

India

Caregiver Name: Kavitha
Age at Implantation: 6

Child: Akshaya
Age Today: 23

When we first learned that our child, Akshaya, was diagnosed with bilateral profound hearing loss our world paused. Like most parents, we were filled with questions, fears and an overwhelming sense of responsibility. What would her future look like? Would she be able to communicate clearly, learn confidently and live independently? At the time, we did not have all the answers.



After detailed consultation and guidance, Akshaya underwent right ear cochlear implantation surgery in 2007 and left ear cochlear implantation surgery in 2009. These surgeries marked the beginning of a long journey that required patience and commitment. After the surgeries, Akshaya's mother decided to leave her job and give full attention to her child's therapy.

After completing two years of regular hospital therapy, she continued training at home. She spent time every day working on listening, speech and correct pronunciation. With constant care and practice, she supported our daughter throughout the day and night, playing an important role in her progress.

The years that followed were full of therapy sessions, consistent practice and gradual milestones. Akshaya started improving in responding to sound, speech clarity, confidence in classroom participation and independence. Progress was steady, sometimes slow but always meaningful. Every small achievement reinforced our belief that the journey was worth every effort.

Along the way, we faced many challenges. **The biggest challenge in Akshaya's journey was accepting the diagnosis and navigating the uncertainty that followed.** Understanding profound hearing loss and making decisions that would shape her entire life was demanding emotionally and financially. It was also time consuming as she needed long term rehabilitation and regular follow-ups.

At that time, there was no government support or assistance for cochlear implantation. As parents, we faced many difficulties but we knew cochlear implantation would help Akshaya build a better future. We put in every possible effort to ensure she received timely surgery, regular therapy and continuous rehabilitation. Progress was gradual, but we had hope. Despite the challenges, we remained determined to provide the best possible access to hearing and communication resources to our child.

Today, we are truly proud of her. We no longer see through the lens of hearing loss, we see a confident, capable and independent individual. She travels on her own, manages her responsibilities and no longer depends on us, which gives us great pride as parents. **Akshaya is an MBA graduate working in a hospital with cochlear implant recipients. This is a full circle moment for our family and we are so proud.** Through her role, Akshaya supports and inspires cochlear implant users and their families. Her personal experience allows her to guide patients with understanding, empathy and hope.

We are deeply grateful to the medical team who supported us throughout this journey. **Their professional support played a vital role in my child's hearing and speech development, allowing us to move forward with confidence.**

To another parent beginning this journey, our advice is simple yet powerful; believe in your child, start early and stay consistent. Cochlear implantation is not a miracle, it is a tool. Its success is dependent on encouragement, patience, support and rehabilitation. Do not limit your child's future based on their diagnosis. Celebrate progress, even small and remember that comparison serves no purpose. Every child's journey is unique. Trust the process, collaborate closely with professionals, and most importantly, let your child grow with confidence, dignity and independence.