

The water project fulfilled Mamata's dream of becoming an entrepreneur



Mamata taking care of goats

Sangita Giri Das: Mamata Chaudhary of Velwari Municipality ward no. 6, was confined to farming and housework until recently. Though she was always busy in household chores and farming, Chaudhary's inner desire to become self-reliant and become an entrepreneur never faded. For this, she also tried to join the training programs given by the municipality to various groups and individuals. However, she complains about not being selected for such training programs due to various reasons. "Before I became an entrepreneur, I tried hard to participate in various training, but I could not get selected, which had made my desire to become an entrepreneur unfulfilled," she said.

But right now, this idea of becoming an entrepreneur has now become a reality. The Sombare Water Supply and Sanitation Project, run with the financial assistance of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Fund Development Board and management and technical assistance of the Community for Social Development Center (C.S.D.C), (Fund Board), has fulfilled her goal of becoming an entrepreneur.

The livelihood program (Jeevika Karyakram) under the Rural Water and Sanitation Project initially formed a mother and child stream group named Moon Mother and Child Tap stand group. Chaudhary worked as a volunteer for the same mother and child tapstand group. She is currently working as a secretary in the Sombare Jeevika Samuha under the livelihood program.



Mamata built a shed for her goats next to her house

The savings and loan mobilization program of the Jeevika Karyakram of Sombare Jeevika Group, which started with Rs 20,000 received from the fund board, has now reached Rs 1,06,750. Mamata Chaudhary, who is working as a volunteer in various other social programs, was given a two-day vocational rearing training by the Community for Social Development Center (C.S.D.C). The two-day practical and

experimental vocational training provided by the organization offered Mamata Chaudhary with the skills required for goat rearing, manure construction, resource management methods, grain-water and, disease- related skills which enabled her to raise goats. Chaudhary says, "I am very happy because after the goat rearing training I have taken, I have been able to start a goat rearing business with confidence. After the training it has become very easy to work. I would like to thank all the organizations that have provided financial and technical support for the training and livelihood programs from the bottom of my heart."

Her small business, which started with only two goats, has now grown to 15 with her mother goat, khasi and kid goats. The business which was run only by personal efforts is now getting good support from her other family members as per Choudhary. She dreams of further refining this business in the future and expanding it as a big firm someday. She is happy, excited, and optimistic as the market for her business is good.

The Jeevika program run by the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Fund Development Board has played a positive and important role in empowering women personally, socially and

financially. It has also improved drinking water and sanitation in the community and inspired women like Mamata Chaudhary, said Jai Kumar Singh of Community for Social development Center (C.S.D.C)

The writer is a livelihood Expert in the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Fund Development Board.