



## Her head held high

Hema\* and her family live in a small tribal village in central India. Five years ago, the teenager began to have shooting pain in her legs and knees. The pain spread to her back. Her hips and spine were severely affected by arthritis.

Within a few years, Hema was completely bent over, her forehead touching her knees. Her father gave her a strong stick to use for support. Even though she could not stand straight or look up, using the stick, Hema continued to walk, cook and take care of their paddy fields.

Her sister took her to a hospital in Biru town where they met Dr. George Mathew, a retired surgeon from CMC. “How will we pay for a big operation at CMC to make Hema stand straight again?,” worried her sister. “We will all support you,” Dr. George reassured them.



Last month, Hema was admitted under CMC’s Orthopaedics department and had two successful hip replacement surgeries. “I can’t wait to go home and see my parent’s faces,” she smiles brightly, her head held high.



Hema needs rest and physiotherapy before she returns home. Our Person-to-Person fund covered most of her costs.

*\*Name changed*

[More about Dr. George Mathew](#), CMC’s former Principal, retired surgeon & alumnus.