

Low cost, marketing intervention of *SHRADDHA* for increasing earnings of the handloom weavers.

SHRADDHA, NGO dedicated to promotion of handloom and increasing the earnings of the handloom weavers, crossed another milestone in its journey, with organization of a handloom sale cum show exhibition in “*Club Pran*” of *Z1 Estate* residential complex, Patia, Bhubaneswar on the 27th of April 25.

Five weavers including Shri Sarat Kumar Patra and Smt Sukanti Meher, both national awardees for excellence in handloom, from Nuapatna-Maniabadh, Barapalli, and Gopalpur handloom clusters attended the program for display and sale of their fabrics.

Smt (Dr) Namita Mohanty (Retd), Former member of OPSC, resident of the complex inaugurated the event in the forenoon. Substantial number of residents of the complex including reputed film maker, Shri Sabyasachi Mohapatra and young journalist, Smt Tanaya Patnaik of the *Sambad* group, visited the exhibition and encouraged the participating weavers.

The event continued till 8 PM and handloom fabrics **worth Rs 3.5 lakhs** were sold by the weavers. The event generated lots of enthusiasm among the participating weavers, as the **purchase was made in cash/online (not on credit) and their earnings were sizably higher (as the sale was on "Direct to Customer(D2C)" mode without any intermediaries).**

Dr Sanjay Kumar Panda, Founder & President of *SHRADDHA* (former Secretary, Ministry of Textiles) explained the background of this low cost, innovative, marketing initiative to the visitors and solicited their support for the cause. The facility was made available to the reputed weavers, who have come forward to work with *SHRADDHA*, free of any charge. Shri Surendra Kumar Patra, Vice president, (former Deputy Director, Weavers Service Centre), Shri Bansidhar Mahapatra, Secretary, Shri Subhrangshu Roy, Shri Ashok Sahoo and Shri Gurudas Bramha (both inmates of Z1 estate) members supervised the event.

While thanking the Z1 estate authorities, all the inmates and visitors, *SHRADDHA* team reiterated its commitment to carry forward such activities in pursuit of its mission.



