

Report on Eye Health Care Drive

Project Intervention:-

Eye Problem/Defects like Cataract, Near Sightedness (which means objects in far places look blurred but objects nearby are seen clearly), Far Sightedness (objects in nearby places look blurred but objects in far look clear) are very common among all ages of people today. People in the urban location with resources are able to meet doctors and resolve their eye problems. But people in the rural areas like Kandhamal and Gajapati districts, especially among the elderly people, the EYE defects are rampant. These people due to lack of financial support and inaccessibility to clinical facilities are unable to address their problems.

In the given context, IEA considered this issue seriously by launching EYE HEALTH CARE DRIVE in the project area with a feasible action plan to bring solution in favour of the victims. In this process, initially, the IEA deployed qualified community organizers and held primary survey in the project villages. They visited door to door and could locate people suffering with eye vision/eye problem. At the end, primarily identified patients were brought in village level Eye Health Check camp centres.

A free Mega Eye, Gyne and General Health check-up and Treatment Camp was organised by India Evangelistic Association at Rutungia Gram Panchayat Headquarters, Balliguda Division of Kandhamal district on 24th August, 2013. Rutungia being one of the most remote areas of Kandhamal district, the people of this area have no access to immediate basic facilities such as Quality Health Care, Drinking Water, Electricity, Telephones, Paved Roads etc.

In order to raise awareness, build community relationship and address immediate health concerns, India Evangelistic Association planned to conduct health camps and awareness programs that will provide accessible, affordable and quality health care to the population in rural and inaccessible areas of Kandhamal. Further, it focuses on marginalised section of the society which tends to get excluded from the reach of healthcare.

Process Initiated and Results Achieved

1. Survey and Identification
2. Discussion with the People, PRI and Block Administration and Community Health Centres.
3. Eye health camp at Community Level
4. Further Care and Support with the People Suffering from Prolonged Eye Illness

Survey and Identification



Since Eye Sight has been one of the most invaluable body parts of every human being, ensuring eye health has been the top most priority for every human being. A team of professionals of the organization along with the community leaders went to each and every household with a household profile format asking them whether anyone in the family is suffering from any kind of eye problem. The household level profile was filled only when there was anyone in the family suffering from eye problems and informed them the possible date for eye check-up followed by treatment by the eye specialists.

Discussion with the People, PRI, Block Administration and Community Health Centres.

Soon after the survey and identification, the Program Manager of the organization along with the staff organized a community level meeting where the list of people affected by eye problems were present. The community members requested to the organization to organize eye camps so as to resolve the health hazards. The organization too discussed with Panchayat Raj Institutions members, blocks administration and doctors from Community Health Centres and Primary Health Centres and shared the list of the people suffering from eye problems before the govt. personnel. IEA expressed its interest in organizing eye camps before the doctors and blocks administration and requested them to extend possible support and cooperation so as to successfully organize the eye health camps.



Eye Health Camp at Community Level



The Health Camp started with inaugural program under the auspicious presence of the Kandhamal District Collector, Police Chief of Kandhamal, Sub-Collector of Baliguda and other officials. Since the District Collector was coming we had an unprecedented crowd of around 2,000. It is a rare occasion that the District Head visits such remote area.

The Camp was an eye opener. At least 1,000 patients received check-up and treatment. Free medicines were provided to all patients. We dealt with 114 cataract cases who underwent surgery at ECOS Eye Hospital, Berhampur and 133 patients were provided eye glasses. Approximately, 350 General and 150 Gyne patients received check-up and medicines. Food was provided to all patients. The camp was conducted meticulously and thorough preparedness so as to measure the success of the camp. Announcement Van equipped with public address system (PA system) was used to preach, propagate in order to make them aware of the Health Camp and its noble intention. They learnt about the advantage of attending the program. This led to positive outburst of patients inundating the registration counters.





ECOS Outreach Eye Team travelled rigorously back and forth for 5 days over extremely difficult terrain to reach ECO EYE Hospital, Berhampur. The entire stretch of bringing and sending patients back to their native villages covering approximately 3,000 kilometres was quite a tedious job. But it was good for the rural poor who got health care.

The people, largely found in the project area, witness poor living standard. Their grass root health care habits seem contrary to their health care duties. At the same time, their routine food habits meagrely contain balanced food on day to day basis. As a result, they suffer with multiple health disorders prematurely. Of the health risks they come across hastily, they are also found to suffer with Eye Vision problem rampantly. Of the same, suffering with Cataract is one of the common health problems in the project area.

About 247 people suffering from eye defect, were screened one after one, by the technically skilful Eye Ophthalmologists, easy to access and attend by the long distant patients. After systematic Eye Check-up, the patients were categorized under different segments to seek for the next level of treatment. Out of 247 patients suffering from eye defects, 133 of them got eye treatment at primary stage, received Spectacles and got recovered with the medicines and the rest 114 patients were referred to Berhampur Eco's Eye Hospital, one of the famous hospital for eye treatment.

Further Care and Support with the People Suffering From Prolonged Eye Illness

The public health department of Government of Odisha has the provision of eye care only for limited disease like cataract operation which eventually is inaccessible to people from the extremely remote areas. But unfortunately in case of any other dreaded eye diseases, the govt. has no such services for the people in sheer poverty condition. The implementing organization with the support of donor agency got 114 patients admitted to the hospital for surgical treatment meeting all major expenses.

Process Adopted

In completion of this base work, the ophthalmologists were hired to examine the patients for treatment before they were sent to Super Speciality Hospital. Thus, the ophthalmologist advised to undergo pathological tests as Clinical prerequisite before sending them for their surgical treatment in Berhampur and fixed the problem of the eye patients. As per doctors' advice, each and every identified patient went through the clinical tests for their report to keep ready to furnish before Eye Specialists.

With these medical reports, patients were taken by reserved van free of cost to ECO's Eye Hospital, Berhampur, trip by trip. On arrival in the hospital, patients were instantly hosted by the hospital nurses with good food and bed to rest and later, these patients got admitted in the hospital and enrolled with start-up medication and were kept under observation. Each of them got cataract and other related operation on fixed dates on priority basis. The patients were surgically treated by the highly skilled doctors with modern Equipment successfully.

Patients after Operation

Patients were brought out of the Operation Theatre and put in to bed cabins for complete rest. As a regular practice, patients were looked after physically by their concerned attendants. Good food was served to the patients in the hospital. Having received such intense care and treatment, patients were discharged within 2 days, from the date of surgical operation and brought back to their native villages in a privately booked van, completely free of cost.

Life after Eye Operation

After being released from Berhampur hospital, the patients were freely supplied with proper eye drops and pills and clinically certified goggles by the Hospital Doctors and Medical Practitioners. Receiving this full package treatment benefits, the patients slowly recovered their eyesight within 1 week from the day of their surgical operation.

In the given context, the victims observed the changes from blur or low vision to full vision slowly. Finally, in another couple of days, their prolonging eye vision problem came down to zero and they could see the things without any problem, even in low day light.

As all these patients come under the age group in between 40 years to 70 years, they are still physically and mentally capable to live a progressive life in future, they are now hopeful to lead an equal competitive living with their co- neighbours. All the people who received eye treatment expressed in emotion ***"We had almost lost of our hope of living a normal life with our eye defect, but with the benevolent support and care of IEA, we are able to see and enjoy our normal life, we feel dignified and honoured as any normal human being feel."***