

Sahasri's smile-a ray of hope

Little Sahasri is just three years old and has been through a lot, especially her parents. The toddler was born with a cleft lip and palate deformity which came as a rude shock to her parents who dwell in a remote village called, Krishnapuram under the Vizianagaram district of Andhra Pradesh.



Sahasri before her cleft surgery

The birth of a child with a facial disfigurement was the least they had expected and added to this they became the talk of the town.

The child's appearance constantly drew flak from their neighbours and relatives. This got her parents into a depression as little did they that cleft was treatable. Her father who works as a barber was unaware of the fact that treatment was available until a day when little Sahasri fell ill.

This ended up in a visit to the local physician who on seeing the apparent cleft deformity advised the parents on how it could be treated. But life came a full circle when the physician referred them to Dr Sivanagendra Reddy, a well-known maxillofacial surgeon in Visakhapatnam.

Once she recovered from the cold and fever, the parents travelled to Visakhapatnam and availed



Sahasri with her friends in an Anganwadi Centre

surgery and complete treatment for her cleft at Durga Hospital. This entailed three surgeries completely free of cost, under the ABMSS project at Durga hospital.



Sahasri with her parents in front of Durga Hospital

If not for the referral or the free treatment, her parents would never have been able to realize their dreams of seeing their daughter smile and lead a normal life without discrimination.

Every year, ABMSS supports over two hundred free cleft surgeries at Durga hospital in addition to other ancillary treatment.

It is definitely a ray of hope for little Sahasri.