



This is the same woman!

BY PRIYANKA VORA

PRABHAVATI Devendra (45) vividly remembers the day when kids ridiculed her as she could not get up from the ground after having lunch. For Prabhavati her overweight body was a hurdle in her daily chores. She says, "I always saw television and ordered slimming powders, sauna belt for losing weight. My acquaintances made a joke of me but my husband's support has made me a confident lady today. Around 18 months back, I weighed 116 kg and today being just 70 kg makes me feel like a star." Prabhavati is expected to lose 10 kg more in a few months with a miraculous surgery as she expresses it — the Gastric Bypass Surgery (GBS).

In GBS, the size of the stomach is reduced and then connected to the intestine. Owing to the smaller size of the stomach, the food intake of the patient is lowered. In

case of Prabhavati, her diet has been reduced. If she overeats, vomiting can occur.

Dr. Ramen Goel, bariatric surgeon at Bombay Hospital, says, "GBS is for obese as well as for those suffering from diabetes. In GBS, about 50 per cent food intake will not be absorbed in the body and thus lessening calories leading to gradual loss of weight." The surgery may cost anywhere between Rs 1 lakh to Rs 2 lakh. Due to her increasing weight, Prabhavati suffered from terrible knee joints pain but today she walks 2 kilometres everyday. Individuals who are 25 to 30 kg overweight are eligible for GBS but few check ups are necessary. Almost 3,000 obese individuals now live a 'fat free life' after getting operated in India.

As Benifer Bilmoria, who has also undergone GBS, says, "You start loving yourself, everyone around me was surprised to see me reducing from 101 kg to 70 kg in a span of seven months."

Benifer acid Prabhavati have received a new life and new hopes post surgery.

