

V DYAJYOTI

SCHOOL EYE HEALTH PROGRAMME

Children in the school age group (5 – 15 years) are especially vulnerable to long term consequences of eye diseases if not detected and treated early. The social and economic impact of visual impairment developing at this age is an enormous loss of lifetime productivity and increased burden of providing support for the children. It is estimated that 1.4 million children in the world are blind and one third of them live in the developing countries and the causes of the blindness among children vary region to region and socio-economic developments. Amongst different eye problems among children, refractive error is the most common.

JPM Rotary Club of Cuttack Eye Hospital & Research Institute in partnership with Sightsavers, an international development organization working in the field of blindness control in India has undertaken Cuttack as demonstration district in the state of Odisha for its National School Eye Health Programme with scale up across the state.

Programme Started in **September 2014**

Officially Inaugurated on **19th December 2014**

Total Coverage Area: **26, 24,470** (2.62 million as per census 2011) 78% of the population in the district lives in the rural areas.

No. of Blocks in Cuttack District: **15**

Total No. of School: **2112**

Total No. of Students: **320515**

Total No. School Teachers:- **7597**

Achievements of Vidyajyoti

No of Schools Covered: **1949**

No. of Children Screened: **1,65,351**

No. of Refractive Error Found: **8040**

No. of Free Spectacles Provided: **3585**

Teachers Trained: **2671**

SMC members trained: **1166**

GOAL

Students in government schools receive quality eye health services as part of the wider school health programme.

Outcome1: Increased uptake of eye health services by children exposed to school screening.

Given the coverage of eye health among school children at 6.7%, this outcome is of prime importance as it recognizes the need for providing comprehensive eye health services amongst school going children. This will be ensured by conducting regular teacher's training on eye screening and raising awareness about the need of eye health among school children.

Outcome2: Affordable and quality eye health services exist in the school health system.

This outcome aims at strengthening the existing school health programme through convergence between education and health departments; integrate eye health services within the school health programme. This also needs a continuous demand generation approach whereby communities and parent's committee are sensitized and demand eye health services for their children.

Outcome 3: Favourable policy and institutional environment exists enabling effective school eye health delivery.

School health falls under the realm of health department but the ultimate end users are governed by the ministry of education. This outcome envisions an institutional environment or coordination mechanism which ensures that all children in schools have access to affordable and qualitative eye health services.

Components of Vidyajyoti

School eye health as an intervention has largely been centered on screening and refraction of children and provision of spectacles despite the fact that a comprehensive school eye health programme has the following components:

Health Education: Health education to be imparted to all the Students, Teachers & SMC Members

Health Services: Health Services like: Vision screening, Refraction, Referral services, Spectacles provision & Treatment at the base Hospital i.e., JPM Rotary Eye Hospital to be provided to the students free of cost.

Nutritional Services: Adequate information is provided regarding the nutrition to be taken for good eye sight.

Counseling, Social Services: Counseling is done & different eye health tips are provided to both the students & teachers. A school Eye Health Club is formed in every school and the participants are trained so that they themselves can do the screening in the future.

Healthy School Environment: A detailed discussion is held between the teachers & the Health Educators regarding the School environment, lighting facility in classes, games to be played by the students & games which should be avoided and First Aid box to be present for any unavoidable circumstance.

Health Promotion for Staff: As incentive the programme will also provide free refraction services for all teaching and non-teaching staffs in the schools.

Family/ Community INVOLVEMENT: Not only the students but also their parents are involved in the VIDYAJYOTI school eye health program. Both teachers & SMC members are imparted knowledge at schools regarding the proper eye care & other important points to identify the child who needs help. Apart of this Teachers training program is arranged at the JPM Rotary Eye Hospital every month in which teachers from different blocks come for the training.

Research/ Impact Assessment: A follow up is done every 6 month where the impact on learning is assessed.

The above components of school eye health have a strong element of systemic change and sustainable behaviour change that can ensure school eye health getting embedded into the larger school health programme.