

POCSO case registered after DISHA intervention

Nisha, a happy child was residing with her parents in Milind Nagar of Chandur Railway block in Amravati district. She had a hair patch on her hand at birth and no one had any idea that in a few years this patch would turn into a terrible rare disease known as 'Werewolf Syndrome'. She was 5 years old at the time of sexual assault and used to go to the Anganwadi near her house regularly. The accused who tried to sexually assault her was 35 years old and was living near the Anganwadi.

While Nisha was going to Anganwadi alone, the accused picked her up and took her home. He took off her clothes and when she was about to be abused, the Anganwadi worker heard her crying. The Anganwadi worker snatched her from the accused and lodged a complaint with the police. Police booked him under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.

When the social workers of DISHA visited the girl's family, she looked very scared and upset. The social worker offered her parents 'psychological first aid' and spent time with her to get to know her. The social worker explained the process before the Special Court to her parents and asked them to call if there were any problems.

As the case progressed, her parents openly shared their questions and concerns with DISHA. The organization provided legal assistance as needed to parents and formed a bond with the girl. Now Nisha started talking openly with the social workers of DISHA.

Three or four months later, her mother called and told the social worker that the hairy patch on Nisha's hand was constantly growing. This was also a new and surprising issue for social workers. Her mother further said that this new problem has made her very irritated and she is not even going to play with other children. Social workers immediately visited her and, seeing the seriousness of her condition, rushed her to Amravati's Super Specialty Hospital. Doctors there diagnosed the disease as a rear skin disease and started medical treatment. DISHA and her parents together paid for her 3 to 4 operations in this regards. But even after this treatment, her right hand was completely covered with hair. When she began to realize that she looks different from other children, she began to live alone without mixing with other children. As her loneliness grew, her parents tried all sorts of scientific and non-scientific treatments.

Within a year, her father died, and her mother accepted full responsibility. DISHA gave her mother some seed money to run a home-based business. She did not succeed in her endeavors, so she began working as a farm laborer.

After nearly 3 years, the special court sentenced the accused to 10 years.



DISHA is still with them and provides educational support to Nisha and her brother every year. Every three months, social workers visit Nisha and her mother to boost their morale. Nisha is now in 4th class and her younger brother is in 2nd class.

Disha is creating a legal, social and policy framework to ensure our criminal justice system is not only retributive, but also restorative. Visit our website dishaforvictim.org to know more and we look forward to your support and collaboration.