



अपुझेमान SARITA ORAON | AGE: 17 YEARS | PALMI, LOHARDAGA, JHARKHAND
PACKAGE NAME: PLASTIC SURGERY | AMOUNT: RS. 55,000/-

“ I thought it will take lakhs of rupees and years of medical bills to heal my daughter. I did not want her to see the despair in my eyes. ”

Bulu Oraon, 40, still remembers vividly the day her daughter’s face got burnt—she fell into an open wood-burning stove in the kitchen while learning to make chappatis.

“Sarita, then 10 years old, could not control herself when the epilepsy attack happened. As a result, she fell face first into the stove,” said Bulu.

Hearing her screams, Bulu and her husband, Burao, 45, ran into the kitchen and quickly pulled her out, but the damage to her face was done. Badly burnt and screaming with pain, Bula rushed her to the hospital in their village Palmi, in Lohargada district of Jharkhand.

Ever since the accident, Bulu has taken her daughter to several doctors, but progress has been slow and painful. Then about five years ago, they were referred to the Devkamal Hospital & Research Centre in Ranchi, which specialises in burn treatment. Though the bus fare was expensive, Bulu began taking Sarita regularly for treatment there.

“It was in the hospital that I came to know about PM-JAY, and how it could help offset the cost of Sarita’s treatment.

For small-time farmers and labourers like us, this cost would otherwise have been formidable. The scheme was God-sent,” says she.

Over time, Sarita’s facial injuries had healed enough for her to have her first reconstructive surgery on January 5, 2021. “I was scared...there is no way to avoid your worst thoughts and fears when your daughter is facing such odds. But, with the help of the hospital staff and the financial net provided by PM-JAY, I was able to think things through, steady Sarita for the road ahead, and keep going,” says Burao.



CHANGEMAKERS



PREMLATA AGRAWAL

Premlata Agrawal is the first Indian woman to scale the Seven Summits, the seven highest continental peaks of the world. On 20 May 2011, she became the oldest Indian woman to have scaled the world’s tallest peak, Mount Everest, at the age of 48 years. She was awarded the Padma Shri by the Government of India in 2013 and the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award in 2017 for her achievements in the field of mountaineering.