

## Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital

Delhi | Alwar | Lakhimpur Khiri | Meerut | Ranikhet | Saharanpur | Vrindavan

www.sceh.net

Newsletter Issue: 30

## The AOP program: A concept of mutualism



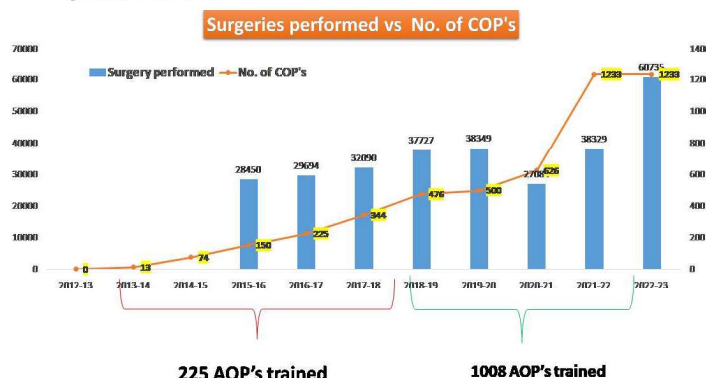
In this article, we delve into the realm of Allied Ophthalmic Paramedics (AOP), a profession reshaping eye care and mutually benefiting healthcare providers and aspiring professionals. Since 2014, SCEH has successfully trained and empowered 1700 young women in allied ophthalmic roles, elevating service delivery across its network.

This program not only readies them for roles like OT Technicians, Patient Educators, Medical Record Assistants, and Vision Technicians but also aligns with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It addresses poverty, promotes gender equality, expands eye care access, improves education and skills, creates jobs, reduces inequalities, and fosters partnerships. Recently, the program gained credibility through affiliation with the National Council of Vocational and Research Training (NCVRT).

These specialized paramedics in addition to broadening access to essential eye care services, particularly in regions with shortages of eye care profes-

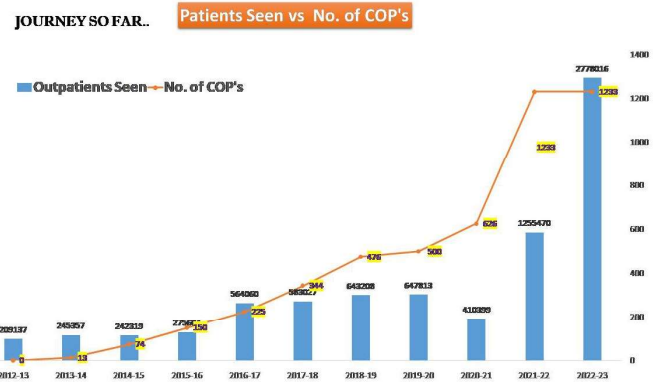
sionals, also enhance the efficiency of eye care delivery. This allows ophthalmologists and optometrists to concentrate on complex cases. They introduce diversity to the healthcare workforce, open new career opportunities, and make eye care more cost-effective. Patients benefit from personalized care; better compliance with treatment plans, and improved overall experiences.

## JOURNEY SO FAR..



Over the years, with standardized training and certification, quality assurance is maintained, all while ophthalmologists, enabling a healthier work-life balance. Following accreditation with NCVRT, the AOP program has witnessed increased demand, enhancing livelihood opportunities for young women.

Allied Ophthalmic Paramedics are revolutionizing the field, presenting a win-win solution for the entire healthcare ecosystem. Seize the opportunity to be a part of this positive change in eye care!



-Story contributed by:  
Dr Parul Datta and Ms Sunita Arora

## Children's Day Celebration at SCEH

Children's Day was celebrated with great pomp & show at the Pediatrics Center of Excellence at SCEH and all across the secondary centers. There was an Unruly Art Competition, fun with games, merchandise stall of Project Prakash, skit on pediatric eye disorders and a toy donation stall.

*"The program and celebrations on the day were great fun with a remarkable participation from doctors, optometrists, counselors and registration staff. The Pediatrics awareness program run in collaboration with the Communications Department was amazing. The webinar on 'Creating Awareness about Holistic Eye Care in Children' achieved great success and had a large participation. It's streaming Facebook live also accomplished a phenomenal result with more than 4300 views. Even the awareness talks on various Pediatric issues were extremely informative."*

Dr Suma Ganesh,  
Director, Pediatric Ophthalmology- SCEH Network,  
Chairperson, Centre of Excellence SCEH Children's Eye care and Director  
- Childhood blindness



**Star Health Insurance** recognized SCEH for good practices in healthcare and providing admirable services to the beneficiaries of Star Health



Dr. Jyoti Singh and the ENT department, SCEH, hosted a webinar on Puberphonia. It was an informative and educative session with a talk by Dr. M. Kumaresan, a puberphonia specialist from Chennai.



## A visit by Seva Foundation



Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital welcomed Ms. Heidi Chase- Chief Program Manager, **Seva Foundation**, Mr. Kuldeep Singh, Regional Director-

India and Bangladesh, Seva Foundation, and Dr. Shradha Nitnaware from 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2023.

The visit began with a strategic discussion between the two organisations to align goals and plan future collaborations. The team also visited the site of the hospital equipment, being funded by the Seva Foundation, in Modinagar, Ghaziabad district, Uttar Pradesh. The team walked around the site to observe the current status of the infrastructure.

On the second day, the team accompanied by Dr Shalinder Sabherwal and Mr Birendra P Singh visited our secondary center in Vrindavan, Mathura. The team spent time at the vision centers supported by them in Baldeo and Raya, observing the activities underway for Project Drishti. The program is currently conducting door-to-door screening in the region. At the vision centers, the team over saw the process workflow and interacted with the vision technicians and the vision center lead. The contingent was also given a demonstration of teleophthalmology that has been made functional at the centers.



## Donor Speaks

*I am writing to express the impact that Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital has had on me. Witnessing their relentless pursuit of eradicating avoidable blindness has deeply moved me. The hospital's dedication to providing quality eye care services to those in need resonates with my belief in the transformative power of accessible healthcare.*



**Mr. Arun Kher**  
Chief Operating Officer  
Semac Consultants Ltd.

*I am honored to be a part of this journey and to contribute to the remarkable efforts of Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital. The positive impact they have on countless lives is a testament to the difference that can be made when compassionate individuals and dedicated organizations come together for a greater cause.*



We congratulate Dr Suma Ganesh for receiving the esteemed **Dr Laxmikanta Mahapatra Oration Award** from the **Orissa Ophthalmological Society** for exemplary work in Pediatric Ophthalmology

## Patient Story

***"Every adversity, every failure, every heartache carries with it the seed of an equal or greater benefit." - Napoleon Hill***



Hrithik Khatri, a 20-year old young boy belonging to Bikaner, Rajasthan, was diagnosed with a vision threatening disease, called Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP), when he was only three years old. RP is a progressive disease where the retina function deteriorates slowly over time, causing permanent vision loss. It is a

genetic disease and unfortunately has no treatment. He remembers not being able to recognize different food items or catch a ball like other children of his age. His father, a businessman, and mother, a homemaker, were not very aware regarding medical facilities at that time and wanted to send him to a blind school. He undoubtedly faced multiple challenges as a child, but didn't give up on his academic pursuits. Currently, he is pursuing a BA program in Economics and History from the prestigious Delhi University. He first joined the National Association for the Blind (NAB) and was referred to SCEH from there. At SCEH, he was

offered a course at the Lachhman Dass Gupta **Vision-Aid Resource Center**. Over a period of six weeks, he learned braille, basics of computer use and orientation and mobility. He is now

preparing to appear in an exam for civil services, as he wants to become an IAS officer. His choice to undergo the Vision Aid Course highlights the significance of adaptive education and vocational training for those with disabilities. This course has equipped him with essential skills and enabled him to pursue his aspirations.

*"I am thankful to Vision Aid and SCEH. This course is a way to survive and convert any disability to ability."*

*-Hrithik Khatri*

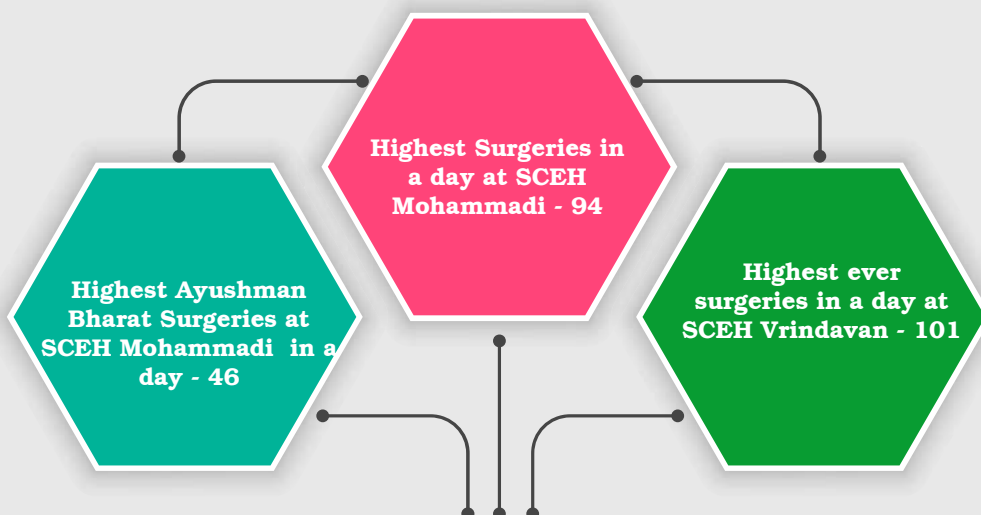
*"I am really delighted to see the progress of so many visually impaired students in the Vision-Aid center, as they acquire new skills in computers, mobile technology and braille. My father, Shri Lachhman Dass Gupta would have been very proud of their accomplishments, since he also achieved great heights in his life despite being visually impaired. Meetu, my wife, and I feel, this is one of the best investments we have made in our lives. We wish the students much success in their future aspirations and we congratulate and thank the dedicated teams of Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital and Vision-Aid for the amazing work they are doing!"*

*-Ram Gupta,  
son of Shri lachmann Dass Gupta*



*-Story contributed by  
Soniya Shrivastava*

*Assistant Manager-Low Vision Services*

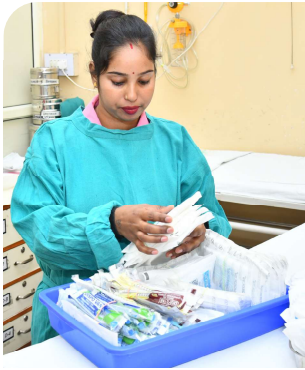


## NOVEMBER MILESTONES

## Humans of SCEH

### *...The bumpy road to success*

*"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women are merely players. They have their exits and their entrances; and one man in his time plays many parts."- Shakespeare*



Since 2014, I have served as a technician in the operating theater at SCEH Delhi, starting as an Allied Ophthalmic Personnel (AOP) on the recommendation of a friend already working there.

Amidst financial and health struggles within my family, the loss of my mother to cancer and my sister to systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) brought profound sorrow. My aunt's ongoing leprosy treatment and my father's demanding work as a construction worker further added to our challenges.

However, fate intervened when I met my husband on the bus to work. Our connection sparked from a chance encounter where he recognized me from an

ID lost. Despite objections due to in caste differences, we persevered and built a life together. Now, with a son, my husband—an accountant—and I have achieved financial stability. While we live separately, we extend support to both our parents who help in caring for our child.

Assisting in surgeries within the operating theater brings me immense joy. Knowing that my role ensures safe and skillful procedures for the benefit of patients reinforces the significance of each individual within the hospital. It motivates me to enhance my capabilities as an OT technician.

Yet, my greatest achievement lies in supporting my hardworking father, who has faced countless struggles. SCEH provided me with a platform to be a reliable pillar for my family. I hold onto the dream of a brighter future for us all.

*-Padmavati  
OT technician  
SCEH Delhi*

## A Vision of Hope

*"Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile" - Albert Einstein*

Life's  
Good  
with **LG**

**LG Electronics** has always devoted itself to improve lives of people and under its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative the company has launched a unique program called **"Karein Roshni"**. This is an effort to offer the gift of vision to people, who cannot afford quality eye care. For this, LG has collaborated with SCEH and has sponsored eye surgeries for the visually impaired in the rural and underserved areas.

One beneficiary of this initiative is Mr. Sharam Singh, a 57-year old gentleman, resident of village Jagroli in Rampur, Uttar Pradesh. He is a laborer in the local fields and lives with his wife and child. About two years ago his life took an unexpected

turn when he began experiencing blurred vision. This vision impairment affected his life tremendously by limiting his ability to work and engage in daily activities. Moreover, managing the family's finances became increasingly challenging. In his quest to restore vision, he visited Rampur Netra Janch Kendra Vision Centre where he was diagnosed with cataract. Sharam Singh's meager income was not sufficient to cover the cost of the surgery and he underwent the surgery under the program. Many more people like Sharam Singh have benefited from this program.





## Value-“Patient first”

***“Excellence is doing ordinary things extraordinarily well” - John W. Gardner***

Mr. Sunil is Vision Technician in the Bahat vision center (VC) for the last 11 years. Under his leadership and supervision the Bahat VC is performing consistently well and has become one of the best vision center of SCEH Saharanpur. His commitment to guiding and counseling patients effectively has not only resulted in increased surgeries and OPD at the center but has also contributed significantly to the increase in Ayushman Bharat scheme beneficiaries. Patients are also happy and satisfied with his counseling and guidance. He is one best example of our value patient first.



## Sukarya Story (Kaizen)

***“Never stop improving. Never stop doing something new”- Bob Parsons***

Earlier, outreach patients (ORP) were worked up and prepared for surgery along with regular outpatients visiting the hospital. This led to delays in surgery due to the longer waiting time. To streamline this process, Mr. Dharmendra Kumar introduced ORP patient classification system using color coded jackets. Free patients were provided with green jackets while red jackets were assigned to paid cases. These colored jackets helped patients to be differentiated from routine OPD patients and helped in expediting the work up process.



## Envision-Upskilling and Upscaling AOPs



The strategic planning workshop, Envision-Upskilling and Upscaling for Allied Paramedics in 2030' was a crucial event in SCEH, aiming to shape the future of Allied Ophthalmic Paramedics.

Evaluating the  
Current State of  
Allied Paramedics

Formulating a  
Strategic  
Vision for 2030

Fostering  
Collaboration

Developing an  
Actionable Plan

Four-fold objective of the workshop

## Inauguration of Urmila Khemka Cataract Centre

On the auspicious occasion of Guru Purab, and Mrs. Urmila Khemka's birth anniversary, we inaugurated the **Urmila Khemka Cataract Centre** courtesy Seth Paramanand Charitable Trust in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Delhi South. This centre is made possible by the generous support of Mr. Hari Khemka and will expand the hospital's capacity to provide timely and comprehensive care to nearly 10,000 patients annually. He has also donated a Phacoemulsification machine and provided the entire infrastructure support for the center.

*"We are honored to partner with SCEH, a premier eye care institution, in expanding cataract surgery services to patients across Delhi. This expansion will benefit the most underserved who often have no means to bear the cost of treatment of cataract surgery and live a life of isolation and despair. Diagnosing patients in a timely manner and taking prompt action to combat cataract, will ensure that the burden of this avoidable disease, and its associated economic fallout, is significantly reduced."*

*-Mr. Hari Khemka, Chairman and MD of Aditya Group*



## World Diabetes Day

On **World Diabetes Day**, a host of activities were organized throughout the month to spread awareness regarding diabetic retinopathy (DR). Diabetic Retinopathy screening camps were organized at Mathura jail and at all our centres. A training workshop on diabetic retinopathy was also conducted. The workshop included talks on diagnosis and management of DR and hands-on wetlab training on intravitreal injections.



**Around 300 patients were screened for Diabetic retinopathy across SCEH network**

**The workshop was attended by 46 candidates**

**Dr. Dinesh Talwar was the invited faculty and led an inclusive discussion during the talks with the candidates**



## The Netra Seva Project



SCEH in association with **Seva Foundation** have setup a unique project in the Ranikhet region- the **Netra Seva Project**.

Through this, mobile vision centers are being established in the region with an aim to increase access to primary eye care services in hilly terrains. This model of care delivery has helped us overcome an important barrier to the eye care access in the region, where patients had to travel close to 40 kilometers for a basic consultation or follow-up. In the two years since its implementation, the program has seen the launch of two mobile vans, with one covering four locations (Bhikyasain, Kuwali, Chaukhotiya, and Dwarahaat), and the other covering five locations (Gairsain, Someshwar, Garud, Deghat, and Khairna).

670  
Visits

OPD of  
1100  
patients

2900  
patients  
have been  
advised spectacles

76.59%  
spectacles dispensed  
of the total advised

2163  
patients advised  
cataract surgery

41.29%  
have undergone  
surgery

## World Prematurity Day



SCEH celebrated **World Prematurity Day** on November 17, 2023 across the SCEH network. It signifies our solidarity towards the premature babies, their families and the unique challenges they face. As part of the awareness activities, the hospital organized talks, video displays, and poster making. The staff of the hospital adorned themselves in **purple**, the color representing prematurity.



**World Keratoconus Day** was observed at SCEH with an awareness program featuring informative sessions and patient experiences. A webinar on **"Quality of life in keratoconus"** was organized and patients shared their experiences to help others deal with the disease better.



Dr. Nidhi Gupta, Faculty, Corneal Services, was invited as an instructor in the AAO DMEK wet lab. AAO is the world's largest association of eye physicians and surgeons, with a global community of 32,000 medical doctors.



## World Kindness Day celebration

A place like a hospital can always use gentleness and compassion in people. To reward these traits in people, SCEH celebrated **World Kindness Day** by distributing smiley badges. The people honored with badges, further awarded badges to others for their goodness. The campaign created a feeling of enjoyment and acknowledgement amongst the staff.



## Cleanliness Drive



### ***"A clean world is a happy world"***

The festival of Diwali is known for lights and sweets but cleaning ones home and workplace before the festival is also a part of the tradition. Keeping this spirit in mind, SCEH organized a **Cleanliness Drive**, where the staff and doctors were encouraged to thoroughly clean and organize a designated area. Prizes were also distributed for a job well done.



SCEH organized a corporate clinic at Sanchar Bhawan, BSNL Head Office, Janpath, New Delhi where 120 employees were screened.



138 and 38 eye and ENT patients respectively were screened in a RWA clinic organized in association with Federation of RWAs of Daryaganj and Golden Lioness Metropolitan Club.

Chief Storyteller: Dr. Isha Chaudhari

Editorial Board Members: Dr. Arpan Gandhi, Ms. Kalpana Gupta, Dr. Monica Gandhi, Ms. Shivani Sood, Dr. Umang Mathur

Designed By: Alpana Singh | Photographer: Vaibhav Anand & Himanshu

## Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital

5027, Kedarnath Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi – 110002

Ph: 011-43524444, 43528888 | Web: [www.sceh.net](http://www.sceh.net) | Email: [communications@sceh.net](mailto:communications@sceh.net)