



CANCER – A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE

A story as told by Sampada Sakre (Berde)

After a wonderful vacation in the summer of 1977, I had high fever for which test were done and I was rushed to Tata Hospital. My treatment was immediately started

Mum was crying all the time. Keeping my four siblings unattended at home my father was running around continuously. I could see that Doctors, nurses and my father were busy with my treatment all the time. Mum was praying for me. I was unaware of what was wrong with me. One day I heard my mum discuss cancer with the mother of other patient and I suspected that I was suffering from cancer. CANCER, a killer disease, incurable.

But when I saw my mother's tears, tireless efforts of the doctors & nurses, their affection for the patients, and efforts of my parents to save me anyhow, I decided that I would not let all this go waste. I told my mother not to cry as I was certainly going to get well. Since then I never cried. I underwent entire treatment happily as I was determined to get well.

And I was reborn. This new life is a gift to me from Tata Hospital, relentless efforts of Dr.Purna Kurkure and her colleagues. Credit goes to my parents who were with me during my fight against cancer in spite of all the difficulties at home. They looked after my four siblings, while being with me during this period of struggle.

I was studying in VII standard when cancer was detected. While undergoing treatment I completed IX with 1st rank and later passed SSC with 72% marks. In due course I

graduated in commerce stream. I never thought of marriage as I often heard my relatives commenting as to who would agree to marry me. But to the surprise of everyone, suddenly my marriage was fixed. The moment he saw me, Subhash gave his consent to marry me. I asked my father whether Subhash was aware of my medical history. My father said that we need not tell him. But I did not agree. I decided to take Subhash into confidence and tell him the truth before hand. Before engagement I told him everything. He said," I like you as you are. Now let us not think about the past". I am proud that my husband is not just educated (he is M.Com) but a progressive thinker.

Today I am 46 and our married life is smooth and happy. We have two intelligent and healthy children. 32 years ago, when I was undergoing the treatment, survival rate was low. Now survival rate in children with cancer is very high and I get to see it when I visit the ACT clinic where hundreds of children who are being treated successfully & are survivors come for annual check up. It's been 29 years since I completed my treatment, but still every year I visit ACT clinic for my annual check-up and return home with the reassurance of being fit and fine. In this clinic patients are not only guided about their physical health but are also given emotional support. Today my parents are no more, but when I meet Dr. Kurkure I feel assured that there is someone to look after me.

I wish to convey that there is no need to loose heart on learning that you're suffering from Cancer. It is necessary to have faith in God and doctors and undergo treatment recommended with determination. Always bear it in mind that your parents love you and want you, no matter what. Undergoing treatment with positive attitude will work as a catalyst and fasten the recovery. And even after the complete recovery one must visit ACT clinic for regular check-up and take care of health.