

KAILAKURI HEALTH CARE PROJECT

(Project of Dr Baker's Organisation for Well-Being NGO)

Kailakuri Village, Madhupur Thana, Tangail District, Bangladesh



October 2021: Hamida's story



Kailakuri staff and patients remember and give thanks for the life of "Doctor Bhai" at Kailakuri, 1st September 2021. This is the sixth anniversary of his passing.

The story of Hamida Begum

Hamida got married when she was 16 years old. She is now 26. Her house is in Ghatail subdistrict. She is a garment worker, and her husband is a rickshaw puller. They supported the family well on both incomes. Hamida had a child during their first year of marriage. After a while, she got sick but doctors couldn't diagnose her. She was eventually diagnosed with diabetes four years ago.

Maintaining the family on her low income at the garment factory as well as looking after the child was becoming a challenge. On the other hand, Mafizul, her husband, became a drug addict and less interested in the family. Her diabetes treatment was irregular (due to a lack of funds) and the drug issues and violence of her husband made Hamida's life hell. (Diabetes treatment in Bangladesh is generally inadequate and costly). She lost her health and her job. Hamida became thin and weak and spent weeks without treatment. Her father and mother-in-law as well as other members of her family started treating her badly. Her husband didn't want to continue married life with her and eventually divorced her, because she was a diabetic patient and unemployed. She had to return to her parents. Seeing this situation Hamida's mother Layli Begum became very upset. So she arranged a village healer for her daughter. But there was no sign of improvement. Layli came to know through one of her neighbours that Lotip Mia, a diabetic patient, has been receiving diabetic treatment from Kailakuri clinic for ten years, and living a good and normal life.



Hamida has learnt how to administer her own insulin at Kailakuri

She met Lotip immediately and discussed everything. Lotip reassured her and said that Kailakuri clinic was established by a foreign doctor, especially for poor patients. There are some mud buildings she told her where patients stay, and they have often travelled from different places. Not only diabetics but also other patients get treatment there. Layli asked Lotip to take her daughter to Kailakuri clinic as soon as possible. He brought Hamida to the clinic on 24th August 2021 and she got admitted. Hamida was 32 kgs, very thin, weak, and dehydrated. Her blood sugar was quite high, and her BMI was 11. Hamida and her attendant Layli have been taking part in training sessions about how to take insulin, test urine with benedict solution six times a day, measure food for a diabetic patient and some other things. She has kept improving day-to-day. Now she can manage all the tasks herself. She came to know that diabetes is a life-long disease and learned how to control this, giving her almost a normal life.

This is how 1800 other diabetic patients from Kailakuri are passing their lives. Hamida requires 350-taka worth of insulin every month which she can't afford. Kailakuri will send her to BIRDEM Hospital (the biggest hospital in Bangladesh for diabetic patients) to get registered there, so that she can qualify for free or subsidised insulin. BIRDEM has been supplying insulin for the patients of Kailakuri clinic for a long time. Hamida dreams that she will work at the garment factories again in future and start a better new life with her only son Habib (who is now 9 years old and reads in class 4).

KHCP – NZ Link Group News

Kailakuri NZ Link Support Group AGM

New Zealand being in country-wide lockdown, the AGM was held as a Zoom Meeting 5th September. Attending from overseas were Dr. Jason Morgenson from Oklahoma and Pijon Nongmin, Executive Director from Kailakuri.

Jason informed the meeting that Merindy is recovering from recent surgery. They are living one day at a time, but are hoping that they will soon be able to travel to

see friends and relatives and do some promotional speaking. They are hoping they will be able to return to Bangladesh in the [Northern] winter.

Pijon reported that despite the Covid situation, the health centre is managing to provide all services and is operating normally. The country being in protracted lockdown, the price of foodstuffs and all medicines have increased substantially.

Kate Day reported that it has been decided to self-publish the biography of Edric Baker. The edited manuscript has been finalised and pictures and captions are currently being inserted. Work is now proceeding with cover design and typesetting.

Kailakuri is dependent on your support. Donations can be made by ...

- Internationally:
 - Paying online through our website via Paypal at www.kailakuri.com
 - Making a telegraphic transfer (TT) payment to our New Zealand Bank Account (ANZ, Whakatane, New Zealand). Account Name: Kailakuri Health Care Project - Link Group; Account Number: **01 0486 0185024 00, SWIFT code ANZ BNZ 22**. Please email Glenn Baker at treasurerkhcp@gmail.com with your donation and contact details.
 - Please get in touch with Pijon Nongmin at drbakersorganisation@gmail.com for options to donate within Bangladesh.
- If you live in the United States, you can write a cheque to "Asia Connection Inc". Please indicate on a separate note that the donation is for Kailakuri and send to Ted Rose, Treasurer, Asia Connection Inc, 1920 Ralston Ave, Richmond, CA 94805, and give your contact details for a receipt.

For any changes to your contact details or if you would like to receive your newsletter by email please contact Pijon Nongmin at drbakersorganisation@gmail.com

*Thank-you so much for your support.
Our greatest need is gifts towards on-going running costs.*

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