

## Margarita Diaz

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Margarita Diaz: Project officer at Connect-Community Hubs NSW. I am a teacher and social worker who has valuable experience working with the CALD communities of NSW. I have completed a Bachelor in Education, a Master in Applied Linguistics at Macquarie University and a Master in Social Science at Sydney University.

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### **Inclusion, Poverty and Capacity Building for Women from CALD Backgrounds in Western Sydney – Case Study Analysis**

Globalisation is a process that has seen increasing polarisation within industrialised nations between the privileged minority and the growing majority of people excluded to the economic and social margins (Martin & Schumann, 1996). This polarisation is profoundly gendered with many women from CALD backgrounds in NSW being forced to the bottom end of the labour market (Brewer, 2009) at the same time as declining expenditure on health and community services increase demands on women to carry out unpaid caring and domestic work in the home (Krause, 1996).

This study will use two case studies to analyse the impact of community development and capacity building efforts targeting women from CALD backgrounds. Principal data derives from field notes, case study narratives reported by NSW Community Hubs' community workers over a year period, and interviews to community workers and two female clients from CALD backgrounds. Conceptual links to relevant statistical NSW data, current social inclusion policies and factors related to employability and income are discussed. Finally, the study presents a perspective that seeks to clarify the importance of understanding the influence of local economic factors, and the use of capacity building strategies to address unemployment and help women break away from the margins of poverty.