

Article

Tele-Ophthalmology Rural Outreach Services (Toros)

Raj Siddiquie

Complex House No-(32/28), ASI Nagar, Nagpur-440 017 MLMS, Nagpur, India. E-mail: mstudycircle@rediffmail.com or manavsevadrushti@yahoo.com. Tel.: 0091+9373107744,0091+712-3251707.

Accepted 28 April, 2008

Cooperation it is a humble request to the readers of NGO journals. To make this eradication of childhood programme a successful mission kindly donate for this cause as Manavseva Trust is expecting to expand this mission to reach to more children's in rural area. The trust is having FCRA AC No. 050000 0100341741 INR PNB (Indora) Nagpur India. The names will be included in the list of generous donors. The donors will also get certificates and Income tax Exemption for the donation.

INTRODUCTION

For over 45 million people in the world, sight is a myth. Their world is confined to the limits of an unending darkness, of which half are in India alone. Unfortunately, nearly 80% of them suffer from preventable blindness that is never treated or if done so..... its too late. Though there are several governmental and non-governmental organizations making serious effort to treat blindness but almost all of them are involved in cataract projects and unfortunately childhood blindness is left in abeyance for want of attention. Though children comprise only 1.5 million of the total count of 45 million blind, childhood blindness is baleful when measured in terms of the years of blindness. By waging a war against childhood blindness, of which 50% can be cured before it gets incorrigible with age, the problem of the visually impaired citizens of the world can be decimated. Moreover, many cause which leads to blindness among children viz. Vitamin A, Measles, Rubella and Meningitis which further leads to child mortality, can be prevented by vaccinations and other health care measures. "THE RIGHT TO SIGHT." Initiated by the World Health Organisation (WHO) aims to reduce the global prevalence rate of childhood blindness from 0.75 to 0.4 per 1000 children by the year 2020. Though, it sounds tough...but together we can make it possible. To palliate the pain of this problem in the areas covered by us, we at MANAVSEVA CRUSADE AGAINST CHILDHOOD BLINDNESS.

ABOUT US

Manavseva Lokalyan Mahasangh has close association with various governmental and social welfare and research organizations (ISRO) (ICMR) (SAARC) (Ministry of Health) (WHO), foundations and public.

OUR MISSION

The prime objective of this mission is to prevent and reduce blindness resulting from various disorders in the eye among the children. The specific objectives of the projects are:

1. Eye health promotion: Mass awareness and public education
 - (a) To create awareness in the community on various disorders in the eye among the children in the rural areas.
 - (b) To create awareness among general physician, medical specialist and Ophthalmologists in the rural areas on the epidemic.
2. Prevention and treatment
 - (a) To screen and dapple children with eye problems in the rural population understudy.
 - (b) To specifically analyze various eye disorders and appropriate treatment.

THE EXECUTION

This enormous project of social health will be made possible with the help of National Program for Control of Blindness, Indian Medical Association, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Foundation. The driving force stems from each and every person in this humanitarian project, the committed staff, which will conduct the eye camps, the highly trained and dedicated surgical teams, and sensitive and caring post-operative staff.

The incorporeal success of the project lies in the smiles of the people, who are able to see again, but then, the

efficacy of the project lies in the involvement of the Philanthropists, Industrialists, Financial Institutions, Community oriented welfare organizations and every spirited citizen of the society. The project will receive liberal donations from industrial and business houses, financial institutions, foundations, community-oriented welfare organizations and public to make this project meaningfully successful.

This project undertaken by us will be confined to just three blocks of the Nagpur district rural and tribal areas initially. After successful completion, the same will be extended to other parts of district and rural and tribal parts of Vidarbha and Maharashtra.

ACTIVITIES TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL

- (a) School eye screening camps at villages.
- (b) Special pediatric eye screening camps at slums orphanages and at other public places in the villages.
- (c) Publicity and advertisement for the promotion of the project.
- (d) Health awareness programme.
- (e) These activities will be carried out on the routine manner among the rural and tribal areas.
- (f) Free pediatric outpatient department at proposed Manavseva Crusade Eye Hospital at Nagpur.

OUR ROLE

- (a) Manavseva Lokalyan Mahasangh's Crusade, International Satellite Eye Hospital of 600 beds at Nagpur with well equipped out patients department and operation theatre complex to perform 100 surgeries per day.
- (b) Manavseva Lokalyan Mahasangh's Crusade, International Satellite Eye Hospital will have full fledged eye bank.
- (c) Manavseva Lokalyan Mahasangh's Crusade, International Satellite Eye Hospital will provide technical, infrastructural and administrative support to the project and management through Telemedicine.
- (d) Manavseva Lokalyan Mahasangh's Crusade, International Satellite Eye Hospital will have 11 full time ophthalmologists, 65 paramedical and 30 administrative staff to carry out the project in an effective and efficient manner.
- (e) Manavseva Lokalyan Mahasangh's Crusade, International Satellite Eye Hospital will be recognized by National programme for Control of Blindness, Government of Maharashtra, Ministry of Health, Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, Maulana Abul Kalam

Azad Foundation, IMA, AIIMS and IMC to carry out its SIGHT FIRST program. "Telefilm on Eradication of Childhood Blindness".

- (f) Manavseva Lokalyan Mahasangh's will arrange for a space capacity of approximately 44,000 sq ft for the proposed project. This will be connected with Manavseva Lifeline Mobile Hospital (BUSSES) connected to all dis-

tricts of Maharashtra through satellite in association with ISRO.

Welcome to the world of remote Ophthalmology TOROS. Using this service, a well equipped Tele-Ophthalmic Bus will take high tech Ophthalmic services at the doorstep of the patients living in any corner of the country. A patient living in a remote village can now have access to the latest Ophthalmic care just like the person living in Metropolis. All this is made possible by the Telebus and toros.

The telebus reaches the patient's village and the patient is examined by an Ophthalmologists with the latest equipment including the digital imaging system. The telebus establishes a connection with a base hospital hundreds of kilometers away using the latest technology and the chief Ophthalmologists in Nagpur examines the patient hundreds of kilometers away. Based on this remote eye examination, the doctor at the base hospital is able to provide his expertise to the rural patients saving valuable time in travel. The images can be stored in digital format for further follow-ups.

Tele-Ophthalmology is also used for teaching, live surgical demonstrations and day-to-day management of remote centers. The whole Tele-Ophthalmology system including the bus has been made possible because of a very generous donation by MNRI.

Project sustainability

This project will be continued in successive years with increase targets of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh with financial support of Manavseva Lokalyan Mahasangh's Crusade, International Satellite Eye Hospital and generous donations from public, charitable foundations, industrial and business houses.