



Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital

Caring for the community since 1922...



NEWSLETTER

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Table of Contents

01

Editorial: Visit to a vision center: My experience

02

Human Story
Value Story
Patient Story

03-05

Donor Speak
Sukarya Story
Events & Highlights

06

Keralink Project



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Visit to a vision center: My experience



As a cornea fellow posted at SCEH Mohammadi, my days mostly revolved around the busy clinics and operating rooms. Patients with various corneal pathologies thronged my clinics, but I always wondered, how the patients knew where to reach and when. Soon, I realized that many of our patients were being timely referred from our robust

network of vision centers (VC). I was curious as to how the VC works and I decided to visit one of them. Based on the highest number of cornea referrals, I decided to visit the Sikandrabad VC, located 30 kilometers away from our hospital.

After a rickety bus ride, through the plush farmland, I reached the VC: a small but immaculate establishment. Miss Jyoti, the vision technician (VT) posted at the VC, was the only medical professional there, running the center almost independently. With 30-40 patients walking in every day, she single-handedly does their refraction, intra-ocular pressure (IOP) measurement, basic slit-lamp examination including fluorescein staining if required, and simultaneously taking tele-consultations from the Delhi team.

When I reached, I found many patients patiently waiting for me, some even for hours, as they couldn't travel to our hospital for a consult by a doctor and didn't want to miss this opportunity. I examined the patients on the slit lamp. Jyoti had already done the basic work-up. The spectrum of diseases ranged from cataract to cornea, including fairly complex diseases like peripheral ulcerative keratitis (PUK), corneal ulcers, foreign bodies, opacities and uveitis. As fungal corneal ulcer secondary to sugarcane leaf injury is one of the commonest pathology, we encounter I educated the patients regarding the importance of eye health, regular eye examination, and the role of protective eyewear while doing farming activities.

Displayed prominently on one of the walls was a white board with monthly statistics, boasting of numbers that were unbelievable. Another wall flaunted the name of our supporter, the Standard Chartered Bank.

After the work was over, I sat down with Jyoti over the customary tea and samosas to discuss cornea

teleconsultation in detail, and any hurdles she was facing in executing it. On behalf of the hospital authorities, I presented her with a token of appreciation for the exemplary work that she was doing. In return I was gifted a box of the local delicacy, Peda, by the Sikandrabad VC team. It was the first time a doctor had ever visited the VC and the staff was both excited and pleased.

This visit to the VC made me aware of the background work that goes behind each patient reaching my clinic. Timely referrals and correct guid-



ance from these VC's are responsible for saving the sight of many patients. This visit has motivated me to visit the other VC's as well, which I will be planning on regular basis now. It was truly an eye-opener.

Dr. Abhishek Agarwal
Fellow, Cornea and Anterior Segment



The Ripple Effect: Taking pediatric eye care training to areas of need.

Dr. Suma Ganesh visited Sambhalpur in Odisha for Hospital Base Programme in Pediatric eye care.

Human Story

"Don't go through life, grow through life" - Eric Butterworth



I joined SCEH in 2020. At that time I was just out of school and was working with my uncle who is a painter. Like any other teenager, I wasn't sure, what I wanted to do

with my life and was waiting for some inspiration. I stumbled upon SCEH by chance. Here, I started working as a community-based rehabilitation worker (CBRW) in the Perkins Project. This project works for children who have multiple disabilities with visual impairment, of which I had no prior exposure.

In my formative years I transitioned from working as a painter to becoming a CBRW and eventually an assistant special educator. Coming from a background with no exposure to the medical side, I initially felt strange about working with disabled children. I didn't understand how to deal with the

pressure of being constantly in the presence of children who were living such a hard life. Also, it was difficult, as it required a lot of patience from my side on multiple occasions. Starting work as a clueless teenager, I matured overnight. I am getting better at it everyday, and I never stop trying.

Most people who rush into jobs after school seldom go back to education, however I was determined to pursue higher education as well. While working full-time, I also completed BA and B.Ed. in special education.

In the last four years, I have developed a liking for my work and I intend to continue serving children with special needs. It makes me feel important and special. It makes me feel that I am doing something for people other than my family and myself. I am proud and fortunate that my parents support my professional choice and do not push me to go in for a higher paying job. Looking at the inspiring lives of these children day in day out, I know I have found my calling.

Pritam Singh

Perkins Project, SCEH Vrindavan

Value Story Integrity (Honesty)

While segregating the operation theater dresses for washing, Mr. Rishi Pal, supervisor, housekeeping department, discovered a gold ring and returned it. He upheld the values of Integrity - honesty, and responsibility even when no one was watching.



Patient Story

"Medicines can cure diseases, but only doctors can cure patients" – Carl Jung



Sushila, a 42-year-old woman was born with a physical disability and navigates the world in a wheelchair. Her strong spirit is fueled by her passion for singing. She shares her voice with the

world and has showcased her unique talent in various concerts. She lives in a rented house where she is not allowed to practice her singing and she is bending over backwards to get a house in the ministry quota just so that she can continue her practice.

Her life was already rife with struggles, when she

realized that her vision was deteriorating. She visited SCEH and here she was diagnosed as a case of cataract. She was anxious and scared of the surgery but she was reassured. She was also found to have uncontrolled blood pressure and diabetes and her surgery had to be deferred. However her dream of making it big as a singer, didn't allow her to give up. She regularly followed up with our medical team to manage her systemic diseases. Eventually, she underwent an uneventful cataract surgery and her world transitioned from darkness into a cascade of colors and shapes. With her vision restored and systemic condition stabilized, she can now focus on her career as a singer.

Written by: **Kalpana Gupta**
EA to CEO

Hands-on Workshop on Binocular Vision Therapy

Organized by Mr. Prem Kumar Singh,
Incharge Orthoptics & Binocular Vision SCEH



Donor Speak

Mr. Asish Kumar Chattopadhyay
Retired Finance & Tax Professional

I believe human life becomes more meaningful and inclusive if we extend our support to the underprivileged sections of the society to minimize the burden of their struggle against odds of life. To me the willingness to help is more important than the amount one can contribute. Based on this conviction, I searched for options and found free eye treatment services at SCEH for the needy. I decided to contribute as best I could. It gives me satisfaction to know that even my nominal donations were received with heartfelt acknowledgement & helped me change someone's life.

I wish SCEH success in fulfilling their mission.

Sukarya Story

"Excellence is not a destination; it is a continuous journey that never ends"
- Brian Tracy

SCEH Saharanpur was facing electricity supply issues. The hospital had a 200 KV electricity connection and required a supply of 11000 KV for daily operations. The deficit was managed with the help of a generator, resulting in a diesel consumption of Rs 2.5 lakh every month. Mr. Rajat Saini from the maintenance department lodged multiple complaints with the electricity board but to no avail. He then decided to take the matter directly to the chief minister through the CM Yogi Application. Following the complaint, officers from the electricity department visited the hospital. The issue was successfully resolved, leading to an increase in the electricity supply.



Ashoka University students visited SCEH to interact with Project Prakash team and children



Dr. Javed Ali from LVPEI visited SCEH for an interactive session on research temperament, fellowships and grants

Ocular Microbiology laboratory inauguration at Saharanpur

Another feather in our cap.... SCEH is now the only eye institute in Asia to have four microbiology and histopathology laboratories impacting over 10000 patients so far....

In a bid to provide tertiary level care at the grass root level, SCEH inaugurated a fully equipped microbiology laboratory at Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

Here, almost 68% of the population is engaged in agricultural activities and there are many farmers, who invariably get ocular injuries while working in the fields. These injuries can lead to debilitating conditions such as corneal ulcers and loss of sight if not treated timely and properly. The microbiology laboratory aims to impact 3000-4000 patients annually.



International Rare Disease Day



International rare disease day is celebrated on 29th February: the rarest day of the year. On this occasion, SCEH arranged a seminar to increase awareness. Dr. Aara Patel from UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health spoke on developing therapies for Norrie's Disease. Mr. Anubhav Gupta, who runs the Jeevan Trust, which helps patients with albinism in various social, emotional, and personal aspects discussed various options for such patients to lead their lives with dignity and trust.

Surgical services inaugurated at Dr. L.K. Gandhi-Shroff Eye Institute



The operation theatre and surgical services were inaugurated at Dr. L.K. Gandhi-Shroff Eye Institute at IDST Modinagar in the month of February. The center has two operation theatres with a capacity to perform about 30 to 40 surgeries a day.

The institute will deliver high-quality, comprehensive eye care to the population of Modinagar and surrounding areas, irrespective of their ability to pay. Patients from five vision centers will be brought to center for surgery. The institute will provide sight-restoring eye surgeries for more than 6000 patients annually. The equipment for the center is funded by Seva Foundation.

“We are pleased to inaugurate the operation theatre at Dr. L.K. Gandhi- Shroff Eye Institute today. It is a memorable day as we tie up with Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital. This collaboration has a mission to provide comprehensive eye care services with utmost compassion, quality and affordability to all living in and around Modinagar”

- Dr. Vikram Gandhi,
Secretary,
Institute of Dental Studies and Technologies

University of Wisconsin Visit

Like every year, the team from University of Wisconsin, department of ophthalmology and visual sciences (DOVS) visited SCEH in the month of February. During the visit, the Wisconsin team engaged in various activities aimed at enhancing the administrative aspects and quality of the UW rotation program, as well as fostering collaborative global learning initiatives. Ms. Hannah Rose Baker, Senior Graduate Medical Education (GME) Program Manager collaborated with the education team at SCEH and discussed various activities like establishing in-person relationships with SCEH staff, learners, and faculty to explore areas for quality improvement of the UW rotation program. Dr. Michael Gutowski, a DOVS Alumni participated in the clinics and the operation theater. He also visited a vision center to observe rural community screenings. Furthermore, the team extended their exploration to SCEH Vrindavan, where they observed the operations of a secondary healthcare setup.



Three new vision centers inaugurated at Katra and Kanth in Shahjahanpur district (Uttar Pradesh) and Mandawali in Delhi with the support of our partners MAQ software, Inner wheel and Parag Gupta foundation

Distribution of Smart Vision Glasses



Smart Vision Glasses were distributed to visually impaired individuals with the help of Mr. Mridu Hari Dalmia's generous contribution. Mr. Ashok Khanna from Vision Aid was present on the occasion and discussed the collaborative efforts made globally to address the needs of visually impaired individuals. The beneficiaries and their families pledged for eye donation with the idea of giving back and supporting others in need.

Mr. Mridu Hari Dalmia and Mr. Ashok Khanna from Vision Aid-USA taking part in the initiative of distributing Smart Vision Glasses to visually impaired

Keralink Project

The Keralink Project aims to improve the coverage of corneal disorder treatment in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh, particularly Saharanpur. Through a multifaceted approach, the project seeks to bring comprehensive eye care to the doorstep of underserved communities. The project will utilize community screenings, health workers, and vision centers, as well as technology-based consultation with image acquisition and transmission.

It will additionally focus on building capacity at secondary-level eye hospitals to better manage corneal conditions and expand door-to-door screenings to identify patients at the community level, ensuring early detection and timely intervention.



The project recognizes the pivotal role of frontline healthcare workers. Sixty Aadya workers and twenty vision technicians will receive specialized training, equipping them with the skills to address corneal conditions.

Leveraging advancements in healthcare technology, the project will facilitate remote consultations through image acquisition and transmission. This innovative approach will bridge the gap between rural communities and specialized healthcare providers.

With Keralink Project, we will work towards a significant increase in corneal surgeries at secondary centres to manage corneal conditions effectively, emphasizing the importance of surgical comprehensive training for ophthalmologists in cornea surgical techniques.

We want to establish a sustainable model for providing corneal services to rural areas, ensuring long-term coverage and impact.

The Keralink Project envisions a future where quality eye care is accessible to all, irrespective of geographical constraints. By combining community engagement, technological innovation, and capacity building, the project aims to make a lasting impact on the lives of those affected by corneal disorders in rural Uttar Pradesh.



Dr. Anushree Baid and Dr. Arjun Aurora had the opportunity to team up with Meta, to show the world what wonders virtual (VR) reality can do! Virtual reality can help trainees gain experience in delicate procedures within a safe, simulated environment before they operate on patients.

The doctors' tea room

As I finish my fellowship and bid goodbye to SCEH, I summarise my journey into these words... I will miss SCEH

In halls of OT, where surgical knowledge weaves,
Beyond these walls, a new journey conceives.
This grand classroom, an open stage,
Where wisdom blooms with each passing age.

In life's vast school, beyond lectures and sway,
We glean profound learnings in the doctor's tea room, during the dance of each day.
Wisdom emerges from experiences vast, From Sangwan Sir's present and past.
Focusing on fitness, expanding horizons, His charm on us - forever lasts!!

From Sima Ma'am's empowering craft, "Women can have it all," her guiding draft.
Namita Ma'am's non-academic talks and homemade food, vanishing fast,
Gaurav Sir creating a haven of motivation that'll always outlast.

Through trials and errors of surgeries, we stumble and rise,
In the realm of coffee and chai from canteen and Sardarji is where true knowledge lies.
Sharing tiffin, laughter, and pain, Shaping us with meaning, these moments keep us sane.
Endless parties (specially of cornea department) with calories galore
Discussion of healthy diet and exercise, by the end of the day for sure

In this room of empathy, we learn to connect, understanding hearts, a skill to perfect.
Shailja Ma'am's song guess game has everyone hooked,
Julie Ma'am's inspiring talks and evening badminton practice is eventually booked

From early 8 AM morning to sunsets, stories unfold.
Abha Ma'am and Neha Ma'am pulling my legs over 'Chabeli' -
Women leaders on forefront - Oh so bold !
Umang Sir's, Suma Ma'am's and Suneeta Ma'am's experience on stories of SCEH make us proud a millionfold

Obaid Sir's friendly banter, fellow support and knowledge - supersmart !
Aparna Ma'am having us roll with laughter along with her counterpart
Networking and beginning of multiple friendships
with anaesthesia team, nursing and paramedic staff - etched in the heart.
List is too long to name, Every day at SCEH was like a priceless art.

Mentors here guide and peers have inspired, A learner's strength is soaring forever higher.
Emotional intelligence becomes a gentle guide
In the ebb and flow of complications, emotions at times override.

Extracurricular stories of hidden talent like poetry, dancing, singing, sports and 'sleeping' unfold,
In every venture, lessons are untold.
Birthdays and achievements of the day are celebrated in full zest
Budding surgeons are nurturing in this wonderful nest
Challenges of everyday OPD are here met with courage and glee,
Life's dynamic classroom, forever open to everyone for free.
I have embraced every moment, both joy and gloom,
That the essence of true learning is not just in the operating room!

By Dr Chhavi Gupta Narula
(Fellow, Oculoplasty and Ocular Oncology)

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