

Workshop on  
Advocacy in Eye Care  
Pondicherry October 16-18, 2008

## Cataract Uptake: What limits service delivery?

Abu Raihan MD, MPH  
ORBIS International  
Bangladesh



## Blindness Situation in Bangladesh

- > 1.53% of population over 30 years are blind
- > 750,000 blind persons in the country
  - 600,000 due to cataract alone (80%)
  - 120,000 new cases/year
- > 40,000 children blind; one third of them are due to cataract

(Ref: National Blindness and Low Vision survey 2000)



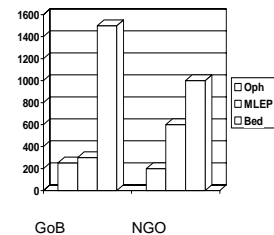
## Causes of Blindness

- > Cataract
- > Childhood Blindness
- > Corneal scarring (Infection and Trauma)
- > Diabetic Retinopathy and ARMD
- > Glaucoma



## Service delivery : Infrastructure

- > **Government has the largest infrastructure**  
(250 ophthalmologists, 300 MLOPs & 1500 hospital beds)
- > **NGOs are the largest performer**  
(200 ophthalmologists, 400 MLOPs & 1000 hospital beds)



Ref: Eye Care Capacity Assessment 2006

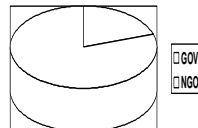


## Current Performance

145,000 cataract surgery performed in 2007.

**CSR= 1000/milion pop/year**

Performance Ratio between Gov. & NGO: 20:80



Ref: National performance data 2007




## Need for cataract surgery by Division

Division	Cataract blind now	Cataract blind new
Dhaka	154,560	28,000
Chittagong	153,990	30,000
Rajshahi	150,120	30,000
Khulna	118,040	23,000
Barisal	99,300	20,000
Sylhet	49,560	10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>602,480</b>	<b>120,000</b>


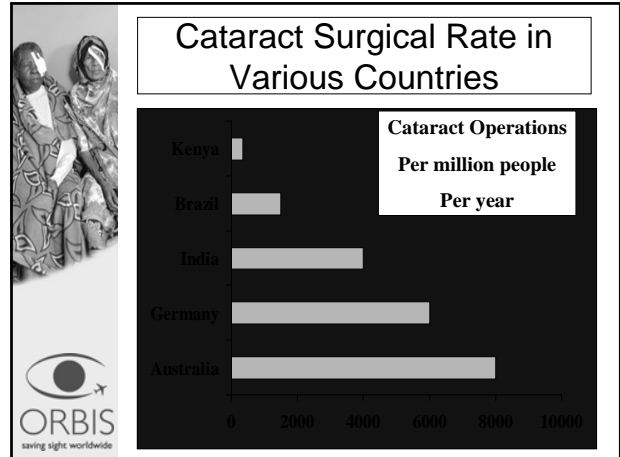

Minimum number of additional cataract operations needed yearly to prevent backlog from increasing further







## Required CSR 2500 for Bangladesh

- At least 2500 cataract surgeries /million pop/year to be performed in order to clear the cataract backlog within next 3 years.
- This translates to a total of 320,000 cataract operations annually
- This is also important to clear the backlog of a simple disease before other very sophisticated disease like DR and ARMD emerge. Otherwise, total blindness will increase further.



## Factors Limiting Performance “Supply Side”

- Service is not located at the place where majority people live (80:20 divided rule)
- Half of the ophthalmologists do not practice surgery
- High cost of surgery (unit cost is higher due to lesser number)
- Equipment, IOLs and supplies are imported from other countries and, hence, are expensive



## Factors Limiting Performance “Supply Side”

- Government does not provide financial support to NGOs who deliver most
- No supply of IOL and medicine at the government hospitals
- Hospitals do not set annual target for cataract surgery
- Too much of donor dependency


## Low output per eye doctor! (250 surgery per ophthalmologists/year)


- Lack of case finding of cataract cases
- Lack of dedicated theatre for cataract surgery
- Lack of surgical instrument sets
- Lack of support staff for eye doctor
- Mindset of Ophthalmologists!!!

## Factors Limiting Performance “Demand Side”


- Low awareness on the eye health
- High cost of service- affordability
- Inaccessibility- hospitals are not nearby
- Poor quality of surgical outcome
- No accompanying person for the blind
- Fear- too old/too young (pediatric cataract) to operate



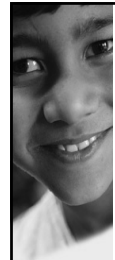


## Barriers to surgery

- Two problems
  - The blind cannot see and stay at home
  - We stay in our clinics and do not see the blind!
- Barriers to surgery
  - A – Awareness (lack of)
  - B – Bad service
  - C – Cost
  - D – Distance
  - E – Expectation (lack of)




**ORBIS**  
saving sight worldwide

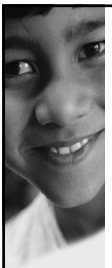


## Solutions to low uptake by patients

BARRIERS	SOLUTIONS
A –Awareness (lack of)	Health education
B –Bad service	Monitor outcomes
C –Cost	Sx free/ subsidized
D –Distance	Outreach surgery
E –Expectation (lack of)	Health education




**ORBIS**  
saving sight worldwide



## Some initiatives taken by ORBIS that are proven to be effective in reducing cataract blindness

- Linking eye care with micro-credit
- Introducing Health Insurance scheme for the poor
- Demand side financing in eye care- (this year WSD press release)



**ORBIS**  
saving sight worldwide

# Thank You