

## Shahida Bibi, 25 years old

### Patient of Sealdah Clinic

#### An urgent appeal to help us save the life of this young girl.

25 years old Shahida Biba is a patient of Calcutta Rescue's Sealdah clinic and is a case of **Systematic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) with Nephropathy (Grade V)**.

Nephropathy is the inflammation of the kidney caused by SLE, a disease of the immune system. Apart from the kidney, with time it also damages the skin, joints, nervous system and almost any organ or system in the body. Grade V is **membranous nephritis** and involves changes and inflammation of the structures inside the kidney that help filter waste and fluids. This inflammation leads to problems with the kidney function and protein loss.

For the last 5 years, Shahida has been suffering from convulsions and occasional nose bleed especially during the cold winters. Her parents took her to their local village doctor who suggested her family to get her

admitted at the local hospital at Diamond Harbour, a suburb in the South of Kolkata near the banks of the river Hooghly. She was admitted in the hospital for sometime till she was better. She was doing well thereafter.

However one winter night, she suddenly fell off her bed at midnight with severe convulsions and profuse bleeding from her mouth and nose. She was immediately rushed to the local doctor who asked them to get her admitted in a hospital in the city at the earliest. On his suggestion, they got her admitted at Chittaranjan Hospital.

At the hospital the doctor treating Shahida got her admitted and told the family that her condition was very serious and she needed treatment immediately. But her family is unable to bear the cost of the treatment. Her father had taken some loans from neighbours but all his money had got exhausted while doing the various tests at the previous hospital. Thus, the hospital referred them to Calcutta Rescue.



*Shahida's father Nasim Sardar at the Sealdah Clinic*

Shahida has to undergo a cycle of injections as per her treatment. She is on the following injections -

- Cyclophosphamide – Rs. 200/- [*3.06 EURO*]
- Solumedrol 1g – Rs. 1140 \* 3 = Rs. 3420/- [*52.32 EURO*]

**Total Cost of injections – Rs. 3620/- [*55.38 EURO*]**

One cycle of injections has already been administered. She presently requires a total of 8 cycles.

**The cost of her treatment for 8 cycles is Rs. 28,960/- [*443.08 EURO*]**

She will be examined again after the completion of these 8 cycles and then it will be decided whether she would require further cycles or not.

Shahida is the third child among 3 daughters and 3 sons. Her father is a farm help and her mother is a house wife. They live in Kamdebpur, a suburb in the South of West Bengal near the river Hooghly. They live in a one room mud house and they donot have any electricity.

The children have only studied till class II in their local village school but were unable to continue further as their parents could not afford it. Her father, Nasim Sardar is a 65 year old farm help earning about Rs. 80 – Rs. 110 [*approx 1.22 EURO – 1.68 EURO*] per month. This meager amount makes it very difficult for him to run the house and take proper care of his family.

Shahida's eldest brother is married and has 1 daughter. However, he stays separately with his wife and child. He has broken all ties with his parents and siblings and doesn't even support them, neither financially nor emotionally. He has not yet visited his sister at the hospital and has not shown any concern when he was old of her condition. The only thing that he said was that he will not be able to help her out with the finances at all.

Her mother is presently staying with her at the hospital and her father visits her daily. It takes him almost 1 ½ hour to reach the hospital from his village. Her father could not control his emotions while speaking to us at the Sealdah Clinic.

“We are going through a very difficult time. My child is suffering a lot. We are not even sure whether our daughter will survive. We are very scared. We only want our daughter to recover and be with us. It will be very hard for us, especially her mother if we lose our beautiful child. We are only praying for a miracle. May God be with her”, said Nasim wiping away his tears.

**This is our earnest appeal to kindly come forward and help us out in saving this young girl's life.**