

When my words yield flowers instead of thorns, I create a happier world.....



Background:

Orissa has the largest number of tribes mainly inhabit the Eastern Ghats hill range, which runs in the north-south direction. More than half of their population is centered in districts of Koraput (undivided), Orissa. Scheduled Tribe population is respectively more in the village Majiamba under Tentulipadar Gram Panchayat in Narayanpatna Block. Literacy rate is poor among the residents. Poor awareness exists as age group is below 15 years, indicating a high birth rate. Very few survive beyond 50 years of age, indicating low life expectancy. Some of the households spend money on local PENDAM drinking. However, they do not spend money on their children's education. Majiamba village is having very difficult approach road with no communication. Health status of the village can be accessed from incidence of stillbirth, Brain Malaria, Dysentery, Diarrhoea & Skin diseases. Access to health facility is limited in the village. This is so because of ignorance and cost of treatment. Most of the households depend upon quacks and ethno-medicines for treatment of common ailments.

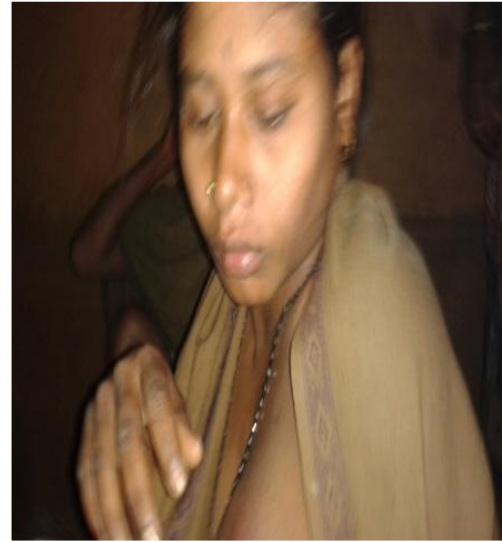
Village Profile:

Majiamba is a small village comes under Narayanpatna block situated in the periphery of NALCO M&R complex. The village is 35 kms distance from Damanjodi having 98 households. 85 households living in hill top area and 13 households living below the hill area with around 386 population. Agriculture is the mainstay of their occupation. The village has no Anganwadi centre and one Primary school is available where the children are studying. After completion of primary education, the children get no further education. For medical facility the village depend on Narayanpatna PHC Which is 15 kms away from the village with almost no communication.

Context:

Smt .Tulsa Sirka is a 22 yrs old woman of Majiamba village lives with her family. She gave birth to first baby on April 15th, 2015. She says that her daughter came into this world as a strong and beautiful child and eager to breastfeed right away. Breastfeeding was doing wonder and she was gaining weight quickly. She would breastfeed for 45 min. to 1 hour every 2 hours.

Although Smt .Tulsa Sirka developed a high fever with red patches in the breast and it was hurting so badly. She was so upset and frustrated. her husband stayed home for the morning to help her as much as possible and then had to go to work. She finally broke down and cried like a baby. She realized that something was terribly wrong, but didn't know how to make it better. She should say at this point that the body will automatically heal. She believed that if she continued to massage and breastfeed the daughter that will eventually "fix" the problem. The people of this area for whom medical services is a dream and miles away from their reach with no communication to go to Govt Hospital, she knew her family will not be able to afford the treatment. Moreover she feared that this will separate her from his daughter. At this critical juncture the MHU project operated by Nalco Foundation identified Smt .Tulsa Sirka and treated her. Our MHU Doctor measured her temperature and found it normal. Water sponging was carried out by our Van Coordinator.



Our MHU Doctor gave her for one month's medicines with Vitamins, Calcium, Ointments, antibiotics (with a higher dose). After a month and a half our MHU team visited her home and found the wound had healed almost all the way. MHU doctor said that it just needed to heal but was afraid to bandage it because it might re-occur. She is now regularly taking medicines to prevent any recurrence. She continued to feed the daughter with one breast successfully and the child survived.



Both of them shared “we had one of the most difficult experiences of our life. This was not easy, but we learned that anything is possible. We learned how important it is to have people in your life to help and care for you. We are so grateful to NALCO and NALCO Foundation MHU team for their care that all helped me. We heartily respect NALCO Foundation. We could not have made it through this time without the help of my family. They really came through for me in a BIG way and I LOVE them all dearly for what they did for me during those terrible dark days.

Dr Geetanjali Mohapatra,
MHU Project Co-ordinator , NF, Damanjodi