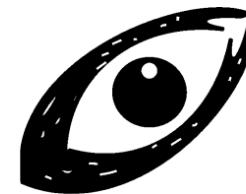


Corneal Blindness (Eye Banking) – Challenges & Opportunities

G Ganesh

Executive Director

Eye Bank Association of India

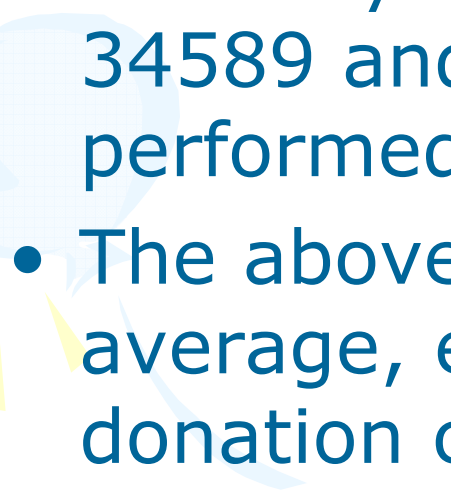
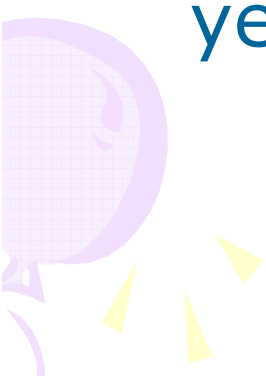


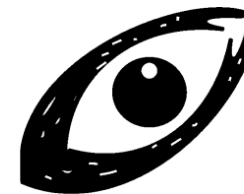
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Eye Banking – Present Scenario

- There are more than 620 organizations involved in Eye Banking.
 - In the year 2008 the total collection was 34589 and the number of transplants performed were 13887.
 - The above figure implies that on an average, each of the eye bank / eye donation center collects about 56 eyes in a year.
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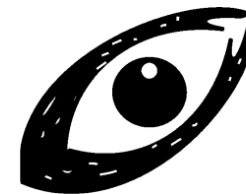


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Eye Banking – Present Scenario

- Reality is only about 250 of these organizations are active
- About 10 eye banks i.e 2% of the 620 organizations account for more than 50% of the total collection.
- As of now only about 3% of the 620 organizations can be classified as full fledged eye banks.

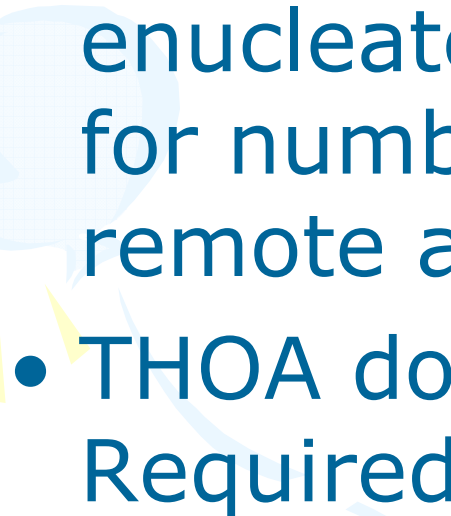
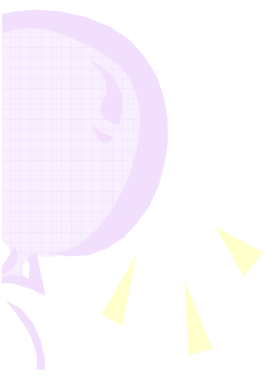


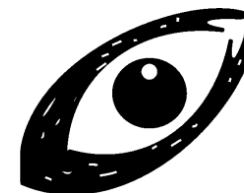
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Eye Banking – Present Scenario

- At present, as per THOA, only a Registered Medical Practitioner can enucleate, creating logistic problems for number of organizations in remote areas
 - THOA does not have provision for Required Request
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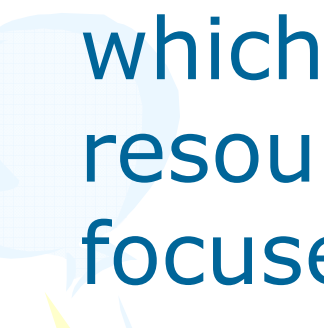



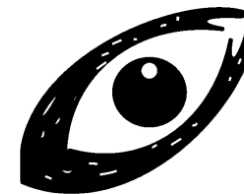
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Opportunities & Challenges

- The existing infrastructure can be remodeled into a three tier structure which can help in optimizing scarce resources and help in working in a focused manner.
 - Challenge lies in bringing together all these organizations on a common platform and implement the three tier model.
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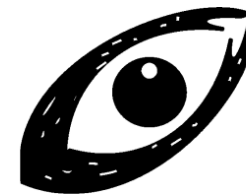
Opportunities and Challenges

- Recently amended Medical Standards, recommended by EBAI was published by Government of India. The Standards stipulates Accreditation for Eye Banks. Accreditation can help Eye Banks review their practices and systems and help benchmark themselves against the best.
- Challenge lies in making Eye Banks offering themselves for Accreditation voluntarily. EBAI is working with GOI in implementing Accreditation fo



Opportunities & Challenges

- EBAI has been advocating amendments to THOA to include Required Request and allow trained technician to enucleate.
- Recently a bill was tabled in Lok Sabha for amending THOA to include the above.
- Once amended the Eye Donation centers would be free to enucleate with the help of their trained and certified technicians.
- Challenge lies in creating training facilities across the country to train so many technicians.



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Opportunities & Challenges

- The Required Request provision makes it mandatory for Registered Medical Practitioner of a Hospital, who has been treating the patient, to request the family for organ / eye donation as the case may be in the event of death of the patient or inform the nearest organ retrieval organization or eye bank. This provision would help in increasing the retrievals by many folds.
- Challenge lies in educating the registered medical practitioner about the provision in the act.
- EBAI is planning an elaborate advocacy campaign to educate hospital staff about the Required Request provision.

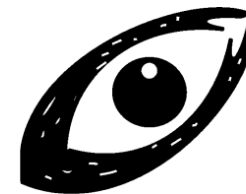


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Opportunities & Challenges

- Once the amendments are introduced, over the next few years the retrievals would grow exponentially as has been the experience in other countries like USA where retrievals have increased from 30000 to more than 100,000 at present in a short span of few years.
- Challenge lies in creating the demand for such increased collection and also the surgical capacity to perform so many transplants.



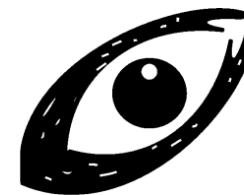
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Conclusion

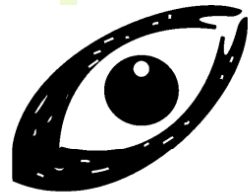
- Eye Banking is at the threshold of exciting growth opportunities.
- There is a need to have close coordination among all stakeholders to exploit these exciting opportunities and also address the accompanying challenges.



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Thank You



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