

Quarterly Report

January–March 2017



Dear Members,

Greetings from VISION 2020: The Right to Sight - INDIA

Our persistent advocacy with the government has borne fruit for some of the issues.

In a landmark policy level change, the National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB), Government of India has revised the definition of blindness. With the new definition of measuring blindness at <math><3/60</math>, our statistics will be comparable with that of WHO. But more importantly, this decision has a far reaching impact on reaching the neediest and unreached suffering from blindness in the country. The policy change is, of course, a story of collaboration between NPCB, Dr RP Centre, AIIMS and VISION 2020–INDIA.

As a result of our advocacy, NPCB initiated a nation-wide mapping of the human resource and infrastructure for eye care in the entire country. And VISION 2020 – INDIA has been entrusted a gigantic task by NPCB of supporting this exercise. The last mapping was done year 2003 by NPCB. This survey covers all types of eye care facilities – government, private, NGO hospitals, individual ophthalmologists, and other facilities such as Railway, Army, ESI hospitals, etc. in the country. The HR mapping data will be used for better planning and strengthening the NPCB program.

We are glad that our annual conference has evolved as an exclusive national conference on community ophthalmology. The theme for this year's annual conference is **'Inclusive Eye Care Services' on 3rd & 4th June at MGM Eye Hospital, Raipur**. Visit our conference website for details <http://vision2020india.org/annualconference/>

The scientific committee is working hard to put together a resourceful scientific programme. We are sure you will make use of this opportunity to share, learn and network at this conference.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Shri Navin Shah, Trustee of LOTUS Eye Hospital, Mumbai, who has been generous to institute an annual award towards improving the eye health in the country.

Phanindra Babu
CEO

Dr Sara Varughese
President



Inclusive Eye Care Services
3rd & 4th June, 2017
MGM Eye Institute, Raipur

Free accommodation on first come first serve basis for Optometrists.
Please contact MGM Eye Institute.

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Advocacy & Updates

2 year Diploma Courses

MoH decided to phase out 2 yrs diploma courses by year 2020. However, as a result of our regular advocacy and follow up with the Ministry and National Initiative of Allied Health Sciences (NIAHS), now NPCB has agreed to reconsider their decision of phasing out 2 year courses by 2020. A letter was received from NPCB by V2020 India.

Ministry of Health agreed for a Ministerial level coordination for Low Vision services.

Three ministries are working for low vision services in the country: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment & Ministry of Human Resources and Development. However, till date, no coordination existed.

VISION 2020 – INDIA had written to NPCB for the need of coordination amongst these 3 ministries so as low vision benefits can be maximized. NPCB has agreed for a ministerial level coordination for Low Vision services.

India Redefines Blindness: an advocacy effort

THE HINDU f t in i Search here

8 **1hr** North Korea decries U.S. carrier dispatch as parliament meets

9 **2hrs** Umpires can eject players, tethered bails approved

10 **2hrs** I don't believe in sending out 'messages' in films, says Aparna Sen

11 **3hrs** BJP youth wing leader offers 'bounty of ₹11 lakh on Mamata's

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SCI-TECH > HEALTH

HEALTH

India to redefine blindness to meet WHO stipulation

PTI

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SHARE ARTICLE f 32 t e 1 PRINT A A A

A person unable to count fingers from a distance of 6m is categorised as "blind" in India, against the WHO's stipulation of 3m.

The government is set to change a four-decade-old definition of blindness to bring it in line with the WHO criteria and ensure the Indian data on blindness meets the global estimates.

As defined under the National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB), a person unable to count fingers from a distance of six metres is categorised as "blind" in India, against the WHO's stipulation of three metres.

"We will bring the definition of blindness at par with the WHO's criteria. Because of the current definition, we project a higher figure of blind people from India at any international forum. Thus India gets presented in a poor light compared to other countries," said Promila Gupta, NPCB Deputy Director-General.

In a landmark policy level change, the National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB), Government of India has revised the definition of blindness. With the new definition of measuring blindness at <math><3/60</math>, our statistics will be comparable with that of WHO. But more importantly, this decision has a far reaching impact on reaching the neediest and unreached suffering from blindness in the country.

The policy change is, of course, a story of collaboration. Dr. RP Centre, AIIMS, had initiated the discussion two years ago with NPCB, and now received strong support from VISION 2020 – INDIA to take it to its present conclusion. Our Board discussed this issue in detail at one of the board meetings and felt the change of definition is required.

VISION 2020 INDIA also represented in the committee set up by NPCB specially to look into the need of change of blindness definition. We applaud NPCB for taking this bold step which will have a far reaching impact towards clearing the backlog especially of cataract in the country.

Advocacy & Updates



National HR and Infrastructure Mapping

Currently a nationwide mapping of human resource and infrastructure of the eye care service providers in the country is underway in India. This gigantic survey covers all types of eye care facilities – govt., private, NGO hospitals, individual ophthalmologists, and other facilities such as Railway, Army, ESI hospitals, etc. in the country.

The mapping is a result of untiring, constant advocacy by VISION 2020 – INDIA with NPCB. The HR mapping data collected will be used for better planning and strengthening the NPCB program. The last mapping was done year 2003 by NPCB.

The ministry has entrusted VISION 2020 – INDIA with the assignment of supporting the HR mapping VISION 2020 – INDIA is supporting the NPCB by designing the online data collection tool and also supporting them by providing orientation to their SPOs and DPMs of all states/UTs. After the data is received from across the country, analysis of the data and report writing will be done by VISION 2020 – INDIA.

“This mammoth exercise would not have been possible without the active support of our member organisations in providing orientation at state level,” said Mr Phanindra Babu Nukella, CEO, VISION 2020 – INDIA. *“We sincerely thank them all for their support.”*

“As on 1 April, 18 states have been covered, where the orientation has been completed” said Mr Mrinal Madhaw, Programme Manager, VISION 2020 – INDIA. *“We are providing orientation to the SPOs and DPMs who in turn will now contact all the eye care service providers to the get the required data,”* he said.

Posted on our website



The Deputy Director General (Ophthalmology), NPCB, Dr Promila Gupta’s message to the eye care fraternity for the HR & Infrastructure mapping.

VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – INDIA is currently carrying out a gigantic task of national mapping of the HR and infrastructure for eye care in the entire country. This is on the request of the National Programme of Control of Blindness, Government of India.

This survey covers all types of eye care facilities – govt., private, NGO hospitals, Individual Ophthalmologists, and other facilities such as Railway hospitals, Army Hospitals, ESI hospitals, etc. in the country. The HR mapping data will be used for better planning and strengthening the NPCB program.



Orientation programme at Bengaluru facilitated by Sankara Eye Foundation



Orientation programme at Mumbai facilitated by HV Desai Eye Hospital



The conference begins in:

051
Days16
Hours55
Minutes12
Seconds

Avail early bird fee till
30th April, 2017.
Register online

7 parallel hands - on skill enhancement sessions for optometrists

- Biometry Techniques
- Special Contact lens fitting
- Low vision aids
- OPD potpourri
- Ocular prosthesis
- Ocular prosthesis

Free accommodation
available for optometrist
delegates
1st come 1st serve basis
Contact MGM Eye Institute
91 9589837232 &

Free transport from hotel to
venue of conference will be
provided for all delegates

Holiday at Chhattisgarh: land of
temple, forests and waterfalls



13 Annual Conference – Inclusive Eye Care Services 3rd & 4th June, 2017 | MGM Eye Institute, Raipur, Chhattisgarh

Visit: vision2020india.org/annualconference/



MGM Eye Institute, Raipur: the venue of 13th annual conference

We bring to you one of its kind national conference in community ophthalmology. The environment at VISION 2020 – INDIA's annual conference is of sharing knowledge and best practices, networking for development and learning towards excellence.

This year too, we bring to you, the 4 popular tracks, but with a difference:

Organisational Development | Eye Care Delivery to the Unreached | Improving Patient Outcome in Cataract Surgery and Skill Enhancement for Optometrists and Ophthalmic Assistants.

Based on the feedback from our past conferences, we bow to the request for each topic to be presented with ample time for presentation and discussion. We have different courses covering key areas under eye health.



"This is the first time a conference of this nature in community ophthalmology is being held in Chhattisgarh. MGM Eye Institute is proud to host it. Participants to the conference can enhance their knowledge and also explore the rich heritage of Chhattisgarh. Welcome to MGM Eye Institute for a scientific and cultural experience."

Dr Deepshikha Agrawal
Director & Trustee
MGM Eye Institute

Programme Development

Strategic Plan Development

VISION 2020 INDIA is getting ready with its new strategic plan for 2017-2021. With series of consultations and meetings with NPCB officials, our members and other stakeholders, a draft plan has emerged. By end April, the new plan will be ready for roll-out.



Participating at AIOS conference

VISION 2020 – INDIA participated in the All India Ophthalmology Conference at Jaipur. Our session was on 'Expanding paradigms of eye care: drawing in and reaching out'. NPCB official also made a presentation in this session.



Organisational Development

Statutory Meetings

The 53rd Board meeting was held at Jaipur on 18 February 2017.

Other Meetings

In the past quarter we held some important meetings with some of our members.

We had a meeting with the Alcon team of Mr Anand Jha, Head Marketing Access and Government Affairs, Asia, Mr Rajeev Nandan, Head Insurance and Government Affairs, to apprise them about our activities and discuss how to collaborate in the future.

Mr Phanindra Babu met with the Co Founder & CEO of Pellucid Healthcare Pvt Ltd., Mr Rajesh Sukumar to discuss the areas of collaboration to strengthen the partnership. Mr Arun Yadav from Pellucid visited VISION 2020 - INDIA office.

Mr Atul Kapoor, Vice President of Asia, SightLife and Ms Priyanka, Policy and Advocacy Manager, visited VISION 2020 – INDIA Secretariat to discuss on active collaboration with VISION 2020 - INDIA to address the advocacy needs in the area of corneal blindness.

A meeting with NM Prusty, Chair, Vision Spring India Board was held. The meeting was to apprise of our activities.



News from Members



World Glaucoma Week

March 12–18, 2017

A glimpse in pictures of the World Glaucoma Week observed by our member organisation. We received some photos shared below.



Magic show by Sitapur Eye Hospital (left) and Awareness walk at CL Gupta Eye Institute (right)



Awareness drive at Sadguru Netra Chikitsalya, Chitrakoot (left) and CME at Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital, Bhopal (right)

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