

Life begins at conception. Welcome it with a new vision.....



Background:

Koraput is a tribal dominated district of Odisha, located in the southern part. The district is filled with forest, terraced valleys and etc. Koraput district in Odisha is thickly populated with tribal people and face nutritional deficiency due to poverty. 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. Human life from birth to death encounters sorrows on one side and happiness on other side.

Village Profile:

Marichamal is a village comes under Mathalput Gram Panchayat, Koraput Block situated in the periphery of NALCO M&R complex. The village is 8 kms away from Damanjodi having 261 households with around 1005 population. Agriculture is the mainstay of their occupation and besides that few of them work as maintenance workers at NALCO. Since most of the problems of village is on account of limited employment opportunity and indifference of people to their condition , intervention in these villages should focus mobilization and organization of people and broad- based livelihood options. Specific problems : poor awareness level. Although health and education facilities are present in the village, their use by the people is less than desirable . This is largely due to poor acceptance of these institutions by the people. They don't clearly see the merit in sending their children to schools or preferring the formal health services leaving the sick to chance or visiting quack. For medical facility the village depend on Mathalput CHC which is 8 kms away from the village.

Context:

Mr Subash Pradhan is a 51 years old man of Marichamala village. He lives in one-room . His wife was HIV+ and died in 2013 and their only son earns a living by selling tomatoes, potatoes and other vegetables to passerby. Mr.Subash is from a poor family and 10 years back he was working as a Truck Driver .When he fell ill he thought his symptoms were just a common illness although they were typical of TB symptoms like weight loss, loss of appetite, fatigue and night sweats. He knew a little about tuberculosis, but didn't think he could be at risk. Mr. Subash soon became too ill to work .The Family often went hungry, as they could only eat on days where they had made enough money from vegetables sales . Fortunately , a volunteer from the EKTA GROUP arrived at their door step and examined Mr. Subash's symptoms and encouraged him to go for voluntary testing for TB & HIV. Mr. Subash was diagnosed with TB with HIV+ co-infection .

For Six months Mr. Subash has given treatment for TB with support from EKTA GROUP. After the death of his wife he has been living lonely in his home and got addicted to alcohol and sexual relation with women. This destroyed his body and



The patient interacting with MHU Team

he was not in a position to stand. Fortunately, our MHU team noticed the

patient. Since last 4 years he is depending on MHU medicine every month. When the MHU van reaches the village the staff members take special care to counsel & motivate him through interaction & providing medicines. Desire to live is great in human beings as long as he is wanted in the society. A peaceful death may be equated with good health



Mr. Subash happily said "I am continuously taking medicine from the NALCO MHU van since last 4 years and it is giving great relief. NALCO Foundation given me mental and moral support. The positive and powerful thoughts about the self and others can help to struggle to live.

Dr Geetanjali Mohapatra,

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