

Project Overview

Project Theme: ‘Nourish 1000 malnourished Child for Cleft surgery’

Background:

Mission Smile has been working in the North East region since 2009 and till date have provided safe and quality surgeries to nearly 18,000 cleft patients. These surgeries have been provided through a combination of camps and the Guwahati Comprehensive Cleft Care centre located at the MMC Hospital. The Governments of Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura have entered into MoUs with Mission Smile in order to make available quality cleft treatment for the cleft children of their respective states. However, the unfortunate part is that there are many cleft children who cannot receive this treatment because they are malnourished and therefore physically unsafe to receive surgery. The problem for cleft children starts in infancy due to their inability to receive effective breast-feeding which is the principal source of nourishment for babies in developing countries. Cleft children have an impaired sucking mechanism which makes breastfeeding tiring for the child. The problem is further compounded by lack of knowledge of the parents in different methods and positions to feed the cleft babies. All these factors contribute to the inability of babies to breast-feed and starting of the cycle of malnutrition. A few studies have shown that cleft lip and/or palate patients have poorer surgical outcomes due to baseline nutritional status and growth.

The ‘Nutrition Programme’ at the Guwahati Centre was therefore created to take care of such cleft children of the 0- 5yrs age-group till they become fit for surgery. The Programme currently has 1000+ children who are waiting for their ‘day of smile’.

About the program:

Mission Smile’s Nutrition Department is a very important part of its comprehensive care for cleft surgery. The team helps severe and acute malnourished children in the age group of 6 months to 5 years to gain good health, prepare them for cleft surgery and regain good health post operation. It’s a facility-based 2 months program which provides nutritious counselling, food & medication. The patients are discharged from the program only after complete recovery. Mothers are trained on feed preparation, basic healthcare, hygiene and nutrition. So far Mission Smile nutrition team has supported 1000 cleft children and helped them gain good health pre and post operation. Currently another 1000

Patients are enrolled in the program, waiting for support for recovery of their health.

Proposal:

Mission Smile nutrition team has supported 1000 cleft children and helped them gain good health pre and post operation, with love and support of donors. Currently another 1000 patients are enrolled in the program. Besides counselling, the Nutrition Programme mandates to provide free food supplements to such children but is not being able to due to paucity of funds.

With help of fund raiser we intend to reach out to different donors who wilfully would support the nutrition of such children. Once the children attain the perfect health, they would be operated by world class doctors and their smile would be restored. By supporting this program, donors will restore both health and smile of the malnourished cleft children.

Objectives:

- To reduce risk of surgical complication, malnourished cleft patients are identified and treated until nutritional status is improved sufficiently for surgery.
- Timely referral of SAM (Severe Acute Malnourished) patients to tertiary care centres or Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres.
- Counselling: (bedrock of the program) to provide emotional support to the family and motivate them to take on the challenge of caring for the child.
- Education of parents and/or care-givers about importance of initiating complementary food on time, food habits (locally available) quality, quantity, feeding methods and frequency , food and personal hygiene
- Program for Too- Young patients - for babies under 6 months with normal body weights from becoming malnourished.

Project Cost:

Total Food supplement Cost (INR)	:	360000
Total Travel Cost for Evaluation(INR)	:	120000
Total Medicine Cost (INR)	:	120000
Total Consultation Cost (INR)	:	100000
TOTAL COST PER 1000 PATIENT(INR)	:	700000

Outcome:

1000 malnourished children will be supported to restore their health
 1000 children will be ready for free restoration of smile by cleft surgery.