



Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital

Caring for the community since 1922...



NEWSLETTER

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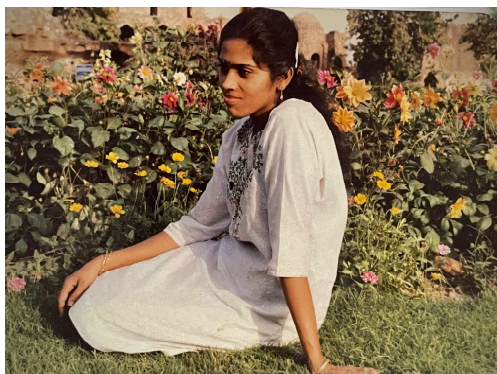
Himanshu



SCEH, in the days of yore...

.... in the words of Sister Sosamma Vasisht

As she finishes her 36 years long tenure at SCEH, Sister Sosamma, one of the longest serving employees of the hospital, reminisces the olden days of SCEH...



I joined SCEH in January 1987. Coincidentally, Dr. Cyrus Shroff and myself joined the hospital at the same time! I was a young girl with limited skills, but I

managed to attract people with my friendliness. Mrs. Martin was the matron then, and she was an extremely strict lady. During our training, we were not allowed to stand next to the surgeon, instead we would view the surgery from a distant window. Even though she was a tough lady, she made sure her surgeons were happy and well fed. In break time she would boil eggs and insist that the surgeons eat. In those days, only ICCE (cataract surgery without intraocular lens) surgeries were performed. As some surgeons performed cryoextraction of cataract, 90 cases were completed in three hours. The first intraocular lens (IOL) surgery was performed by Dr. Noshir Shroff in the year 1995. A “choice case” was an interesting concept at that time. While a regular cataract surgery cost ₹100, the patient could choose to pay 3500 for a preferred surgeon. 30% of this fee came to the hospital fund and rest to the operating surgeon. As a tradition, the surgeon gave ₹10 to the assistant after this “choice case”, which was used to order food for the operating theater staff. Even the concept of out patient department was very different. Before the introduction of slit lamps in the hospital, the doctors used to sit on a high chair and examine the standing patient’s eye with torchlight. The registration fee was a mere rupee. How times have changed!

I am proud to have assisted all the outstanding surgeons of SCEH right from the early days of their career. I will always remember the Rs 50 that Dr. Suneeta Dubey gave to me after I assisted her in her first IOL surgery. To me and to the rest of the staff of SCEH, Dr. Minoo Shroff was like an angel. Be it a wedding or a funeral, he did not miss any event his staff invited him for. I feel blessed to have worked for him. Also, the staff was so dedicated and attached to the hospital that on days when there was no electricity, people would manually run the motor of the generator and sit with candles next to the patients, so that they don’t get uncomfortable. As it was a charity hospital, the resources were always limited. To make best use of whatever we had, we used to collect remaining silicone oil left after each case and sterilize it to use for patients

who couldn’t afford it.

I hail from the town of Kollum in Kerala. My job here at SCEH was my first job ever; it is also my last. Very few people are fortunate enough to have a work family in addition to their real family. I have spent all my life here, and given my very best to my work every single day.



From coming at odd hours to attend to emergencies, to assisting retinal surgeries that lasted the whole day, I can say with pride, that I have done it all. However, my journey wasn’t just about the good things, I did consider changing my job, but each time I landed a job interview, I didn’t get leave to go. This is destiny, probably. I have always put service before self and I believe that Jesus has given me strength to serve the society.

Now, when I bid goodbye to this wonderful place, I can’t help but wonder, what my life would be like if I wasn’t here. All I see is a blank. There is no other place I would have rather been than here. I will miss SCEH and the people of SCEH.

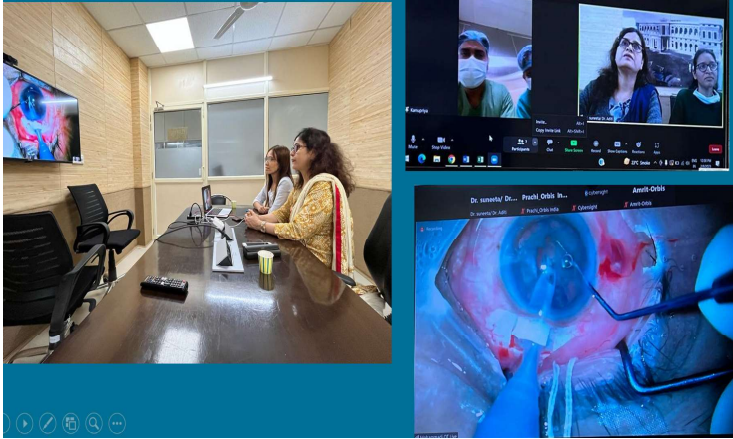


SCEH and Rotary Club Delhi Southend signed an agreement to acquire essential diagnostics and pre-surgical equipment for the charitable sections of the hospital. The equipment will be utilized for patients receiving free services through our outreach program camps, and vision centers. We are grateful to Koshika Foundation for being the catalyst for this partnership.

Enhancing Vision, Transforming Lives: The Impact of a Specialist Glaucoma Surgeon in Secondary Centers



Remote Surgical Mentorship



Dr Mazhar Khan and Dr Rameez Reza, consultant in-charge's of SCEH Mohammadi and SCEH Alwar. Dr Priyasha, Glaucoma consultant travels to SCEH Vrindavan every week for a two day visit.

At SCEH, our unwavering commitment to the eradication of preventable blindness extends far beyond the confines of our primary facility. With a network comprising six secondary hospitals strategically located in Alwar, Saharanpur, Mohammadi, Vrindavan, Ranikhet, and Meerut, we are steadfast in our mission to ensure that high-quality eye care is accessible to all.

In our country, a shortage of trained ophthalmologists and paramedics persists across the nation, exacerbated by the absence of specialized training programs, even in critical areas such as glaucoma, which is an integral part of comprehensive ophthalmology. This deficit is further compounded by a lack of emphasis on staying abreast with the latest advancements in glaucoma management.

Recognizing these challenges, SCEH has taken proactive measures to bridge the gap in glaucoma care at the grass root level. Through a collaborative effort with Orbis International, SCEH initiated the Orbis Santane Project. This groundbreaking project aims to augment wet lab infrastructure and training capacity, providing aspiring ophthalmologists with comprehensive training opportunities. Key components of the project include the utilization of advanced resources such as the Digital Training Hub, Stimulator, and animal eyes for wet lab training. A meticulously structured curriculum for glaucoma courses, coupled with a cadre of expert trainers, ensures sustainable ongoing education.

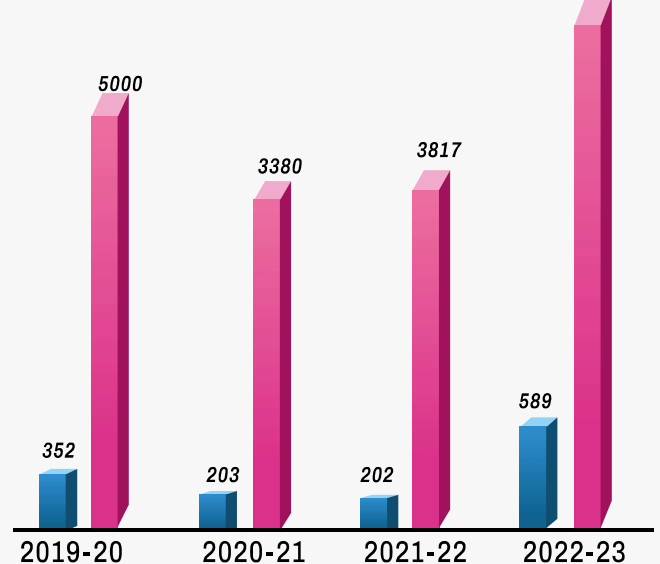
SCEH has opened avenues for residents and ophthalmologists to enroll in blended training courses. This unique program incorporates short-term training at the primary institute (SCEH) alongside remote surgical mentorships at secondary centers. The inclusion of a structured assessment of the curriculum and skills renders these programs exceptionally promising.

The decision to train doctors posted at secondary

centers has proven transformative in addressing the challenges posed by glaucoma. These skilled professionals not only diagnose and manage glaucoma cases effectively but also play a pivotal role in educating local medical practitioners and paramedics. The numbers speak volumes:

Surgeries Done at Secondary Centers

Patient Seen in OPD at Secondary Centers



These statistics highlight a substantial increase in both patient consultations and surgical interventions, showcasing the positive impact of having dedicated glaucoma surgeons in our secondary hospitals. SCEH remains dedicated to expanding this model to more locations, ensuring that individuals across India receive timely and effective glaucoma care. Our vision is clear - a future where preventable blindness is eradicated through accessible, comprehensive eye care.


In conclusion, the integration of in-house glaucoma surgeons in our Secondary Hospitals is a crucial step towards addressing the challenges posed by glaucoma in India. By combining clinical expertise with community engagement and training initiatives, we are not only saving sight but also empowering local communities to take charge of their eye health.

Written by
Dr Suneeta Dubey
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We are proud to share that our team's dedication and expertise was recognized at the prestigious 82nd Annual Conference of the All India Ophthalmological Society (AIOS) held in Kolkata, as we were honored with awards for contributions to the field of ophthalmology.



 Dr. Suneeta Dubey awarded Honorary FAICO (Fellow All India Collegium of Ophthalmology) at AIOS

 Dr. Sima Das awarded for the collaborative work on Retinoblastoma: Reviewing its Molecular Basis and Clinical Correlation for Future Targeted Treatment



 Dr. Obaidur Rehman: Best Lacrimal Podium Presentation award

 Dr. Chhavi Gupta: Oculoplasty Best Paper Award



Humans of SCEH

"Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better"
- Maya Angelou



A few years back I had never set foot outside of Sitapur, my hometown. I belong to a conservative family and the women didn't travel alone, or go for work. I did my fellowship in an eye hospital in Sitapur. However, I wanted to explore more, I

wanted to fly...to soar. After months of convincing my father, I took my first job in Lucknow and then in Kanpur as a junior training facilitator. I wasn't surprised that I was the only woman in the whole group, but was also proud of being able to survive on my own in that male dominated atmosphere.

Just before COVID-19 struck, I applied for a job at SCEH, however the position was put on hold due to the lockdown. My world turned upside down, when I lost

my father to COVID. At this time I was at an all time low, both personally and professionally. Eventually, when the lockdown was lifted and normalcy had begun to seep in, I got a job in Bhopal. My father, who was my only support system, fighting my extended family for my dreams and aspirations, was no more and now I had to fight by myself. Despite resistance from my family, I worked in Bhopal for six months before I got a call from SCEH. It's now been three years, working as a coordinator for the Allied Ophthalmic Personnel at SCEH Mohammadi, Lakhimpur Kheri, UP, and I intend to keep it that way.

I am the only girl in the family who has a career and is living on her own but hopefully I have made it easier for other girls in the family to dream and elders in the family to accept.

SCEH supports the ones who are ready to learn. My mentors played a significant role in shaping my skills in communication, personality development, and confidence, enabling me to handle professional situations with poise and competence. I lost my father, a loss nothing can make up for, but the void I felt professionally is now slowly filling up and I can't be happier.

- Gulnaz Hussain

Patient Story

"Of all the senses, sight must be the most delightful" -- Helen Keller



Mahira has been visiting SCEH for the past three years. Her family belongs to a small town near Ghaziabad. Born with glaucoma and having a challenging life since birth, Mahira has already gone through a lot.

She was born in a small hospital in a village where her parents realized that her eyes were not opening and when

they got back home they realized her eyes were white. They took her to a hospital in Modinagar where they were told that she was suffering from glaucoma. For the first few years she was treated at some other hospital before she was referred to SCEH. When she came here she could not see at all. She underwent multiple surgeries both for glaucoma and cornea. Despite the surgeries and the treatment, her vision is not

restored completely, but she is now ambulatory.

Her father works at a thread reeling factory and with a big family to support, he didn't have enough money to fund all of Mahira's surgeries. But thanks to free government schemes and the support of SCEH, he was able to give the best possible treatment to his child.



The doctors in the hospital are very attached to Mahira and everyone just loves having her in the hospital.

Even though she can't see well, she knows how to make everyone smile...

**Story contributed by
Dr Julie Pegu**

Milestone at Dr. L.K. Gandhi- Shroff Eye Institute



Dr. L.K. Gandhi-Shroff Eye Institute IDST Modinagar, Uttar Pradesh performed 112 surgeries within the span of 45 days since its inauguration



We congratulate Dr. Rahul Mayor for winning the Delhi Ophthalmology Society election for the position of Editor



Donor Speaks

-Debasmita Banerjee
Roche Pharma Ind Pvt Ltd

I feel privileged to be a regular supporter of Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital, who are dedicated to preventing avoidable blindness among the underserved. Witnessing the tangible impact of my contributions has been immensely gratifying. The organization's commitment to reach out to those often overlooked is truly commendable. Through their initiatives and tireless efforts, they have become a beacon of hope for countless individuals, who would otherwise be trapped in darkness. It is not just about charity; it is about creating a brighter, more equitable future for everyone. Joining hands with this cause has been a profoundly rewarding journey, and I am honored to be a part of their transformative mission.

100 Years Celebration

SCEH hosted an unforgettable evening to celebrate 100 years of its service to humanity. Guests saw an enthralling performance by the theatre and film personality Ms. Juhi Babbar Soni. Her play “With Love, Aap Ki Saiyaara” gripped the audience. The event brought together esteemed funders, partners, philanthropists, peers, and supporters for an evening of entertainment and camaraderie. Mr. Raj Babbar, a prominent actor and philanthropist also graced the evening with his presence. We thank Padma Shri Mr. Vipin Buckshey for making this event possible.



“By training and empowering the girls, SCEH was addressing gender disparities and providing equal livelihood opportunities and inclusive growth for them”

– Juhi Babbar Soni

Ms. Juhi Babbar Soni and Mr. Raj Babbar visited SCEH to witness the good work they had heard we were doing in eradicating avoidable blindness through equitable and quality eye care services, education, training, and research. Ms. Babbar interacted with the young women from the Allied Ophthalmic Personnel (AOP) cadre and was impressed with their confidence and skillsets.

Glaucoma awareness week



We celebrated **Glaucoma Awareness Week** at SCEH from 10th to 16th March 2024. Our team dedicated their efforts to raise awareness about glaucoma- the “**silent thief of sight.**”

A Glaucoma Awareness Walk was organized in collaboration with Glaucoma Society of India at Rajghat. Dr. J. S. Bhalla, Dr. Harsh Kumar, Professor Kirti Singh and Dr. Manav Deep Singh were amongst the eminent guests present at the walk.

Free screening camps that provided complimentary screenings to identify potential glaucoma symptoms and offer guidance for further diagnosis and treatment were arranged. Also, our doctors conducted awareness talks through out the week, addressing concerns and inquiries regarding this insidious cause of vision loss.



World Optometry Week

The Optometry crew at SCEH had a blast celebrating World Optometry Week in the month of March, all under the theme “**Illuminating the future: Optometry, your path to visionary careers.**”

We kicked off the week with some sports action - football and cricket tournaments that were all about bonding, fun, and leaving the professional hats at the door. There were also quiz showdowns and hands-on dispensing workshops. Our talented team of optometrists blew minds with creative models and posters showcasing the magic of optometry in various eye care fields.



Visit from Seva foundation

In the month of March, Ms. Lauren Jesudason, Director-Impact and Learning, Seva Foundation visited SCEH. Based out of Berkeley, Ms Jesudason came on a 2-day exposure visit to observe the monitoring and evaluation process for hospital-level indicators at a secondary hospital as well as a vision centre. During her visit, she visited the Brij Health Care & Research Centre-Dr Shroff's Eye Care Institute in Vrindavan, Mathura, and the Kosi Kalan vision center (VC). We were also honored to receive a visit from



Prof. (Dr.) Ken Bassett from the Seva Foundation, Canada. Dr. Bassett has been a longtime mentor to the Department of Public Health at SCEH and has co-authored a number of publications with us.

*Written by
Mr Shyamanta Bijoy,
Ms Ishaana Sood,
Dr Shalinder Sabherwal*

International Women's Day celebration

SCEH celebrated International Women's Day by organizing a Women's Health care talk by Dr. Gunjan Sabherwal, a Senior Obstetrician, Gynecologist & Fertility Specialist. A webinar on "Women in Public Health Elevating the voice and visibility of Professional Women in the Global South" was also organized. There were enthralling discussions on role of gender gaps in diluting the impact of women on health systems and the role of industry leaders and employers in setting women up for success in a public health career. The panelists included Dr. Umang Mathur, Dr. Shalinder Sabharwal and Dr. Kevin Frick, a distinguished health economist and professor at The Johns Hopkins University - Carey Business School.

Women in our organization represent 70% of the total work force and manage responsibilities across all levels of Leadership, Management and Medical care. Even our secondary centers located in semi-urban and rural locales have majority workforce comprising of women. In our 80 primary care clinics situated in rural communities, our vision centres have become a beacon of accessibility for women seeking eye care. By

bringing our clinics closer to home, we've recorded 55% women patient in the last year.

SCEH boasts of strong and independent women across the network. A poll for the most inspiring women was conducted and Dr. Manisha Acharya, Dr. Monica Gandhi, Dr. Parul Dutta and Ms Jyoti emerged as winners, inspiring many men and women across the organization.



Happy reading!

Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital

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