




Ophthalmic Assistant



Mid Level Ophthalmic Professionals of Nepal

A Case Study




G P Pokharel MD, MPH
Kathmandu, Nepal

11/16/2009

Ophthalmic Assistant

Ophthalmic Assistant is a Mid level Ophthalmic Health Professional considered as a back bone of eye care service delivery system in Nepal



11/16/2009






History

- The need of this cadre of human resource was conceptualized in 1980 and started it's first batch of training in 1981.





11/16/2009

History

- First batch of 46 trainees were selected from among 720 candidates
- Primarily from rural area
- Eye Hospitals and Primary Eye care Centres



11/16/2009

Aim and objectives

- Provide efficient human resource to support Ophthalmologists in providing eye care services at the Secondary /Tertiary levels of the eye care delivery system.
- Provide appropriate human resource to deliver primary/secondary eye care services at the Primary Eye Care Centres.
- Plan and carry out community eye care programmes



11/16/2009

Brief Job Description of OAs



- Diagnose and initiate treatment/appropriate management to all common eye problems including refractive errors (blinding and potentially blinding condition)
- Recognize and refer to ophthalmologist those conditions which require more sophisticated care.
- Organize and run outreach activities such as screening camp, school health programme, primary eye care training, etc.
- Impart primary eye health education for health promotion and prevention of preventable eye diseases.

11/16/2009


- Select and prepare patients for surgery who require intra-ocular surgery.
- Assist the Ophthalmologist in ophthalmic surgeries.
- Carry out postoperative management of the operated eye patient.
- Perform eyelid and other specified extra ocular surgery.
- Perform practical procedures involved in examination, investigation and treatment of common eye problems

11/16/2009





- Manage an eye clinic including record keeping, and supplies.
- Supervise primary eye care personnel.
- Refraction and appropriate optical dispensing
- Perform basic clinical Low Vision Assessment and prescribe necessary interventions
- Ensure preventive maintenance and assure working condition of all type of instruments, equipment used in eye care.
- perform patient counseling and service marketing in eye care

11/16/2009




Curriculum




- 1981 – three months of intensive theory. Additional three years of on the job training
- Reviewed by Drs. Para, Madan Mohan and P K Khosla
- Prof Khosla - manual

11/16/2009




Curriculum-Revised




- Ist year – Basic sciences and diseases of the eye
- IInd year – Optics and refraction, community ophthalmology, systemic diseases, examination and surgical techniques
- IIIrd year – General ophthalmology, practical optics, field visits, HE, hospital/PEC management, maintenance

11/16/2009




Examinations




- Annual exam + final exam
- Certification by CTEVT
- Manual revised by Prof Karmacharya

11/16/2009




Training Centers



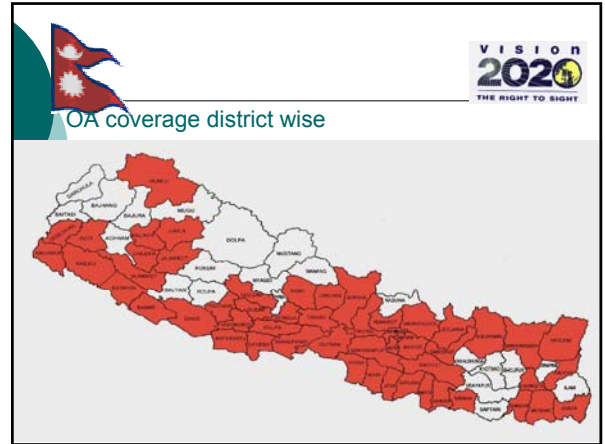
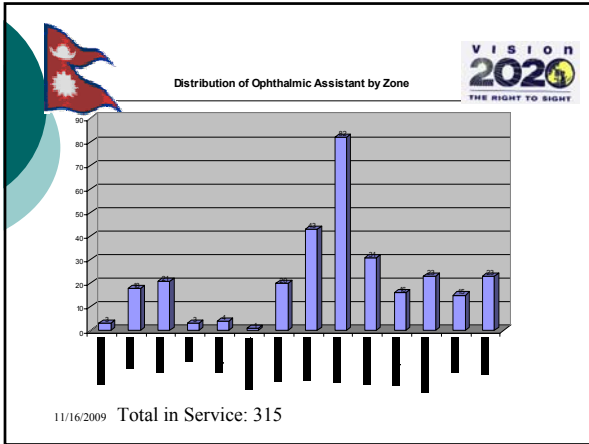
Training Centers Annual Production

- Tilganga Eye Center
- Himalaya Eye Hospital, PKR
- Lumbini Eye Institute 15
- Sagarmatha Chaudhary Eye Hospital Lahan

Annual Average 55



11/16/2009



VISION
2020
THE RIGHT TO SIGHT

Suggested Human Resource Norms

S. No.	Types of Human Resource	Tertiary Level	Secondary level	Population Ratio
1.	General Ophthalmologist	4	4	1: 100000
2.	Ophthalmologist with Specialty	6	2	1:250000
3.	Hospital Manager (Professionally Trained)	2	1	90 % of hospital
4.	Ophthalmic Assistant (General)	20	20	1:25000 = 1000
5.	Ophthalmic Assistant (with specialty in eye banking, contact lens, Optical dispensing, Low vision etc	10	5	
11/16/2009				

VISION
2020
THE RIGHT TO SIGHT

Projection of future needs

- To be trained: 1,500 additional OAs in 10 years by 2020.
- Annual Average should be at least 100.
- So existing training capacity of 40 to 60 OAs need to be doubled or tripled to meet the goal of vision 2020.

11/16/2009

VISION
2020
THE RIGHT TO SIGHT

OA Association

To consolidate and to thrive them professionally a Professional body "Nepal Ophthalmic Assistant Society" was formed in 2048.

- Now there is a 19 member national executive body which meets in every three months

11/16/2009

VISION
2020
THE RIGHT TO SIGHT

Situation Analysis of OA's Profession

Career ladder
Specialty training in Community Ophthalmology, Public Health, OT, Counseling, Bio-engineering, orthoptics, Optometry, Refraction, contact lens, Hospital management)

- Academic Recognition of training
 - As Intermediate in Ophthalmology or Health Science
- There is no norms and post in the government health care delivery system
- Non uniformity in training system

11/16/2009



Conclusion and recommendation

- Establishment of Monitoring and quality assurance mechanism in OA Training Programme of the country
- Uniformity and standardization of Training Programme
- Academic Recognition for all Ophthalmic Assistants.



11/16/2009



- Equal opportunity to ophthalmic human resource for career development by the Ministry of Health
- Provision of CME courses for OAs to upgrade their knowledge with recent advancement of Ophthalmology
- Creation of post for MLOP at district and sub-district health care system

11/16/2009