



“Passing on the Goat” Impact Study

Mahasemam Trust

Meenakshi Mission Hospital and Research Centre

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Goat Recipient I

Village: Sengappadai
Name: N. Neelavathi
Age: 35 yrs.
Education level: 3rd grade
Monthly Income: 3,000 Rupees
Number of children and ages: 4 sons at 16, 14, 12, and 10 yrs.



-How do you take care of the goat? Is it difficult to do so?

"I take care of the goat as a fifth child. I keep the goat inside the house. I take the goat for feeding by walking it around to find grasses and weeds. I also feed it coconut byproducts and give it water every day. It's not difficult to take care of the goat, I treat it as an asset. The goat's name is Lakshmi, who is the goddess of wealth."

-How has the goat impacted your life socially and economically?

"Socially I feel better off because previously I had no property. Our home is rented and the land we farm is also rented. Therefore, the goat is the first property that my family actually owns. Economically the goat will give 10-12 kids over the next four years, which will equal about 30,000 Rupees including the mother goat. That is a lot of money in this village."

-What do you hope to achieve with the goat?

"I hope to get the ability and motivation to escape poverty and to advance economically."

-What are your plans for the goat?

"My plan is to pass on a goat from the first delivery and to keep adding goats to make a herd. I will keep all the females and one male so that my herd keeps growing. I will sell the other males in the market to make money along the way."

-How have you seen the community change/advance as a result of the program?

"The microcredit group has added many new members because the goat program has attracted them. This is good for the community because it provides us with loans and assets to advance our lives."

Goat Recipient II

Village: Sengappadai
Name: K. Subhalakshmi
Age: 42 yrs.
Education level: 5th grade
Monthly Income: 3,000 Rupees
Number of children and ages: 1 son 18 yrs. and 1 daughter 14 yrs.



-How do you take care of the goat? Is it difficult to do so?

“It is not hard to care for the goat. My husband is a woodcutter so he is able to bring home food everyday for the goat. He brings leaves, plants, and other food for the goat each day so we are easily able to feed it. We care for the goat as if it is our child, her name is Mahalakshmi.”

-How has the goat impacted your life socially and economically?

“Socially I feel my status has improved. Now I own property and not many people in our village own property. I haven’t benefitted economically yet because I only had the goat for three months; however, the goat is conceived so I look forward to getting benefits in the near future.”

-What do you hope to achieve with the goat?

“I hope to make a fellow villager happy by kindly passing on a goat to a friend in the community. Then, I hope to increase the number of goats in the next few years to add to the family’s income.”

-What are your plans for the goat?

“I wish to keep the goat forever. I will sell the male goats it delivers—except for one for reproduction—and keep the female goats to expand into a herd. I will keep the original goat until it dies because I feel it is part of the family.”

Goat Recipient III

Village: Sengappadai
Name: S. Sharatha
Age: 48 yrs.
Education level: no education
Monthly Income: 3,000 Rupees
Number of children and ages: 3 sons at 17, 19, and 22 yrs.

-How do you take care of the goat? Is it difficult to do so?

“I take care of the goat by feeding it grass, leaves, and agricultural waste from coconuts and rice. I can easily fetch the food myself or let the goat walk around to find its own food. I like the goat very much, I have named her Durga.”



-How has the goat impacted your life socially and economically?

“I was really suffering before getting the goat. Times are still tough, but they are better now. My husband died recently and I live in a very small thatch hut. I don't have any possessions or income and my three sons do not help me.”

-What do you hope to achieve with the goat?

“I hope to earn a better livelihood with the goat. Soon the goat will give birth and I will be able to turn that into money. Goats are the highest priced meat in the market. One kilogram of goat meat costs 300 Rupees. That is a lot of money because fish goes for about 100 Rupees per kilogram and chicken goes for 90 Rupees per kilogram. Goats are the most profitable meat because they are in high demand and they are tasty. Also, I know the goat will turn a profit because it is insured. The goat is insured for death and theft by paying a one-time 110 Rupees premium every three years. The coverage also provides me with 25,000 Rupees accidental insurance. It is part of the Oriental Insurance program of the Government of India. The program actually costs 420 Rupees per three years, but we get a discount because Mahasemam is registered with the government.”

Goat Recipient IV

Village: Velloor
Name: P. Krishna Veni
Age: 35 yrs.
Education level: 5th grade
Monthly Income: 3,000 Rupees
Number of children and ages: 1 daughter 14 yrs. and 1 son 11 yrs.



-How do you take care of the goat? Is it difficult to do so?

“I take care of the goats by walking them around the wastelands here. There are many empty plots of land that have plants growing so it is easy to feed the goats. I also collect food as I walk around and bring it home for the goats. The original goat’s name is Anandy, which is also my daughter’s name.”

-How has the goat impacted your life socially and economically?

“Socially I feel better because I was able to pass on a goat to another member of the village. I got the original goat in 2006 so I passed on one of the first goats and I have been multiplying them every since. Minus the goat I passed on, I currently have the initial goat, 4 adult goats, and 2 kids. The total worth is about 20,000 Rupees so I feel that is a lot of money. To me the goats represent savings.”

-What do you hope to achieve with the goat?

“I plan to multiply the goats before I sell some of them. I want to always have 10 goats so that I have a steady stock of assets to protect me in bad times. Once I get above ten goats I will sell some of them and continue to sell them as more goats are born.”

-What are your plans for the goat?

“My plans are to expand the family business with the income from goats. We have a small petty shop. The plan is to keep expanding the shop as we sell the goats.”

-How have you seen the community change/advance as a result of the program?

“I feel like a role model to others in the village because I have been very successful in my goat rearing. The community is closer now and we all feel blessed for the goat program.”

-How did it feel to pass on a goat?

“I passed on the goat happily. I was honored to give a goat to someone else because not long ago I was the one who was given a goat. After giving the goat my own goats have multiplied so I feel that it’s good luck to give.”

Future Goat Recipient

Village: Velloor
Name: K. Padma
Age: 40 yrs.
Education level: 10th grade
Monthly Income: irregular income due to farming
Number of children and ages: 1 son 25 yrs. and 1 daughter 20 yrs.

-What do you hope to achieve with the future goat?

"I hope to take good care of the goat and to protect it so that it will improve my life. You have given the goat to members of the community out of the kindness of your heart so it is my duty to take care of the goat when I receive it and to pass one on just like you have done to us. My goal is to help others and to help myself just like you have done for us."

-What changes have you noticed in the community due to the program? How do you feel about being a participant in the program?

"The Mahasemam organization and the goat program have brought better times for our community. The community is better off now because we are getting assistance that enables us to make larger incomes. We are all happy about the goat program and other people who are not members want to join the program so that they can participate too and see the benefits too."



Goat Beneficiary

Village: Velloor
Name: Irulayee
Age: 22 yrs.
Education level: 5th grade
Monthly Income: 1,500 Rupees
Number of children and ages: 1 daughter 2 yrs. and 1 son 1 yr.



-What do you hope to achieve with the goat that you were given?

“I plan to multiply the goat into a herd. I will reinvest in the goats because all I know how to do is rear goats, it is my livelihood.”

-How did it feel to receive the goat?

“I am extremely happy and feel blessed to be given such an asset from a fellow villager. I can’t believe that it has happened to me. Right now my goat is pregnant so I look forward to giving a goat to another villager soon. It’s nice that we can help ourselves and each other.”

-How do you feel about participating in the program?

“I am happy because I have been able to improve my life. Rearing goats and agriculture is all that I know how to do. Without the goat my life would not be as good and I would not have a plan for the future. My kids also like the goat, they think the goat is fun and they like to play with it and feed it. I named the goat Ganesh because I got the goat around the same time that my son was born. I felt it was a coincidence so I named them both Ganesh.”

-How do you take care of the goat? Is it difficult to do so?

“Taking care of the goat is easy. I bring it to empty areas of land to feed on the grasses and weeds that grow naturally. Sometimes I also purchase bundles of grass for 3 Rupees.”