

Shakila Bibi wife of Motiur Rahaman of Guljartola, district Malda was 22 when she realised that she was six month pregnant. Shakila Bibi died soon after giving birth to her third child. Though she died on May 20 2012, and her husband received a death certificate her death was officially not reported, and as per government data no deaths were reported in Malda that whole year.

Shakila Bibi by the age of 22 already had given birth to two children. Both her first and second were born at home through the local DAI (Traditional Birth Attendant). After the birth of her second child she had stopped menstruating. So when after one and half years she was pregnant she was not aware of it and came to realise it when she was six months pregnant. After discussion with the village ASHA she went to the nearest Sub Centre which was 17 miles and in the Sub Centre she was given tetanus shot, iron tablets and her blood pressure was checked. The ANM advised her to come back for check up after one month. Shakila visited the Sub Centre after one month and the ANM after due check up suggested that she needed to get herself checked in the Block PHC by a Medical Officer. The Medical Officer of the Block PHC prescribed blood tests and also prescribed medicines Shakila got her blood tested in a private clinic and paid for it and also purchased the medicines from a pharmacy. A day prior to her delivery when she felt recurrent pain in her abdomen she went to the Block PHC; however the Block Medical Officer sent her back and asked her to come back after 5-6 days. Shakila returned back home but on the same day at midnight she felt severe pain and the husband called the local quack who gave her an injection. As the Block PHC was far and there was no conveyance or mobility facility, the DAI was called at 3.45 a.m. Shakila gave birth to a girl. However she was bleeding heavily unable to expel out the placenta. After three hours her husband managed to arrange a private car and she was taken to the Bedrabad Block PHC. In the Block PHC the nurse and the on duty Medical Officer referred her to the Malda Headquarter Hospital, Shakila died while leaving the Block PHC.

Contributed by

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