

An Unusual Delivery

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MAMTA was numb. Not because she saw unusual happenings in the hospital, but because rounds of strange talks and whispers were going around in the maternal ward of a posh hospital in a metro city in 2025. She has been serving as a nurse in the labour room for the last forty years and has witnessed a greater number of deliveries than any gynecologists of the hospital. She has seen agony, pain, pressure, and anticipation of mothers undergoing labour pain, as well as the twinkle in their eyes as soon as they hold their babies for the first time. Women's physical stamina, mental fitness, and psychological nerves are tested during those moments of delivery of a child. Mamta has witnessed the extremes. The solid rock support of the families at one end and cold indifference at another! Some would rejoice at the birth of the girl child. Some would be sad for not having the Y chromosome beside X chromosome. Mamta has seen all.

Although in her four decades of career, Mamta had vivid experiences, the one she was witnessing in front of her eyes was quite different from her. This time it was not about the sex of the child. Rather, the family was elated on the arrival of the baby girl into their family. The mother-in-law was

super excited to be promoted to grandmother. The issue was about the route through which the baby made her exit from the mother's womb. It was not a NORMAL delivery. It was a C-section or CAESAREAN delivery.

The poor mother of the child had to undergo fourteen hours of labour pain, was tried for forceps insertion and vacuum suction when the crown of the head of the baby was visible to the doctors, but the baby simply refused to come out through the natural pathway, and C-section was the only option left.

While getting over her pain, the mother hugged the child. Her family, too, was happy, but a C-section! What a heinous crime! One of the senior family members started talking hushly, "This mother is so soft. She could not hold the pain little longer. Every woman in our family delivered a child through normal delivery, but she always had to be different. She bears the worst power in holding the baby inside her womb. Who undergoes surgery for childbirth?"

Another member supported her statement and responded, "Exactly! The mother is doomed now! She cannot take load of heavy physical work. The cut in the uterus will make her