

## Pashu Sakhi- The Story of Change



Meet *Pashu Sakhi* **Seema Singh Munda** is a resident of Nawagarh village in Angara block of Ranchi district of Jharkhand. Seema along with 4 school going girl children and her husband lives in a joint family with her in-laws. Seema has studied till class 10<sup>th</sup>. Seema's husband is a graduate but unfortunately he is unemployed. His primary occupation is farming. Her family expenses were born out by his father-in-law the earnings from it helped them in day to day expenses. Her life was running pretty well until a mishap took place in their family and she lost her mother as well father-in-law. Their life totally changed after this incident. They had taken a loan and purchased an auto-rickshaw for their day to day earnings. But after the death of her father-in-law she was unable to repay the loan and the auto was taken

aback by the company. Husband's earning was not sufficient enough for Seema to use in day to day expenses. Problems were not less in her life that suddenly her eldest daughter turned unwell. She was suffering from Brain Tuberculosis. Her daughter was admitted in hospital for two months. This time period was the most crucial period in her life. She cried for a single penny. She asked for money from the money lenders but they charged high rate of interest which was not possible for her to repay. She prayed God day and night for the life of her daughter. Seema wished to get any kind of job to earn money for the treatment of her daughter but everything seemed to be the end of life.

During this phase of life she came to know about Self Help Groups (SHGs)

forming in her village through CRP *didis* of Andhra Pradesh. It was in the year 2013 when she was convinced to



become a member of SHG. In the month of September she joined SHG and became the member of *Shri Ganesh Mahila Samuh*. She took a small loan of Rs. 300 for buying medicines for her daughter another loan of Rs.100 and Rs. 300 for petty expenses and eventually she took big loan of Rs. 10,000 for the treatment of her daughter and another loan of Rs. 10,000 for purchasing the medicines for her ill daughter. Slowly and steadily she started fulfilling her needs

by taking loan from SHG and repaying the loan timely. She purchased goats and involved herself in goat rearing and also purchased seeds for agriculture purpose. After two months from the date of joining SHG she was selected as Pashu Sakhi.

Seema was selected as a Pashu Sakhi then she was provided with the First Training of Pashu Sakhi. This training was of 4 days at Gandhipokhar village. In this training she was made aware about the different types of diseases that are found in the goat and its symptoms. The appropriate medicine to be given for the treatment of goats, the techniques for doing vaccination and de-worming was explained during the training session. She was also taught about the process for preparation of Herbal Masala to kill insects found in the stomach of goats as well as the process to prepare fodder for feeding the goats. After this few months later 4 days of Refresher training was provided to her at Lucknow. With the completion of this training she received a certificate of Pashu Sakhi, dress and a kit of Pashu Sakhi. Seema also received 3 days training to make her aware about the government schemes for rural people so that they can further inform the community about these schemes.

Seema started off her task of Pashu Sakhi by carrying out a survey of all the SHGs of her Panchayat. She marked the HHs involved in goat rearing and did the vaccination and de-worming of the goats. In the early days when Seema use to go to the houses of villagers for providing services of Pashu Sakhi, she was not appraised for her work. People keep questioning her about the work as being a woman the local male members didn't trust on her work. But now they themselves call her for providing the services to the goats. This proved to be a turning point in her life. By becoming a Pashu Sakhi her life changed and now she is self independent. Now she doesn't have to beg for money from others. Soon she is going to be selected as a resource person of Pashu sakhi in other states where she can share her learning and make other rural women to work as pashu sakhis.

Seema expressing her happiness proudly said, "Now after becoming a Pashu Sakhi I don't have to ask for money from anyone I independently fulfill my as well as my family needs."