



# Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital

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

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

Newsletter Issue: 17

## 37<sup>th</sup> National Eye Donation Fortnight

25th August – 8th September

“When I am no longer around,  
When my body has finally found its place in the ground  
Remember that my life can still heal so many  
Remember that my eyes can still bring light  
Help me after my death to restore a fellow man's sight”

Anushka Acharya

**T**he National Eye Donation Fortnight is observed every year from 25th of August to 8th of September. A campaign that aims to create public awareness about eye donation's importance and motivate people to pledge their eyes for donation after death.

In India, approximately 68 lakh people suffer from corneal blindness in at least one eye; of these, 10 lakh people are blind in both eyes. The National Blindness and Visual Impairment Survey 2019 reported that corneal blindness was the leading cause of blindness among patients aged less than 50 years in India, accounting for 37.5% of the cases and was the second leading cause of blindness among patients above the age of 50 years.

SCEH observes Eye Donation Fortnight every year and this year too we planned various activities across our centers. This year was extra special, as SCEH Eye Bank completed 18 years of providing quality eye banking services. SCEH eye bank

has a modern, state-of-art infrastructure, a dedicated, quality-driven and experienced team. The eye donations have consistently grown from 28 in 2005 to more than 1500 in 2021. Last year, the eyebank contributed to over 1200 corneas for sight restoration surgeries.

Some of the activities that took place during the fortnight were daily awareness talks in OPDs by the consultants and fellows, awareness skits by COP students, webinars, “Run for Sight” – an awareness marathon, painting competitions and Amarjyoti function. The eye bank team placed Eye Donation fortnight posters at different partner hospitals.

On 28th August, the eye bank team organized a run for a cause called “Mission Sight”, to spread awareness of eye donation in the public. The run started around 7 am and was flagged off by Dr. JS Titaly (AIIMS), Dr. JS Bhalla (DOS), Dr. Umang

Mathur, Dr. VS Sangwan and, Dr. Manisha Acharya. More than 300 participants took part in the noble cause. All the participants took an eye donation pledge at Rajghat. Staff and doctor's from Shroff Eye Center, RML, Army hospital, Center for Sight, Sightlife India, also participated in the run.

Three members from SCEH eye bank visited





different hospitals like Ambedkar Hospital & Sanjay Gandhi Hospital, Aruna Asaf Ali Hospital, RML Hospital, BJRM Hospital as a part of awareness activities.

SCEH in collaboration with eye bank association of India (EBAI) organised Eyebanking webinar, which was attended by more than a hundred participants throughout India. The panelists and the participants appreciated Mr. Surender's talk on tissue evaluation.

On 7th September, SCEH hosted the 'Amar Jyoti' event to recognize and honour the families of eye donors. The programme witnessed the family members warmly remembering their deceased beloved and the hospital acknowledging their noble act, which has helped and continues to help in combating corneal blindness. Along with



acknowledging the noble act by the families, the event also focused on the importance of eye donation and how a single donation can save the vision of two corneal blind people.

## Teacher's Day

### Celebration

**W**e at SCEH greatly admire the contribution of our teachers in our lives, starting from the knowledge they impart, the skills they hand-hold us with and the confidence they infuse in us over time, to be independent and proficient ophthalmologists.

In honour of our teacher's, SCEH arranged a program on 5th September, which included a dance performance, songs and speeches by both students and mentors. It was followed by cake cutting in SCEH gardens and was great start to the day for everyone.





# Computer Training

for the Visually Impaired

**S**CEH and Vision-Aid partnered to enable the visually impaired get trained in Computers using Assistive Technologies. A state-of-the-art, Lachhman Das Gupta Vision-Aid Resource Centre called “Ujjala” was inaugurated on 6th September at SCEH, Delhi. This computer center aims to help the visually impaired gain access to tech capabilities and make them computer literate by using assistive technologies like NVDA and JAWS. The course duration will be three months and the students will be taught the basics of computer, usage of Microsoft Word and Excel, and use of mail applications like Outlook and Gmail. They will also be trained in the use of Google Drive for easy storage of their documents, which can then be



used when they apply for jobs or need to share their documents. This program intends to train over 200 people annually. Shri Ram Gupta & Miss Meetu Gupta, from Boston, funded this center, in honour of their father late Shri Lachhman Dass Gupta. The Vision-Aid center offers many other types of innovative training programs and technology resources for the blind and visually impaired. The inauguration event was graced by the donors Shri Ram Gupta and Meetu Gupta, Padam Shri Dr. Ashok Grover, Chairman, Department of Ophthalmology, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, founders of Vision-Aid Mr. Ram Raju and Mrs. Revathy Ramkrishna and Dr. Umang Mathur, Executive Director, SCEH.



## Hospital Based Training in Glaucoma Surgery

**D**r. Suneeta Dubey, Medical Superintendent, Chairperson- Quality Assurance, Head- Glaucoma Services, SCEH alongside Dr. Bruce James, St Thomas Hospital, London conducted a hospital-based training on Minimally Invasive Glaucoma Surgery (MIGS) at PBMAs HV Desai Eye Hospital, from 12th to 14th October 2022 with the help of **Orbis International**. This CME was a part of a series conducted by **H.V. Desai Eye Hospital** for upgradation of knowledge on glaucoma and for sharing any innovative treatments in the field. The CME also included live surgeries.

The three-day workshop on MIGS was the first of its kind in India wherein Dr. Dubey performed & assisted 15 MIGS surgeries. The hybrid mode CME saw in attendance senior ophthalmologists and postgraduate students of various medical colleges from Pune and other cities. Mr.

Pervez Bilimoria, Executive Director, H V Desai Eye Hospital and Dr. G V Rao, CEO, also graced the occasion.

SCEH in collaboration with ORBIS organized a five-day HBT program on Glaucoma Drainage





Device implantation from 19th- 23rd September 2022. The guest faculty for the surgical training was Dr. George V Puthuran, Head of Glaucoma Services, Aravind Eye Institute, Madurai. Doctors at SCEH underwent hands-on training on AADI during the program. The entire glaucoma department participated in interactive discussions and patient care.



## Ayushman Bharat

### Best Performance Award

**O**n Ayushman Bharat Day, i.e 23rd September, SCEH's secondary center's in Mohammadi and Vrindavan received the best performance award. Mohammadi center successfully completed 3277 surgeries under the Ayushman Bharat initiative. The event was graced by Mr. Ajay Mishra Teni, Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Kheri, CDO, CMO and Nodal Officer of Ayushman Bharat. The Vrindavan center was recognized for being the front runner amongst other hospitals in



Mathura region with a contribution of 19% service under the Ayushman Bharat scheme. Ayushman Bharat or "Healthy India" is a national initiative launched by the Prime Minister as part of National Health Policy 2017 to achieve the vision of Universal Health coverage. It is an attempt to move from a selective approach to health care to delivering a comprehensive range of services spanning from preventive, promotive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative care.

## Endophthalmitis

### Workshop

**T**he Vitreo-retina department SCEH and Lab services at SCEH organized an interactive workshop on 17th September, on endophthalmitis recognition and management, for both internal and external candidates. The aim of the workshop was to prime doctor's, especially the one's working at our secondary centres regarding the importance of early intervention in the prognosis of this dreaded complication.



**A**n amniotic membrane graft workshop was conducted for six internal candidates on 27th September. Didactic lectures were prepared and presented by the candidates. The series of lectures were planned to include basic sciences and the clinical application of AMG in various conditions. Best presentation was awarded to Dr. Manvi Aggarwal. Wet-lab and hands-on training on goat's eye was also part of the course. Different techniques of applying AMG were demonstrated. Even the DNB residents got an opportunity to participate in training.



## Lasik Camp

at Mawana Vision Centre



**A** Lasik camp was organized on 1st September 2022 at Mawana Vision Centre, Meerut. It is the first Lasik camp organized at a vision center level. Nine eligible patients were evaluated in the camp and one has undergone LASIK so far. One of the patients was diagnosed with keratoconus on refractive surgery work-up and was advised collagen cross-linking. This camp is the first step towards spreading awareness at the grass root level and taking facilities of a tertiary level care to their doorstep.

## Rehabilitation

at the grass root level

**I**n a first of its kind service delivery in the country, a vision centre in Baldev Block of Mathura district is now equipped with an early intervention centre for children with multiple disabilities and visual impairment. It has been made possible with the collaboration of SCEH and the Perkins Team.

This kid with CVI comes every day to the vision centre instead of going to the secondary centre which is one hour away. This increases compliance and comfort for the patients.







**D**r. Suma Ganesh and Sister Mithlesh were invited as Volunteer Faculty for ORBIS hospital based teaching programme in childhood strabismus management at Akhand Jyoti Eye Hospital in Saran.



**B**ook launch of a book of Diabetic **Mac-ular** Edema co-authored by Dr Manisha Agarwal, Head of Department, Vitreoretinal Services, SCEH

## Meeting on **Retinopathy of prematurity** by NEEV



**A**n advocacy meeting for ROP was organized by NEEV program at RML. This was attended by central government and Delhi government representatives apart from ophthalmologists and neonatologists from AIIMS, MAMC and Delhi government hospitals. Dr Shalini Singh and Dr Shalinder Sabharwal were invited as panelists. Work being done at SCEH for Retinopathy of prematurity got highlighted and acknowledged.

## **Patient**

### First



**T**en COP women and three lab technicians were recognized for displaying the Patient First Value. SEROLOGY REACTIVE Reports process streamlined from the lab to PSC and finally to the OR list.

*The very first requirement in a hospital is that it should do the sick no harm.*

*Florence Nightingale*

# Allied Ophthalmic Personnel

## Training at SCEH

**S**CEH launched its comprehensive training course for Allied Ophthalmic Personnel (AOPs) in 2013. This Certified Ophthalmic Paramedics (COP) program is dedicated to training AOPs, who help in identifying and screening people that require eye care. Skilled COPs play a crucial role in streamlining the clinical workload, boosting productivity and improving patient care in a cost-effective manner. They also play a critical role in improving the efficiency and capacity of the surgical centre.

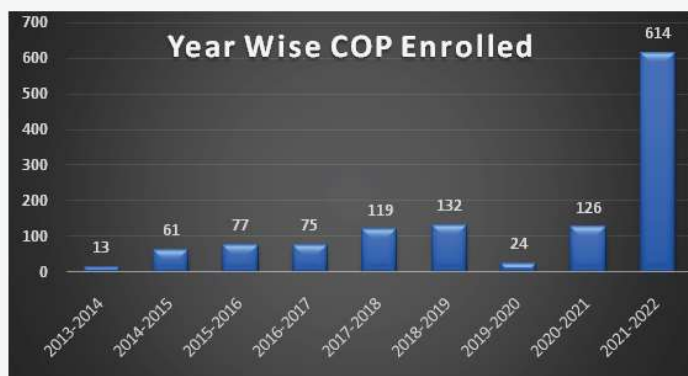
### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



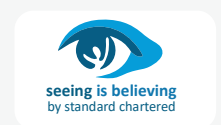
Most of the trainees also pursue their graduation through distance learning after joining the COP program. One of the key successful highlights of the course has been progressive career development opportunities to the candidates, where over 15% of total AOPs have taken up courses like master's in social work, GNM, Hospital Administration, and Optometry. The positive outcomes of the program have been made possible through our generous benefactors, and SCEH remains indebted to our partners in taking this mission forward.

The journey of AOP program can be seen in its continuous growth from the time of its initiation in 2014 with 13 students from Saharanpur. It is also seen the low intake in COVID time and highest ever in year 2022 to match with strategic plan of the organisation.

– Dr. Parul Dutta



The COPs play a crucial role in advancing access to effective ophthalmological care, and contribute towards reduction of avoidable blindness in their area and to the health and productivity of the people of the region. The course also serves to bridge the gap in gender equality and equity through women empowerment. The course also focusses on 'Life Skill Education' as a part of structured curriculum for holistic development of young trainees. The training program meets 10/17 SDG laid by UN.





# Impact of Ocular Microbiology Lab

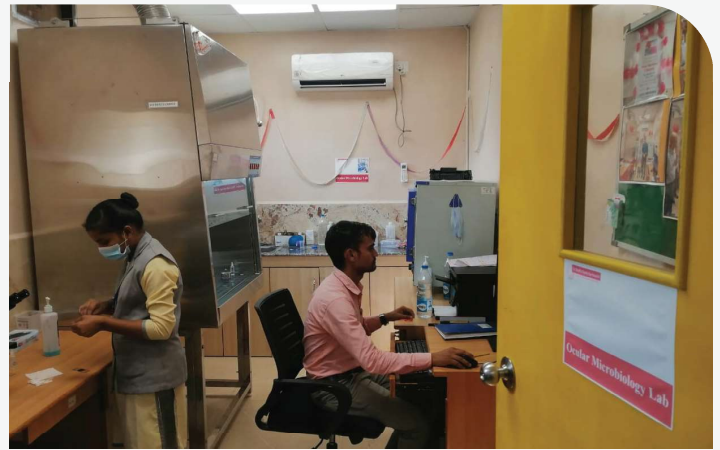
in Mohammadi

**A**s part of its mission to provide eye care services to the local community, SCEH a fully equipped and trained Ocular Microbiology service to improve the Cornea Services at the secondary center in Mohammadi, on 30th April 2022.

This makes SCEH one of the unique secondary centers to have this upgraded and advanced facility. Globally, the prevalence, incidence, and intervention rates for corneal blindness are high, but they are not as high as they are in developing countries.

The laboratory has alleviated the burden of eye disease in Mohammadi, preventing 600 cases of avoidable blindness till date. It is an example of how quality eye care service, if available in tier two and three towns and cities, enables people to access the required treatment in a timely manner, thereby reducing the disease burden. SCEH's microbiology lab in Mohammadi receives eight to ten samples per day and has successfully collected, processed, and diagnosed 2000 samples so far.

While establishing a lab there are many factors that need to be taken care of, mostly in terms of resource persons who can smoothly function in the lab on a day-to-day basis. For the Mohammadi lab, a few of the Certified Ophthalmic Paramedics (COP) women were trained in SCEH's Delhi lab for a month to develop their laboratory skills (microscopy, culture, eye care



procedures, etc.). These COP women have formed an integral part the lab, work along with a qualified lab technician and are supported by the Delhi Lab team. The Lab head, Dr. Arpan Gandhi, explained that the impact of this directly helps in targeted treatment and better Clinical outcomes. Mr. Sajy Thomas and Mr. Amit Kumar, senior technical staff from the Delhi Lab were involved in the training and they visit the center regularly as part of the ongoing training and skill development.

We have future plans to make the lab more advanced by introducing new tools, digitalization and techniques, creating more job opportunities and with the intention to provide high-level eye care facilities to even more with the geographical reach.

## Zero Tolerance Policy

against Sexual Harassment

**S**CEH is a value-based organization and we here at SCEH have a strict policy against sexual harassment. This **"zero-tolerance sexual harassment"** policy enumerates that an individual will be dismissed from his or her position in the organisation if found guilty. The aim of this policy is to encourage people who have experienced sexual harassment to come forward without fear of judgement or repercussions, make it more difficult for harassers to act with impunity, and allow remedial action to take place as quickly and effectively as possible. It is the policy that is created and is being implemented to provide all employees a safe working

environment, free from sexual harassment. A zero-tolerance sexual harassment policy is most effective when it exists in concert with other measures and is clearly understood by

all. The session on Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) was organized for one and all and a POSH committee is put in place to ensure its effective enactment. With respect to the stringent enforcement of this policy, SCEH gave a loud and clear message to employees that a certain behaviour will not be tolerated at all, by asking two of it's high-ranked staff members to leave. Kudos to the exceptional courage of the women employees, who come forward to raise the issue.

- Ms. Sunita Arora





# World Sight

## Day

**W**orld Sight Day, is an international occasion designated to increase awareness about the need for eye care, eye examinations and their importance to individuals, families and the society. In 2022, World Sight Day was held on the 13th of October and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness emphasized the theme as “Love Your Eyes”, campaigning to urge people to put their personal eye health first, while fighting for globally accessible, reasonably priced, and readily available eye care.



At SCEH we emulate these values within our network, and set out to celebrate the occasion of World Sight Day with full aplomb. A plethora of activities took place across our network of hospitals spread across north India, such as health talks (over 50 conducted across Delhi, Saharanpur, Ranikhet, Alwar, Mohammadi and Vrindavan), awareness and media programs, training sessions and provision of free primary care services for the elderly at vision centers. A key drive at SCEH in honor of World Sight Day was our pledge to screen at least 200K eyes within the thirty days leading up to WSD. We also took the opportunity to focus on capacity building for delivery of eye care services by inaugu-



rating two new vision centers and conducting vision screening training sessions for ASHA and Anganwadi workers in the Delhi region.

Fun activities were organized across all base hospitals in the network to involve all stakeholders- staff, patients, caregivers, and students, in the process, bridging gaps between them, while at the same time increasing their awareness about eyes and eye care. Rangoli competitions, drawing competitions and paper cutting-pasting activities are just a few examples of these interactive sessions.



At SCEH, our mission and vision for our work in eye care depend on, and work towards, a holistic eye ecosystem wherein all stakeholders work collaboratively to create a change. SCEH works closely with international and national agencies and organizations and we are grateful to our partners, funders and collaborators in helping us achieve and deliver the services and outcomes that we do. We endeavour to continue working with the same zeal and dedication that we have brought with us in our 100-year long journey.

*Contributed by--- Ishaana Sood, Javed Nayab and Dr. Shalinder Sabherwal*

# AN ODE TO THE TEACHERS AT SCEH

## गुरु

गुरु वो,  
जो अज्ञानता के अंधकार में रोशनी बन जाए,

गुरु वो,  
जो काँपते हुए हाथों को पकड़, उन्हें थमाए,

गुरु वो,  
जो डर भरे दिल को आत्मविश्वास दिलाए,

गुरु वो,  
जो अपनी गलतियों से तुम्हें सिखाए,

गुरु वो,  
जो बड़े सपने दिखाये,  
और उन सपनों को पूरा करने का भरोसा दिलाए,

गुरु वो,  
जो हमारी गलतियों का सार समझाये  
जिस से हम उसे दोबारा न दोहराए,

गुरु वो,  
जो बतायी हुई राह पर खुद चल के दिखाये,

गुरु वो नहीं जो बस डूबते हुए को किनारा दिखाये,  
गुरु वो, जो डूबते हुए को तैरना सिखाए..

गुरु वो, जो श्रॉफ मैं,  
पढ़ा लिखा के हमें एक आत्मनिर्भर डॉक्टर बनाये,  
हमें दुनिया में अपने पैरों पर खड़ा रहना सिखाए,  
जो मुसीबत में पीछे न हटने का साहस दिलाए,  
जो आज नहीं, कल नहीं, पर हमेशा के लिए, रीड की हड्डी बन जाए

- ईशा चौधरी



# Humans

of SCEH

**I** joined the COP program at SCEH on 1st July 2019, after completing my 12th standard. I live with my mother and younger brother in East Delhi. My father died when i was in class 9th and thereafter my family went through a very rough phase.

I got to know about the program from my grandmother. I started off with 45 days of basic classes on clinical education, then started assisting in different departments and in different roles like counsellor, oculo-plasty patient educator, and currently, I am working as a retinoblastoma co-ordinator.

Along with my fellowship program, I am also pursuing B.Sc. I manage both my education and other expenses on my own. This program has made me independent and given me the confidence to talk to people. Besides my own work, I also take classes on counselling for the new



batch of COP women. I am overwhelmed by the fact that I received a Certificate of Appreciation for my work as a retinoblastoma co-ordinator. Helping people and seeing a child complete his/her treatment gives me a boost to work harder for them. Recently, a RB patient's parents got Kheer for me on Eid and I was deeply touched.

The patient-coordinator relationship felt like how a family is.

SCEH is not just a place to work, learn.. It's a whole family outside home. I feel immensely proud to be a part of this family.

In future, I want to pursue MHA. Three and half years at SCEH, my journey was tough, but with all it's ups and downs, it is totally worth it.

*Tanvi Khanna*  
RB Project Coordinator  
SCEH Delhi



Happy reading!

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