

Story of Neeta

1. Neeta lived with her husband in a remote village.
2. Her husband was a poor farmer and they did not have much money or land.
3. Neeta had 5 living children of whom 3 were boys. She did not want more children as it was hard managing even the ones she already had. Yet, she became pregnant again. Neeta did not attend ANC. She was also very tired and pale.
4. One morning Neeta woke up and started having labour pains. She called the TBA who came and delivered a little girl. After the delivery, Neeta started bleeding
5. Neither the TBA nor Neeta realized that she was losing too much blood and this could be a life-threatening complication
6. When Neeta became cold, and continued to bleed, they realized they should go to the hospital. It took long time for her family to find money and transport to take Neeta to hospital.
7. By the time they reached the hospital, Neeta was unconscious, and soon afterwards, she died.

Story of Geeta

1. Geeta lived with her husband in a remote village
2. Geeta was pregnant.
3. She was a member of a self – help group
4. She had a little money and her husband owned a small plot of land
5. She used to meet *didi* (ANM / TBA / ASHA) and learnt about family planning from her
6. Geeta and her husband planned to have 2 children. They had learnt from the health worker that too many children could make a woman weak.
7. Geeta and her husband decided it was time to have their first baby. Soon, Geeta happily became pregnant and attended ANC.
8. During the ASHA's home visit, she learnt about danger signs that could occur during pregnancy or delivery, or after delivery (postpartum or postnatal period) and how to plan to move to the hospital quickly. ASHA made a point of including Geeta's husband and mother-in-law in the discussion on possible danger signs and the need to get to the hospital quickly, should they occur.
9. Geeta decided to save some money, to be used in case any emergency or complication arose.
10. One day Geeta woke up and started having labour pains. She called both the TBA and ASHA. A healthy baby girl was delivered. But after the delivery, Geeta started bleeding a lot.
11. The ASHA, TBA, and Geeta herself realized that she was having excessive bleeding.
12. Geeta told her husband and mother-in-law right away. They immediately arranged for transport, using the money Geeta had saved.
13. The family members took Geeta to the hospital, accompanied by ASHA.
14. Geeta arrived at the hospital 15 minutes after the bleeding started. The ASHA ran inside and alerted the staff that an emergency obstetric case had arrived. Geeta received medical attention right away. She was given medicine (oxytocin to contract her uterus or womb), fluids, and a blood transfusion. Soon the bleeding stopped and Geeta was able to breastfeed the baby
15. Geeta and her baby spent the night in the hospital under observation and the next day Geeta felt strong and her family was very happy.