

## **THE UNFORGETTABLE EVENING**

**– by Mayurika (9)**

This story is about a girl Ashmita who lived with her parents. One day when she returned from her school, her mother told her that her grandmother is not well and hence they are going to their native place the same day, to see her. Ashmita's father hired a taxi and they started for the village immediately.

On the way to their native place, they needed to cross a dangerous village where robbery and kidnapping were common. It had been raining heavily. As they entered this village, all of a sudden the car stopped. The driver couldn't restart the engine again. It was a lonely place and slowly it became dark. All of a sudden, an old man appeared with a lamp in his hand and looked through the window. He requested Ashmita's father to come and take some rest in his cottage. The family members were very frightened, but on repeated requests they followed him.

In the meantime, a relative of the old man got a mechanic from a nearby village, who repaired the car. The condition of the village looked very bad. Most of the villagers were malnourished. Ashmita became sad when she saw this sight.

Next day, her father thanked the villagers and they resumed their journey.

Time passed by and after 20 years, Ashmita became a doctor. When her senior asked Ashmita where she wanted to serve, to everyone's surprise, she expressed the desire to be posted to the same village where she had stopped many years ago. She was posted to that place and started serving those villagers.

One day, she met that old man's son. She was very happy. She narrated the story about how his father had helped them on that rainy evening. She also told him why she chose this village for her practice.

She helped the sick villagers. Slowly, the villagers became fit and healthy and sickness disappeared from the village. All of them thanked the doctor for her service and lived happily ever after.

*Value:            Service to others*