

NEPAL

Caregiver Name: Parbati
Age at Implantation: 9

Child: Luvina
Age Today: 10

Luniva is a 10-year-old child with hearing loss. She previously used hearing aids, but based on doctors' recommendations, she underwent a cochlear implant surgery last year to improve her hearing. Luniva is raised by her mother, who is a single parent. Her mother works hard to support Luniva's education, medical care, and other daily living expenses.

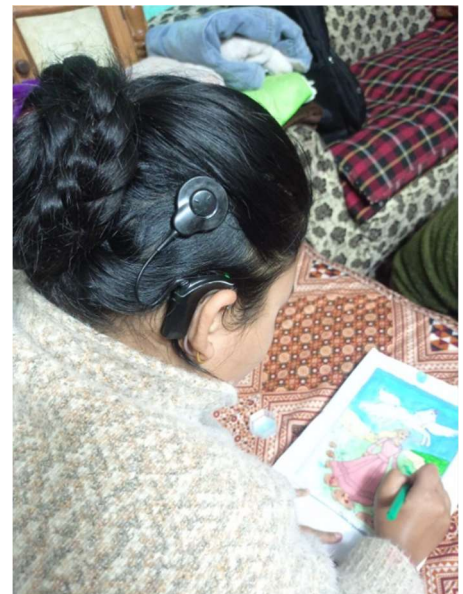
At the beginning, **the greatest challenge for Luniva's mother was arranging the financial resources required for the cochlear implant surgery, as the operation is extremely expensive.** As a single parent, bearing the full cost of such a major medical procedure was difficult for her. Although the family sought funds from numerous individuals and organizations for the operation, securing sufficient financial support proved to be very challenging. Despite these obstacles, Luvina's mother remained determined to pursue the treatment which would benefit daughter's future development.

In her efforts to manage the high cost of the surgery, she reached out to numerous individuals and organizations for financial support. She also used social media platforms to share Luniva's condition and medical needs, appealing for support from the wider community but she was not successful. Even so, she continued trying to raise the necessary funds so that Luniva could undergo the cochlear implant surgery and have a better chance at improved hearing.

After undergoing cochlear implant surgery, Luniva has shown visible and positive improvements in her hearing and overall behaviour. She is now able to understand conversations that take place within the family. This improvement is evident in her responses and curiosity, as she asks her mother questions like, *"Why did she say that to her grandmother?"* She has also started interacting in the classroom and shown improvement in education. These indicate growing language development, attention to spoken communication and awareness of social context.

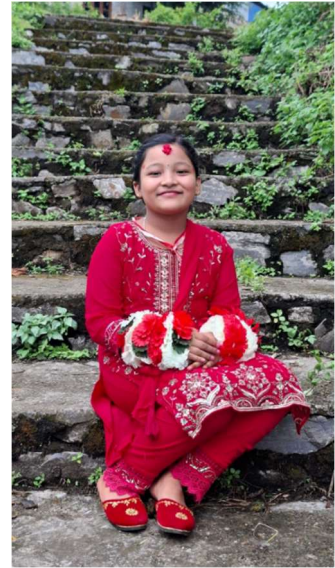
Luniva's mother highlights that consistent speech therapy and proper mapping of the cochlear implants are important to understand sounds clearly after the surgery. While the implant provides access to sound, meaningful improvements in language and communication depend heavily on regular speech therapy sessions and accurate mapping of implants.

Based on her experience, **Luniva's mother strongly encourages all parents of children with hearing loss and cochlear implants to enrol their children in regular speech therapy sessions. She emphasizes that the surgery alone is not enough, and without consistent speech therapy, children may not develop proper language skills or meaningful communication skills.** Early and regular intervention is essential for maximizing the benefits of the cochlear implant.



She also advises other parents to be patient after the surgery for a few months and not to expect quick changes in children. Based on her own experience, she did not see noticeable changes in her daughter for the first three months. She was already losing hope. Now after seeing gradual progress, she emphasizes that **pressurizing children during this period is not the solution, as progress takes time.**

She also expressed that without these therapy sessions, progress in Luniva's language skills and responsiveness would be minimal. She also shared that access to speech therapy services can be difficult. In Nepal, there are limited speech therapists and audiologists who specialize in cochlear implant mapping. Due to this shortage, she and other parents experienced long waiting periods. The delays made it difficult to provide timely and consistent intervention for Luvina.



Although she faced several struggles and difficulties, Luvina's mother is grateful that her daughter was able to undergo cochlear implant surgery. She remains hopeful for her daughter's future growth and development.