

## **Best Placed Plans**

Like the herd of couples thriving to enter the new phase of life, we too were one among them. For reasons unknown we weren't bestowed with a natural process yet, however we always had it in mind to go for a heart pregnancy irrespective of a natural one. There were ups and downs while we prepared and embarked on this journey.

The very first challenge was to bring both set of parents on the same page. It was a new concept all together for them. Years back we became the flag bearers of "love marriage" in our family, we were the first again to go for a different way of parenthood. It took time and patience, and every minute vested was worth it.

The awakening about the ground reality of processes, time and duration happened when we googled on how to go for it. We came across CARA and read through the website. Luckily we were in the national capital that time and could book a counselling session with CARA. This counselling cleared all those notion of our mind.

The preliminary tasks were completed with ease, like filling up forms, document submission followed by a home study. Then the difficult phase started, The Wait. This was the biggest challenge ever as it's indefinite and certainly long enough to drive anyone crazy. However after about nine months we came across a referral through Immediate Placement. That was the most exciting moment of our life. The thrill of meeting our daughter was beyond explanation.

In a weeks' time we were sitting across people in a SAA (State Adoption Agency) conversing on our life, reasons for taking this decision and many more. Our hearts pounding louder than the conversation and desperately waiting for the agency attendants to bring along our bundle of joy. The "moment" arrived. Our hearts melted immediately looking at her, there was no better feeling than holding her for the first time. That was when it dawned, the most exciting and adventurous journey of parenthood had begun.

Those twinkling eyes and toothless smiles were what we waited for so long. We completed the entire process of foster care with plenty of challenges at the agency. There were several human and procedural frictions during the process. However, all is well when it ends well. We were home and she had a warm welcome from the entire family.

Our time and energy now was directed in her upbringing and pampering. She became our centre of attention and still is. Her arrival was like breaking all the spells. Our world was full of love and laughter. For us she is a blessed child, after we celebrated her second homecoming the very next week we discovered we were on our natural family way.

Today when I look at us I can confidently say Almighty will always have best plans for everyone, the only catch is to have faith and patience.

**Sahana Krishnamurthy**



*Our story began with two states falling in love to make a family of heart and blood. Our simple life goal is to nourish it beyond societal formatives with love and laughter. I and my spouse Rishu Kumar along with our daughters Aadhya and Adwika would like to thank Aatmaja for this opportunity to share our life story with you all.*