

**WOMAN-HEADED FAMILY: IMPLICATIONS ON FAMILY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.** Rusinah Joned \* and Shariah Omar, Department of Extension Education, Faculty of Educational Studies, Universiti Pertanian Malaysia, 43400 Serdang, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia.

This study examines the problems faced and the coping strategies of woman-headed household besides analysing their family and their needs in coping with family development. The study was carried out in Parit Bakar District, Muar, Johor. A total of fifty respondents, who were separated through death, divorce or abandonment of their husbands, were interviewed using a set of questions. The study showed that the main problems faced by these women were financial, children's welfare and lack of skills and training. These problems were interrelated with development of the family. The coping strategy of these women in financial problems was to seek help from relatives, whom they have a close and healthy relationship. Another main problem faced by the woman-headed household was a low academic achievement of their children, which caused them to be school dropped-out or underachieved in their school work. Many of these women did not know how to motivate their children and they usually sought the school's help to aid in the improvement of their children's academic performance. Generally, these woman-headed households needed financial aids for their children education. To improve their socioeconomic status, these women showed a potential and interest in developing their skills, such as, chicken and goat rearing in commercial basis. So, the development agencies should provide opportunities to these woman-headed households by exposing them to training or skills courses related to their interest in income generating projects.