

# SIGHT CARE MODEL TO REACH MILLIONS AT THE BOTTOM OF PYRAMID

Presentation by  
Dr.K.Prabhakar,Professor,SRM University



# FACTS

- There are four levels of visual function
  - normal vision
  - moderate visual impairment
  - severe visual impairment
  - blindness.
- Low Vision
- Visually Impaired
- 285 million people are estimated to be visually impaired worldwide.
  - 80% of all visual impairment can be avoided or cured.

Reference:

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs282/en/>

# Visual Impairment

Globally uncorrected refractive errors( myopia, hyperopia , astigmatism and presbyopia ;43% of total visual impairment) cause multidimensional deprivation. Sixty five percent of visually impaired people are above 50 years; causing loss of livelihood.

## Human Resources Required

- There are 12,000 Ophthalmologists and 8,000 Optometrists are available in India.
- The need for Optometrists is 40,000 for correcting refractive errors.

# Human Resources

- Men and women who completed 12 years of school education. There are three tier sequential courses are offered in bilingual (Tamil and English).
- Vision Care Technician ( Three months) (course certificate given by Sight Care Foundation)
- Eye Technician ( one year)
- Diploma in Optometry (two Years)
- The second and third courses are certified by Bharath Seva Samaj.
- The courses are one time and the vision care technicians are eligible for the next stage. The vision care technicians are employed in optical shops where the glasses are generally dispensed. The model suggested can be effectively operated from the home of the (VCT).
- They are trained to conduct awareness programmes in churches, schools, anganwadis and urban and rural slums, this access to service is provided.

# Monitoring and Evaluation

- The utility of the service is consistently monitored by Sight Care foundation. Ninety percent of the new patients are from referrals.

- Feasibility

Trial Box                      1500

Retinoscope                15000

Chart                         100

- Ready Spectacles      9000 (50 numbers)
- The total investment is twenty five thousand and six hundred. The 50 spectacles may be sold for 15,000/- ( each spectacle for three hundred) and a gross profit of 6,000 may be achieved every month if fifty spectacles are sold every month on an average. Propriety is ensured by conducting the operations legally. All certifications are according to norms of the state.
- The candidates take an ethical pledge not to practice quackery and solve only the issues that are within their competency and refer cases ophthalmologist in case question.
- Forms are designed to give appropriate information to patients for further eye care.

# Cost Effectiveness and Sustainability

- The health care intervention is cost effective as patient from rural area has to spend for to travel and loss of wages to the tune of seven hundred fifty for prescription. However, he or she will be able to get a spectacle for three hundred rupees. The fifty spectacles design to nudge him or her to make a decision.
- The model is sustainable as it provides employment to rural youth and six outlets are in operation. The model is designed for scalability and replication. Andhra, Tamilnadu and Odissa are the states in which the model is already in operation.











# Thank you