



## VISION 2020: The Right to Sight - INDIA

### Follow up Meeting on Low Vision & Rehabilitation Consultation

**Date** : 20.03.2015

**Time** : 10:00 to 13:00 hrs

**Venue**: VISION 2020: The Right to Sight - INDIA office

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### Minutes of the Meeting

A meeting on Low Vision & Rehabilitation Consultation was organised on 20th March 2015 at VISION 2020 INDIA office. Senior officials from Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, INGOs & Dr RP Centre participated in this meeting. Please see **Annexure-1** for the list of the participants.

A Consultation on [developing an action oriented consensus on strengthening low vision and rehabilitation services in India](#) was organised at HV Desai Eye Hospital on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2014 with the financial support of CBM and technical support of Sightsavers. Group work and discussions on various issues took place to come out with the realistic, specific and achievable action points. Experts from different parts of country took an active participation in the consultation. The consultation ended with drafting vision, mission statements for low vision, forming a consortium and suggested to form committees. Draft roles and responsibilities of each of these committees have also been made.

Following this meeting, a *Whatsapp* group of low vision is also formed for sharing the ideas and for a collective approach.

The meeting organized at VISION 2020 India on 20 March 2015 is the follow-up to the meeting held in December 2014 to take its outcome forward.

#### **Objectives of the meeting were:**

- Revisit the outcome of the consultation held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2014
- Discuss national consortium formation and develop clarity on its modus operandi
- Identify members of Steering Committee, Working Committee and Technical Committee
- Discuss and fine-tune the TOR for the committees
- Arrive at a clarity on how to involve the government and take its support



### Agenda of the meeting:

| Time          | Agenda item   | Resource Persons  |
|---------------|---|---|
| 10:00 – 10:05 | Welcome and Objective setting   | Mr Phanindra Babu Nukella   |
| 10:05 – 10:20 | Revisiting the output of previous Consultation  | Dr Sandeep Buttan   |
| 10:20 – 11:00 | Brain storming on national consortium formation and develop clarity on its modus operandi | 1. Dr Bhushan Punani<br>2. Dr Sandeep Buttan  |
| 11:00 – 11:20 | Identify members of Steering, Working and technical Committees                            | 1. Dr Sandeep Buttan<br>2. Mr Phanindra Babu N  |
| 11:20 – 12:00 | Setting up TOR for Committees   | 1. Dr Bhushan Punani<br>2. Dr Sandeep Buttan  |
| 12:00 – 12:45 | Involving the Govt. and its support   | 1. Dr Damodar Bachani (MoH)<br>2. Dr K V S Rao (MSJE)<br>3. Dr Anupriya Chadha (MHRD) |
| 12:45 – 13:00 | Summary Conclusion  | Mr Phanindra Babu Nukella   |
| 13:00         | LUNCH   |   |

The Meeting started at 10:00 am with a welcome by Mr Phanindra Babu Nukella. Dr Sandeep Buttan briefed about the outcome of previous consultation held on 19 December 2014 in Pune. He focused on the draft Vision and Mission statements for Low Vision made in that consultation and requested the officials from all three Ministries to provide their inputs. A long discussion took place on Vision and Mission statements. Dr Bachani (MoH) suggested to keep timeline 2020 instead of keeping it 2025 and also to include the word 'access' and to remove the "at all levels", Mr KVS Rao (MSJE) suggested to incorporate the word 'active' into the mission statement. The final statements are as follows:

#### **Vision:**

Ensure and enable focused right based inclusion and empowerment of individuals with low vision.

#### **Mission:**

By 2020, to achieve universal access for implementation of quality low vision services by active involvement/participation of all relevant stakeholders towards an inclusive society.

#### **Discussion points:**

Dr Anupriya Chadha (MHRD) shared information on the number of low vision children under SSA are 5.00 lakhs, however, these data varies from the Census 2011 data. She also briefed on the challenges under SSA. The challenges she highlighted are:



1. Actual identification of low vision children
2. Shortage of low vision devices in India
3. Teachers are not well trained to deal children with low vision
4. Drop out ratio is high in the Govt. schools
5. As size of font required by a low vision child varies from child to child, providing large print books to each child with low vision is a challenge
6. Books reach school after three-fourth of the academic session is over affecting the quality of education

Dr Bachani suggested to ensure X% of the total sanction to be kept for low vision specifically in the ministries' budget. He also suggested to run low vision aid center in two places as a pilot model.

Dr Anupriya Chadha informed that there exist 6000 block resource centers, and can be utilized as a low vision aid centers.

Dr Bhushan Punani (BPA) suggested developing and testing the pilot model in the BRCs of SSA.

Mr KVS Rao invited suggestions on strengthening the low vision services.

Dr Bhushan Punani informed that according to NCTE norms, B. Ed. is going to be for 2 years and hence low vision should be included into the revised curriculum. The consortium can play as a think tank and can do advocacy for this.

It is suggested that the steering committee should be formed under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary, DEPWD, MSJE.

It is also suggested by Mr KVS Rao to involve RCI and NIVH for the inputs.

**To form the Steering Committee names suggested are:**

1. JS, MSJE (Chairperson)
2. Representative from MHRD
3. Representative from MoH/NPCB
4. Dr Anupriya Chadha, SSA, MHRD
5. Representative of Chief Commissioner (PwDs)
6. Dr Suraj, RP Centre AIIMS
7. Representative from INGOs (Sightsavers, CBM & Orbis)
8. VISION 2020 INDIA
9. Dr Bhushan Punani
10. Dr Rahul Deshpande
11. Representative from RCI
12. Representative from NIVH
13. Representative from NHFDC
14. Representative from Ministry of Science and Technology
15. Representative from Sense International
16. Low vision aid manufacturers
17. Person with low vision



All INGOs briefed about their programmes on low vision to give an idea of their work on low vision.

Dr Suraj (RP Centre) also briefed on the initiative taken by RP Centre with CBM support on low vision and also that they will be broadened the area of services by including rehabilitation services for low vision.

Dr Bachani suggested to form the TOR for Steering committee and to get approved from MSJE and also to involve a person with low vision into it.

The members present in the meeting agreed that Secretariat of the consortium should be office of VISION 2020 INDIA.

**Broad points for TOR for Steering Committee are:**

1. Form policy statements and advocate with policy makers
2. Guide in long term planning
3. Design the monitoring framework
4. National level coordination

**Action Points:**

1. Develop TOR for the Steering Committee and share with all three ministries for formation of Steering Committee. Once Steering Committee formed, a meeting of the Committee can take place immediately.
2. MSJE suggested involving RCI & NIVH into the committee as both the organizations are under MSJE.

The meeting ended at 13:00 hrs followed by a lunch.



**Delegates of Follow up Meeting**

**Annexure – 1:**



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#### Registration Sheet

| Sl. No. | Name                   | Title  | Organisation              | Signature |
|---------|------------------------|--|---------------------------|-----------|
| 1       | Dr Rishi Raj Borah     | Assistant Director – Program   | Orbis (Gurgaon)           |           |
| 2       | Mr Manish Kumar        | Program Manager  | Orbis (Gurgaon)           |           |
| 3       | Mr Prasanna Kumar      | Director – Program Operations  | Sightsavers (Delhi)       |           |
| 4       | Dr Sandeep Buttan      | PDA: Eye Health & Health Systems Strengthening (Asia)  | Sightsavers (Delhi)       |           |
| 5       | Dr Harpreet Kapoor     | Medical Advisor  | CBM (Bangalore)           |           |
| 6       | Mr Prateep Chakraborty | Chief Development Officer  | CBM (Bangalore)           |           |
| 7       | Dr Anupriya Chadha     | Chief Consultant   | SSA, MHRD (Delhi)         |           |
| 8       | Dr Bhushan Punani      | Executive Director   | BPA (Ahmadabad)           |           |
| 9       | Dr K V S Rao           | Director (DA III & National Awards)<br>Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, | MSJE (Delhi)              |           |
| 10      | Dr Damodar Bachani     | Deputy commissioner (NCD )   | MoH&FW, (Delhi)           |           |
| 11      | Dr Suraj Singh         | Assistant Professor of Community Ophthalmology   | RP Centre AIIMS (Delhi)   |           |
| 12      | Phanindra Babu Nukella | CEO  | VISION 2020 INDIA (Delhi) |           |
| 12      | Mrinal R Madhaw        | Program Manager  | VISION 2020 INDIA (Delhi) |           |