABSTRACT

This paper reports finding from a study carried out in Anuradhapura District, North Central Province of Sri Lanka, during July to September 2008. Twelve informants were interviewed for collecting data on violence against widows. In depth interview and non-participation observation were used as a data collecting method, with a social feminist framework

According to the findings, most of the widows (eight cases) had experience of receiving a severe degree of violence by, physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and economical means from close friends and relatives in the society. Four cases had experience of receiving a low degree of violence from society other than their family. Characteristics of a capitalist patriarchy created a tough environment for those who received severe abuse in terms of their lack of power, resources and lack of economic status. However, the capitalist patriarchy did not affect the others as much because still they have power, so they can struggle against the violence.

Comparison of the two groups indicates that without resources, skills, and economic status, those more severely abused do not have the power to struggle against the violence they suffer and are subordinate in the society. Those less severely abused still have power to struggle against violence in terms of resources, skills and economic status.

Given these results, I recommend the government take necessary action to change the patriarchal ideology in government services and the community. The Government must address widows' socio-cultural skills and solve their problems in terms of poverty, land, housing and expenses for their children's education, who are most vulnerable to the violence and cannot, survive by themselves.

KEY WORDS: WIDOWS / PATRIARCHY/ SEVERITY AND LESS SEVERITY GROUP

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