

INDIA

Caregiver Name: Diya
Age at Implantation: 3

Age Today: 20



My journey as a parent began with a clear choice to fight for my daughter's voice. When she was diagnosed with profound hearing loss at a young age, I knew the path ahead would be difficult. I was a single mother, raising my daughter with the help of my own mother. As a single parent, the road to her hearing was a mountain I had to climb through sheer persistence and hope.

The greatest obstacle was managing the financial and physical aspects of her care. Raising a child with high needs as a single parent meant I could not maintain a traditional job, yet her medical requirements were relentless. For years, we had to travel 500 kilometres every week for surgeries, mapping, and therapy.

The costs—fuel, lodging, and the maintenance of the cochlear implant—were expenses I could never have met alone. I want to be very clear this journey was only possible because of donations facilitated through the hospital. **Without the generosity of strangers who contributed to her implant, my daughter would still be living in silence.** Those donors didn't just buy a medical device; they funded a future that seemed unreachable.

My greatest support was my mother and the community of donors who stepped in when we needed it most. They provided the "village" that made it possible for us to keep traveling those long distances. Professionally, the audiology team at the hospital who worked with us through those weekly 500km trips became our anchors, guiding us through the complexities of her rehabilitation.

Despite the hurdles, we refused to let my daughter be sidelined. She entered a mainstream school and thrived, moving through her education alongside her hearing peers. She shattered every low expectation and proved that with the right technology, there are no limits to what a child can achieve. **Today, she is an adult pursuing a degree in medicine. The child who once lived in silence is now learning how to help others.** She also uses her platform on Instagram to advocate for the deaf community, showing the world the true impact of a cochlear implant.

To achieve better access, I had to become my daughter's strongest advocate. I had to manage the logistics of a massive cross-country journey every single week for years, making her hearing and speech my primary mission. **We have proven that even in a low and middle-income country, distance and financial status do not have to define a child's potential.**