

From RAMGOR to CLC



Sainda Phrue Marma, now 75 years old, was the daughter of Gopya and Gingma Marma. When she was 16 years old she married a boy called Muprong Marma, a daily worker. She lived in the village of Choto Drum para under the Ramgor thana of Khagrachari district. After the birth of 2 daughters, she noticed a white spot on her body which was non itchy and partially anesthetic. Because it was not painful she neglected the skin lesion and gradually she found that both hands and feet had become weak and unable to hold anything firmly. In the mean time she gave birth to another daughter. She has been treated by a local traditional healer. Both her hands and feet became more disabled. People in her society began to hear that she was suffering from leprosy, and started to exclude her family from all kinds of social ceremonies and kept them isolated. One day her husband brought news that a person called Sujan Mohan Chakma could help her to go to Chandraghona for proper treatment- he had a relative who was also a leprosy patient who had been sent to Chandraghona Leprosy Hospital. Her husband gave some money to Sujan Mohan Chakma to take his wife to Chandraghona for treatment.

When she was brought CLC she was 30 years old. A doctor from abroad who was working at CLC treated her and admitted her to the hospital due to her

severe deformity. She had such severe disease that she was unable to leave the hospital for several years. During this time, husband and family (who had initially visited her regularly) stopped coming to CLC because of the high stigma and misconception regarding leprosy in their tribal society. Now Sainda has forgotten what her husband and daughter's faces look like – when she can remember them sometimes she cries and cries. Now she is she married to another man who is also a leprosy treated patient like her, named Oli Kisor Tripura. They have a daughter named Paikroi.

After many years treatment, Sainda was cured but remained with multiple disabilities. Due to old age she and her husband had nowhere to go but asked CLC authority to keep them at Ashram. They have been living there for the last 20 years. Now they don't have any dreams or any luck but are simply waiting to die. All they hope for is to get their meals until death.

Death is how far away??



From MOHALCHARI to CLC



My name is Singha Chakma, I am 73 years old, I am the son of Chandra Mohan Karbari and Sundar Mukhi Chakma. I am from Kollyan para, Mohal chari Upazila of Khagrachari District. I have been living at Ashram for the last 15 years. When I was 25 years old I married a beautiful lady named Rang Mala Chakma. We had a son, but few days after her delivery my wife contracted tetanus and died - there were no health facilities like today. After 4 years passed, I married another woman named is Kala Choki Chakma - she also died soon afterwards due to Cholera. I had to get married again for the sake of my son. My third wife's name is Sovadin Chakma and we have three daughters.



In the mean time I faced a problem that some reddish lesions were seen on my body and I developed a claw toe on my left foot which was diagnosed as leprosy. Secretly I tried to get treatment with a local doctor (Baidya) but they failed to cure me .When the message of my leprosy spread in my community, they began to hate me and started to avoid me. Then I met with an ex-leprosy patient named Jogobandu Chakma (who had been treated at Chandraghona Leprosy Hospital) who agreed to help me reach Chandraghona for proper treatment. 1988 I reached CLC and the doctor started my treatment. Though they treated me well, gradually I lost my eyesight and became completely blind. And due to social stigma and misconceptions among the people in my village, my family also started to avoid me. The have now stopped coming to visit me in CLC forever. So I am here alone forever and ever.

Forget me not?



FROM CHOKORIA TO CLC



15 years old Md Pervez is a leprosy patient with multiple deformity. His father Md Ismail is a farmer and his mother is a housewife named Musammot Mohamuda, from .Minikpur village of Chokoria Upazila under the Coxes Bazar district.

Five years ago at the age of 10, he found some anesthetic skin lesions on his body, and developed anesthesia on the sole of his foot. He went to show a doctor at Chokoria Health Complex, was suspected to be a leprosy patient and was referred to Lama Health Complex which is run by The Leprosy Mission. He was diagnosed as multi-bacillary type of leprosy and started on MDT (Leprosy treatment). But he didn't take his treatment regularly – as a result the disease got worse and he developed an ulcer on his right foot. Then he went back to Lama Health Complex and was referred to CLC for proper treatment of his severe ulcer.

But already it was too late because multiple deformities were affecting his whole body. He was recently selected for surgery to try and correct the deformities during the reconstructive surgical camp in October 2009, but unfortunately he developed an active ulcer which is a contraindication for surgery. So still he waits, and still he hopes one day he will be cured by surgery.

HOPE? HOPE? HOPE?



ASWINI & NAGURI – A HAPPY ENDING

ASWINI and NAGURI arrived at Chandraghona in a very weak state having walked from India. Both had leprosy and they had a small baby who was very malnourished, as Naguri was unable to feed him. They were given shelter on the leprosy hill and a daily supply of milk was given for the baby. They both improved with regular food and treatment for their leprosy, and the baby thrived. As they were unable to return home, they were given jobs - Aswini as night guard, and Naguri as sweeper in the leprosy hospital.

The “baby” has now taken his M.Sc, and is married with a son of his own. He is working for the Leprosy Mission in the Banderban Leprosy Control programme, and is able to support his parents. Within a single generation life has been completely transformed for this family. There are many other similar stories thanks to the success of modern leprosy treatment and a helping hand given when it is most needed.

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