



**Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital**

Caring for the community since 1922...



# NEWSLETTER

#35



**April 2024**

[www.sceh.net](http://www.sceh.net)

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## **Chief Storyteller**

Dr. Isha Chaudhari

## **Editorial Board Members**

Dr. Arpan Gandhi

Dr. Monica Gandhi

Ms. Kalpana Gupta

Ms. Shivani Sood

Dr. Umang Mathur

## **Designer**

Alpana Singh

## **Photographers**

Vaibhav Anand

Himanshu





Aadya initiative is a door-to-door screening program to eradicate existing blindness and visual impairment in the community in which a workforce of women screeners is trained for vision assessment using mobile technology. Having flexible working hours, these women can support their communities for their eye health, and at the same time they can also manage and support their own family financially. This model was first implemented in September 2021 at Saharanpur (Uttar Pradesh), and then in Mathura (Uttar Pradesh) January 2023. At present, there are 83 screeners in these two locations.

The screeners for the project are recruited from the same villages and thus they have close relationship with these communities. They undergo training, field exposure, and observation at base hospital before being inducted in the role.

“SCEH and Combat Blindness International (CBI) have had a long and fruitful partnership for over 20 years.

Recently, SCEH and CBI collaborated to establish the Aadya Initiative. Borne out the pandemic and the need to decentralize mass vision screening, the Aadya Initiative is a unique program that identifies, selects, and trains local women from rural villages in India. These women are employed and deployed back into their local village to administer free eye health exams door to door within their communities. Through this program we are working to increase rural women's access to education and training, increase their financial independence, positively impact women's poverty levels, provide role models and mentors for other young women in rural communities all whilst providing free eye care to everyone.

CBI is proud and committed to partnering with SCEH to support the Aadya Initiative and to empower women through education and employment opportunities”

**-Ms. Reena Chandra**  
President and CEO, CBI

## Project Impact



### Reading Glasses on the spot

Under this initiative, people over 40 years of age are screened for distance and near vision. If glasses are needed for reading only, they are prescribed and dispensed on the spot.

### Doorstep transportation facility

Doorstep transportation facility is provided for patients requiring assistance for a visit to a vision center for examination. According to data from 2023, 60% of patients are utilizing these facilities.

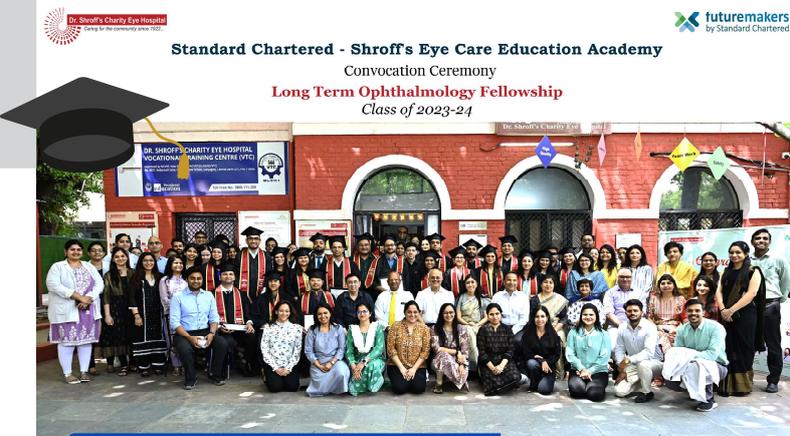
“The Aadya Initiative is an innovative solution in collaboration with Combat Blindness International in bridging the gap in rural eye care and management, empowering women for financial independent and promoting gender equality in employment. By providing eye screening to villagers at their doorstep, these trained women Aadya workers end up developing a strong connection with communities and support to their eye health. The program has provided excellent employment opportunities for rural women who wanted to work but needed flexible working hours to take care their family life balanced, also need financial assistance to support their family. We are thankful to combat blindness international for their constant support to this program”

**-Dr. Shalinder Sabherwal**  
Director Public health, SCEH

*-Contributed by*  
**Imtiyaz Ahmad & Dr. Shalinder Sabherwal**

# Visionaries of Tomorrow: Convocation of the outgoing batch

On April 20th, 2024, the corridors of Standard Chartered Shroff Eye Care Education Academy resonated with excitement as we celebrated the Convocation Ceremony of our outgoing batch. The ceremony was graced by the esteemed (Hony) Brig. Dr. Arvind Lal, Executive Chairman, Dr. Lal Pathlabs. A shining moment of the event was the graduation of 24 bright ophthalmologists, who, after rigorous training in 2023-24, are now poised to make a tangible difference in the world of eye care. During the ceremony, Dr. Sima Das highlighted our recruitment strategy aimed at upskilling young ophthalmologists from tier two and three towns. This ensures a robust pipeline of skilled eye healthcare professionals, especially in underserved regions.



"At Standard Chartered Bank, we firmly believe in the power of collaboration to drive positive change. Our commitment to making a difference in the communities we serve aligns seamlessly with the ethos of Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital. Together, we set out to empower individuals, transform lives, and create a lasting impact"

**-Ms. Karuna Bhatia**  
Head of Sustainability,  
Standard Chartered Bank India & GBS



**Book launch - A Field Book of Performance Management by Mr. S Ramesh Shankar, former CEO, SCEH**



**Annual NGO Partners meet was held on 29th April 2024**

## Humans of SCEH

*"Education is one thing no one can take away from you" — Elin Nordegren*



I am currently working as a vision technician at SCEH Karol Bagh. Just like most girls my age, I didn't have any fixed plans and was willing to go where life took me. However, coming from a working class nuclear family, I had to choose a path quickly and I joined the Allied Ophthalmic Personnel program at SCEH on my aunt's suggestion just after I completed school. What I like the most about this program is a combined academic and practical approach. We are given opportunity to practice what we are taught in the classrooms. Both my elder siblings are into academic streams and I too want to study more. I am simultaneously pursuing masters in English language and I plan to a PhD in future. Also, I plan to pursue optometry if time permits.

crucial role in shaping my career path. My father has never imposed any restrictions on me and my mother has taken over every other responsibility from us to provide us time to develop our career.

Though I landed here by accident, I absolutely love working here. Here, I have had the opportunity to meet different people, interact with them and learn from them. People spend money for personality development courses, but at SCEH, I am getting to develop myself without spending a penny. An added advantage of working here is the blessings I get from the patients. These moments are rewarding and they add a meaningful dimension to my work. My stipend helps me support my education and travel expenses, so my family doesn't have to spend money on me. It makes me feel independent as well.

I believe that when life gives you an opportunity, be greedy, grab it, and make the most of it.

**Muskan**  
VT, SCEH Karol Bagh

My family's support and encouragement have played a

## Patient Story

*"Never lose hope. Storms make people stronger and never last forever"*  
Roy T. Bennett, *The Light in the Heart*



Veena Rani is a tailor by profession and fine near work earns her bread and butter. She stitches clothes for people in the neighborhood and her work gives her pleasure. One day she noted a drop in her vision. Gradually she had to stop working due to her deteriorating vision. Not only was she losing her source of income, she also didn't have enough savings to get her treatment. Worried and strained, she visited an eye screening camp, organised by Sevadham Old Age Home and SCEH with the support of the VridhCare foundation. During the

screening, she learned that she was suffering from cataract in both eyes. She was wondering where she is going to arrange for funds when the camp offered a free cataract surgery. The travel expenses were borne by the old age home authorities and her medical expenses were borne by SCEH. Post getting both her eyes operated, she is now able to resume her work and get back on her feet.



"As there were financial constraints at home it was great to get a free treatment at SCEH. I am very happy with my treatment at SCEH and I have restarted my work, which in turn is helping me with the finances at home."



## Service Before Self - A donor story



Mr. Jai Bhagwan's dedication to providing eye care services to his community is remarkable. Mr. Bhagwan has been associated with SCEH for 15 years now. His first initiative was organizing a camp in his native village Purkhas in Haryana in the year 2009. By 2017 he was helping organize five camps every year. Patients were brought to the hospital in a private vehicle, which Mr. Bhagwan sponsored, where they were operated.

When he retired in 2017, he could no longer sponsor each camp. Also, at that time a ban was put on on-site surgical camps. Mr. Bhagwan arranged a special permission from the health minister of Haryana assuring him that all surgeries will take place in the hospital

and not in the camp. He was already helping a lot of his people, but he wanted to do more.

In 2021, he donated a small shop to SCEH to start an eye center in his village. He dedicated that eye center to his parents. The doctors and optometrists from SCEH visit the center and serve the local community of the area. This center caters to a 15 km area and 58 villages. Mr. Bhagwan pays for the maintenance of the center aspires to have a full time ophthalmologist work there. With the support of his wife, Shrimati Vimla Devi, Mr. Bhagwan has touched over 25,000 lives.

"All these efforts have been possible with the help of Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital, and am proud to be associated with them. It is remarkable how much impact on the community can take place through perseverance and collaboration with an organization like SCEH"

- Jai Bhagwan



Miss Asha Gond, skater girl from Madhya Pradesh, who represented 2018 World Skateboarding Championship and now leads a non-profit organisation, Barefoot Skateboarders, was invited for a 'Inspire beyond Ophthalmology and Academics' session at SCEH. The book *Skater Girl Asha* is based on her.



Dr. Luke Allen, an experienced researcher at International Centre for Eye Health, London and principal investigator (PI) of the Improvement Studies for Equitable and Evidence-based innovation (imSEEN), visited SCEH Mohammdi to launch the second stage of the study. In the second stage of this study, we will attempt to bring out the barriers and possible solutions for improving compliance to referral from door to door screening.

## Sukarya Annual Celebration

The Kaizen (Sukarya) Annual Celebration event was organized at SCEH to celebrate the accomplishments of the winners and promote a culture of continuous improvement within the organization. The guest list included Mr. Ashutosh Mishra, founder Partner of PROACT Management Consulting, Mr. Sunil Tandon, Managing Trustee, and Mr. Somesh Sehgal, Trustee at Koshika Foundation. Awards and recognition was given to outstanding individuals and teams who exemplified the spirit of Sukarya, turning small, incremental changes into substantial improvements.

## Total Sukaryas (2023-24)- 2394



**Dronacharya Award:**  
Mr. Charan Massey & Dr. Sufyan Danish  
(SCEH Vrindavan)



**Sukarya Grandmaster:**  
Ms. Amrita Sharma  
(SCEH Vrindavan)



"I am proud to lead an organization where change and innovation happen at every level through kaizen. He added that Sukarya is a structured approach to drive continuous improvement, empower employees, and create a culture of excellence within an organization. It is your efforts that drive our innovation, efficiency, and success."

**-Dr Umang Mathur**



## Magic of Collaboration

*"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much" – Hellen Keller*



As rightly said by Keller, we envisioned the power of togetherness in the form of collaboration between SCEH and its partners, **Project Prakash** and **The Nanyonika Foundation**. Our mission is to make a lasting impact on eradication of blindness by providing quality eye care to all sections of the society.

To achieve this, fellows of the paediatric ophthalmology

department travelled on Sunday's to remote areas of Uttar Pradesh like Hardoi, Badau, and Moradabad to participate in screening camps organized by Team Project Prakash. Children were screened and brought back the same day to get optimal surgical treatment at Delhi. The Nanyonika foundation provided the transportation and the accommodation and surgical cost was born by Project Prakash team. Twenty three children have been operated so far.

These children underwent not only paediatric cataract and squint surgeries, but were also treated for retinal and corneal pathologies. The entire team is committed towards their primary surgery and a proper follow up to help these children of remote areas.

Together, our effort with our partners support has brought smiles on the faces of the children and their parents.

*Story contributed by*  
**Dr. Soveeta Rath**

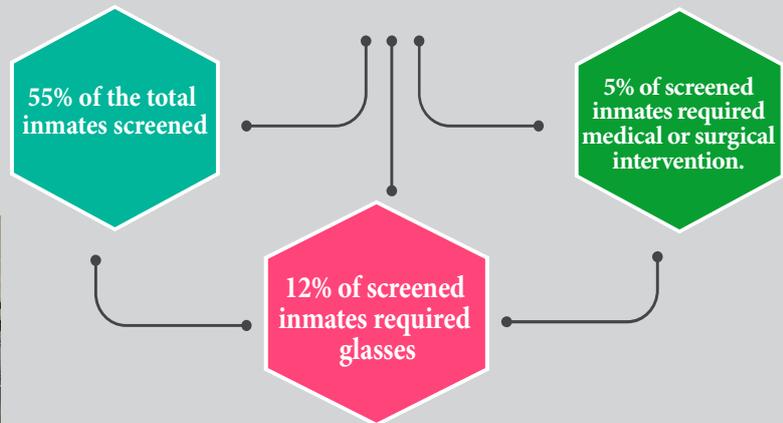
## Livelihood Impact Fund (LIF) Visit at SCEH

Ms. Abigail Steinberg, an Executive Director of the Livelihood Impact Fund's Eyeglasses Initiative, visited SCEH with the aim to look into the program that is a collaborative effort between **Peek Vision** and the **Livelihood Impact Fund**. This joint venture helps to understand the short experience of wearing near-vision glasses in a rural community in Northern India and whether or how it creates a willingness to travel for another pair of spectacles, by overcoming barriers related to felt need and indirect cost.



## Tihar Jail Screening

A four month long screening of inmates of Tihar Jail was organised as a Joint Initiative of SCEH & Tihar Jail management. The screening began in November 2023 and concluded in March 2024.



## SCEH Mohammadi microbiology laboratory completes two years

This year, the microbiology laboratory at SCEH Mohammadi celebrated two years of impactful work. In these two years, the team encountered various challenges, overcame obstacles, and achieved remarkable advancements. The team's perseverance and passion have undoubtedly been instrumental in driving positive change and bringing essential eye healthcare services closer to those who need them most. With over 14000 samples analyzed and treatment of 4000 patients, the work has directly influenced rural eye healthcare and has made a profound difference in patient management. It was made possible with the help of the SCEH Delhi laboratory team.



## Training Initiatives by SCEH Eye Bank



In April, SCEH spearheaded two impactful training programs aimed at bolstering eye banking and donation endeavors across India.

The first program took place at the Department of Ophthalmology, Kasturba Medical College & Kasturba Hospital, MAHE, Manipal. Sixteen participants, including resident doctors and eye bank technicians, underwent comprehensive training covering diverse aspects, including tools for evaluating eye bank professionals.

Simultaneously, a two-day workshop convened at the Eye Bank Society of Rajasthan, Jaipur. Sixteen eye bank technicians cum counselors were adeptly trained on eye recovery and eye donation skills. These initiatives are integral components of the joint project with DGFG, Germany, under the GIZ Health Partnership. They signify a collaborative effort to elevate eye care standards, promote awareness, and contribute significantly to combat avoidable blindness nationwide.



*Story contributed by*  
**Ms. Rakhi Nathawat**

## Alumni Speaks

“As my alma mater, I am forever indebted to SCEH and my mentors here for the learnings that will be with me and help me throughout my life. During my time here the most amazing thing was how everyone tries to work as a cohesive unit. The most important thing that made me stay at here is the value system that's followed here. The value - that everyone deserves the best care, irrespective of their financial background. Never has a patient been denied care for the lack of money or resources and that for me is the most amazing thing about this institution.

As an alumna, I always cherish the warmth with which everyone greets me on my visits to the hospital. From support staff to colleagues, meeting everyone feels like coming back home. For me, SCEH is and will always be my second home.”



**Dr. Gaurav Shah**

Deputy Medical Superintendent &  
Director, Medical Education  
Vivekananda Netralaya, Dehradun



The SCEH-AbbVie Retina Preceptorship Program was held over two days included interactive lectures on retinal diagnostics and clinical talks on common retinal pathologies and use of low vision aids. A hands-on Wetlab on Intravitreal Injections was also conducted.

Representatives from Keralink International visited Saharanpur to participate in a Vision Technician Training Program. The joint SCEH-KLI project aims to enhance corneal disorder treatment in rural Uttar Pradesh through community screenings, health workers, technology-based consultations, and capacity building at secondary eye hospitals.



Dr Suneeta Dubey awarded the AC Agarwal Trophy for best paper in DOS Annual Conference



SCEH wins Bodhraj Trophy for conducting DOS best monthly clinical meet



## Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital

5027, Kedarnath Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002  
 Ph:011-42524444, 43528888 | Email:communication@sceh.net

Delhi | Alwar | Mohammadi | Meerut | Modinagar | Ranikhet | Saharanpur | Vrindavan