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### Tsunami-hit women seek AIMS' help to become mothers again

Saturday February 26 2005 00:00 IST

KOCHI: As tsunami tragedy turns two months-old on Saturday, eight women from the ravaged shores of Alappad in Kollam are banking their hopes on miracles of medical science to get back what they lost to the waves: children.

All of them, Lini, Adarsha, Luna, Liji, Priya, Sajitha, Shani and Ambili, had undergone tubectomy after their second delivery. Now, faced with the loss of children, they have approached the doctors of the Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Kochi expressing their willingness to undergo reversal of sterilisation, to become mothers again.

Tears well up in their eyes as they recall the tragedy that struck their lives two months back. Five of them lost both kids to the waves on December 26 while three were fortunate to have one of the children safe from the fury of the waves. They are now staying at various camps in Oachira and temporary tents put up in Srayikkad.

"It was Mata Amritanandamayi who suggested the idea of the reverse operation as we were all very shattered by the tragedy. And our husbands and families also agreed," says Lini who lost her sons, two-and-a-half year-old Prince and ten-month-old Nikhil on that day.

Lini and five others came to the AIMS last month for various tests while Shani and Sajitha expressed their wish to undergo the surgery and joined the group on Friday.

Sarala Sreedhar, gynecologist of the hospital, has been giving them counselling for days now, making them aware of the pros and cons of this operation.

"Only very few people opt for this surgery as it is very rare to lose both children in a tragedy. We can only say the success rate is 20 to 30 percent. And the success depends on how the tubectomy was done. There are chances for complications also," says Sarala.

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She says that the women, all in the age group of 22 to 30, are physically fit, but they need a more relaxed environment for post-operative care, pregnancy and delivery. But these women say that they want to undergo the operation as early as possible, before the government fulfils its promise of houses for all.

“We have trust in Amma and the doctors, everything will be all right,” says Adarsha, who is yet to come to terms with the deaths of her daughters Sreelakshmi and Sreekkutty.

Mata Amritanandamayi Matt at Vallikkavu is providing all facilities for the treatment and operation, bringing this group as well as other patients from various camps to the AIMS regularly.