

Report on World Sight Day Celebrations- 2006

Introduction

The “World Sight Day” is organized on 2nd Thursday of October every year since 2000. This year it fell on 12th October, 2006. For the past six years, a theme on an important aspect of eye care is selected every year so that the theme gets adequate coverage, and activities are organized at all levels focusing on those themes. Themes for the last six years on the occasion of the “World Sight Day” were as follows:

- 2000* Identifying and correcting refractive errors in the school children.
- 2001* Gifts of sight to the aged – IOL.
- 2002* Providing eye care to the underserved population.
- 2003* Save Children from Visual Impairment & Blindness.
- 2004* Improved Community Participation for Eye Care through Public Private -Partnership (New Delhi).
- 2005* Sight for kids (Hyderabad).

For This year (2006), The international Theme for the “World Sight Day” was Low Vision and the National Theme was “Prevention and Control of Diabetic Retinopathy”.

The main **objectives** of the celebrations were:

- Awareness on Blindness due to “Diabetic Retinopathy”.
- Community approach to tackle “Diabetes & Diabetic Retinopathy”.
- Enhance the role of NGOs, National & International, and Professional bodies in Diabetic Retinopathy.
- Make aware the role of Physicians in tackling Diabetes Mellitus.
- Low Vision Aids in Diabetic Retinopathy patients.

As done in previous years, following activities were planned and undertaken at the central level and state level: Besides, one unique thing this year was that 600 hundreds districts were advised to observe WSD by allocation of one lakh each with NPCB as the major organizer at national level in association with vision 2020-india

- Press Meet on 9th October /release on the “World Sight Day” highlighting importance of Prevention , Control and Management of Blindness due to Diabetic Retinopathy.
- Broadcasting of Audio spots & Telecasting video spots on Diabetic Retinopathy.
- Panel discussion on Television, Radio with the Technical experts.
- Articles in the Newspapers by Technical experts.

- Special programme on “Kalyani” on Doordarshan.
- WSD celebrations in different parts of the Country (NGOs at state level/district level in association with their SBCS/DBCS)
- National Celebration in Chennai where National and International Organizations, Government Institutions, Professional Bodies participated along with State Programme Officers.

Main Celebrations Launched on 12th October 2006

The team in National Program for Control of Blindness, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India in association with VISION 2020India had planned World Sight Day Celebrations in a grand manner keeping two objectives in its agenda-

1. To give national coverage with public awareness strategies and
2. To have the prominent participation of Union Health Ministers and Politicians,.

To design and organize the celebration effectively, it had constituted a national committee that met in Chennai and Delhi and had come out with national, state and district level programs with respective financial allocations. While the final function is about to conclude in Chennai the state level functions were held in different parts of the country on 12th October. This year World Sight Day theme in India was “Diabetic Retinopathy”.

There was a press conference on 9th evening to brief media about World Sight Day as a partnership endeavor by Government of India and Vision 2020 India .

Government of India had also published a nation wide advertisement on World Sight Day on 12th October in all leading daily news papers across the country.

(a) We in VISION 2020-India in N.E.W.S

Many of our VISION 2020-India member organizations celebrated the World Sight Day in their respective areas, in association with their local government partners. What followed was news that flew in on celebrations from our members in different corners of India.

Shikshit Yuva Sewa Samiti, Basti, Uttar Pradesh

Shikshit Yuva Sewa Samiti, Basti, Uttar Pradesh had celebrated the World Sight day on 12th October, and people with disabilities, their parents and guardians, teachers and general public attended the function. On the Previous day i.e. 11th October, Shikshit had conducted awareness programme on Diabetic Retinopathy through pamphlets, audio–video aids and news letters. Congratulations to Shikshit Family on the grand celebration in the most deserving state of UP.

दैनिक "सहारा" दिनांक 13-10-06

दृष्टिहीनता निवारण के लिए जनसंपर्क

सहारा न्यूज ब्यूरो

बस्ती, 12 अक्टूबर। विश्व दृष्टि दिवस के अवसर पर शिक्षित युवा सेवा समिति द्वारा जो कि दृष्टिहीनता को रोकथाम के प्रचार-प्रसार एवं कार्ययोजना बनाने हेतु बनाये गये राष्ट्रीय फोरम विजन 2020 इंडिया की सदस्य भी है के द्वारा रोकथाम की जा सकने वाली दृष्टिहीनता के लिए एक जनजागरण अभियान प्रारम्भ किया गया।

उक्त जानकारी देते हुए समिति के निदेशक गोपाल कृष्ण अग्रवाल ने बताया कि अभियान के अन्तर्गत इस वर्ष भारत सरकार द्वारा राष्ट्रीय दृष्टिहीनता निवारण कार्यक्रम में शामिल किये जाने वाली शुरुआत की बीमारी से होने वाली दृष्टिहीनता को शामिल किया गया है। इसी के

लिए विशेष प्रचार किया जा रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि देश में दो करोड़ से ज्यादा लोग सुगर की बीमारी से ग्रसते हैं। जिनमें काफी लोग यदि समय पर

विकलांग बच्चों के लिए मेजरमेंट कैंप आयोजित

छावनी (बस्ती), 12 अक्टूबर। विकास खंड विक्रमजीत के ब्लाक संसाधन केन्द्र छावनी पर जिला बालिक शिक्षाधिकारी बस्ती, डा. अरुण कुमार दूबे के निदेश पर विकलांग बच्चों हेतु मेजरमेंट कैंप सनाकर, मसीनें द्वारा तकनीकी विधि से परीक्षण किया गया। इस कैंप का संचालन जिला समन्वयक सुश्री विभा तिवारी द्वारा किया गया। इस कैंप में एलिव्को कानपुर एवं अल्पस दिल्ली से आये विशेषज्ञों द्वारा परीक्षण हुआ। परीक्षण में पाये गये पात्र बच्चों को उनके योग्य उपकरण वितरित किया जाएगा।

विकिसकीय जांच न करवाया जाय तो रेटिनेपैथी जैसे नेत्र रोगों से प्रभावित होकर दृष्टिहीनता के भी शिकार हो सकते हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त इस जागरूकता अभियान में मोतियाबिंद, आयरिशन, दृष्टिदोष को जांच एवं विटामिन ए की कमी से बच्चों में होने वाली नेत्र समस्याओं के प्रति भी जागरूक बनाया जाएगा।

जागरूकता अभियान में समिति के सभी विशेष अध्येतकों के साथ ही राजर्षि टंडन मुक्त विश्वविद्यालय दूरस्थ शिक्षा के माध्यम से एवं समिति के केन्द्र पर, अध्ययनरत सभी बी.एड. (विशेष) के छात्र, छात्राओंका सहयोग लिया जा रहा है।

Kutch Vikas Trust, Raidhanpur, Bhuj, Gujarat

Kutch Vikas Trust, Bhuj had observed World Sight Day, 2006 by conducting various awareness programmes to spread the message. Particularly the team from KVT visited several schools in Bhuj town and the surrounding villages to create the awareness on avoidable blindness in general public.

Gomabai Nethralaya & Research Centre, Neemuch, Madhya Pradesh

Gomabai Nethralaya & Research Centre, Neemuch in association with District Blindness Control Society, Sight Savers International, Lions Club, Rotary Club and Neemuch Cantt had celebrated the WSD on 12th October with following activities:



Public Awareness Rally was the highlight with the District Collector Mr. S.B. Singh, IAS who flagged off the rally. 500 students from NCC & NSS cadets were in uniform, holding boards & banners with slogans related to eye donation/eye care.

At the end, the Rally got converted into a huge meeting which was addressed by Chief Medical & Health Officer, Dr. Mittal, President Lions Club Mr. Arvind Chopra, President Rotary Club Mr. Omprakash Kabra & by coordination committee member of Gomabai Nethralaya & Research Centre Sh. Mohanlal Garg. In a the meeting representative from Mahaveer International Branch Chotti Sadri (a town 18 km from Neemuch) Distt. Chittorgarh (Raj.) Mr. Kantilal Dak was honored for his devoted services for the cause of Eye Donations in Chotti Sadri under banner of Mahaveer International.

A free Eye check-up camp for patients in the age group of 40 yrs and above was conducted & diabetic patients were screened at Gomabai Nethralaya & Research Centre premises between 9 AM to 3 PM on 12th Oct, 06. Of a total 174 patient screened, 75 patients for cataract surgeries and 4 patients of diabetic retinopathy were identified. Selected Cataract patients were operated free of cost at Gomabai Nethralaya & Research Centre on 18th Oct, 06.

Bollineni Eye Hospital & Research Centre, Dargamitta, Nellore, AP

Globe Eye Foundation - Bollineni Eye Hospital and Research Centre' Nellore commemorated 'World Sight Day' at Nellore in association with Lions Club of Nellore, District Blindness Control Society, Nellore and Cipla Foresight. The following activities were conducted on this occasion:



Poster Painting Competition for the school children of Nellore on 8 October 2006 was conducted at Sarada School premises in which 52 children from 16 schools participated. The theme for the Poster Painting competition was 'Showing the way for healthy living for the people with eye problems'. The winners of the competition were graded and awarded participation certificates that were given away by the local MLA.

- ❖ **A Community Screening Camp** was conducted in collaboration with Lions Club of Nellore and DBCS, in which 14 cataract patients were identified and operated at Bollineni Eye Hospital & Research Centre on the occasion.



WSD Awareness Rally on 12th Oct. Bollineni Eye Hospital & Research Centre, Lions Club of Nellore, District Blindness Control Society, Cipla Foresight, Students and teachers of various schools at Nellore participated in the WSD awareness procession that started from Gandhi Statue at 10.00 am and reached the meeting venue 'Town Hall' at 11.00 a.m. During the march, participants displayed World Sight Day banners and placards printed with eye health care and

awareness slogans on Diabetes & blindness prevention.

Eye Health Seminar at Town Hall

An Eye Health Seminar on World Sight Day was inaugurated at 11.00 a.m. at Town Hall, Nellore. Participants from Globe Eye Foundation – Bollineni Eye Hospital & Research Centre, Lions Club of Nellore, District Blindness Control Society, Cipla Foresight, School children and teachers and general public had participated in the seminar. At the concluding session of the celebrations, **Mr. Vivekananda Reddy**- Member of Legislative Assembly of Andhra Pradesh, Nellore who was the chief guest along with **Mr. Srinivasa Rao**, President of Lions Club of Nellore, **Dr. Manjulamma**, District Program Manager,



Dr. N. Sai Murali, Medical Director, Globe Eye Foundation – Bollineni Eye Hospital & Research Centre, Nellore, were on the dais. It was a very successful and grand celebration.

District Blindness Control Society, Nellore, **Dr. N. Sai Murali**, Medical Director, Globe Eye Foundation – Bollineni Eye Hospital & Research Centre, Nellore, were on the dais. It was a very successful and grand celebration.

నెయనం ఎంతో ప్రధానం: ఎమ్మెల్యే

(Eenadu daily 13, Oct. 06)

నెల్లూరుకల్చరల్, ఆక్టోబరు 12 (న్యూస్టుడే): అన్ని ఆవయవాల్లో కన్ను ఎంతో ముఖ్యమని, దీన్ని కాపాడుకునేందుకు జాగ్రత్త, అవగాహన అవసరమని నెల్లూరు శాసనసభ్యుడు ఆనం వివేకానందరెడ్డి అన్నారు. నెల్లూరు పురమండీరంలో గురువారం ప్రపంచ దృష్టి దినోత్సవ కార్యక్రమంలో ఆయన ప్రసంగించారు. లయన్స్ క్లబ్ ఆఫ్ నెల్లూరు, బొల్లినేని ఐ హాస్పిటల్, జిల్లా ఆంధ్రత్వ నివారణ సంఘం ఆధ్వర్యంలో ఈ కార్యక్రమం నిర్వహించారు. జిల్లా ఆంధ్రత్వ నివారణ సంస్థ జిల్లా పొగ్రాం మేనేజర్ డాక్టర్ మంజులమ్మ మాట్లాడుతూ కళ్లు లేని జీవితం దుర్భరమన్నారు. కార్యక్రమంలో బొల్లినేని ఐ హాస్పిటల్ డైరెక్టర్ సాయి మురళి, పరిపాలనాధికారి కె.ఆరుద్ర, లయన్స్ క్లబ్ నెల్లూరు అధ్యక్షుడు శ్రీనివాసరావు పాల్గొని ప్రసంగించారు.

Andhra Pradesh does it differently

State blindness Control Society, AP had organized WSD at Sarojini Devi Eye Hospital Hyderabad.

The State Health Minister Mr. Rossaiah had participated in the celebration and inaugurated screening for prevention of blindness in diabetics and also released some posters and booklets on emerging diseases. On the occasion an action plan to promote 500 Vision Centres at cost of 10 crores nearly by the year 2010 was accepted in principle.

Venu Eye Institute and Research Centre, New Delhi



On the 12th October afternoon Mr. Swamy, ED, VISION 2020-India participated in the World Sight Day function at Venu Eye Institute and Research Centre, New Delhi. On this occasion a group of Visually Impaired and Hearing Impaired persons were felicitated for their adventurous journey from Patiala to New Delhi on Tandem

Cycle sponsored by CBM. Dr. Jose, DDG (O) GOI, Dr. GV Rao, ORBIS International and Mr. Rajiv Williams, CBM joined the celebrations.

International Forum on Vision and Development

Mr. PKM Swamy, Executive Director, VISION 2020-India had also participated in the 3rd International Forum on Vision and Development organized jointly by UNESCO and ESSILOR on the occasion of the World Sight Day at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

WSD Celebrations end on 19th November 2006, in Chennai

The final ceremony of the World Sight Day 2006 was organized at IMAGE Auditorium, MRC Nagar in Chennai on 19th November 2006 from 7:30 AM to 8:00 AM.. VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – INDIA Department of Ophthalmology, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Government of India in association with, Tamilnadu State Blindness Control Society and Tamilnadu State Government celebrated in a big way.



(Dignitaries on the dais)

The celebrations commenced with a World Sight Day Rally on 19th morning. Mrs. Letika Saran, Commissioner of Police and Cine star Sri R. Parthiban and Ms Devyani flagged off the rally which started from Kannagi statue to Gandhi Statue. About 400 students and general public took part in the Rally. At the end of the rally, all assembled at the Image auditorium for the Inaugural Function.

In the inaugural function, Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss, Honorable Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Government of India, was the chief guest. He was joined by Mrs. Panabaka Lakshmi, Union Minister of State for Health and Family welfare, Thiru KKSSR Ramachandran, Honorable Minister of Health,

Government of Tamilnadu, Dr. Rachel Jose, DDG (O), Govt. of India, Mr. PKM Swamy, Executive Director, VISION 2020-India, Thiru VK Subburaj, IAS, President, TN SBCS, Dr. T. Selvakumari, Project Director, TN SBCS on the dais.

In the presence of over 700 delegates from different parts of the country, Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss released "For Your Eyes Only" – a handbook for how to prevent eye injuries and problems. Thiru KKSSR Ramachandran released the "VISION 2020-Tamilnadu state plan " on the occasion. Dr. Anbumani Ramadoos, reiterated in his forty five minute extempore speech India's commitment to prevent and control avoidable blindness. He commended the strong bonding of public-private partnership to achieve the noble cause and hoped for continuous support of State Governments make the National Programme for Control of Blindness successful.

Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss gave away the Awards to the District Programme Officers and Paramedical Personnel recognizing their contribution and dedication to the elimination of avoidable blindness in the Tamil Nadu State.

After the Inaugural Function, Prof. Dr. K Rajendran, Co-Chairman., Diabetes Association of India gave a Health Talk on "facts about Diabetics". Dr. V. Velayutham, Director, RIO, Chennai gave his lecture on "Eye & Diabetes" on the occasion. Dr. Mishra, Cardiologist gave talk on "Life style in Diabetes". All lectures were well informative and fitting to the context.

The function continued till Lunch with a cultural programme being performed by the Blind Children. There was a prize distribution function to give away awards to winners of essay writing and drawing competitions held for school children on the World Sight Day Theme. The event was a great success.

