



“I lost money and health here and there, but RNTCP gave me a new life free of cost ”.

Druk Mallick ,Age-40 yrs

TBno-113/09

Rx started -02/03/09

Cured on-04/09/09

Goptima is a very small village of Karchabadi Gram Panchayat of Mohana Block in Gajapati district. People of the village belong to “Kui” tribe. 32 households with the population of 160, resides in this village. Out of the 32 households, 2 families belong to APL category and the rest are BPL. The family of Druk Mallick is one of them belonging to BPL category having wife, one son and 4 daughters. He is a agricultural labour with about ½ acres of land and he is involved in

goat and poultry rearing to support his family. Monthly income of the family is around Rs.1500-Rs.2000. He was alcoholic.

Druk Mallick was suffering from cough, fever and blood vomiting, since December 2007. He was not aware of the TB symptoms neither he was informed by others. Then he approached the traditional healer of the village named “Kora Mallick” and took herbal medicines for 15 days. But the symptoms continued with no improvement. Then he contacted “Trupi Mallick”, another traditional healer from Paramanga village and he offered pigs, goat, hen for sacrifices for which he had spent Rs. 9840. He had to spend all his earnings and savings but everything was in vain. The family members were worried and decided to approach the QUAK (the famous Bengali doctor in Mohana) and also visited AWARE Hospital in Kamalpur. He had done blood test and was given medicines worth Rs. 5600 and he was left with no money. Although his health was deteriorating but he did not gave up his drinking. Due to his ill-health, he was unable to cultivate his land and provide food for his family. He was bed ridden and the family members could not decide what to do, whom to contact. All the relatives and the villagers believed that someone has done Black magic for which his health is not improving.

During December 2008, an awareness meeting on TB was organized by Local NGO-SACAL where VDC, GKS, SHG members and ASHA participated. SACAL’s coordinator Mr. Santosh Gouda facilitated the meeting and discussed about the symptoms of TB and the facilities provided by Govt. and importance of DOTs. The participants discussed and felt that Druk Mallick is having similar symptoms. All their doubts were clarified in the meeting and responsibility was given to ASHA named “Pratima Mallick” to take Druk Mallick to Mohana Govt. Hospital for further checkup and treatment. He was reluctant to go because he was bed ridden and did not had faith on Govt. medicine and he was sure that he was going to die. It took a month to convince him and ASHA assured him that the checkups and diagnosis will be free of cost. At the end of February, with the help of the villagers, three samples of sputum was tested and he was confirmed having TB.

ASHA took the responsibility of Druk Mallick to give medicines and keep him under observation. Initially he was irregular in taking medicines as he was complaining of head-reeling. SACAL staff and ASHA did counseling for taking regular medicines which will make him feel better after few days. After the intensive phase medicine, his sputum was tested and it was negative and ASHA informed him that his test is showing good result and he has to continue medicines. He was feeling better but again started taking alcohol and was irregular. So ASHA did not gave up and she continued to counsel him and his family members. The relatives and family members encouraged him to continue medicine regularly. His sputum was tested in due time and he was declared cured from TB.

Druk Mallick is feeling better now and he realized the value of the medicines for TB which is provided free of cost. Now he is happy with his family members and he is telling other people

about the TB diseases and the facilities available. Now he is able to work in his field and able to send two of his children to school.