

A MOTHER'S BATTLE TO LIVE



Giving birth had almost taken Anita's own life. But a trained provider saved the day!

**CHC MANDIDEEP, DISTRICT RAISEN
MADHYA PRADESH**

7 AM

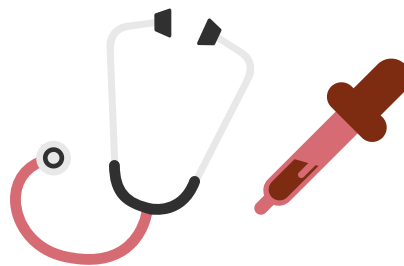


Exactly this time last year, twenty year old Anita Singh had reached the Community Health Centre Mandideep in Madhya Pradesh for her delivery. Her farmer husband had left his field to escort her to the facility.

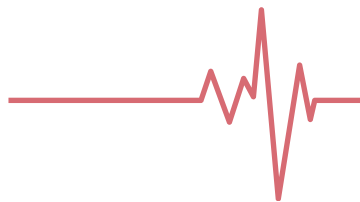


Accompanying them was a community health worker and Anita's mother.

The nurse on duty examined Anita. Her vitals were normal.

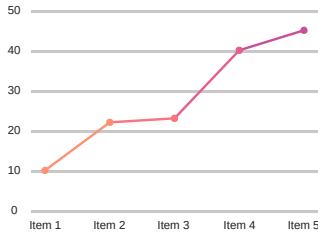


The fetal heart machine gave out the loud rhythmic thuds of the baby's heart beating in the womb.



Her labor was progressing smoothly.

9 AM



The partograph was plotted. All parameters were within the normal range.

1:20 PM



Anita delivered a healthy baby boy weighing three kilograms.



But right after giving birth, started the new mother's life-threatening ordeal.

Staff Nurses Nisha Nair and Asha Malviya had just delivered the placenta when they saw signs of complications. Anita's uterus did not contract as it should have. She started bleeding uncontrollably, a dangerous condition called postpartum hemorrhage—a leading cause of maternal death worldwide.



1:40 PM



The nurse duo knew what they were up against and sprang into action. They called for the facility gynecologist Dr. Seema Joshi and another call went to arrange for blood.



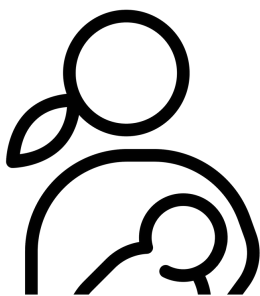
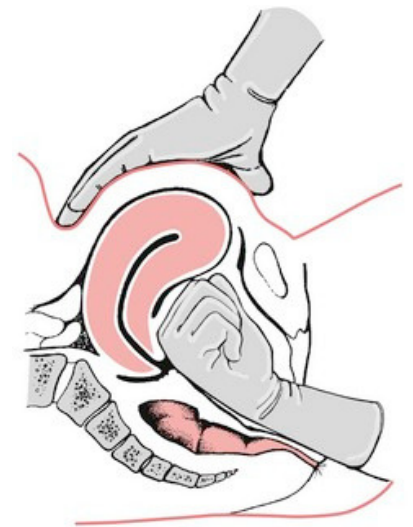
1:45 PM



Without wasting a second, they started administering intravenous fluid along with Oxytocin and uterine massage.

But the bleeding did not stop.

Continuing their efforts to stop the bleeding, Nurse Nisha applied compression to one of Anita's major abdominal arteries and prepared for bimanual compression, a process of applying pressure to the uterus externally and internally both.



Simultaneously, Nurse Asha helped Anita breastfeed her newborn, a natural method that promotes uterine contraction.

With exemplary coordination and a constant eye at Anita's vitals, the uterus contracted, the bleeding finally came under control and Anita's condition stabilized.

“I did everything we learnt in the training. Put the drip on, massaged her uterus but it wasn’t working. Then I knew I had to try bimanual compression, the steps of which I had learnt during the Dakshata training and that’s what I did. And we managed to save her life. We did not have to refer her to any other hospital. By the time the doctor came the situation was managed.”



2:00 PM 

The gynecologist, Dr. Joshi, reached the labor room as soon as she could.

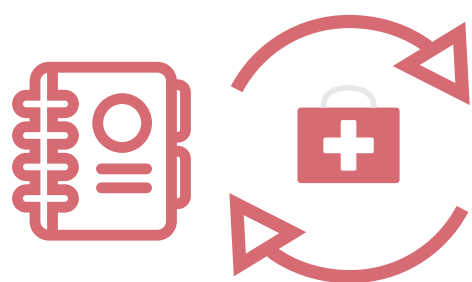
She was relieved to see a stable mother and child, feeling proud and amazed at the incredible manner in which both the nurses had managed the dangerous condition which had been mitigated without having to transfer Anita to a higher facility or blood transfusion.

The nurses had saved Anita's life.

Two days later, Anita with her newborn and the rest of her family left for their home in Semra village.



“Travelling to the nearest referral point, which is a district hospital in Bhopal, would easily take an hour and it could mean losing a client also. But, if there is a patient who has a complication and we know the correct practices to manage the situation, we can save her life” says nurse Nisha.



Staff Nurses Nisha and Asha’s remarkable performance was a result of a rigorous training they received under Dakshata, Government of India’s flagship program for improving the quality care around childbirth led by Jhpiego in seven states.

Funded by the Norway India Partnership Initiative in the state of Madhya Pradesh, Jhpiego is helping to enhance the skills and competencies of healthcare providers to deliver quality care, with emphasis on managing life threatening conditions like postpartum hemorrhage.



Today mothers like Anita are surviving each day because nurses like Nisha and Asha are delivering a synchronized performance to the T.



A YEAR LATER

Dev is now a year old, healthy and thriving under the care and love of his mother, Anita. He has brought unprecedented joy to the entire family.

Anita thanks the concerted efforts of both the nurses who saved her.



HAPPY FIRST BIRTHDAY DEV SINGH



Written and designed by:

Anam Khan

Reported by:

Dr. Avinash Jaiswal

Photographed by:

Ajay Mishra