

**Impact of
Transplantation of Human Organ Act
(THOA)
on Corneal diseases and Eye Banking**

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Advocacy Workshop (2008) & National Plans Review Workshop (2009)

Issues

- **Increasing awareness level in community and healthcare professionals**
- **Enabling policies at government level**
- **Ensuring quality through training**
- **Maximizing usage of existing eye banks**
- **Eye Donation coming under THOA**

Current Scenario

Awareness

- **EBAI undertakes awareness campaigns with support from corporates – Lupin Ltd**
 - **new voyage (ophthalmology brand of Lupin blue eyes)**
 - **with every sale of pack, a pack insert from EBAI**
- **Provision for 150 Eye Donation counselors provided in the Grant-in-aid scheme for eye banks**
 - **helps creating awareness in hospitals through counselling**

Current Scenario

Policies at Govt. Level

- The Grant in aid scheme proposes payment of 150 counsellors directly (not going through eye banks)
- NPCB guidelines speak about formation of a selection team for recruitment of EDCs who should be graduates in sociology

Current Scenario

Policies at Govt. Level

- Amendments to THOA proposed
- To allow trained technician with appropriate qualification to enucleate
- To pass Required Request Law

The bill proposing amendments has been tabled in Parliament

Current Scenario

Policies at Govt. Level

- Eye Donation continues to come under THOA
- Registration of eye banks pending
- Uniform criteria not employed for registration of eye banks
- Registration of transplantation centres, pending
- Act clubs Transplantation and eye banking

Current Scenario

Ensuring quality through training

- EBAI plans for training centres to be created in each zone, in a phased manner
- EBAI makes efforts to improve the existing training curriculum, methods, duration
 - Enhances Manager and counsellor training program, incorporate business component
- EBAI plans for training of trainers

Current Scenario

Maximizing usage of existing eye banks

- EBAI making effort to implement Three Tier Eye Banking Model with the help of INGOs and Government
- EBAI is in the process of getting certified as the certifying body for accreditation by Quality Council of India (QCI)
- EBAI plans to introduce eye bank accreditation criteria of international standards
- EBAI plans to improve net working

Expected Impacts & Challenges

Grant-in-aid scheme for EDC selection

Impact: Increase eye donations through EDCs

Challenge: Formation of a selection committee for EDCs – Director Health services, State program officer, Director RIO, GOI representative, Sr. ophthalmic surgeon

Proposal: To make respective eye banks & EBAI involve in selection

Graduation in sociology, not a must

Expected Impacts & Challenges

Grant-in-aid scheme for eye banks

Challenge: Payment of EDC through Govt.

Proposal: Payment ideal through concerned eye banks in order to increase accountability

Expected Impacts & Challenges

Amendments to THOA proposed

Technicians to be allowed to remove eyes

Impact: Ease of cornea procurement

Challenge:

- A. Who would certify death in the absence of death certificate?
- B. Technician basic qualification requirement

Proposal:

- A. Require clarity about who would certify death
- B. Technician - Inter pass, any subject?

Expected Impacts & Challenges

Amendments to THOA proposed

Required Request Law

Impact: Enhances eye donations

Challenge: Build in adequate awareness among hospital staff about required request law

Proposal:

- A. Create awareness among medical & non medical staff in hospitals
- B. Incorporate salient features of eye donation in medical school curriculum, and others as possible

Expected Impacts & Challenges

Registration of Eye Banks, pending

Impact: Unlimited proliferation of suboptimal eye banks

Challenge:

- A. Registration of eye banks in Bihar, Kerala, AP, MP states, Chattisgarh, pending
- B. Same standard criteria not used across the country for registering eye banks

Proposal:

- A. Individual State to take up registration of eye banks with deadline for completion
- B. EBAI & Govt together evolve similar criteria

Expected Impacts & Challenges

Registration of Transplant centres, pending

Impact: Lack of implementation of standards

Challenge: Need separate registration (Need for operating microscope & a trained doctor do not fall under eye bank criteria)

Proposal: To delink transplant centre registration from eye bank registration

Expected Impacts & Challenges

Training centre for each zone

Impact: Training becomes easy, easy understanding in local language, load on one centre can be minimised

Challenge: Setting uniform criteria for training centres

Adequate corneas volume, training facilities

Proposal:

A. EBAI & Govt to develop criteria Training of trainers

B. Minimum qualification for EDCs and technicians

Expected Impacts & Challenges

Implementation of Three tier eye banking system

Impact: Few standard eye banks, More EDC, Cost effective, Effective HCRP, Optimal collection, & utilisation, improve standards, community based centralised facility, Transparent system

Challenge:

- A Effective net working system to be established across the country
- C Flights do not allow transportation of corneas free of cost

Proposal:

- A GOI to facilitate acceptance of the concept by all existing Eye Banking establishments
- B Develop transparent system of registering patients to be evolved

Expected Impacts & Challenges

Accreditation of eye banks

Impact: Improved quality

Challenge:

- A Implementation of similar standards across
- B EBAI becoming the accreditation certifying body

Proposal:

- A EBAI to apply to QCI
- B Forming inspection teams, and training them on inspection guidelines for uniformity

Collaborations & Networking

- **Collaborating with Vision 2020 at National Level** to ensure adequate Government support for influencing policies
- To sensitize Hospital staff about Required Request
- To improve networking with NGOs at local level to ensure support to eye donation efforts
- To improve availability of round the clock eye bank facilities to meet the increased demand on account of Required Request

Collaborations & Networking

- To improve networking among Eye Banks, surgeons and EDCs to enable distribution of surplus corneas
- To facilitate for free transportation of corneas by private airlines
- To help with implementation of uniform guidelines for registration and accreditation.

Thank You

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