

## A REPORT ON THE MICRO ENTERPRISE SUPPORT PROGRAM

On Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2017, Nayantara Memorial Charitable Trust (NMCT) formally initiated a Micro Enterprise program for the economically backward section of the society from its field office in Daronda village of Illamabzar block in Birbhum district of West Bengal. The Trust has been working for the cause the of the poor and the needy, the down trodden and looked down upon, mainly the ST & SC section of the society in and around Chaupahari jungle, in the area of health, education and livelihood.

The said program undertaken by the Trust was sponsored by Cargill under its CSR initiative. United Way Bengaluru facilitated the association of NMCT with Cargill. Mr. Pinaki Ranjan Saha, Mr. Abhijit Das and Mr. Gopal Saha represented the Cargill team on the occasion. Mr. Manas Bandyopadhyay, an educationist, also graced the function with his benign presence.

The program started with lighting of the lamp by the Cargill team, Mr. Bandyopadhyay and Mr. Sudip Majumdar and was followed by a devotional song sung by the members of the Trust. The motto of the Trust has been **SERVICE of GOD in MAN** as per the Teachings of **SWAMI VIVEKANANDA** for "**Atmano Mokshartham Jagad-hitaya Cha**" for one's own liberation and for the good of the world. The support for the Micro Enterprise program is a step towards women empowerment as almost all the beneficiaries selected were women. And what better way could it had been than initiating the program on the 'Janma Tithi' of Sri Sarada Devi who pioneered the "Nari Jagaran" in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. She was instrumental in inspiring the likes of Sister Nivedita. Mr. Majumdar, the Managing Trustee of NMCT welcomed the guests and the beneficiaries and outlined the purpose of the program.



He said that selection of beneficiaries was done keeping in mind their needs, based on the poor economic status, their ability and willingness to engage themselves in micro enterprises and their intention to repay this interest free financial support (to be treated as loan) so that the

capital so recovered can be redistributed amongst other similar needy beneficiaries, thereby maximizing the outreach of the financial support.

Mr. Bandyopadhyay spoke about the life and teachings of Sri Sarada Devi, elaborating on her and Swami Vivekananda's role in upliftment of the poor and marginalized section of the society, specially the women, as they felt that the revival of India was only possible through education



and empowerment of the 'matri sakti'. Mr. Pinaki Saha, Mr. Abhijit Das and Mr. Gopal Saha expressed their willingness (on behalf of Cargill) to extend all required support not only for the present 22 odd beneficiaries, but also for all the needy people of the area.

The recipients of this initiative, one of the many such activities of the Trust under its "Nivedita Jivika Prakalpa", talked about how they intend to utilize this help. Padma Bauri, Rina Bauri, Lata Karmakar, Ganga Barui, Manika Kisku, Sumi Kisku and Debika Barman intend to utilize the fund to equip themselves with tools and tackles for the Malaysian Batik work that they are collectively doing under the guidance of the Trust. All the 7 had undertaken a month long training and subsequently been using the facilities of the Trust to make various garment



products with Malaysian Batik and Bandhni art forms under the guidance of their trainer Mr. Parbir Pal. Sandhya Baidya intends to use the capital so received in her small handicraft – "kantha stitch" enterprise. Santoshi Mal, Mamoni Soren, Sundari Hembram, Swaraswati Hembram and Mithun Rui Das want to use the money to engage in Animal Husbandry activities like rearing of goats, hen and ducks. Sukhi Mardi, Parbati Tudu, Sunita Tudu, Rani Murmu,

Fulmoni Baski, Fulmoni Hemram and Chandmoni Mardi plan to use the capital to enhance their farming activities. While Sulata Biswas wants to use the help to enhance her food processing endeavor, Choton Hembram, who has undertaken training on electrician and home wiring trade, wants to buy his own set of tools. All the beneficiaries were paid in cheques and were also given booklets with the teachings of Sri Sarada Devi. Mr. Pinaki Ranjan Saha, Mr. Abhijit Das, Mr. Goal Saha, Mr. Manas Bandyopadhyay and Mr. Sudip Majumdar handed over the cheques and the booklets to the recipients. The program ended with the singing of the national anthem following which everybody present took lunch before departing.

