

Name : Binapani Devi  
 Age : 59 years  
 Village : Krishnapuri, Hazaribag, Hazaribag District, Jharkhand  
 People participated : Binapani Devi, Nirpendra Kumar Singh, Jitendra Kumar Singh, Anil Thakoor  
 Name of the writer : Subrat Kumar Mishra  
 Diagnosis :  
 Date of the life story written : 27/12/2007  
 Title of the life Story :

“I wish they die and I would live happily.” Can a person wish like this for his family? Of course, no. Sadly it is true. And the person is Nirpendra Kumar Singh, father and husband to three persons with mental illness, ex- government servant and aged 65 is a frustrated man. Growing age has less impact on his bent physical structure, wrinkled skin and bald head but the decades long illness of family members.

He couldn't confirm the date but very sure that the year when his wife and two elder sons became mentally ill.

“She got frightened one day to the horrible limit and got hallucinations. My aunty used to practice witchcraft and I think that probably frightened her. It happened in late 1970's when she started behaving abnormally. She knew Bengali and not so fluent in Hindi but during her illness she was speaking fluent Sanskrit. She used to see images of persons attacking her with swords in hands and listen some sounds which are not heard by us. But that time we felt she is becoming more spiritual and inclined to worshipping. Somehow after one month we came to know that there is a problem and started searching somebody who could help us. Then I found a person in my village who was a disciple of *Kali Mata*. When I met and narrated the story to him, he gave me some *Prasad* for my wife and said that by eating it my wife would sleep for a little long time. He also said that the *Prasad* will only work if I enlighten a ghee lamp and place in the

bedroom where my wife would sleep.”  
 Narrates Nirpendra.



{Binapani Devi}

He continued, “I did gave that *Prasad* to her and went for office. After coming back from office I saw her sleeping. Though I was informed by the *Pandit* that she would sleep for long but I was quite frightened and when my wife didn't woke up after 20 hours also I rushed and called a doctor. The doctor came and checked that there is nothing to worry as she was fine. I woke Bina (my wife) up and gave her some food,

eating which she slept again. But in that hurry and over anxiety state I forgot to enlighten that lamp as said by *Pandit*. When I informed the *Pandit* about it next morning he took her hand off and said that he can't do anything."

"I was very much disappointed by my act but couldn't repair." He added.

But how come in these years you did not went to a Psychiatrist and did not follow allopathic medicines? I asked

"I did." He said and continued "I had consulted Dr. K. K. Sinha and continued his prescribed medicines for 15 years. With those medicines she was quite well but I

had to stop." Why so? I asked. "I stopped for I became a heart patient myself", he said.



(Binapani Devi in CAMP at Hazaribag)

Mr. Singh has been too tired and could not think other than the illness of his family members. His family consists of his wife and four sons. Sadly he says that three out of fours sons have some or other problem. His third son has post polio residual paralysis in lower limbs preventing motor activities. Due to the impairment his third son could not complete matriculation but all other sons somehow became graduate. Mr. Singh thought that his sons are now self sufficient and can lead independent lives but life is not so simple for him.

"I was suffering with my physical illness and wife's mental illness when more troubles made me captive" Mr. Singh says. "It was in the late 80's, my second son was about to complete his graduation showed some abnormal behaviour. He was staying in hostel then. During those days he along with some friends started visiting crematory in mid nights to worship. I never knew all these things but one day he ran away from hostel and did not come back. When I was informed about the incidence I rushed to the hostel and started searching. Some of his friends said that he must have gone to Varanasi for attaining *siddhi* (enlightenment). Though I was unaware about his spirituality and other practices but was sure that he is having some problem. I also went to Varanasi and searched for my son. I was lucky to found him there and brought back home. He was very religious, used to worship for hours and stay calm and not talk to anybody. Even if I ask him anything he would not answer me. He doesn't take regular bath and used to roam her and there." He added.

Didn't you go to any psychiatrist? I queried. "Yes, we went to CIP, Ranchi and get him admitted for 1 month. We continued with the medicine for 2 and ½ month but his situations didn't develop. Anyhow the medicines continued with breaks and till I cam

to this camp at Hazaribag, he was not showing any sign of development. We have been coming to this RINPAS camp at Hazaribag and finding it very very encouraging.” He says.

“And what about the illness of your eldest son?” Again I queried. “He was an average student and after completing his graduation he joined a company at Ranchi and earning good. But someday his friends brought him to me and said that he has gone mad. Instantly I understood that definitely there is mental illness. Like my second son, he was also very religious and used to roam. After few days he became very violent and we needed to tie up his hand and take to RINPAS for treatment.” Mr. Singh says.

“When you are bringing your wife and second son to the camp getting benefit then why don’t you bring your eldest son to it?” I asked. “I can’t. Surely I can’t. He doesn’t stay at home and I don’t have that energy” He said.

Mr. Singh’s fourth son is married and doing fine. He also stays at Ranchi with his wife and son. Very often he comes to his parents but can’t help his brothers get rid of mental illness.

I thought of talking to Binapani Devi and Jitendra for a while but they were not interested. Somehow I managed to talk with Jitendra first.

I asked, “How are you feeling?” Jitendra said, “I am feeling very cold and don’t want to take bath.” Why, what is the problem?” I asked. “I don’t have any problem but not feeling like taking bath for my body shivers a lot and feeling too cold”, he said. “Why don’t you go to the sun and you will feel right” I questioned. But there was no answer and his body language said that he is feeling anxious.

I went towards Binapani Devi and asked her, “Why have you come to the camp?” She said, “I am suffering with influenza and feeling anxiety. My daughter is married and stays at Purulia, West Bengal.” “Do you do any household work?” Again I asked. “Yes, I wake up every morning and cook food, sweep floor, worship god and sleep. I don’t feel very enthusiastic about doing household chores” She said and stood up to walk away.

“I am seeing her like this since last three months but there is a change in behaviour after coming to the camp.” Anil Thakoor, mental health field coordinator confirmed. He again continued to say, “The lady has very very long history of illness and I personally feel that it would take a little time to stable her. But definitely she needs medicines for rest of her life with family support.”

I also felt like that but I was astonished to know that Mr and Mrs. Binapani Singh have a daughter. So I turned to Mr. Singh and asked and he said, “The girl child died at the time of birth only”

I could only pity at Binapani Devi that moment for she does not even remember her daughter is dead.