

***Anamika Ghosh after the surgery for Cancer treatment at Narayana Superspeciality Hospital Howrah along with Dr. Adish Basu, Oncoplastic Surgeon and her primary physician***



*“The audacity of hope! In the end, that is God’s greatest gift to us... a belief in things not seen. A belief that there are better days ahead”.*

Anamika, a 34-year-old burn victim and cancer survivor, may not have read this quote by Barack Obama, but his statement certainly reflects on her conviction.

Hailing from a small town in West Tripura, Anamika Ghosh like any other bride, had dreams of finding her soulmate. Just three days into the marriage; she realised that her husband had an illicit relationship with his

own sister-in-law. She was subjected to constant physical abuse and mental trauma. Though they shifted to a rented house, nothing changed. Anamika gave birth to a baby girl in the midst of their anguish. She had compromised with her circumstances and wanted to move on.

However, in a horrific turn of events, one late night, when Anamika was boiling milk on a kerosene stove to feed her infant, her husband threw the burning stove at her to set her ablaze. “I was burning and wanted to grab him so that he also gets burnt along with me, but he took away my daughter and ran into another room. He kept watching me burn and never helped”, she sobs recalling the terrifying incident.

She survived with third degree burns. Her husband was arrested and later released on bail. In a travesty of justice, the husband managed to get the custody of their daughter since Anamika didn’t have an income and was bedridden. A year passed. Anamika meanwhile, was recuperating in her maternal home.

Anamika was now fighting another battle – the custody of her daughter. To make ends meet, she took up a job in a local hospital as a contract worker. “I didn’t have a choice; I took whatever opportunity was available as I had to earn some money for a livelihood”. Having suffered so much pain and agony herself, she was content healing other patients at the hospital where she worked, by giving them medicines, and dressing their wounds. She wanted to live for her daughter.

A wound on her left elbow developed into an ulcer and required medical intervention. Anamika was referred to RN Tagore Hospital (Rabindranath Tagore International Institute of Cardiac Sciences) – a unit of Narayana Health in Kolkata. After being examined by a General Surgeon, she was referred to Narayana Superspeciality Hospital in Howrah for further examination and a few tests to ascertain the cause of ulcer on her left arm.

In a cruel twist of fate, Anamika was detected with carcinoma – a type of skin cancer. Her left arm had to be amputated to save her life as cancer had spread till the armpits. She had no funds to get the surgery done. With the help of grants received for poor patient support at Narayana Hrudayalaya

Charitable Trust (NHCT), Anamika's surgery was funded. On the verge of despair, Anamika's hopes surged when help came through grants by NHCT and individual donors.

Anamika has been a survivor. "I want to live with my mother and keep myself busy with a job. I will not accept defeat", she states with confidence in her eyes. She has been away from her infant daughter and longs to get her back. "Every day I think of my daughter and I have no money to fight in court for her custody".

She needs to come to the hospital for follow-up and check-up every three months as doctors want to make sure that cancer doesn't recur. According to a team of experts from Narayana Superspeciality Hospital in Howrah, a cosmetic prosthetic arm can be used as a supporting hand and will give her psychological comfort.

While Anamika's treatment was funded through grants from NHCT and she will continue to receive all the aid we can give her, your contributions to Give4Life – a poor patients fund at Narayana Hrudayalaya Charitable Trust will go a long way in improving the quality of life for Anamika and put a silver lining on the dark cloud that has embodied her life.