



Report on
**National Workshop on
"CORNEAL BLINDNESS"**

Venue

Venu Eye Institute & Research Centre, New Delhi

Date

20th March 2005.

PREFACE

Dear Friends,

The present collection of donated eyes is about 21,000 whereas the requirement is about a lakh in the country. On one hand Government of India has also got a definite plan and guidelines to work on the Corneal Blindness activity, on the other the national organizations -Eye Bank Association of India and ORBIS International with its 12 partners engaged in Corneal Blindness are working hard to take the movement of eye donation and eye banking in the country. In order to learn from each other and evolve a consensus on strategies to be followed for corneal blindness a need has been felt to have various stakeholders to come together and brainstorm the issues in depth. Thus, Vision 2020 India had conceived, designed and organized the national workshop on Corneal Blindness on 20th March 2005 in New Delhi in association with Venu Eye and Research Institute and Eye Bank Association of India.

The participation of the Government officials, INGOs and the NGOs to provide inputs to each one of us in Corneal Blindness was grand . The outcome of the National workshop had increasingly was to solicit the support from Government and motivating all of partners to come together and work as team for the noble cause of eye donations . This workshop was a stand alone that has energized each one of us to work for Corneal Blindness as closely as possible to spread the message across till we ensure that nobody needlessly go blind for want of non-availability of corneas.

We like to thank all the participating friends and institutions for their wonderful support and encouragement.

Thanking you and with best wishes,

PKM.SWAMY

Introduction

Estimates suggest that 15% of the world's blind live in India. Corneal opacities are the reason for 3% of the blindness. In terms of numbers, this translates into 6.8 million blind due to corneal opacities, and 1 million are bilaterally blind. It is also estimated that 40,000 Indians go blind every year due to corneal diseases. Since corneal blindness usually occurs at a young age, the number of blind person years is considerably more.

Corneal blindness is due to injuries, infections and malnutrition. The technology needed to prevent corneal blindness is known and available, as is the technology necessary to treat and rehabilitate the corneal blind. Despite this, the avoidable tragedy continues to be widely prevalent in the nation.

Programs to prevent corneal blindness need a wide publicity and mass education, and need to be integrated with primary eye care / health care programs. This includes IEC campaigns to prevent corneal injuries, promote personal hygiene and sanitation and Vitamin A supplementation. Corneal transplants are now possible, but is dependant upon a strong eye banking system, which can provide healthy donor tissue. The success rates of corneal transplants also need to be improved. The eye-banking sector faces challenges of registration, standards and an accreditation process. All this is compounded by an acute shortage of donor tissue. Against an estimated need of 200,000 corneas per year, only 20,000 are available.

Need

The Government of India, Eye Care NGOs and INGOs working for eye care recognize these and other issues. Technology is continually being upgraded, IEC campaigns are being strengthened, and the legal issues around eye banks are also being overcome.

However, much more needs to be done. There is a need to discuss and debate some contentious issues concerning programs, which address corneal blindness, to enable a national consensus to be developed and initiation of a congruent program.

Objectives

The main objectives of the workshop were:

- a. To initiate a national debate on contentious issues concerning corneal blindness and eye banking, and
- b. To develop recommendations to strengthen programs addressing corneal blindness.

In view of the above objectives, the following issues were debated upon during the workshop:

- a. How do we strengthen programs to prevent corneal blindness?

- b. How can success rates of corneal transplants be increased?
- c. What should be the standard operating procedures for eye banks?
- d. How do we strengthen the Hospital Cornea Retrieval Programs?
- e. How do we proceed towards a community eye banking system?

Methodology

There were presentations on above issues by the reputed resource persons followed by discussion and development of recommendations

Participants

A total of **73** delegates from different parts of the country had participated in the Workshop. The participants of the workshop were from Central and State governments, INGOs, Non-Governmental organizations in eye care in the Country.

Venue and Dates

The Venue for the National workshop on Corneal Blindness was the Conference Hall, Venu Eye Institute & Research Centre, New Delhi .The date was on March 20, 2005.

Inauguration

At the outset Mrs. Tanuja Joshi, Managing Director, Venu Eye Institute and Research Centre, in her welcome address appreciated the participation from all spheres in eye care and extended warm welcome to all participants. Mr. PKM Swamy, Executive Director, Vision 2020-India briefed about the workshop and stressed upon the importance of such National workshop for achieving Vision 2020 goals. Dr. C.S. Shetty, technical Advisor, LCIF and Dr. GV Rao, Country Director, ORBIS-India briefed their initiatives and future plan in corneal blindness respectively.

The workshop was inaugurated in true tradition by lighting of lamps by Dr. G.N.Rao, President, IAPB, Dr. G.V.Rao, Country Director, ORBIS-India, Dr. C.S. Shetty, Technical Advisor, LCIF, Mr. PKM Swamy, Executive Director, Vision2020-India, Mrs. Tanuja Joshi, President, EBAI, Dr. M. Srinivasan, Vice-president, EBAI.

Before the technical sessions started a **film** on vision 2020india initiatives was shown and it was well received

The first plenary session had begun with Dr. M. Srinivasan's presentation on "*How to strengthen programs to prevent Corneal Blindness*". Dr. Namrata Sharma, AIIMS, New Delhi presented a paper on "*How can success rates of corneal transplantats be increased*"? Dr. Usha Gopinathan, LVPEI, Hyderabad presented a paper on "*What should be the standard operating procedures for eye banks*"? Dr. Ritu Arora, GNEC, New Delhi, presented a paper on "*How do we strengthen the hospital corneal retrieval programs*"? Dr. G.N. Rao, President, IAPB, presented a paper on "*How do we proceed towards community eye banking*"?

In the post lunch session Representatives from different states shared their experiences in eye banking and present challenges. Mr. V.V. Sreenivas Rao, IPS, Govt of AP shared the experience on “Khamam Police Initiatives in Eye Banking”. It was well appreciated by all. After the state representatives had made presentations, Dr. Rachel Jose, DDG (O) , Directorate of Health and Social Welfare, Govt of India, in her keynote address she stressed upon the **private-public partnership** in eye care to sustain eye donations through public awareness. In order to strengthen eye banking, Government of India has been disbursing recurring grants to take care of operational costs of eye banks and to develop infrastructure a non-recurring grant was also being given she said. She urged the participants to deliberate and come out with suggestions for improving the current scenario. Dr. Brij Bhushan, DADG (O), Govt Of India, in his presentation on legal aspects in eye banking, clarified the various legal aspects related to eye banking. Dr. C.S. Shetty, Technical Advisor, LCIF, presented a paper on “*Financial Sustainability in eye banking*”?

Felicitations

Vision 2020-India felicitated with pride the individuals that have contributed to the prevention & treatment of Corneal Blindness during the workshop on March 20th held in New Delhi respectively. They were:

Dr. G.N. Rao, Founder Director, LVPEI, Hyderabad, **Dr. M. Srinivasan**, AECS, Madurai, **Mr. M.S. Bisht**, AIIMS, New Delhi, **Mr. V.V. Srinivas Rao**, IPS ,Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, **Mr. Balkishen Rao**, Circle Inspector, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh , **Mr. Jaswant B. Mehta**, Mumbai for prevention of Corneal blindness.

In the concluding session, all above issues were debated upon and the suggestions were noted. After compilation, Mrs. Tanuja Joshi read out all these and discussed again. The final recommendations were presented once again and unanimously accepted by all. Dr. Rachel Jose promised to put forward the recommendations at the Govt. level for consideration.

(All presentations are in CD, attached separately)

Recommendations

At end of the day, following recommendations were drawn from the presentations and group discussion. Mainly these recommendations were put in four areas i.e. Quality, Sustainability, Community Eye banking and Policy measure and were forwarded the same at the Govt. level for consideration.

QUALITY

- Mandatory training of all HR including Corneal Surgeons doing Keratoplasty
- Uniform SOP's for all three levels of Eye Banking i.e. EDC' s, EB's and EBTC's

SUSTAINABILITY

- Introduce HCRP as an intervention to increase eye collection
- De-link Eye Banks from Cornea Surgeons and Hospitals including Eye Hospitals
- Charge reasonable processing fee.
- Improve quality of tissue
- Have systems in both technical and administrative running for creating a professional environment

COMMUNITY EYE BANKING

- Answer to above two issues
- Most cost effective approach
- Need to implement National Committee

Recommendations made in New Delhi in July 2004

- Roles to be clarified of all agencies concerned along with a time frame for implementation and completion.

POLICY / LEGAL SUPPORT

- Appoint EBAI as a National Eye Banking Regulatory Body
- Draft modalities to cover
 - Policy making
 - Programme development
 - Framing rules/regulations
 - Networking for modifications on all the above and tissue distribution
 - Disseminate information in all of the above and also
 - funds/finances/resources availability
 - Point of clarification for grey areas like definition of trained technicians
 - Influence on decision / policy makers can be co-ordinate through EBAI

-Recognize the Eye Bank Technician by issuing a certificate / Diploma from a Technical Body.

Post Program Action Proposed

The recommendations made and the consensus arrived in the workshop will be communicated to the Govt. level for action & consideration.

I. Workshop Photographs



(Clock wise: Guests on the Dais, Inauguration of the workshop, Felicitation to the eminent personalities in Corneal Blindness, Delegates listening to the speaker,).

II. Program Schedule

National Workshop on Corneal Blindness

Program Schedule

Venue:- Venu Eye Institute and Research Centre, 1/31, Sheikh Sarai Industrial Area,
Phase -2, New Delhi-17

Date- March 20th, 2005

8:30 – 9:00 Registration

Inaugural Session: (9:00 AM to 10:00 AM)

- **Welcome address** by Ms. Tanuja Joshi, Venu Eye Institute & Research Centre
- **Objectives of the workshop** by PKM Swamy, Vision2020-India
- **Special address** by Dr. G.V.Rao, ORBIS-India

Plenary Session-I (10:15 AM to 1:15 PM)

Presentation on Contentious issues

- **How do we strengthen programs to prevent corneal Blindness** by Dr. M. Srinivasan, AECS
- **How can Success rates of corneal transplants are increased** by Dr. Namrata Sharma, AIIMS
- **What should be the standard operating procedures for eye banks** by Dr. Usha Gopinathan, LVPEI
- **How do we strengthen the hospital Cornea Retrieval programmes?** by Dr. Ritu Arora, GNEC

Group Photo & Lunch break (1:15AM to 2:00PM)

Plenary Session-II (2:00 PM to 3:00 PM)

- **How do we proceed towards a community eye Banking** by Dr. G N Rao, IAPB
- **Address on Eye Banking** By Dr. Rachel Jose, DDG(O), GOI
- **Legal aspects of Eye banking** by / Dr. Brijbhushan GOI

Concluding Session: (3:15 PM to 5:00 PM)

- **Experiences, interventions, future directions and networking with other stake holders –Rajasthan team ,**
- **Khamam initiatives** by Mr. VV Srinivas Rao, IPS, Govt of AP.
- **Financial sustainability in Eye Banking** By Dr. Chandrasekhar Shetty, LCIF

Recommendations

Vote of Thanks

5:00PM to 5:45 PM (Tea break & Guided Hospital Visit- Venu Eye Institute & Research Centre)

III. Copy of Felicitation Certificate



IV- Participants list

National Workshop on Corneal Blindness Workshop- New Delhi

Venue:- Venu Eye Institute & Research Centre

Date:- 20th March 2005

Sl No	Name	Address/ Email	Signature
1	Dr. A. K. Grover	Sir GangaRam Eye Hospital, New Delhi akgrover@yahoo.com	
2	Dr. AC Gupta		
3	Dr. Anil Tara		
4	Dr. Annie Singh	27, Chandrolek, Kapasuttale Rd, Aligarj, Lucknow	ASingh.
5	Dr. Arti Vij		
6	Dr. Ashu Agarwal	VEIRC	
7	Dr. Bharati Lavingia		
8	Dr. Brijbhusan	GOI	
9	Dr. Chandrashekhar Shetty	LCIF drcshetty@hotmail.com	
10	Dr. D. Bachani	GOI	
11	Dr. D.K.Mehta		
12	Dr. G N Rao	President, IAPB gnrao@lvpei.org	
13	Dr. G. V. Rao	ORBIS International	
14	Dr. I.P. Bhagwat	ORBIS International	
15	Dr. Jayant Doshi	Elmore Eye Bank M.C.C. Trust Vadodra	
16	Dr. Jeena Mascarenhas	VENU	
17	Dr. KPS Mallik		
18	Dr. Lalwani	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel MCC	
19	Dr. M. Srinivashan	AECS, Madurai	
20	Dr. M. Prathiba	Joseph Eye Hospital Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu.	
21	Dr. Preeti	ORBIS DC-10 FEM	
22	Dr. MA Nay	VENU EYA	

20	Dr. Madan Mohan		
21	Dr. Muralidhar	Mr. Bhubha Bhubha	mmb
22	Dr. Nisheeta Agarwal Ms. Rekha Mehta Ph: 022-2028532 Cell-38211-65906 Fax: 022-2835149	B-145/146, Mittal Tower 14th Floor, Opp. New Council H Nariman Point Mumbai - 400 021 mhetagroup@theemerald.com	Rekha Mehta
23	Dr. P. Srinivasa Reddy	AP Right To Sight Society, Hyd [sightap@sify.com]	P. Srinivas
24	Dr. Paras Mehta	paramehta @ yahoo.com	Paras Mehta
25	Dr. Prasant Garg	LV Prasad Eye Institute rieb@lvpei.org	Prasant Garg
26	Dr. Racheal Jose	GOI	R. Jose
27	Dr. Radhika Tandon	RPC - AIIMS radhika_tan@yahoo.com	Radhika Tandon
28	Dr. Rasik Bajpayee Dr. Namrata sharma	AIIMS - New Delhi	Namrata Sharma
29	Dr. Rekha G	B.W Lions Eye Hospital lionseye@blr.vsnl.net.in	
30	Dr. Rishimohan		
31	Dr. Ritu Arora	GNEC, dr_rituarora@yahoo.com	Ritu Arora
32	Dr. Samar Basak	Disha Eye Hospital, Kof-120 deisho@blr.vsnl.net.in	Samar Basak
33	Dr. Sangeeta Wagh	Sunsand @ vsnl.com	Sangeeta Wagh
34	Dr. Sunil Kumar Shah	Dr. Sunil Shah dr_sunil1@indiatimes.com	Sunil Shah
35	Dr. Sunil Kumar Singh	27 Chandralak Kopartole Rd, Aligarh Lucknow	Sunil Singh
36	Dr. Umang Mathur	Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital	
37	Dr. Usha Gopinathan	LV Prasad Eye Institute usha@lvpei.org	Usha Gopinathan
38	Dr. Vashantha	RIO Chennai	V. Vashantha
39	Dr. Vikash Mahatme	Vaghat	V. Mahatme
40	DR S KOTHARI	Mumbai	S. Kothari
41	DR DHARMVIR CHAUHAN	PATIALA (PH)	D. Chauhan

ASTHAGIRIN MAHARAJA INTERNATIONAL			
40	Miss Chaitali Inamdar		
41	Mr. A. K Arora	Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital	
42	Mr. Anand Sudhan	Sadguru Netra Chikistalaya, Chitrakut. anand_sudhan@rediffmail.com	
43	Mr. Balkrisan Rao	C.I of Police. Kharwar. A.P.	
44	Mr. Bikash Mohanta	Vision2020-India	
45	Mr. Viral Purohit	viral no-20.	
46	Mr. Ganesh	Eye Bank association of India, ebai@vsnl.net	
47	Mr. Manoj Tiwari		
48	Mr. N.C. Dandia		
49	Mr. Naresh Gulati	EDSR, Jaipur	
50	Mr. PKM Swamy	Vision2020-India	
51	Mr. R.S.Bhandari		
52	Mr. Sirish Modi		
53	Mr. Sunil Ahuja		
54	Mr. Sunil Fudke	Mahatma Eye Bank.	
55	Mr. Suresh Mehta		
56	Mr. Tariq Khan	Jafarwala Hospital	
57	Mr. V.C.Sacheti		
58	Mr. V.V. Srinivas Rao		
59	Mrs. Bhauna Jagwani	EDSR Jaipur	
60	Mrs. Modi		
61	Mrs. Puspa Mehta		
	Bareilly Jese	CNCC, Delhi	
62.	Kamlesh Guba	ORBITS	
63.	Dr. Rajesh Mehta	Chitrakut.	
64	v. Jyoti	VEI	

SUNITA GODHA		E. B. S. R JAI PUS	Subs. Club.
AJAY DAVE		VEIRC	A →
62	Mrs. Puspa Sacheti		
63	Mrs. Usha Bhandari		
64	Ms Tanuja Joshi	EBAI	
65	Ms. Ira Sharma	EBSR, Rajasthan	Jainp
66	Nandakumar Dave, Chennai Ph: 044-28553840 / 26211060	Lions Eye Bank/Trust Marshall Road, Egmore Chennai-600 008 [nr_dave@yahoo.com]	Dr. Dave
67	Prof Arun Agarwal	LNGP	
68	Prof. Das	GNEC	
69	Sunita Kapoor		
70	Swapna Dogra		
71		From G.B. Panth Eye Hospital	
72	J.S. Mahay	Punjab Eye Bank of Punjab.	J. Mahay
73	S.B. TELKAR	ORBIS INDIA C-10, G. Park N. Delhi	Dr. Telkar
74	Shutal Kashyap	Venu Eye Instt. & R. Centre New Delhi - 17.	Shutal
75	Shaanti	ORBIS INDIA C-10, G Park, N Delhi	Shaanti
76	Neha	ORBIS, INDIA.	Neha
77	Kirti Tanwar	Program Manager ORBIS India kirti@orbisindia.org	Kirti
78	Tejima. H. Khan		
79	P. Umachand.	EBAI	Umachand
80	Dr GAURAV KATHEJA	VENU	GK
81	Jesdini Shome	Icone Eye bank	Jesdini
82	Dr Gauri Roshan Srinastan	Sulguru Netra Uchikshalya, Chitrakoot	Gauri Roshan
83	Dr. Sushil Kumar Tiwari	Sulguru Netra Uchikshalya	Sushil Kumar Tiwari