BEING POSITIVE IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITIES

Almudenab: Nimisha, a school teacher from Iharon, has not herself tested when she was found to be positive for HIV. She revealed later that she was HIV+ while she was studying in college. She had a healthy baby but the test came as a shock.

Identified as a patient by her husband, she was put under a strict diet and found to be positive. Her in-laws later told her that they knew for a long time. The couple's child, 10-months old at that time, was also found to be positive. After the revelation, Nimisha was tested for HIV and was found to be negative.

The book covers a wide range of women, from a former domestic worker to a village girl. It chronicles the struggles of women living with HIV. Daksha, a graduate of Gujarat State AIDS Network (GSNP), is HIV+ along with her husband. ‘Our purpose is to put forth the plight of the women who face double discrimination due to their positive status and more often than not being a target of accusations or being the cause of the disease for their husbands and even questioning their character. They find it difficult to get jobs or even social acceptance once their status is known. But we have to address the elephant in the room and create awareness. We have to talk to these women who have lived all their lives together with their husbands and are now living with their heads held high,’ she said.

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