



# drushti daan

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## TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

'drushti daan Eye Bank' started in Bhubaneswar, Orissa in February 2002 as there was no eye bank in Orissa at that time. Awareness on eye donation was equal to nil. It was striving hard to promote eye donation.

In 2007, with the help of Operation Eye Sight Universal, Canada and L.V.Prasad Eye Institute, Bhubaneswar, 'drushti daan' became a State of the Art Community Eye Bank for the state of Orissa.

In 2008 a team from Sightlife USA visited drushti daan eye bank and having seen the potential for improvement and growth, it decided to enter into a partnership with it.

Sightlife USA and drushti daan Eye Bank partnership started from the year 2009. A MoU was signed in the year 2010 "to establish a long-term partnership to eliminate treatable corneal blindness in the area served, prioritizing the restoration of sight (bilateral) and providing equitable access."

This tie up was a great boost and help to drushti daan. Sightlife believes in helping their partners become financially self sustainable. It has been instrumental in making drushti daan eye bank work in a more professional manner. Appropriate training to all our eye bank staff has helped to improve their performance and as such the overall performance of the eye bank.

Sightlife's periodical meetings give insight into the functioning of other eye banks. This interaction helps in learning and developing new ways to improve performance. Their guidelines and SOPs have helped eye banks not only to improve in their functioning but also to have transparency. All activities are worked out within the legal frame work of organ collection. drushti daan too has benefited and its **collection of quality tissues and transplants have increased twenty fold since inception**. Sightlife also emphasises on equitable distribution of cornea in the community by proposing and strengthening a central distribution centre. This will help in quick and easy accessibility of quality corneas.

Though Sightlife is very reasonable and generous in their funding, it also ensures optimum utilization of the funds given to their partners.

Due to this partnership and support drushti daan Eye Bank's performance is the best amongst all the eye banks in the state of Orissa.

We believe that Sightlife's contribution and support will immensely benefit the Eye donation movement in India.

Dr. K. C. Padhy (M.S.)  
President  
Drushti daan 17/03/11