

A ray hope in Old age...



Background:

Access to health care and equitable distribution of health services are fundamental requirements of every human being. It is miserable that after six decades of independence a large chunk population don't have access over primary health. Many areas in the country, predominantly tribal and hilly areas, even in well-developed states, lack basic health care infrastructure, thus limiting access to health services. Over the years, various initiatives have been taken to overcome this obstacle, and the results have been mixed.

Similarly Koraput is a tribal dominated district of Odisha, located in the southern part. The district is filled with forest, terraced valleys and etc. Major chunk of tribal population lives in inaccessible pockets where no medical care available. Therefore in the year 2009 Nalco Foundation the CSR arm of NALCO started Mobile Health Services in its 163 periphery villages including hamlets with an aim to provide medical services at the doorstep. And Dumaguda is one of the many villages.

Village Profile:

Dumaguda is a small village comes under Mathalput gram Panchyat, Koraput block situated in the periphery of NALCO M&R complex. The village is 12 kms distance from Damanjodi having 32 households around 180 population. Agriculture is the mainstay of their occupation besides that few of them work as maintenance workers at NALCO. Mainly they harvest crops like Millet, Paddy, and Suan in their lands. The village have an Anganwadi centre and Primary school where the children

studying. After completion of primary education, for further education the children depend on Mathalput, Dumuripadar & Marichamal. For medical facility the village depend on Mathalput CHC which is 8 kms away from the village.

Context:

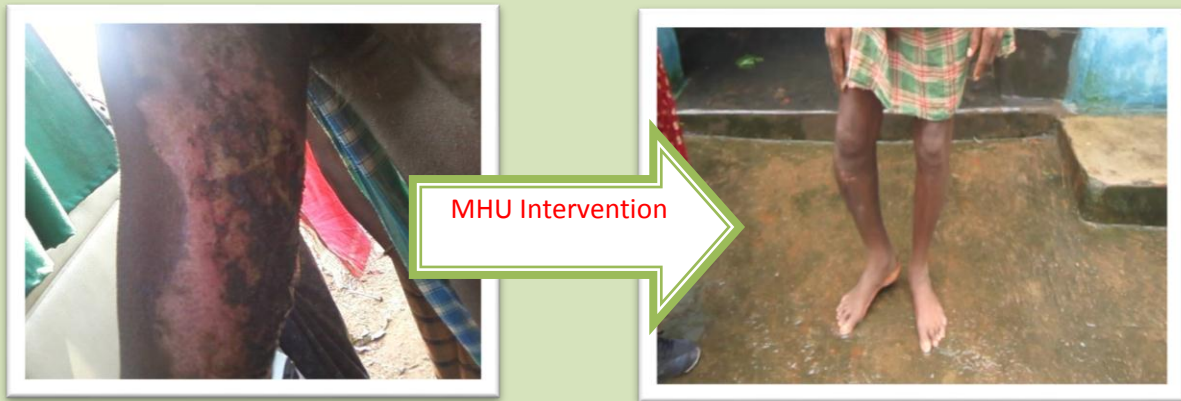
Ram Barik is a 55 yrs age old man of Dumaguda village lives with his family. He has a son and 3 daughters. Out his children the son and 2 daughters has been married. And his son has 4 son and daughters. In occupation Ram Barik is a farmer he cultivates his 2 acre land holdings. And his son used to help him in cultivation. Everything was going smoothly until this tragic incident. One day Ram Barik fells down during coming out his house and his right leg got broken. Instead of going to hospital he depends on indigenous medicine and the **Gunia**. As they used to believe the Gunia will cure him. In the meanwhile some days passed and the broken leg was turns to serious. Nalco Foundation as a CSR arm of NALCO has launched 4 no of Mobile Health Units to take care of the health of 163 villages. As Dumaguda village is in the periphery of NALCO M&R complex the MHU service is covering the village once in every month. As per the schedule the MHU van reached Dumaguda village and as per their daily work the van coordinator was moving every household to inform the villagers to take medicine from the van if they are having any illness. The van coordinator spots out Ram Barik in serious condition and informs the Pharmacist. Immediately Balkrishna the pharmacist talks with the old man and motivates

his son to take his father to Koraput hospital as he is in serious condition. Somehow the son agreed and the pharmacist dialled 108 for free ambulance service to take the patient to Koraput hospital. The patient was not in a condition to stand so the Pharmacist helps the villagers to bring to him to the ambulance. The Doctor at Koraput hospital made the dressing and said that the patient was in terrible condition as he delayed

to come to hospital so it can't be cured here and referred to Berhampur Medical college hospital. But Ram Barik didn't go to Berhampur hospital because he said " the doctor at Koraput hospital said his leg will be cut and fix at Berhampur. So he was scared of that and his wife tell him not to go Berhampur hospital and return to home". The MHU staffs are following up the case regularly and when they heard about him, go to his home to see the condition of the patient. They see no



improvement rather the patient was scared about his leg. After that the MHU is taking care of the patient by providing medicines and taking special care.



After seven month there is a significant improvement in the condition of the patient and he is now not only able to stand but able to walk.



“The Van didi every month visits my home and brings the medicines as I can’t walk. They take special care of me at one point of time when I was in a suspicion about my survival. But as you see now, I can walk and this life is given by Nalco Foundation”. Though I have already spent Rs. 25000/- on indigenous treatment but that is all meaningless. Thousands of people are getting directly health service at the door step and it is a great assistance for the old persons those who depend on their family.