

VISION 2020: The Right to Sight– INDIA



Quarterly Report

July–September 2016



Dear Members,

Greetings from VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – INDIA.

We are glad to announce that the next annual conference of VISION 2020 – INDIA will be held on 3 & 4 June, 2017 at MGM Eye Institute, Raipur, Chattisgarh. Please block your date.

We thank Dr Deepshikha Agarwal willing to host the annual conference. We will be working on the scientific tracks and will be sharing it at the earliest with you.

This quarter has seen some significant meetings with the ministry and some developments.

We have a new Joint Secretary at the helm of affairs at NPCB. Mr Lav Agarwal, IAS, took over as the Joint Secretary for the National Programme for Prevention of Blindness. The VISION 2020 – INDIA Secretariat has had meetings with the Joint Secretary and found him to be proactive in solving pending issues. Our key discussion was on DBCS pending dues and HMIS development that ensures online transfer of DBCS money in future directly to the NGO account.

Following an initiative by VISION 2020 – INDIA, the NPCB has circulated the HR mapping tool. Once the process is complete, this will give us much vital information on HR in ophthalmology in the country, which will help while drafting the next five year plan.

After developing a state action plan for Arunachal Pradesh, we are already working on the next state – Assam. Very soon situational analysis in two selected districts of Assam will be initiated.

We are sure you all have successfully observed World Sight Day on 13 October with various community and institutional level activities.

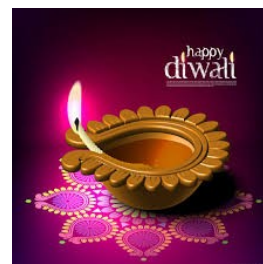
We wish you all a very happy **Diwali**.

Phanindra Babu
CEO

Dr Sara Varughese
President



**3 & 4 June, 2017 at
MGM Eye Institute,
Raipur, Chattisgarh.**



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Advocacy & Updates

Meeting with the new Joint Secretary

Mr Lav Agarwal, IAS, took over as the new Joint Secretary, NPCB, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

VISION 2020—INDIA team met him to apprise him of the organisation's profile.

Mr Lav Agarwal, IAS, took over as the new Joint Secretary at Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India in charge of the National Programme for Prevention of Blindness. Prior to this post, he was the Health Commissioner, Hyderabad, Telangana government.

Mr Phanindra Babu, CEO and Mr Mrinal Madhaw, Programme Manager, VISION 2020 – INDIA met Mr Lav Agarwal to apprise him of the profile and activities of VISION 2020 – INDIA and the areas of collaboration between the two. Dr Promila Gupta, DDG(O) and Mr Ziley Singh Vical, Deputy Secretary, NPCB were also part of this meeting.

At the meeting, the Joint Secretary was keen to learn about the key issues that needed an immediate action. Mr Phanindra informed Mr Agarwal regarding the pending DBCS dues of NGO hospitals, problems faced by NGOs in uploading data through HMIS and also about the closing of DOT & DOA courses by year 2020 by the allied health unit.

The Joint Secretary was immediate to take action on all the concerns. He requested DDG (O) to check on the decision taken the DOT and DOA courses. For effective monitoring of DBSC dues, he suggested the DDG (O) to form a telegram groups of state/ district level officials and also Facebook page for a larger group like PMOAs and NGOs.

Joint Secretary has taken some immediate steps to resolve the HMIS software issue.

Ernst & Young Ltd has been appointed by NPCB to conceptualise the NPCB HMIS software.

Aravind Eye Care System gave a demonstration of their HMIS software .

NPCB to form a think - tank of 10-12 institutions to guide NPCB for the development of HMIS. Involve AECS in this group.

Resolving issues on HMIS software may happen soon

Problems faced by NGO hospitals of uploading data through HMIS maybe be resolved soon. The new Joint Secretary, Mr Lav Agarwal, has taken some immediate steps in this regard. Ernst & Young Ltd has been appointed by NPCB to conceptualise the NPCB HMIS software and submit a report by mid October.

Further to the report by Ernst & Young Ltd, a meeting with select experts to seek further inputs will be held and a think - tank comprising 10-12 experts will be formed representing government, NGOs and others to guide NPCB for improved HMIS software.

These steps were following VISION 2020 – INDIA apprising the Joint Secretary of the problems faced by NGO hospitals in uploading data through HMIS which in result was one of the reasons for delay in paying the DBSC dues.

To look into an alternative model, Joint Secretary requested a video conferencing with Aravind Eye Care System (AECS). Mr RD Thulasiraj, Executive Director, LAICO, AECS and his IT team gave a demonstration of the software used at AECS and suggestions for improving the present NPCB HMIS software.

At the end of the meeting, 2 key points were agreed on:

- Reconvene the meeting after NPCB receives report from Ernst & Young
- NPCB to form a think - tank of 10-12 institutions to guide NPCB for the development of HMIS. Involve AECS in this group.

Advocacy & Updates



Move to create global workforce

Meeting with NIAHS

A meeting was convened by the National Initiative for Allied Health Sciences (NIAHS) to discuss the optometry and ophthalmic courses under Allied Health Sciences. This meeting was a follow-up of the representation made by VISION 2020 – INDIA to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) in January 2016.

VISION 2020 – INDIA had raised a concern on lack of standardisation of course curriculum related to various optometry and ophthalmic assistants. It was agreed for the need for standardisation and follow the international standards to be able to create a global workforce.

The meeting discussed matter concerning different terminology used such as vision technician, refractionist, ophthalmic nursing assistants etc. for similar roles and the need to remove the ambiguity. VISION 2020 -INDIA stressed the need for a one year certificate course [may be called as vision technician course or some other name as appropriate] which would focus on training in refraction, prescription of glasses and support in community mobilisation. The diploma course with 2 years duration [called as ophthalmic assistant] can train for vision technician and additionally be eligible to perform the pre-operative work, assisting the surgeon in OT, sterilisation of OT equipments etc. This understanding provides a role clarity for vision technician and ophthalmic assistants. Further, it was shared that vision technician [present terminology] trained at premier institutes is able to conduct refraction perfectly and able to prescribe and dispense the glasses with good patient outcomes. Also vision technician is usually willing to work at Block and community level that increases the primary eye care access. Therefore, VISION 2020 - INDIA proposed to recognise the need for a one year certificate course and consider vision technicians under allied health work force. It is in this context, it was agreed that VISION 2020 INDIA will share the curriculum of DOT & DOA of MGR University, and Vision Technician courses offered by LVPEI. The Vision Technician course curriculum (to be shared by VISION 2020 INDIA) can be reviewed and improved to make it into a one year standardised certificate course across the country so that the output generated is of good quality (irrespective of institutions) after due assessment as laid out in allied health system.

Further, a meeting was called by NIAHS to discuss on vision technician course. Mr Phanindra Babu Nukella, CEO, VISION 2020 – INDIA and Dr Umang Mathur, Medical Director, Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital represented VISION 2020 - INDIA at the meeting. NIAHS shared vision technician course module developed by Healthcare Sector Skill Council and asked suggestions from delegates. One more round of meeting is expected to discuss the way forward.

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NPCB and has circulated the HR tools to all States for further action.

Meeting on HR Mapping: A draft tool to conduct HR mapping across the country was discussed with DDG (O), Dr Promila Gupta. The HR mapping tool was reviewed by the VISION 2020 – INDIA team at the Secretariat and key suggestions given. After three rounds of discussions with the DDG (O), the modified tool has been accepted by NPCB and has been circulated to all States for further action.

Inputs on 13th Five Year Plan: Inputs for the government's 13th five year plan was discussed by the VISION 2020 – INDIA team. Dr TP Das, Dr Sara Varughese, Dr Sandeep Buttan, Mr Thulasiraj, Dr Rohit and Mr Phanindra Babu comprised the team. Dr TP Das, Dr Sara Varughese and Dr RD Ravindran are part of the 16 member Advisory Committee set up by NPCB to review the existing Five Year Plan and to finalise the 13th Five Year plan.

Advocacy & Updates

Programme Development

Developing Action Plan in Assam

Taking further our commitment to improve the eye care delivery in the north east region, VISION 2020 – INDIA is now working towards developing action plan for two districts of Assam. In this context, Mr Phanindra Babu met State Programme Officer, Assam, Dr Anup Kumar for conducting situational analysis in two selected districts. This initiative is under the LIGHT FOR THE WORLD grant.

Strategic Planning and Team Building Workshops

Two Strategic Planning and Team Building Workshops were held: one was in Fatima Hospital, Gorakhpur on 20 & 21 August 2016 and the other in MGM Eye Institute, Raipur 27 & 28 August 2016. The programme was successful and was well received by the participants. Col Dr. M Deshpande conducted both the workshops.



Participants at Strategic Planning Workshop at Fatima Eye Hospital

Workshop on Managing Medico Legal Issues

A day long workshop on Managing Medico Legal Issues was held on 3rd September 2016. The workshop held at Sankar Foundation, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh was in collaboration with Sankar Foundation Eye Hospital, NALSAR University of Law and Ministry of Consumer Affairs & Food and Civil Supplies, Government of India. This workshop was intended for heads of hospital, CEOs, hospital administrators, ophthalmologists and any other professionals involved in the management of hospital who deal with medico-legal issues.



Ms Mani Mala at the Managing Medico Legal Workshop

Programme Development

Twenty nine delegates from 19 organisations across 9 states: Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Odisha, Maharashtra, Delhi and Gujarat participated in the workshop.

The broad objective of the workshop was to build the capacity of member institutions on managing medico legal issues effectively.

The workshop sought to:

- Enhance knowledge on appropriate human resources or qualified personnel to execute ophthalmic care.
- Understand patient care issues and the possible system to be developed to face legal system.
- Create awareness on the statutory compliance for eye care institution and possible methods of compliance.

The workshop deliberated on key issues in human resources, patient care, medical negligence and statutory compliances. Discussions on clinical care of patients, hospital capabilities and its quality protocols, dealing with product quality issues, consumer cases and RTI, dealing with false cases, dealing with media (especially in unanticipated scenario) were also deliberated.

Chief Guest for the workshop was Mr Sasidhar Reddy, District Judge, 1st Additional District and Sessions Court, Visakhapatnam. In his key note address, highlighted the important points related to the medico-legal issues. Mr Reddy said that one of the most important issues was about poor management of records. He mentioned that most of the cases are being lost because of not maintaining the documents properly. He also mentioned that our society is still a status conscious society and is not legally conscious one. However, the scenario is changing slowly, he said and the is moving towards legally conscious society.

Prof. K.V.S. Sarma, Professor of Law, NALSAR University took the session on "Laws – Civil and Criminal that effect medical profession" while Dr. P. Bhaskara Mohan, Advocate, High court of Judicature at Telengana and AP, Hyderabad during his session focused on medico-legal cases of consumer forums, High court and Supreme Court and handling media and its reporting.



Chief Guest for the workshop, Mr Sasidhar Reddy, District Judge, 1st Additional District and Sessions Court, Visakhapatnam.

Zonal Meetings

East zone meeting: The east zone meeting was conducted on 23 July 2016 at JPM Rotary Eye Hospital and Research Centre, Cuttack, Odisha. Forty five delegates participated in the meeting covering the states of: Odisha, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Bihar. A special session on 'Entry Level NABH Accreditation and Leadership' was also organised after the zonal meeting.

South zone meeting: South zone meeting was organised at Sankar Foundation Eye Hospital on 4 September 2016.



Mr Sahoo at the East Zone meeting held at JPM Rotary Eye Hospital and Research Centre.

Programme Development

Visit to Member Organisations

Visit to MGM Eye Hospital: On 5 August 2016, Mr Phanindra Babu Nukella, CEO, VISION 2020 - INDIA visited MGM Eye Institute, Raipur. This visit was planned to discuss the upcoming annual conference with the MGM hospital management as the Institution had expressed willingness to host the next AGBM in 2017. Following the visit and subsequent discussions, MGM Eye Institute agreed to host the event and a formal MoU between MGM and VISION 2020 - INDIA has been signed in August. The dates of 13th AGBM are 3 - 4 June 2017.

Visit Arunodaya Deseret Eye Hospital: Mr Mrinal R Madhaw, Programme Manager, Ms Sridevi Sunderarajan, Development & Communication Officer and Mr Ajeet Singh, Finance and Admin Officer, VISION 2020 - INDIA visited Arunodaya Deseret Eye Hospital, Gurgaon, NCR on 5 August 2016. At the hospital, we met Dr Arun Sethi, Dr Vaibhav Sethi. The discussion centered on low vision diabetic retinopathy. Dr Arun Sethi had requested for information on low vision aids, RoP and diabetic retinopathy. We shared the ADIP Scheme which has a provision of LV devices, DR guideline and DR protocol with him.

Visit to Raj Eye Hospital: Mr Phanindra Babu, CEO, VISION 2020 - INDIA along with Col Dr M Deshpande and Mr Ajeet Singh visited Raj Eye Hospital, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh on 22 August 2016 and updated Dr Anil Srivastava about VISION 2020 -INDIA's plans and its recent accomplishments.

VISION 2020 - INDIA team: Mr Phanindra Babu, CEO; Mr Mrinal Madhaw, Program Manager and Ms Sridevi S, Development Communication Officer, VISION 2020 - INDIA visited two members in Uttar Pradesh - Kalyanam Karothi at Mathura and Bhakti Vedanta Eye Hospital, Barsana on 23 September 2016. Purpose of the visit was to acquaint ourselves more with the working of these hospitals, learn at close quarters their work and any support they expect from us.



A class in progress at Kalyanam Karothi

Visit to Kalyanam Karothi, the team met the Secretary and Administrator of the organisation. It works on multiple disabilities such as deaf, dumb, blindness, mental retardation. Also, it has artificial limb developing centre. It has no major donors but has a few individual donors, as reported by the Secretary. Around 2 kms away from this centre is their eye hospital that caters to about 70 patients per day. The hospital has 3 doctors and 1 OT. It also conducts camps covering about 200 kms distance. We found the hospital component is weak and needs strengthening. On the other hand, although, good work is in progress for running schools for children affected by deafness, dumbness, blindness and mentally retarded, it requires good funding to sustain the good work.

Programme Development

Bhakti Vedanta Hospital, Barsana - While the head hospital is located in Mumbai, the hospital in Barsana is a branch. The team visited the hospital and met two doctors and discussed about the hospital's functioning. It is a small unit and cannot accommodate more than 70 patients per day. A plan exists to construct a new and bigger hospital in their 4 acres land in Barsana. We explained about VISION 2020 – INDIA's role and accomplishments. The doctors expressed their concern about pending amounts from DBCS and no cooperation from the DBCS authorities. We explained the advocacy that we have been making at national level, in this regard. It was a very fruitful meeting, overall.



At Bhakti Vedanta Hospital, Barsana

Other Updates

Meeting at Sightsavers: Secretariat team participated in celebration of Sightsavers completing their 50 years of successful services in INDIA. The programme was organised by Sightsavers on 30 August 2016 at IIC, New Delhi.



Sightsaver's 50years celebration



Mr Phanindra and DDG, Dr Gupta at IAPB regional meet, Indonesia

CEO at IAPB Meet: Mr Phanindra Babu, CEO, VISION 2020 – INDIA in his capacity as the India Chair, IAPB south Asia and Dr Promila Gupta, DDG, NPCB attend the IAPB regional meeting at Indonesia from 18 to 21 July 2016. Mr Phanindra Babu made a presentation on the topic of the conference: Gender in eye health from India's perspective at this meeting and contributed to the discussions and planning.

This quarterly newsletter is brought out by:

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