

Anguradevi - now free to go to school!



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6. Her legs now straight after successful treatment.
7. Moving around freely with caliper and crutches.

Since the age of 2, Anguradevi suffered from Post-Polio-Paralysis in both legs, especially in her knee joints. Prior to the **Free Correctional Treatment**, organized by **Polio Child Relief Mumbai** with **Dr. Paresh Desai's Shraddha Hospital** in Mumbai, she was not able to walk at all and could only stand up with support.

Anguradevi was born in North India, in the State of Uttar Pradesh. Due to her severe handicap, she was too much of a burden to her parents in her village. So she was sent to Mumbai at the age of 3 years to stay with her uncle and his family, who live in a two room hutment where they sell vegetables. We met Angura when she was 7 years old. She was very shy and did not talk to any adults due to trauma she had experienced in her early childhood.

Anguradevi's deformity is said to be difficult to correct, in fact prior to this no surgeon or hospital had suggested correctional surgery. We brought Angura to Dr. Desai of Shraddha Hospital in Mumbai, who checked her and okayed a 4-step surgery; first, knee corrections (shortening of the tendons) and second, foot release operations. Angura's family agreed to take the free correctional treatment.

The beginning was difficult as she needed an additional operation and progressed very slowly. For many months she needed lots of care, personal attention and moral support. At one time, after an operation, she was critically ill and unable to eat for two weeks. Altogether she had 5 operations and only after 20 months did we see a drastic improvement. With daily exercises she gained strength, became generally healthier, and even her mental state changed a lot for the better.

In late 2001, after completion of the correctional surgeries, Angura received an independent caliper for each leg with shoes attached. She also received crutches for a 6 month period. It was a joyful day when the calipers were fitted on and the crutches adjusted. Off she went, walking away, for the first time in her life. She was laughing and crying at the same time! Never before have we seen her happy like that!

Angura has returned now to her village and is reunited with her family, where for the first time she can go to school all by herself! What tremendous progress!