



# SACRED

*Social Action For Child Rehabilitation Emancipation and Development*

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## **Reframing the mindset of parents holds key to their involvement in the rehabilitation of disabled child: A case study of Veresh, a CP child from Pattikonda Village**

Veresh is the second son of Sriramulu and Sankaramma from Pattikonda village of Kurnool district. At the age of 7 months Veresh fell sick. He had high fever and there was severe eye infection. His eyes became red and his parents approached local doctor who had given an injection apart from prescribing medicines. Immediately after taking injection which was given by doctor parent's Veresh noticed changes in the mobility of both hands and legs which were slowly getting twisted. The eye which had infection became totally blind. His parents approached several doctors and moved around different places to find solution to their child but all proved a futile exercise. They had also offered prayers to various gods. His parents especially his mother was crying as she couldn't see her child in such helpless condition. Having tried out all the sources they had given up their hopes and they were simply dragging their life regretting their fate. It was diagnosed as cerebral palsy for which there is no permanent cure but a few remedial measures which are time consuming.

It was 2 ½ years later Sacred had identified Veresh and motivated his parents to get enrolled into self-help group of disabled persons. Concerned technician had suggested few exercises and advised parents to follow the instructions failing which the conditions would get worsened. The rural development worker made frequent visits to guide parents. Despite regular exercises and follow up visits by RDW parents didn't notice any significant changes in the status of their child. This is because his parents had no conviction about the outcome of physical exercises.



Veresh was again shown to an orthopaedic doctor at a nearby town. He had also suggested them to have physical exercises for Veresh and he made it very clear that there could be some improvement only if they strictly follow the instructions. Parents got convinced of the suggestion given by both the specialist doctor and Sacred. Parents were so poor and they were finding it difficult to find time to focus on exercises to their child. Sometimes they were losing their wages but are still continuing the exercises. They are finding little changes in their son but they are determined to continue the suggestions and instructions to improve the status of their son. Sacred helped us to get medical certificate and it motivated them to try for disability pension for our child. They are happy that they are regularly getting a pension of Rs.500 per month. There is change in the attitude of parents who are now extending love and affection towards their disabled child.