



Laxmi's Journey: From Darkness to Light

Meet **Laxmi**, a resilient 12-year-old from a small Uttar Pradesh village. Born to hardworking Mr. Ram and homemaker Mrs. Asha, Laxmi's infectious smile and curiosity brightened their humble home. Her sisters, Anu and Tanu, adored their vibrant sibling.

Tragedy struck at age three when Japanese encephalitis robbed Laxmi of sight and hearing. The once lively child retreated into a silent, dark world, confined to her bed and lost in isolation.

But hope dawned! Arvind Kumar, a Deafblindness expert, and Arti, a dedicated CBR worker, introduced the family to the life-changing Sparsh programme. This moment marked the beginning of an incredible journey.

Before joining the programme, Laxmi's family faced significant challenges due to COVID-19, which limited access to educational support. Laxmi was unable to move independently or communicate her basic needs, making daily activities a constant struggle. Her parents had to assist her with everything, from sitting and crawling to brushing her teeth and eating.

Intervention by Sense India brought hope and transformation into Laxmi's life. She received physiotherapy to improve her mobility and special education, including learning sign language for effective communication.



During lockdowns, online support ensured continuity in her progress, with her parents actively participating. Daily living skills practice became a crucial part of her routine, helping her develop independence in essential tasks.

After joining the programme, Laxmi made remarkable progress. She can now move with support, perform fine motor activities, and count and identify colors using sign language. Her communication skills have improved, allowing her to speak simple words and recognize Hindi alphabets. Most significantly, Laxmi has become independent in daily tasks like brushing her teeth and eating, showcasing the profound impact of the intervention on her life.

Laxmi's silent world now bursts with joy and communication, thanks to dedicated educators. Through sign language and art, she expresses herself beautifully. Her family's hopes soar as they envision her future in school.

"The Sparsh project gave us hope we never had before," shares Ram, Laxmi's father, marveling at her progress.

Sparsh has given Laxmi more than tools; it's given her a community. Her journey showcases the power of early intervention and support. Thanks to Global Giving and the supporters for being part of this transformation and bringing light to those living in darkness. **Together, we can continue to transform lives and empower more children like Laxmi to reach their full potential!**

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