



Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital
Caring for the community since 1922...



NEWSLETTER

#41



November 2024

www.sceh.net

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With India ranking second highest in the number of people suffering from corneal diseases, it is estimated that we need 1000 cornea specialists, performing 100 transplants per year to manage the burden of corneal blindness. While shortage of corneal donors is a well-accepted challenge, lack of trained cornea specialists, confident in

performing penetrating keratoplasty, is no less of a crisis. Every year we train ophthalmologists in penetrating keratoplasty through long-term and short-term courses, who in turn use the skill to operate on the patients all across India. With the short-term keratoplasty training, we along with **Sightlife** and now **Keralink International** sought to bridge the knowledge gap between proficient cataract surgeons and clinical experts in corneal surgery by providing comprehensive clinical evaluation skills and surgical technique instruction. We noticed that most people opting for the course are mid-career professionals, looking for skill up gradation to fulfill the need for keratoplasty in their area of practice. Hence, three months duration seemed optimum. Also, by selecting candidates who belong to an area of need, we aim to make the distribution of trained cornea specialists relatively equitable. So far **28 candidates** have been trained under the short-term keratoplasty training course, with three candidates from Nepal and Bangladesh as well.

One of our short-term keratoplasty trainee shares her journey...

Reaching the unreachable...

In the words of

Dr. Lalramengmawii,
Senior Ophthalmologist,
Synod Hospital, Durtlang, Mizoram

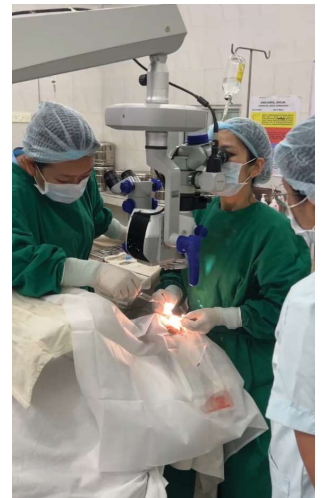
My heart beats with gratitude as I reflect on the incredible journey that brought Keratoplasty to Synod Hospital.



In 2008, I embarked on this path as a Consultant Ophthalmologist, armed with passion and expertise from Maulana Azad Medical College and Guru Nanak Eye Center, Delhi. As eye care awareness blossomed, our hospital grew, becoming an Eye Donation center in 2011. Yet, Keratoplasty remained an elusive dream, as none of our ophthalmologists, including myself, held the necessary training. Patients' pleas for help echoed in my mind, but I felt powerless. Dr. R Lalrindiki, our Head of Department, saw the fire in my soul and urged me to pursue Keratoplasty training. But fear and doubt held me back, bound by the tender threads of motherhood. Four precious children relied on me, and I hesitated to leave them...

Years passed, and the weight of unmet needs bore down on me. Patients' faces etched in my memory, their struggles mirroring my own. I knew I had to act. With my hospital's unwavering support, I applied for training, only to face unexpected setbacks. In desperation, I cried out to Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital. Their selfless response reignited hope. On March 2, 2023, I began my short-term penetrating keratoplasty training. Tears of joy streaming down my face, I knew this was just the beginning.

As a mother of four, juggling family and training seemed impossible. My husband's work commitments left me solo parenting, but his encouragement sustained me through the chaos. Our hotel room became a temporary sanctuary, filled with laughter and tears. At SCEH, kindness and compassion enveloped me. Consultants, Fellows, and staff nurtured my growth, addressing every doubt. Their dedication rekindled my passion for eye care and I took back with me the confidence to do what is needed.



Even when I was back, the challenges didn't seem to ebb. We needed trained nurses, equipment, and government approval. Months passed, but perseverance paid off. Dr. Bikram Dam's expertise and willingness to help sealed our success. Together, we performed 9 life-changing procedures on November 5th and 6th, 2024.

Today, as I look back, SCEH's selflessness transforms lives. Patients receive the gift of sight, thanks to their unwavering commitment. Memories of our time at SCEH remain etched in my heart, a testament to kindness and collaboration.

Patient Story

"Hope is seeing light in spite of being surrounded by darkness"



Mr. Prakash Singh, a 53-year-old former teacher from Malakhera village in Alwar district, once dedicated his life to educating young minds. However, his journey took a challenging turn four years ago when he began experiencing a gradual loss of vision in both eyes. Over time, his vision loss became profound, forcing him to leave the

profession he loved and depend entirely on his family for daily needs. Determined to seek help, Mr. Singh consulted a private hospital, where he underwent cataract surgery in both eyes. The results were disheartening. His vision continued to decline despite surgery, leaving him unable to resume his work or regain his independence. He never understood what went wrong, and accepted his fate.

Six months ago, he heard about a vision camp organized at Malakhera Vision Centre by SCEH. He decided to try his luck one last time. There, he was

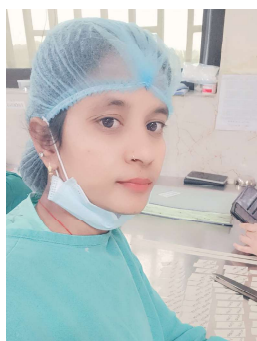
connected with the team of doctors via teleconsultation and was referred to SCEH Alwar for further evaluation. He was diagnosed with pseudophakic bullous keratopathy (PBK) with scarring in the right eye and aphakic bullous keratopathy (ABK) in the left eye. The team recommended optical penetrating keratoplasty for his right eye, which he courageously underwent. Within a week of surgery his vision began to improve. The results were life changing both physically and emotionally. The man who once relied on others to navigate life was now making trips to the hospital alone in an auto rickshaw. He is now optimistic. While he hasn't returned to teaching yet, he has opened a grocery shop in his village. He now earns his livelihood with pride, standing tall as a beacon of hope and resilience.

"I was hopeless and never thought I'd be able to see again" - Mr. Singh

Story contributed by
Dr. Kshiti Saruparia

Humans of SCEH

*"You must have a level of discontent to feel the urge to want to grow" —
Idowu Koyenikan*



I belong to a small village in the Lakhimpur Kheri district. I joined SCEH as a naïve young girl just out of school in the year 2014. My mark sheet wasn't even out when a lady from our village who visited SCEH Mohammadi as a patient, introduced me to the AOP program. Coming from a conservative background, I had

never thought of working after school. However, a financial crunch in the family, motivated me to consider taking up a job. No girl from my village had ever gone to a big city like Delhi to pursue a course and all the village elders had reservations regarding the same. Of the ten girls selected from my village, eight dropped out when the families realized that we had to be trained in Delhi. My father, a farmer, though worried for me, didn't hesitate. He came along to make sure we were in good hands and left me in the hostel.

Even though I never discussed with me family, I was very nervous to be in Delhi. Everything was different...the food, the commute, and even the conversations. At work I was learning all sorts of new things about the medical field and eye care, and back in the hostel, my personality was shaping up like I had never imagined. I learned how to talk properly, even in English, how to address patients and doctor's, how to work with other people as a team and so much more. Over time, I began to enjoy my job.

When back in Mohammadi, I used to cycle 14 kilometers a day to get to work and back. Sometimes it was scary, to go back home after dark, but I was so motivated to learn and work that I didn't care. Soon, a bus service to our village started from the hospital and the commute became much easier. Gradually I learned to assist various surgeries and started taking interest in every step of it. Sometimes, I was so engaged that I felt that I was performing the surgery. Now, I mostly manage the OT and teach the new students. Another advantage of working in the hospital was that the people of the village started looking at me with respect. They would come with me with different eye related complaints, and many of my relatives were operated in the center. Two of my sisters are also working with me at SCEH and our parents couldn't be prouder. We now support our family with the money we earn, and save enough for our future as well.

Today, I feel I am not done. I had left my education when I had joined SCEH, but a few years back I resumed it, and I am currently pursuing my graduation through correspondence. When I think about my future, I don't see a life in which I am not working at SCEH. Everyone has supported me throughout my journey, and I just love being here. This is my life now and I cherish it every day.

Laxmi Singh
Ophthalmic Nurse Assistant
SCEH Mohammadi

Quality And Accreditation Institute Centre for Accreditation of Health & Social Care



Certificate of Accreditation

Green Vision Centre

Deoband Vision Centre

(Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital)

In front of Pillar Number-58, Near Punjab National Bank,
Mangalore Chowki, Deoband,
Saharanpur-247554, Uttar Pradesh, India

has been assessed and accredited in accordance with the
QAI Accreditation Standards for

Vision Centres

This certificate remains valid subject to continued compliance to the above
standards & any other requirements specified by QAI.



QAI/CAHSC/VC/2024/0004

Valid from: 07 November 2024

Valid until: 06 November 2028

[Signature]

Dr. Bhupendra Kumar Rana
Chief Executive Officer

[Signature]

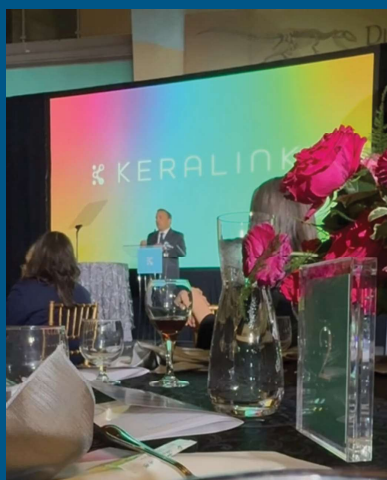
Prof. (Dr.) Mahesh Chandra Misra
Chair, CAHSC

www.qai.org.in



Deoband Vision Center (VC), Saharanpur, got accreditation from the Quality and Accreditation Institute (QAI), making it the

first VC within the SCEH network to achieve this distinction. The QAI accreditation is an initiative of Orbis International and is a testament to the importance of quality in community-level healthcare and serves as an inspiring model for other centers to follow.



KeraLink International (KLI) honored Dr. Umang Mathur with the "Visionary Leadership in Eye Health Award" for his work in making SCEH one of the best in India and his contributions to achieving a shared goal of eradicating corneal blindness. The award ceremony took place at an exclusive gathering, Corneatopia, a fundraising event by KLI, at the Maryland Science Center in Baltimore, MD. They also highlighted the collaborative work done by KLI and SCEH together in Saharanpur with a video.



The first early intervention center was inaugurated in the Malakheda Block in Alwar, under the project Samagra Shiksha supported by SBI foundation. A door-to-door screenings of 4,500 individuals, identified 250 children with disabilities who will receive comprehensive support, including documentation, assistive devices, nutrition, and school enrollment.



Seva Foundation visited SCEH Vrindavan & vision center's to inspect the progress of the Drishti Project.



Dr. Arpan Gandhi in collaboration with two other ocular pathologists won the Best Poster Presentation Award at TELEMEDICON 2024 for their poster on Ocular Digital Pathology.

Vision-Aid received the coveted “**Non-Profit Organization of the Year**” award for innovative work for India’s visually impaired at the New England Choice Awards Gala. Their AI-powered Smart Vision Glasses, developed in partnership with SHG Technologies, received the "2024 Jury Choice Award for Best Assistive Technology" at Tech Summit 2024 in Bengaluru, which featured over 2,500 startups and leaders from more than 15 countries. Vision Aid has been associated with SCEH since 2019, and with their help we have dispensed low vision aids to over 400 patients and trained over 100 people through various courses like braille, computer usage and mobility training.



Dr. Andrew Bastawrous, CEO of Peek, visited SCEH for a field-visit to evaluate the implementation and impact of the Peek India program in rural eye care. During this visit, Dr. Bastawrous observed the workflow of eye screenings and discussed with the ground and hospital team how Peek technology has streamlined the identification of individuals needing eye care. The visit highlights Peek's transformative potential in tackling vision loss at the grassroots level. By enabling rapid and accurate screening, the technology facilitates early detection and empowers community health workers to identify and prioritize critical cases for treatment. The two-day visit showcased the ongoing research projects on the Peek Platform including the Presbyopia and IMSEEN (IMprovement Studies for Equitable and Evidence-based Innovation).

World Keratoconus Day


A day long conference - ‘**Keraclear**’ was conducted to raise awareness about Keratoconus amongst optometrists and ophthalmologists. It was a gathering of 160 attendees with national and international experts talking about the various contact lenses available to provide visual rehabilitation in Keratoconus . This was followed by a hands-on workshop on rigid contact lens fitting.



Reconstruction & Rejuvenation: A Blend of Art and Science

The Department of Oculoplasty and Ocular Oncology organized a unique program titled “Reconstruction and Rejuvenation: A Blend of Art and Science”, which beautifully integrated the disciplines of orbital trauma and periocular aesthetics, covering all aspects from bone to skin. The program had 40 participants, including 12 external candidates who received hands-on training. Esteemed faculty members joined us from various cities across India. The course included didactic lectures and case-based focused discussions and the wet lab featured video-based teaching, one-on-one interactions, live injection demonstrations on participants, and hands-on training using silicone face models and skull models for plating.



 SCEH Delhi in partnership with Cognizant Foundation India launched Sight4All initiative aimed at transforming the screening and treatment of Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) across Delhi, NCR & Mathura district, Uttar Pradesh. The occasion was graced by Mr. Gaurav Hazra, Vice President & Head Corporate Affairs, Cognizant. This extended initiative will enhance the hospital's ability to provide early detection and treatment services by incorporating advanced technology, skilled personnel, and wider outreach to neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) in the region. The program will cover additional NICUs, strengthen the hospital's screening and treatment efforts, and bring specialized care closer to at-risk newborns and their families.



SCEH Delhi hosted the live surgeries during the DOS winter conference. Our surgeons performed a variety of complex sub-specialty surgeries in just two hours with confidence and precision. With the support of the OR staff, anesthesiologists and the counselors, the execution was flawless.

World Diabetes Day

On the occasion of World Diabetes Day on 14th November, the Department of Vitreoretina and Uvea Services held a host of activities to raise awareness about the rising epidemic of Diabetic Retinopathy. Screening camps were held across the network. An awareness walk followed by a screening camp and a play was organized at SCEH Delhi. An Instruction Course on Diabetic Retinopathy was also held in the spirit of the cause.



Children's Day



On the occasion of Children's day, SCEH in partnership with Essilor Luxotica launched the Myopia Centre of Excellence, which was inaugurated by Mr. Narasimhan Narayanan, President of Essilor Luxotica South Asia. This center is rare in its purpose and essential in its mission, which is to empower parents and protect young eyes for a clearer future. It has an optical shop dedicated to the pediatric population. This shop will offer all types of child friendly frames, myopia control glasses, prism glasses and glasses even for infants. A special counseling room is also designed where an optometrist after checking for progression will counsel parents on environmental modifications and management options of myopia.



SCEH network inaugurated five vision center's (VC) in the last month. We now have 102 VC's spread across the network.





Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital
Caring for the community since 1922...



Dr. Monica Gandhi
1970-2024

She was a cherished part of the SCEH family for 25 years touching the lives of everyone she met. She will always be remembered by us and her patients for her supportive nature, courage and leadership. She was the epitome of grace and her life was an inspiration.

Today, is all we have...

*Lets all hold hands today,
For tomorrow may not have this warm embrace,
Lets all smile at a stranger today,
For tomorrow we may not see their pretty face,*

*Lets find a moment to appreciate a friend today,
Because tomorrow, words may not be enough,
Lets call a long lost relative today,
Because maybe their life is tough,*

*Let's live a little more and crib a little less today,
Because every moment has something beautiful to offer,
Let's forgive a little more and fight a little less today,
Because we don't know of their life's horrors,*

*Let's love today,
And let's be content,
Because maybe tomorrow,
We don't get a chance to make amends....*

In the loving memory of our beloved Dr. Monica Gandhi, who left us just too soon...

Dr. Isha Chaudhari



Happy reading!

Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital

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