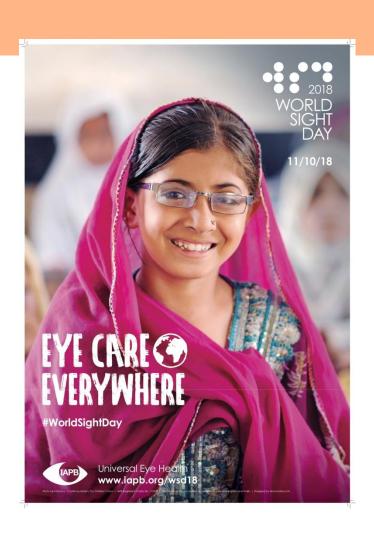


# WORLD SIGHT DAY 2018: VOICE OF YOUTH

A Report



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PAINTING, POSTER, SLOGAN WRITING AND WALL PAINTING COMPETITION BY STUDENTS AND VISION WALK MARKED THE WORLD SIGHT DAY 2018 AT BHOPAL, MADHYA PRADESH THE VENUE FOR THIS YEAR'S WSD.

VISION 2020 INDIA in collaboration with member hospital Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital held the WSD in the lake city of Bhopal with a number of activities to generate awareness on eye health. The focus was to involve the youth to take forward the message of eye health.

A series of activities – painting, slogan writing, poster, photo and wall painting on the theme 'eye care everywhere' – was a run up to WSD and culminated in Vision Walk on World Sight Day on 11 October, 2018. "Our objective of involving the youngsters in these activities was to generate a thought process among the youngsters on eye health," said Mr L C Janiyani, Trustee, Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital. And they were successful in their aim. Nearly 300 school and college students from the city's educational institutions participated in the competitions.

#### WALK FOR VISION

On World Sight Day – 11<sup>th</sup> October a two kms walk 'Walk for Vision' was held to raise awareness on avoidable blindness and the need for better eye health among the public. The walk started from national centre for arts and craft - Bharat Bhavan and culminated near the iconic statue of Bhopal -Raja Bhoj. The aim of the walk was to create awareness on avoidable blindness among the community as 80% of blindness is avoidable. Prevention and treatment of vision loss are among the most cost-effective and successful of all health interventions.



 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{DDG}}, \ensuremath{\mathsf{Dr}}$  Abrol flagging off the WSD Walk for Vision at Bhopal.





Nearly 600 participated in the WSD walk

Media coverage of the walk spread the news to larger audience

Deputy Director General, National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB), Ministry of Health, Government of India, Dr Sangeeta Abrol flagged off the walk. Nearly 600 participants with placards bearing message promoting eye health walked

along the city's lake. Ophthalmologists and students raised slogans on eye care managing to attract the attention of the public.

Speaking to the media, DDG, Dr Abrol emphasised the need for eye health and the reason for observing WSD. She also stressed the need to protect the eyes from fire crackers during the approaching festivals.

The Board members of VISION 2020 INDIA and the team from the Secretariat participated in the walk. Our members from Central zone, Vision Academy, Bhopal and Lions Eye Hospital, Parasia also lent their support for the walk.



Students at the WSD walk

We thank Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital's entire management for hosting the event and ensuring a grand success.

#### AWARD CEREMONY

From 7 to 11 October, a series of activities were organised by Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital to spread the message of WSD's theme 'Eye Care Everywhere'. Painting, posters, slogan writing, wall painting and photography competition was held among school and college going students. The wall paintings and photography entries were judged by a team comprising of Dr Abrol, Col Deshpande, Medical Director, H V Desai Eye Hospital and Me Phanindra Babu Nukella, CEO, VISION 2020 INDIA.





One of the activities that marked the WSD activities



Students completed the wall paintings working at night

formal programme was organised at the premises of Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital to felicitate the awardees of the WSD competitions.

The Deputy Director General, National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB), Dr Sangeeta Abrol was the chief guest at the programme. Her address was directed largely towards the sizeable youngsters in the audience. Sharing the results of the the latest RAAB survey, Dr Abrol said, "We have been successful in reducing blindness prevalence. But we have to show that less number of people with visual impairment should be walking around."

Addressing the large number of youth in the audience, Dr Abrol urged them to take forward the responsibility of spreading the message to the people to reduce blindness and about eye care. Quoting from the survey, she shared her worry that the data showed that RE will be the next big reason for visual impairment.

Dr Abrol exhorted the young audience to promise to take care of their eyes: "I don't want to see young adults losing their vision" was her plea.

Wrapping up her speech, DDG recited a famous poem by Rabindra Nath Tagore and encouraged the students to follow it in spirit.

Shri. Hotchand Dhanwani, Chairman of Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital in his address spoke about their spiritual guru's message urging a work ethics to



Students being felicitated

focus on quality: his moto was not quantity but quality and to focus to ensure that no surgery should go wrong in their hospital.

Mr L C Janiyaniji, Trustee, Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital delivered the welcome address at the programme.





(L) The DDG exhorted the youth to take forward eye health message (R) Mr L C Janiyani welcoming the august gathering.

Dr Prerna, Medical Director, Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital spoke about the strength of Sewa Sadan, where a large section of the workforce in OT and other departments were women. "This goes to show women empowerment," she said.

Dr Santosh Moses, Vice President, VISION 2020 INDIA made a presentation on the main achievements of VISION 2020 INDIA.

The students who won awards at the various competitions were felicitated.

### MEDIA CLIPPINGS

