



Terms of Reference

State Network for Universal Eye Health

About VISION 2020: The Right to Sight-INDIA

VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – INDIA (**VISION 2020 INDIA**) has been formed in year 2004 as a national forum for eliminating avoidable blindness in India. It is a key driver of the joint global initiative of the World Health Organization (WHO) and International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) for reducing avoidable visual impairment. The forum is a collaborative effort of, INGOs, NGOs, eye care organizations in India and the Government to coordinate and advocate for improved eye care programmes; gaining and sharing knowledge and think solutions together to achieve quality, comprehensive and equitable eye care.

The primary objective of VISION 2020 INDIA is to: *“Intensify and accelerate prevention of blindness activities so as to achieve the goal of eliminating avoidable blindness through policy advocacy and strengthening the capacity of member eye care institutions.”*. For more details, please visit www.vision2020india.org. The more specific objective is to advocate with the government – both at the Centre and State level to influence policy changes for improved and effective eye care delivery programmes.

Context

VISION 2020 INDIA is guided by its five-year strategic plans (present plan exists for 2021-2026) and has an oversight by a 17 members Board comprising the government eye care institution, national not-for-profit eye care institutions and International NGOs that meets once a quarter and discusses programmatic aspects for improved eye care in line with its vision and mission and as outlined in the strategic plan.

The present strategic plan (April 2021-March 2026) guides VISION 2020 INDIA to bring together the eye health stakeholders at state level and create an effective platform for strengthening the eye care work in the state. Further, the Plan states that while the policy development largely takes place at national level through National Program for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment (NPCBVI), the policy implementation takes place at state level and below. The policy implementation requires good coordination, collaboration, advocacy across the state with the government and non-government partners. And therefore, it is not possible for Zonal coordinators to undertake this role at the State level due to various limitations.

It is in this context, the idea of state level networks is born having a primary objective of ensuring the universal eye health with the key principle of integrated people centred eye care as envisioned in the World Report on Vision (WRV).

How would the state eye health network be created?

As a matter of good practice, invite all eye health stakeholders present in the state for a state level consultation including the representatives from the state blindness control society and other relevant departments. The day-long agenda, under part 1, shall cover the vision & mission of VISION 2020 INDIA, its accomplishments since its establishment, future plans for atleast for next five years. The part 2 of the agenda shall focus on participatory discussion on arriving at a consensus for such state level forum, how should it function and what should it do. The draft Terms of Reference be made incorporating these discussions, and share it state level stakeholders for wider review and acceptance.

How would the state eye health network function?

The Terms of Reference for state eye health network is ready. However, it needs a proper structure to operate the ToR in collaboration, coordination, and partnership with state level players including the government. The structure, called as a **Core Committee** would act a focal point for all the eye care development work representing the civil society in the state.

Core Committee (CC)

The Core Committee is the custodian of the Terms of Reference of the state eye health network, and executes it through a democratic participatory and decision-making process.

The Core Committee be formed at state level with the participation of 5-6 **institutions** (represented by individuals) who are keen to lead the state eye health agenda. Institution is the member and not any individual in the core committee/ state eye health network.

The members of the Core Committee should have the following characteristics:

- They should be **supportive** and willing to stand up for the organization and its mission.
- They should be able to **volunteer** time to serve on the Committee and to participate in the State eye health activities.
- They should have professional **skills and/or experience** that will be valuable to the State eye health forum.
- They should:
 - **Serve the needs of the State Eye Health** first: Each member must serve the needs of the State chapter before any personal or business interests.
 - **Be objective:** Related to the above statements, a member must make objective decisions that are in the best interest of the state eye health agenda. He or she must be impartial to personal preferences and must analyze issues in the state eye health agenda point of view.

Other Points of Ponder for Core Committee/State Eye Health Network

- The Core Committee is formed for a fixed period, say 3 years. It may change its composition every three years or as per the need.
- The state eye health network led by the core committee is federated to national forum, VISION 2020: The Right to Sight-India.
- The Core Committee should follow democratic participatory decision-making process.
- Core Committee/State Eye Health Network shall not offer any type of membership.
- The Core Committee/State Eye Health Network may be registered under Society Act or Trust Act.
- The Core Committee/State Eye Health Network may use logos and branding of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight-India in its communication to different stakeholders including the government.
- An MoU should be signed between Core Committee/State Eye Health Network and VISION 2020: The Right to Sight-India clearly stating the roles and responsibilities. State Eye Health Network will represent VISION 2020 INDIA at state level and is authorised to represent under this MoU to be signed.
- Core Committee/State Eye Health Network undertakes the activities and programs sponsored or launched or promoted by VISION 2020 INDIA and to take the steps to spread and popularise such initiatives in the state.
- No financial obligation unless as discussed and agreed in writing between the two Societies.
- Core Committee/State Eye Health Network will cooperate with and support VISION 2020 INDIA and encourage NGO eye care institutions in the state to seek membership in VISION 2020 INDIA so that their concerns may well be represented at national level.
- Core Committee/State Eye Health Network shall not open any account under Foreign Currency Regulation Act (FCRA) anywhere.
- The State Eye Health Network can accept donations, gifts in cash for the purpose and objectives of the Society, and may open a savings bank account.
- The State Eye Health Network is seen as an affiliating body to the national forum called VISION 2020 INDIA.

Core Committee Meetings

- Expected to meet once a quarter, and document the minutes of the meeting including any photographs.
- The meetings will be convened initially by and VISION 2020: The Right to Sight-India, and may be hosted one of the member institutions of state eye health network.

What are the roles and responsibilities of Core Committee/State Eye Health Network?

Core committee shall take pro-active front role in leading the eye health network in the state.

Role of State level Eye Health Network led by the Core Committee:

Overall:

Involve in innovations, research, demonstration and state level advocacy.

More Specific

Engage state eye health players (members and non-members) in state level programmes and activities, and draw an action plan for strengthening eye care in the state

Develop and maintain harmonious and efficient relationship with each other and with officials of the central and State Governments and industry in order to achieve synchronous and synergistic outcomes

Establish contact with the State Health Ministry and NHM officials and have regular meetings with them for better policy implementation environment

Coordinate and advocate with government functionary for various purposes – setting up vision centres in the public health care facilities under PPP, state PIPs, capacity building and infrastructure development within the government, undertake advocacy in such a way that PPP is prioritized by the Government, etc.

Undertake detailed gap analysis and identify gaps in infrastructure and capacity of human resource, as well as gaps in coordination within the network and with the government

Undertake planning, implement and demonstrate interventions/innovations for universal eye health

Training needs assessment and related coordination for capacity building within civil society

Organizing State level capacity building, webinars, conferences

Identify new members in the state and encourage them to join the national forum

Setup a system and coordinate with Mentors and Mentees for capacity building at state level

Network management and bring a sense of togetherness at state level

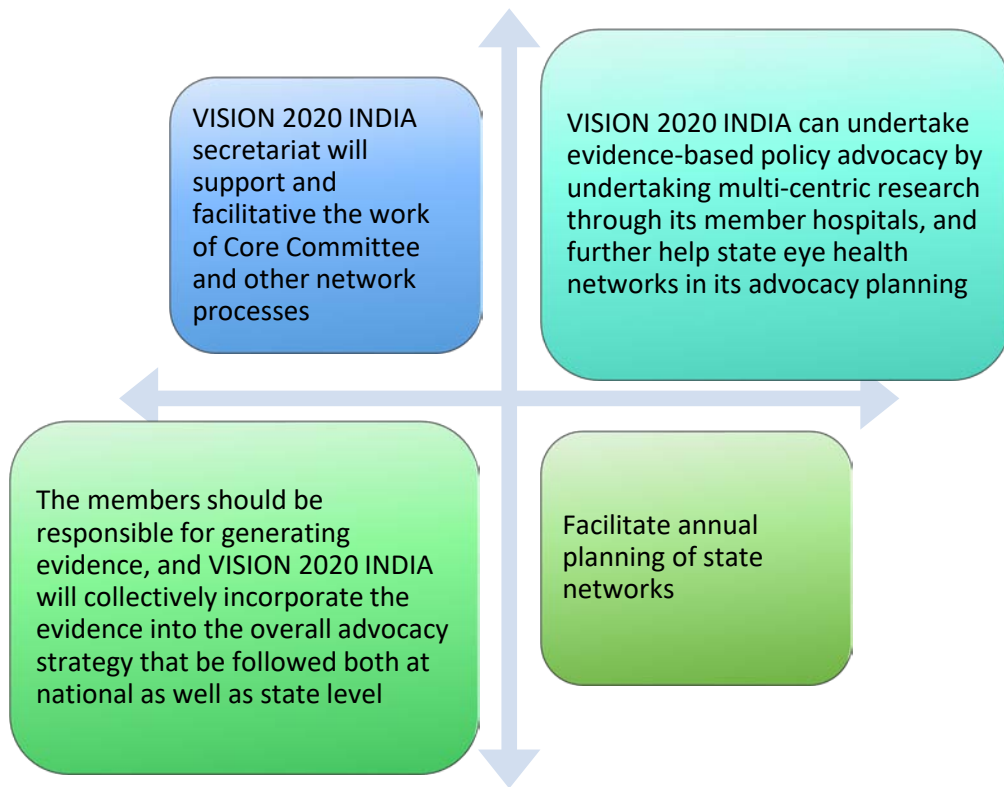
Facilitation of referral linkages and systems and ensuring equity service provision

What are the roles and responsibilities of VISION 2020 INDIA?

Overall:

VISION 2020 INDIA will facilitate state network processes and extend support.

More Specific



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