

SightLife India Activity Report

Introduction:

The main objectives of SightLife India is to foster and promote sight conservation, education and research into the causes and cures of blindness and also to promote rehabilitation programs for the sight impaired and to engage in programs and activities related to the above purposes. In addition to this, it supports Indian Eye Banks as partners to become scalable, sustainable and high quality organizations that can help eliminate treatable cornea blindness in India through cornea transplantation. The long-term goal is to support 100,000 cornea transplants annually by 2020.

During 2012-2013 multiple activities were adopted by SightLife India to move forward on the above objectives. Being our first full year of operations it was important that we establish operating activities and relations first, to ensure long term continuity. The activities achieved in 2012-2013 are as follows:

Key Activities accomplished since incorporation (Dec. 2011-May 2013)

ACTIVITY 1 –

Title: Eye Bank Association of India – SightLife India Memorandum of Understanding (EBAI-SLI MOU)

Date: 17th. May 2012.

Agreement Period: 2012-2017

Objectives:

- a) Build eye banking capacity to allow transplants for all people waiting for surgery in India and strive to provide government hospitals as many corneas as they want..
- b) Develop professional eye bank leaders and staff, through management and technical training and certification
- c) Assure high quality corneas through common standards and accreditation
- d) EBAI and SightLife India will jointly develop best practices / work on different models of HCRP including Public Private Partnership (PPP).
- e) EBAI and SightLife India agree to periodically jointly publish papers and research result based on learning and data analysis.

Outcome: The overall outcome of our collaborative effort has been very good and appreciated by many. Some of the activities where SightLife and EBAI worked together were:

1. Establishment of National Cornea Distribution System.
2. National Conference Calls: on Medical Improvements in Eye Banking
3. EBAI Continued Medical Education (CME) at Barrackpore, West Bengal on 22-23 Sept, 2012
4. Introduction of international long term storage media for preservation of cornea to over 10 days
5. Establishment of International Quality Standards and joint efforts in establishment of Accreditation Plan for Indian Eye Banks.

Future: EBAI and SightLife India to identify new projects for 2013-2015. It is expected there will be more work achieved in the areas of quality, education of eye bank staff, and identification of new geographic areas where the need for eye banking is most.

ACTIVITY 2 -

Title: New Eye Bank Manager's Training Workshop

Date and Venue: 4th June 2012, 9th-10th Oct 2012, 4th-5th March 2013/ New Delhi

Objective: To conduct induction program for the newly joined Eye Bank Managers from various partner eye banks and equip them with knowledge of eye banking and core set of skills so that they have an excellent opportunity to succeed and improve performance of their eye bank.

Participant Names and Designations:

Name of the Participant	Eye Bank and Location
Amit Haldhar	Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital, New Delhi
K. Saravanan	Rotary Aravind International Eye Bank, Madurai
Preeti Tyagi	Eye Bank Society of Rajasthan, Jaipur
G. Radhakrishna	Mohsin Eye Bank, Vishakhapatnam
Subramanian SVG	C U Shah Eye Bank, Chennai
Shankha Twayna	Nepal Eye Bank, Kathmandu
Kishan Reddy	Ramayamma International Eye Bank, Hyderabad
Priyanka Swami	Eye Bank Society of Rajasthan, Jaipur
Shankha Twayna	Nepal Eye Bank, Kathmandu
Niladri Das	Drushti-Daan Eye Bank, Bhubaneswar
Navajit Deb	Lion's International Eye Bank, Bangalore
Lemlem Ayale	Eye Bank of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa
Ellen Lagan	Santa Lucia International Eye Bank of Manila, Manila
Leo Cubillan	Santa Lucia International Eye Bank of Manila, Manila
Surya Vasireddy	Ramayamma International Eye Bank, Hyderabad

Activity Report: Basic Eye Bank Management skills training was imparted through lecture, presentations and group activities in the following areas:

Outcome: The participants benefitted by taking notes, by comparing with their previous experience and by contemplating how they may want to utilize key leanings at their own eye banks. Participant's remarks in the Workshop Evaluation Forms clearly indicated that SightLife has indeed provided them with essential skills and enhanced understanding of their roles and they felt more confident about carrying out their duties and improving the performance of their eye banks.

Future: Since the objective of the above training programs was to transfer core eye bank management skills to the new managers, there is a need to conduct an on-going assessment of their performance and areas for further training.

Photographs:



First Eye Bank Managers Retreat was held on June 4, 2012 at Dr. Shroff Charitable Eye Hospital, Daryaganj, New Delhi. 7 managers from all over India attended the workshop (see list above).



New Managers with Eye Donation Counselors at LNJP Hospital, Delhi during March 4-5, 2013 Workshop

ACTIVITY 3 -

Title: July Managers Retreat (JMR)

Date and Venue: 12th to 14th July 2012, New Delhi.

Objective: To provide advanced training to Eye Bank Managers on professional and personal development skills.

Participants: In total 16 people from 10 eye banks from various parts of India attended the Training.

Outcome: Rapid annual growth of over 20% for eye banks

Future Actions: Continue organizing similar training retreats for Eye Bank Managers and Asst. Managers annually.



Picture shows participants in a working session during the JMR.



Picture shows participants at JMR listening as Brian Washburn deliver a lecture.

ACTIVITY 4 -

Title: Paper on “Reinvigorating Eye Banking in India” submitted to National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB)/Ministry of Health

Objective: Mr. Keshav Desiraju (Health Secretary) and Ms. Sujaya Krishnan (Joint Secretary) of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India requested SightLife in collaboration with EBAI to prepare an assessment on Reinvigorating Eye Banking in India.

Participants: SightLife (SL) and Eye Bank Association of India (EBAI)

Activity Report and outcome: The request was initiated by Mr. Desiraju and Ms. Krishnan in March 2012. In order to compose the assessment we looked at the whole gamut of Eye Banks in India and their performance over multiple years. We also studied the current state and evolution of eye banks in other parts of the world capturing best practices and development patterns. We finally submitted our assessment as a whitepaper entitled “Reinvigorating Eye Banking in India” on 31st July 2012.

Future Actions: Publish the paper in recognized journals and other avenues.

ACTIVITY 5–

Title: Delhi Centralized Hospital Corneal Retrieval Programme - Memorandum of Understanding (DCHCRP MOU)

Date and Venue: New Delhi

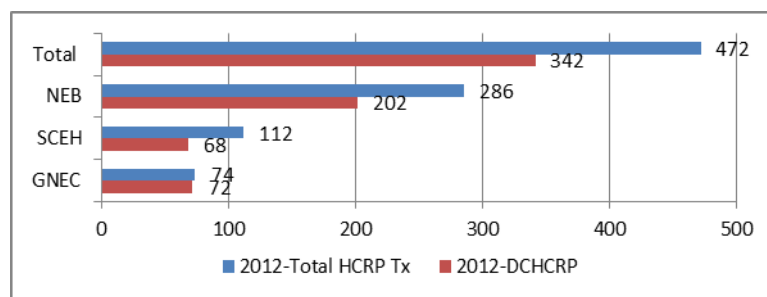
Objective: To eliminate treatable corneal blindness in Delhi NCR region

Partner:

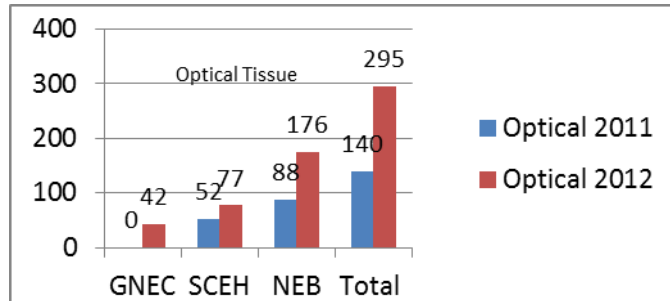
DCHCRP is a Public– Private partnership (PPP) between: 1. AIIMS, Dr. R.P. Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences, Delhi, 2. Dr. Shroff’s Charity Eye Hospital, 3. Guru Nanak Eye Centre, Delhi Govt. and 4. SightLife India

The MOU became effective from 30th May 2012 and is effective till December 31, 2013.

Outcome: SightLife has sponsored 10 Eye Donation Counselors to work in six large government hospitals. All counselors report to a dedicated manager for day to day monitoring. This has led to a more focused based approach for eye banks to solve Delhi’s cornea shortage problem. Out of the total 472 hospital donor Transplants done by three partner eye banks in 2012 , 72% i.e. 342 transplants were done by DC HCRP from July 2012 – Dec. 2012



Optical Tissue Growth in 2012: Increase of 110% in number of Optical Tissues in 2012



In 2012, 9 surgeries were done in one day by Dr. Ritu Arora, GNEC using corneas recovered through DCHCRP. In March 2013, Dr. Namrata Sharma at R.P.Centre did record 12 surgeries in one day and 22 surgeries in 24 hours by R.P.Centre, AIIMS.

Future: To ensure the project is sustained beyond December 2013. Also this project will act as prototype for similar projects to be adopted in different large cities of India.

Pictures:



SightLife Delhi Project Eye Donation Counselors along with staff of LNJP Hospital (Delhi Govt.)



Dr. Ritu Arora (standing center, yellow dress), GNEC (Government of NCT of Delhi) with 12 patients

ACTIVITY 6 -

Title: “Skills Transfer Training: Cornea Transplant WetLab Surgical Training Course at the Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology”

Date/ Venue: January 17, 2013/ Hitec Convention Centre, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh

Objective: To increase interest in DSEK (Descemet’s Stripping Endothelial Keratoplasty) across the Asia-Pacific region by providing hands-on training to corneal surgeons.

Participant Names:

Trainers:

Dr Michael Belin, *Professor of Ophthalmology, University of Arizona, US*

Dr Samar Basak, *Director, Disha Eye Hospitals, Barrackpore*

Dr Prashant Garg, *Director (Education), L.V. Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad*

Dr Pravin Vaddavalli, *Head (Cataract & Refractive Surgery and Contact Lens Services), L.V. Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad*

Dr W. Barry Lee, *Clinical Instructor at Emory School of Med. in the Dept of Surgical Anatomy, Dr Audrey Talley Rostov, Northwest Eye Surgeons, Seattle, US*

Activity Report: SightLife in conjunction with the Cornea Society organized training in DSEK at the joint meeting of the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology and the All India Ophthalmology Society meeting in Hyderabad on January 17, 2013.

Outcome: All the trainee corneal surgeons have returned with interest in building up expertise in DSEK.

Future Action Plan: “It was exciting to participate in the workshop and the response clearly suggests that we must plan to have similar workshops but outside large meetings,” said Dr Garg. The next session is planned for July 2013 in Aravind Eye Care System, Pondicherry.



ACTIVITY 7 –

Title: SightLife Annual Meeting

Date and Venue: 1- 2nd March, 2013

Objective: To gather for the purposes of training and celebration SightLife's 14 partner eye banks (12 India eye banks) from around the world, along with guest eye banks from Sri Lanka, Philippines, and the US. Honored guests also included NPCB and AIIMS officials.

Honored Guests: *(Please see invite card)*

1. Ms. Sujaya Krishnan, Secretary, NPCB
2. Dr. N.K. Agrawal, Deputy Director General, NPCB
3. Professor Rajvardhan Azad, Medical Chief, R.P. Centre, AIIMS

Activity Report: Attending SightLife Partner India Eye Banks supported almost 8,000 corneal transplants, with total eye banks attending supporting over 20,000 transplants, one of the largest gatherings of eye banks in the world, based on transplant volume. India eye banks had a very successful year in 2013, with over 15% average internal growth.

The meeting provided two days of training, best practice sharing and celebration of results.



Ms. Sujaya Krishnan (Secretary, NPCB) presenting an award to Moshin Eye Bank manager, G. Radhakrishna, for his excellence in leading the eye bank to achieving over 80% annual growth.

Outcome: The meeting is resulting in higher levels of training, best practices exchanges and overall collaboration on eye banking both within India and internationally, resulting in more patients with restored sight in India

Future: This annual meeting is planned for 2014 and beyond, based on its success