

An initiative by Vision Foundation of India



▲
Dr. Kulin Kothari examining
Commissioner Dattatray Padsaldikar

▲
Eye check-up conducted
at the Shivaji Nagar Centre

◀
Sharda Dalvi, eye cancer patient,
whose treatment will be looked
after by VFI, including her histo-
pathology, surgery & chemotherapy

Bringing MUSE CENTRES to the Slums of Mumbai

Sharda Dalvi lives with her family in the bylanes of the slums of Mankhurd. She is a regular house help, working in nearby housing societies. She knew her vision was blurry, but like many others, ignored it for lack of time and money. She took the opportunity of a free eye check-up and treatment centre launched in her community by the Vision Foundation of India (VFI). To her horror, she was diagnosed with a rare* case of eye cancer. However, due to the timely detection of the cancer by the MUMBAI URBAN SLUM EYE CARE (MUSE) centre in its very first week of inception, she is already being treated with the best available facilities and care.

On 1st July 2017, VFI in association with SPARC (Society for Promotion of Area Research Centre) launched MUSE in the slums of Mankhurd and in the Shivaji Nagar, Govandi. Inaugurated in the presence of Mr. Dattatray Padsaldikar, Commissioner of Police, Mumbai, the aim of this project is to provide accessible and quality eye care services for the slum dwellers of Mumbai. Oscar winning movie 'Slumdog Millionaire' gave some insight into the unhygienic conditions of slum living, but the reality is far more grave and gruesome. VFI identified the need and importance of quality eye care to uplift the people from this section of society, and started with organising weekly FREE Eye Care checkups in the MUSE centre.

Mr Jockin Arputham, founder of the National Slum Dwellers

Federation (NSDF) is the main pillar of MUSE through SPARC. He is globally recognised for his dedicated efforts in the development of slums and has also been nominated for the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize. Vandana Foundation is represented in this project by Mr. A. N. Roy, ex-Commissioner of Police, Mumbai. With such strong associations and the robust support of Dr. Kulin Kothari, MUSE has seen a high turnout of patients from the very first day. Through MUSE, highly qualified and trained ophthalmologists of the Bombay City Eye Institute & Research Centre (BCEIRC) attend to patients for two hours on a weekly basis. A thorough diagnosis followed by guided treatment is made available to the slum dwellers.

An **estimated 6.5 million people—around 55% of Mumbai's total population—live in slums. These statistics indicate the long road ahead for the full success of project MUSE. The slums of Vashinaka, Dharavi, Santacruz, Jogeshwari & Kalina are the next target areas for this project. If you wish to get more details or contribute to MUSE, please reach out to Ms. Bhavana Pande on +91-9819511144.

*Currently there are no statistics maintained by the Indian Government on Eye Cancer as this phenomenon is few and far between.

**As per data published by Slum Rehabilitation Authority <http://www.sra.gov.in/pgeSlumRehabilitation.aspx>

Making Quality a Way of Life

One of the biggest projects under the Vision Foundation of India's umbrella is 'Project Rashtriya Netra Yagna', which aims to conduct 1 lac surgeries in 2017-18. However, while the quantity of cases is important, it definitely doesn't undermine the value of quality. Keeping this in mind, VFI proactively trains and prepares its associate hospitals for adherence to all quality checks.

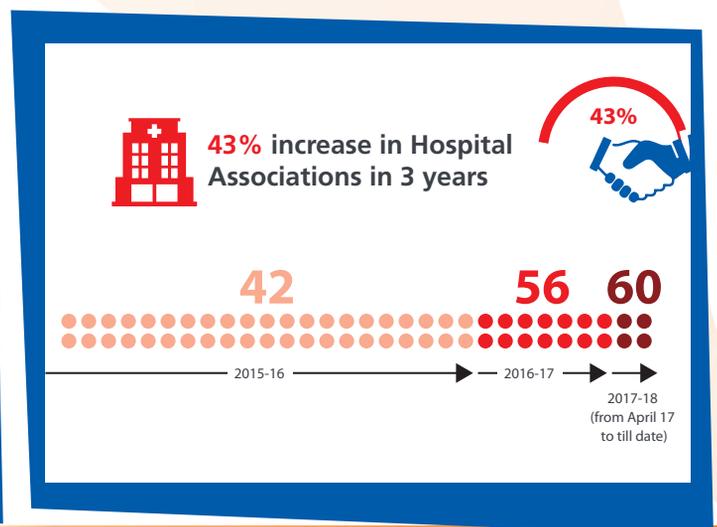
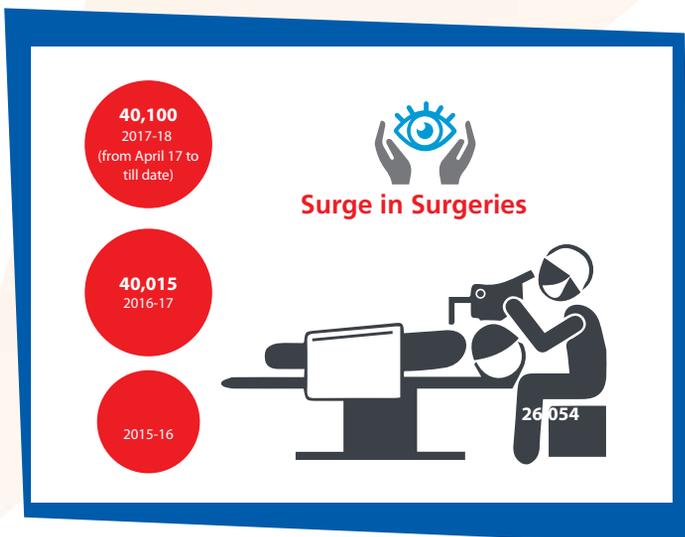
Visiting associate hospitals to audit and train its staff, conducting webinars on various topics, stressing the importance of hygiene and quality checks are some of the exercises conducted by VFI in this direction.

In April, Mr. Afzal Varaliya and Dr. Soumya Kothari from VFI visited the Shri Sai Lions Netralaya (SSLN), a VFI associate hospital in Patna, Bihar. In September, VFI will be covering hospitals in Nagpur, Rajkot, Orissa and Assam.

▼ Vision for Tomorrow - Eye camps in urban and rural schools.



▲ Dr. Uday Gajiwala, Technical Adviser to VFI, conducted a WEBINAR in June 2017 on infection control and quality enhancement during Cataract surgery. This educational webinar was attended by 20 doctors from various states of India.



Remembering the Legend - Mohammed Rafi

*"Pukarta Chala Hoon Main,
Gali Gali Bahaar Ki,
Bas Ek Chhaon Zulf Ki,
Bas Ek Nigaha Pyar Ki"*

This melodious rendition was the highlight of the musical evening - "Mohammed Rafi Sings for O.P.Nayyar". Klub Nostalgia, in association with 'World of Mohammed Rafi Welfare Foundation' organised this concert, the proceeds of which would be donated to the Vision Foundation of India. The show was held at Yashwant Natya Mandir, Matunga on 28th July 2017, to mark the 37th Death Anniversary of the great artist Mohammed Rafi.

Many talented artists performed evergreen compositions of the duo in a melodious tribute to the legendary singer whose daughters, Mrs. Nasreen Ahmed and Mrs. Yasmin Ahmed graced the show with their families. This was the

very first event of the 'World of Mohammed Rafi Welfare Foundation' which is founded by his family.

Mr. Venkat, Vice-President, VFI Brigadiers, was the torchbearer in the organisation of this event. His devotion to the VFI cause was visible through his zeal and enthusiasm for the success of this event.

In his vote of thanks, Dr. Kulin Kothari said that VFI was honoured to be associated with an event dedicated to a luminary in music and thanked all present for their support to the cause.



▲ Mr. Venkat, Vice-President, VFI Brigadiers conducting the stage function

◀ Mrs. Nasreen Ahmed, daughter of Mohammed Rafi, handing over the cheque to Dr. Kulin Kothari

Bhavana Pande, Secretary General, VFI



VFI welcomes Ms. Bhavana Pande as the new Secretary General of the organisation. Ms. Pande comes with a decade plus rich experience from various social organisations. Her core expertise includes Program Management, Fund-Raising, PR & CSR activities.

Thank You, Bharatbhai Shah.



VFI is very grateful for all the support extended in Dubai by Mr. Bharatbhai Shah. With his help and guidance, VFI successfully hosted its first international event in Dubai in March 2017. With supporters like Bharatbhai, VFI gains further confidence in achieving their vision to transform lives by giving needy blind persons the gift of sight.

Vision for Tomorrow

Aryan Anil Ikle and Sachin Vithal Bonge, aged 8 and 9 years, live in a small town called Manor in Palghar district. Coming from families of farmers, these boys lack basic sanitation and vision-related issues to their parents, but in vain. With their meagre earnings, both their families lived hand to mouth, so small complaints of reduced vision were not among their parents' priority. In addition Manor, like many other remote towns in India, does not have any public



facility of eye care services.

When the Ikle and Bonge families heard that Sumangal Medical Centre (run by S.K. Trust) was hosting a free eye check-up camp in association with VFI, they took their sons for an eye check-up. Both boys were diagnosed with childhood cataract which needed immediate surgery. Aryan and Sachin were sent to the Bombay City Eye Institute & Research Centre (BCEIRC) for cataract surgery. Today, they both have corrected vision and a chance for a bright future.

Childhood cataracts are responsible for 5% to 20% of blindness in children worldwide and for an even higher percentage of childhood visual impairment in developing countries like ours. VFI wants to be a part of many such success stories like Aryan and Sachin to safeguard the future of our nation and to promote Vision for Tomorrow.

VFI presents our special "JOY OF GIFTING" cards!

To celebrate your joyous occasions, whether it is festivals, milestone birthdays or anniversaries, instead of presenting material gifts, why not share a humanitarian one?

On behalf of your loved ones, you can give the GIFT OF SIGHT to needy persons through the Vision Foundation of India. Let the philanthropist in you come alive! ²⁰¹⁶⁻¹⁷

(Every "Gift of Sight" costs only Rs 1500 ²⁰¹⁷⁻¹⁸ per surgery (from April 17 to till date))

