

CHILDREN'S EYE CARE CENTRE AT SNC

Development of the Centre

SNC is one of the longest eye care program in the developing world and it enjoys tremendous co-operation from local community and government. The hospital service reaches a population of over 40 million in the Central Indian states of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The hospital's eye care focus was Cataract until it enters into a Strategic association with ORBIS in 2000. The association identified Pediatric eye care as one of the core demands in the community and implemented Community Based Child Eye Care Project in the year 2002.

The project enabled SNC to develop its Pediatric Human resources through Hospital Based Training Programs, reaching out to the children suffering from eye problems and procuring necessary equipments as recommended by WHO/IAPB.

However, lack of availability of quality eye care at an affordable cost and access to pediatric eye care services remain a critical challenge in rural areas. IAPB / SEAR recommendations that visually impairment among children depends on poor economic conditions and the lack of pediatric eye care services in Central India conceptualized the need for setting up a dedicated Children's eye care centre at SNC. This centre would be able to address the challenges of Childhood Blindness not only in Madhya Pradesh but also in the entire Central India.

Magnitude of the problem

India houses the highest number of blind children in the world, 50% of which can either be prevented or treated. The cumulative loss to India's Gross National Product due to preventable and curable Childhood Blindness is estimated to be around Rs. 400 billion. However, the country has insufficient pediatric eye care facilities and inadequately trained pediatric eye care personnel to address the issues of Childhood Blindness. Very few eye hospitals in the country have pediatric sub-speciality and most of these are located in South India. While childhood blindness has become a significant public health challenge in central Indian states like Madhya Pradesh, there is not even one such tertiary pediatric eye care facility as recommended by IAPB / WHO (IAPB/WHO, Scientific Meeting, 2000).

Treatment Facilities

The Children's Eye Care Centre (CECC) at SNC is equipped to deliver comprehensive Pediatric Eye Care to provide treatment for all eye problems. This Centre built up in 7500 sq. ft. becomes the first such facility in Central India with the state-of-the-art facilities specially designed for children.

The facility has been made possible with the support of ORBIS International (a global eye care organization). The Centre has very well trained Ophthalmologists Dr. Kuldeep Srivastava, Head of the Centre and Dr. Shailendra S. Rajput. Dr. Kuldeep has got 5 years of professional and academic experience at Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai and has been a Volunteering Faculty for ORBIS International and Dr. Shailendra has completed his fellowship from LVPEI, Hyderabad. These two surgeons with specially trained pediatric Orthoptists, Ophthalmic Assistants, Nurses and Counselors form the pillar of service delivery benefitting numerous poor children from the underserved population. The Pediatric services are reached out to the rural population through Community Ophthalmology Services including School eye screening program, Child outreach camps and Health education program.

Inauguration of Children's Eye Care Centre:

Honorable Chief Minister Shri Babulal Gaur inaugurated the Centre on December 4, 2004. He expressed appreciation to the development of the centre which provides a land mark to the State in eye care services and hoped that this facility would be able to remove the sufferings of thousands of children suffering from avoidable Childhood Blindness.

ORBIS India Director Dr. G.V. Rao graced the occasion and expressed the hope that the Centre's facilities would rehabilitate many visually deprived children.

Facilities:

The Centre is equipped with specialized equipments to test vision of children of all ages, diagnostic and treatment facilities for all sort of pediatric eye problems.



OPD Waiting Area



OPD Playing area

Service Delivery: (October 2002-January 2005)

<i>Outpatient examined</i>	11172
<i>Spectacles distributed</i>	3478
<i>Surgeries performed</i>	1449
<i>School screening screened</i>	163996
<i>Health Education program</i>	7969

Future focus:

- ✚ Opening of Vision Rehabilitation services
- ✚ Providing support with Vitreo-retinal services

- ✚ Health Education programs to sensitize the public on preventive and promotive eye care
- ✚ School Eye Care program in Rural Villages
- ✚ Start Fellowship in Pediatric Ophthalmology



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