

Dementia Education through Cartoons

**A cartoon book developed for Indian
communities by Ravi Samuel, 10/66
Dementia Research Group.**

Mrs Usha aged 65 years is a retired schoolteacher, she lives with her husband, son, daughter in law and two grand children.



Usha has been keeping herself occupied with housekeeping and teaching grand children.



Every Saturday Usha visits the temple with the family.



Around the year 2000 gradually the children started finding their grandma's teaching quite confusing! Earlier She used to make the subjects interesting.



While visiting the temple the family members found that Usha was unable to focus on the worship and instead was going around aimlessly.



Usha was forgetting the safety procedures while cooking and ended up with little accidents.



Usha is known for her patience but now even for trivial matters was getting very irritated and angry.



Over the last six months she was unable to sleep well in the night.



By 2001 her shopping ability got affected and was unable to shop vegetables for her house.



She started wondering about the use of objects, which she used to use before.



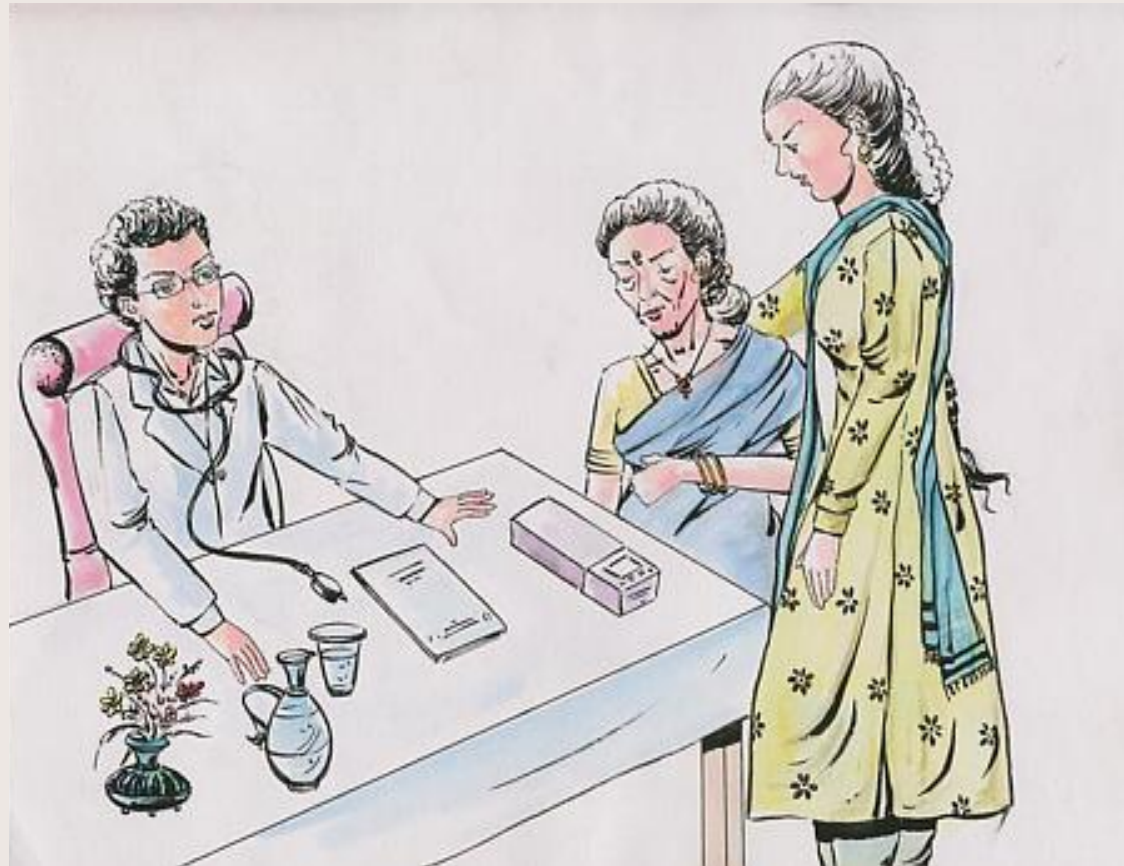
Suddenly she gets very angry and it was difficult to calm her down.



She refused to be away from the carer during night time while sleeping



The family suspecting that the changes are not part of ageing takes her to a doctor.



The doctor examines her thoroughly and finds it that she has dementia. The doctor explains to the family about dementia and how she has to be taken care.



In 2003 as the illness progressed even dressing became a problem.



To educate the family regarding care giving a health worker visits their residence and gives them advice. The health worker explains that due to the illness she has lost the ability to dress, hence someone has to help her to get dressed.



Daughter in law helps Usha to get dressed up



Oh she is playing with the food instead of eating it!



When they seek the help of the nurse she explains that due to the illness she has lost the ability to eat, hence someone has to feed.



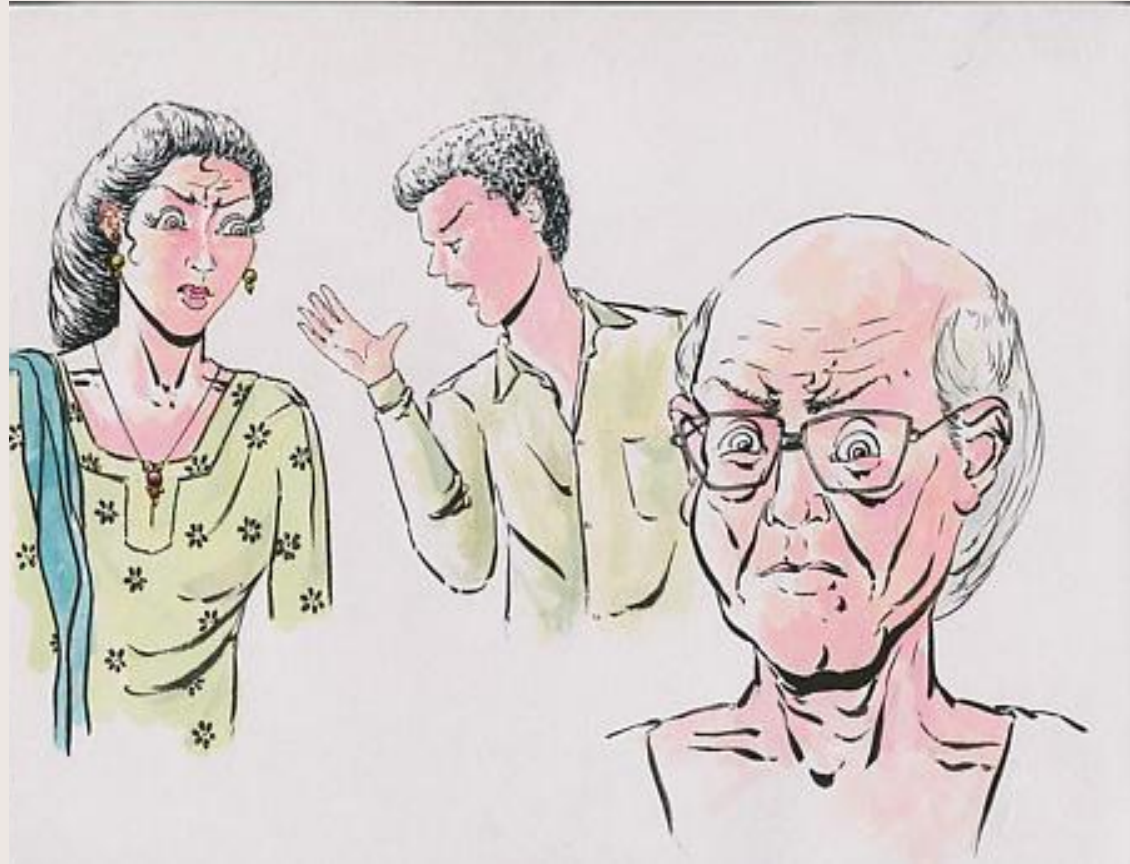
Usha's son and husband take the responsibility of feeding.



As dementia is a chronic illness the family members have to provide care for many years.



Whenever there is a conflict it is best to sit together and resolve them instead of allowing it to grow and affect the carers emotionally.



Oh instead of taking bath why is she pouring all the water?



When the seek the help of the health worker she explains that due to the illness she has lost the ability to bath and hence someone has to help her to bath.



If a single person in the family does all the work for the patient then the person is likely to experience emotional exhaustion.



Always share the responsibilities and activities of care giving.

