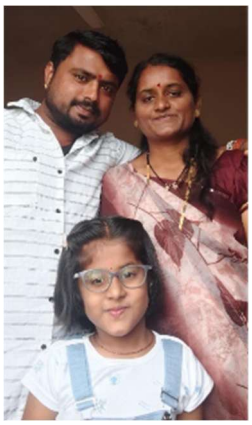
COCHLEAR IMPLANT INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF ACTION. AISBL
BE0798.221.710

INDIA

Caregiver Name: Nathuram **Child: Hindavi**
Age at Implantation: 3 **Age Today: 7**

When my daughter Hindavi was born on July 22nd, 2018, we never imagined the hurdles we would face. In June 2019, our world changed when she was diagnosed with bilateral profound hearing loss. Because of an inner ear anomaly, she also had delayed motor milestones due to Klippel-Feil syndrome, meaning that traditional hearing aids offered no benefit. We were told a cochlear implant was her only hope for sound.



The primary obstacle for our family was the cost of the devices. As a worker at a private company, I faced significant financial pressure, as cochlear implants are expensive, often ranging from ₹6 lakh to over ₹10 lakh per ear in India. Families in similar situations often find it difficult to collect such large sums through savings alone, and the struggle for funds was constant.

To overcome this, we relied on multiple sources. We sought out help from various charitable trusts and individual donors who generously contributed to her cause. Furthermore, because institutional funding and government schemes often have caps or long waiting lists, we turned to our personal network for support. I had to borrow significant money from relatives to bridge the gap and ensure the surgery happened at the right age during Hindavi's early childhood.

We were not alone in this fight. **The combined support of our extended family and the donors who stepped up during our fundraising efforts became our lifeline.** Additionally, the teams at the hearing clinic and the hospital's audiology department provided the essential expertise and rehabilitation guidance we needed to navigate the complexities of bilateral implantation.

Hindavi's surgeries took place in December 2021 and November 2022. While the surgeries were successful, the real victory was her dedication to rehabilitation for her speech and language development as well as her motor development. **Her greatest achievement to date is her successful transition into a regular mainstream school. Today, she listens and can communicate her needs and wants during daily routine with our family, friends and at school —a milestone we once feared she might never reach.**
To achieve better access, we had to become proactive advocates for our daughter. We changed our approach by aggressively pursuing every available financial resource and making language therapy a 24/7 priority at home. My wife became her primary teacher, ensuring that every moment was a learning opportunity to help her catch up to her hearing peers.

To any parent starting this journey: do not lose hope. Deafness is no longer a permanent disability if you act early and stay persistent. **The path is exhausting, especially regarding the financial burden and the years of therapy required, but seeing your child flourish in a world of sound makes every sacrifice worth it. Trust the process, seek help from your community, and never stop talking to your child.**