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### **Nayakrishi and Adhi system: A collaboration of women in rural areas in livestock rearing**

The poverty indexes, particularly of extreme poverty indicates that a large number of women are under the poverty line. They are called hard-core poor and also the female headed households. Therefore the concept of female headed households does not indicate a positive situation rather a situation of destitution of women. They become targets of relief and food aids. However, they are not covered under the so-called miracle solution of micro-credits.

But there are social mechanisms which have been there in practice for a long time. This is a practice of share-raising of cows, goats, hens/ducks by poor women. They receive the mother cow, goat, sheep etc. from a well off women in the village or in the neighbouring village and raise at own cost. This is called the Adhi system.

In literal terms, Adhi means half-half. In some areas, it is called "borga", which means share-raising, also called bagi etc. The main principle is almost same as share-cropping in land for crops. Adhi is in livestock and poultry.

The Adhi system is not a new innovation of any development projects; it has been practised in the rural areas for a long time. In an agrarian setting, this is a relationship among women in the farming families and those who are poor. It is the part of agricultural practice in through out the country.

Adhi is commonly seen as a mutual support mechanism among and between women of different social and economic classes. Women in wealthier families who want to have control over some assets on her own keeps a goat or cow outside her family and earns an income. She also helps another poor woman by lending out poultry, cow or goat to raise.

Livestock and poultry keeping is very common among women in the farming households. But the livestock keeping depends on several factors, such as land holding, fodder& feed availability, family members to look after. The insights of the practice is very powerful in terms of preserving genetic diversity and women's role in producing community.

In the paper, the Adhi practice taken as a project under Nayakrishi Andolon will be shown how it can empower the rural women economically and also develop a relation among different groups of women and also help regenerate the livestock diversity in the rural areas.