

KINDLING HOPE

Anisha Khatoon, a 63 year old woman had all but given up hope to live. The meager salary of Rs 2,500 that her husband earned, working as peon, was hardly enough to support the family. Both her uneducated sons were barely able to sustain themselves, leave alone be a support for their parents.

Through CEQUIN's outreach activities, we began interacting with this family. During conversations with the Anisha Khatoon, it emerged that she was suffering from a serious medical problem. It was observed that she was hesitating to share her problem with the fieldworker. Therefore she was motivated to visit the GRC/SK office at the time of "weekly OPD", where she could meet the female doctor at the fixed time. Observing that she was still hesitating, the CEQUIN staff decided to visit her daily till the day of "weekly OPD". She was also informed about the range of services available at the Centre free of cost, in order to incentivize further.

She eventually came to the Centre and disclosed to the doctor at GRC/SK centre that she was suffering from breast cancer. The doctor referred her to a hospital. CEQUIN staff suggested that her should go to the government run Safdarjang Hospital. She however withdrew her cooperation, fearing that she could not afford and sustain the treatment. This posed a challenge before us.

CEQUIN decided to pursue the case, since her reports indicated that the cancer was at initial stage and delay would pose a risk to life. The authorities in Safdarjang Hospital were contacted. Fortunately the response was positive and without further delay the beneficiary was shifted to hospital for surgery. She needed four unit bloods and the hospital declared that blood was not available. The self motivated CEQUIN team voluntarily arranged four unit bloods for the patient. Among the donors were one of the CEQUIN staff and three other volunteers/trainees at our office.

Anisha Khatoon had a successful surgery and is now recuperating. According to GRC Coordinator Rizwan Ahmed, "this case has been the most satisfying intervention that we have made as a team. I pray Anisha Khatoon recovers completely".