

## **REPORT ON PASSING ON CEREMONY**

**BACKGROUND:-**Unnayan has been working in collaboration with Heifer International to promote sustainable and improved livestock management programme at two of its working areas i.e Mayurbhanj and Jagatsinghpur districts .The main objective is to provide an improved living condition to the poor and marginalized women of the focused area by raising their source of income. At the same time the project puts equal emphasis on spreading the message of the twelve corner stones among the rural people of those areas. Since Heifer international works for the holistic development of an individual and society as a whole the passing on ceremony is the focal point of this project.

### **MAYURBHANJ**

The second passing on ceremony of small livestock i.e goat was organized at Kakbandh village of Mayurbhanj district on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at 4.00 P.M. There was a gathering of 800 men and women from the project area while the guests included Collector of Mayurbhanj, BDO of Rasgobindapur block, District chief of Baitarani Gramya Bank and other developmental officers from the block.

Gathering of 800 men and women at the meeting spot on time made the occasion victorious. Glimpse of success and feeling of independence were visible in every one's eyes. It was also noticed that most of



the women have started dreaming for a better future. Though it was the second passing on ceremony at Mayurbhanj but a feeling of excitement was there on every one's eyes. Large numbers of Women participants were present to witness their success.

The meeting was started in a traditional way and this was followed by the secretary of Unnayan giving a brief overview about the different programmes that Unnayan is involved with. There after she explained the significance of Twelve corner stones of the Heifer programme and the importance of the Passing on the gift ceremony.

### **PASSING ON THE GIFT:-**

Fifteen original beneficiaries passed on their kids (15 nos) to the second group of beneficiaries and became the benefactors. Every one present in the meeting were motivated by the success of the benefactors. While passing on their Kids the original beneficiaries instructed the new beneficiaries about the best rearing process they had followed. The collector was requested to handover a buck to Champa Singh. While passing on the gifts they shared their feelings of excitement and joy at being able to pass on the benefit that they had enjoyed to another family.

After that a Skit prepared by Mahalaxmi and Taras SHG members was performed at the stage. The skit



was based on gender discrimination, health & nutrition and proper medical attention. Every one present there enjoyed that a lot.

The invitees expressed their appreciation of the principle of “Passing on Gift” and took keen interest in the whole ceremony. The district collector in particular mentioned how impressed he had been with the whole ceremony.

### JAGATSINGHPUR

The first passing on ceremony of small livestock i.e goat was organized at Thailo village of Balikuda block on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

The meeting was started at 11.00 A.M among the gathering of 120 SHG women from different nearby villages. The meeting was started in a traditional way of lightening the candle and It was followed by a floral tribute at the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi. MR Prabaharan ( Programme co ordinator, HEIFER) was present on the meeting spot to grace the occasion. At the same time Mr. Srigopal Mohanty from Mc Master University, Canada and Bank manager (Thailo) were also present there.



After completing the regular inauguration formalities Secretary of Unnayan tried to encourage the participants for their active involvement and support in the project. She also put emphasis on the importance of passing on ceremony.



The interested participants shared their experiences and benefits while working with different projects of Unnayan. Though the participants did not articulate the twelve corner stones but found to be imbibed by its spirits. They also expressed that this give and take procedure has been establishing a close emotional attachment among us. Now we are bound by heart to stand at the doors of other at time of need.



Some of the women expressed the benefits they have received from the MSS training organized by Unnayan team. They viewed that such training programme has brought about a revolutionary change in their style of living. It has been acting as an agent to develop internal courage among them to fight against the social injuries in a peaceful manner.

Four women among them described their success story very briefly which was very inspirational for others.

## PASSING ON THE GIFT

Twenty four women beneficiaries were present along with their loved one (Small goats) on the meeting spot





to pass on the gift. The beneficiaries became the benefactors by passing on twenty seven goats to their different SHG friends. The emotional attachment with the goats made them tearful while passing on the gifts; still they were happy to become a successful part of Heifer project. Every one passed their goats either with some vegetables grown in their farm or Pan as a token of love. The benefactors were also instructing the next beneficiaries how to take proper care of their goats and become successful.



In both places the women, having been trained in the twelve corner stones, seem to have internalized the spirit behind Passing on the gift. There was a smile on the face of each participant in the ceremony both the one who was giving the gift as well as the one who was receiving the gifts. We are looking forward to celebrating many more of such happy occasions.....

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