



“Raju Say’s TB no fear DOT is there “

Raju Paika-Age 38 yrs

TB No-172/09

Rx.Strated On-16/05/09

Cured on -04/01/10

Govindpur is a very small village of Dhadiambo Gram Panchayat of Mohana Block in Gajapati district. 68 households with the population of 337, resides in this village out of which 18 households belong to “Kui” tribe and the rest belongs to general caste. Out of the 68 households, 12 families belong to APL category and the rest belong to BPL category. The family of Raju Paika is one of them belonging to BPL category having wife, two sons and two daughters. He has about ½ acres of land and he is responsible to take cattle and goat of 26 families of the village for grazing. The income receives is in the form of paddy which amounts to Rs. 4992 per year and his wife works as a construction and agricultural labour and earns around Rs. 1500 per month.

During the month of February 2009, Raju started coughing. He thought the cough was due to cold weather and started taking honey and tulasi regularly for two months. Besides this, to get relief from the cough, he was also taking alcohol regularly. But in spite of his ill-health he continued to work. During the month of March, SACAL, an NGO, organized a meeting in the village where, VDC, SHG, GKS members and Male Supervisor, Mr. Reddy and ASHA, Sajani Paika participated in the meeting. Mr. Reddy facilitated the meeting and explained about the TB disease and facilities available for diagnosis and treatment. Gouri Paika, wife of Raju Paika was also present in the meeting, explained the health problem of Raju having cough, weakness, fever and loss of appetite. Raju was accompanied by ASHA to Chandragiri Govt. Hospital for sputum examination which was found positive. The medical officer, Dr. Gantayat explained him that he is suffering from TB for which he needs to continue medicine for six months. Mr. Gupta, the lab technician handed over the medicine box to ASHA as she has been trained as a DOT provider. During the intensive phase, Raju was irregular as he was having feeling of vomiting, head reeling and he used to go for grazing cattle. ASHA tried a lot to convince him to take medicines regularly. At the end of Intensive phase, his sputum was tested and again confirmed positive. He was explained by ASHA that he needs to take another month medicine regularly. Raju was reluctant to take medicine as he was moving in the field at day time. He has been advised to stop taking alcohol by his wife and ASHA and SACAL staff.

During the month of August'09, a meeting was organized by SACAL where the Union team attended the meeting. All the community members discussed about Raju and his irregularity in taking medicines as this was complained by ASHA. Raju was called for the meeting where all the members explained him the importance of taking medicines. Raju took an oath in front of all the members and Union team that he will continue his treatment without fail and stop taking alcohol. The members present in the meeting told Raju to take medicine in front of ASHA during the continuation phase. If he fails to take, further action will be taken by the community members. Since that day, Raju was taking medicines regularly and sputum was tested in due time. The last sputum test was delayed for 15 days because he was not willing to go for the test as he was feeling better. He was again forced by the ASHA, Anganwadi to go for the test for which he went and the last test was done. He was declared cured on 4th January 2010.

Raju was better now and he says “the nature of work I was doing, I had the fear that if I take medicine, it will not work. But now I realized that regular treatment will definitely cure a TB patient”. Raju Paika set an example for the villagers where others also came to know about TB and were aware of TB. Linga Dalai from the same village had noticed that his son Niranjan Dalai was having a swelling on the neck. He was suspecting of TB and immediately took his son to Chandragiri Hospital where he was advised to do an FNAC test at Berhampur. The test confirmed Extra Pulmonary TB. Now the child is under treatment.

The people of Govindpur village are cooperative. Each and every problem is discussed at regular intervals in the village meetings. Raju Paika was able to cure himself due to the initiative taken by the leaders. In spite of his irregularity in taking medicines, ASHA did not give up hope and this was possible only with the help of the leaders of the village.