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Although, women have contributed to family and society through household production and market participation, the weight given to services rendered by them has not been very significant. This situation has led to these women being seen as marginal role players restricting their decision making capacities.

As more employment opportunities have opened up for women, this study aims to assess the impact of direct earnings of women on their status and position within the household. This study was carried out in the Hambantota district, where the sample was selected from a group which consists of 84 working females and 84 non-working females. Thus the total sample size was 168.

Two indicators, perception of self worth and decision making capabilities of women, were used to assess the status of women. Results indicate that, both decision making power and self worth of working wives are higher than non-working wives. Therefore, one can conclude that, the income earned by women gives the liberty for them making production and household decisions while increasing their perceptive of self worth.