

Tears can be easily wiped away, but invisible tears create scars.....



Background:

The Porajas or Parajas are the hill cultivators found in the undivided Koraput. There are seven classes of these Parajas, which differ from each other in points of language, customs and traditions. The Parajas seem to have been inhabiting this country from about the second century of the Christian era. It is also said that most of the tribals live in that hilly village and they are mainly known as Quie in their tribe language. Health is one of basic need of every human being. People are not quite aware that his /her health is most important. The poor economic condition of most of the families do not allow them to carry the ill patients to the district hospital koraput .All the families are heavily dependent on the MHUs.

Village Profile:

Tentuliguda is a hamlet village of Dumuripadar Gram Panchayat of Koraput Block situated in the periphery of NALCO M&R complex., The village is 15 kms distance from Damanjodi Market on which the villagers depend for their daily needs having 44 households with around 169 population. Most of the problem of the village is on account of limited employment opportunity and indifference of people to their condition. Limited livelihood, except agriculture and occasional wage and agriculture labour, there is not much that a villager can do. On an average each household spends about Rs 10/- on alcohol every day. Some women are also addicted. The village has an Anganwadi centre and Primary school building available but the teacher is not coming to the school because of very difficult approach road to the village. The Mathalput CHC is 15 kms away from the village but nobody carry the patient to get them admitted to the CHC and rather depend on

GUNIA and DISARI due to blind faith. But now things have changed and the villagers are heavily dependent on the NALCO Foundation MHUs.

Context:

Smt. Phulbanti Pujari aged about 30 yrs. is a resident of the small village. She was affected by Sexually transmitted infection (STI) 3 to 5 years back . She was married in 2010 and her husband was a drunkard. Every time tortured her and she could stay only for five months in the father- in – law’s family and left the house. She again married for 2nd time outside the state but was again tortured by the husband and was forced to join flesh trade. She had a miscarriage and left the place in a very bad condition to the village with total body swollen. No one was there to help her. Her father was a daily wage labour and drunkard. He took her to the traditional tribal healer for treatment for almost 2 years but this treatment proved ineffective . She was fed up with her life. She also attempted suicide in the past.

She says “at this critical juncture while her economic condition doesn’t permit her to afford medicine and health care, Nalco Foundation has emerged as a big hope for me. I can’t reach hospital and afford medicine. Nalco Foundation MHU team has come forward to take care of me by providing free medical check up followed by medicine. And by rendering this MHU service Nalco Foundation has won several hearts in the periphery villages”. Smt. Phulbanti Pujari since last 4 years is depending on MHU medicine every month.



The patient interacting with MHU Pharmacist



After 4 years there is a significant improvement in the condition of the patient and she is now not only able to stand but also able to Dance. She is doing everything. Nalco foundation MHU team strongly motivated her. Every situation in life must be faced , so why not face it with love?

Dr Geetanjali Mohapatra,

MHU project Co-ordinator , NF, Damanjodi