



Updates from the Field

From Transition to Triumph: A Heartwarming Story of a Successful Foster Care Move

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The Story of Foster Child Naresh

Naresh (name changed) was born in a small family residing in a village on the outskirts of Udaipur city. His family consisted of 3 members: Naresh, his mother and his father. His father was sole provider for the household, but after his untimely demise due to illness, Naresh's mother remarried under the Customary "Nata Pratha". At that time Naresh was just 4-year-old. Following her remarriage, Naresh's responsibility fell to his parental uncle, who already had three children and was struggling financially. Unable to care for Naresh, the uncle reached out to social welfare organisation, eventually presenting him to child welfare committee (CWC). The committee declared Naresh "a child in need of care and protection" and placed him in a childcare institution. For a long period, no one visited or inquired about Naresh, prompting the CWC to declare him eligible for foster care.

A New Chapter

Thanks to the initiatives of the Foster Care Society, Naresh was integrated into the Individual Foster Care Scheme. On December 28, 2023, the CWC, Udaipur, placed Naresh under the foster care of Ms. Shyamalata in Bhilwara. This family was a new ray of hope for Naresh, ready to provide him with a safe and healthy environment. The family had lovingly embraced the child with great joy. They wished to fulfil his every desire and provide him with a nurturing environment. The foster child, Naresh, was also sent to school. A student of Class 5, Naresh had a somewhat quiet demeanour by nature.

Obstacles

The foster mother, Shyamalata Ji, was a single parent. She also had two biological daughters who lived with her. Naresh was living a good life with his foster family. However, after some time, foster mother Mrs. Shyamalata Ji's transfer from the school and her elder daughter moving away for further studies made it difficult for the foster family to dedicate adequate

time to Naresh, which was crucial for him. Due to the transfer being far from the Bhilwara region, the daily commute left Naresh alone, and the long journey became challenging. This increased their concern for the foster child, and they realized that Naresh's optimal development would not be possible in such circumstances. The single foster mother, Shyamalata Ji, had taken Naresh under the foster care scheme with such potential challenges in mind. She wanted to ensure that she could make appropriate decisions in the future, keeping the best interests of the foster child, Naresh, at heart.

Stepping in Foster Care Society

When the Foster Care Society became aware of the situation, the members, deeply concerned, visited the foster family's home in Bhilwara to understand the gravity of the problem. Through the society's special consultant counsellor, a conversation was held with the foster mother, Shyamalata Ji, who shared her challenges and concerns. After gaining insight into her struggles, the foster mother, with a heavy heart yet with the

child's best interests in mind, urged for Naresh to be placed under the care of the District Child Welfare Committee in Udaipur, ensuring his safety and well-being.

The Decision, Orders, and Resolutions by the District Child Welfare Committee, Udaipur

Through a letter, foster mother Shyamalata Ji detailed her concerns regarding her transfer and the challenges associated with the development of the foster child, Naresh, to the District Child Welfare Committee, Udaipur. She expressed her inability to continue keeping Naresh with her family. Following the decision and application of the concerned foster family, the District Child Welfare Committee, Udaipur, issued an order summoning Shyamalata Ji, a resident of Bhilwara, to the committee office. A detailed discussion was held regarding Naresh's situation.

Taking the matter seriously and prioritizing Naresh's best interests, the District Child Welfare Committee, Udaipur, assumed custody of Naresh. Subsequently, with the support of the Foster Care Society and following the foster care regulations, a new foster family was selected for Naresh. This family, Savita Prajapat and Chandulal

Prajapat, residents of Simalwada, Dungarpur, was entrusted with the care of foster child Naresh.

A Renewed Beginning

Due to his calm nature, Naresh easily blends into new places and with new people, making it almost unnoticeable that he has transitioned from one place to another. This very trait has made him incredibly happy in his new family, and he has adapted well to his new surroundings.

The Foster Care Society conducts regular visits and holds discussions via telephone with foster child Naresh and his foster family. Since joining his new family, Naresh feels very fortunate. He now has new friends to play with, and the environment around him is very supportive.

Naresh spends quality time with his foster parents. To ensure continuity in his education, his foster father enrolled him in a nearby school. According to his foster mother, Naresh enjoys watching TV after completing his schoolwork and often insists on eating his favourite dishes, pakoras and dal-baati, which brings great joy to his foster mother.

Conclusion

The story of foster child Naresh holds a deeply emotional and human message, one that highlights the fundamental

rights of children, the importance of nurturing care, and the profound need for a safe and loving family environment to support their growth. Naresh's life was marked by hardship and adversity, but thanks to timely intervention and compassionate decisions, he was given a new chance at a secure and hopeful life.

It is the collective responsibility of society and the government to ensure that such children receive the care and love they deserve, so they can blossom into their fullest potential. Like Naresh, there are countless children who are in desperate need of families to provide them with the stability and support they so urgently require. Foster care initiatives, like the one that changed Naresh's life, can become the turning point for many such children, giving them the opportunity to live a life filled with hope and possibilities.

This story powerfully reminds us that we all play a role in safeguarding the future of children. We must all shoulder the responsibility for their well-being, so that every child can grow up healthy, protected, and filled with the love they need to thrive. The future of these children, like Naresh, depends on us all—on our care, our compassion, and our commitment to a brighter, safer world for them.

A Case Study on Restoration and Child Protection

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Introduction

Prerana's Project Aashiyana, part of the Transform NEEV Collective, is a model of family-centric care that aligns with the Juvenile Justice (Care

and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act), and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The project's primary objective is to ensure that children like Rahul, a six-year-old boy facing familial instability, have access to a nurturing family environment as a foundation for their growth and

development. Upholding principles such as family responsibility and institutionalization as a last resort, Aashiyana acts as a bridge between families facing distress and sustainable child care solutions.

This case study follows Rahul's¹ journey, demonstrating the nuanced interventions undertaken by the

¹Named changed