

## **Success Story**

### **Six month old male baby gets Cleft Lip restored at the 196<sup>th</sup> Lifeline Express project held from 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018 to 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at Arrah in Bhojpur, Bihar**

Mas. Ashish Kumar Ram, aged around 6 months is the youngest child of Mr. Nishikant Singh, who owns a *paan* (betel leaf) shop earning around Rs, 4000/- pm, on which the entire family lives. He also cultivates another farmer's field and paying them a fixed portion at harvest time. This allows him to make some additional income to run the family which consists of 3 more siblings who are elder to Ashish and are normal.



**Pre- Operative (L) and Post- Operative(R) pictures of Mas. Ashish Kumar**

Mas. Ashish was born with a cleft lip, which traditionally is considered a bad omen and attributed to the mother cutting something during an eclipse. When Ashish was born with this deformity, everyone in the neighbourhood felt sad and made comments and his parents felt guilty. As the appearance of the baby was not good the parents decided to take the baby to a nearby hospital. However he could not be operated due to low weight.

When the parents came to know about the imminent arrival of the Lifeline Express at Arrah and the corrective surgeries for Cleft lips that would be a part of the project, they decided to bring Mas. Ashish to the Pre-Operative Clinics. The doctors examined the patient and decided to operate on him after all the required investigations showed normal. The surgery was performed successfully under the guidance of expert surgeons without any post-operative complications.

The parents were excited to see the transformation that this surgery had brought to their kid. This surgery will now enable Mas. Ashish lead a normal life, without any damage to his self-esteem.