



Journey from 'EyeCare Camps' to "EYECARE ADOPTION"



These and many other stories have become folklore in Manor, a small town in Palghar district of Maharashtra where Vision Foundation of India (VFI) conducts eye camps in association with a local NGO, Sumangal Medical Centre since November 2008.



he took a pledge on behalf of VFI to eliminate curable blindness from these areas.

After almost a decade of working in Manor, VFI has taken the next step forward to undertake the EYECARE ADOPTION of this town and the neighbouring villages of Tamsayee, Kude, Gundave and Pochade. This adoption aims to make these areas "CURABLE BLINDNESS FREE" and, where permanent blindness cannot be cured, to rehabilitate the visually handicapped persons with the help of other NGOs.

On 17th December 2017, Dr. Kulin Kothari, Managing Trustee of VFI, officially accepted the eye care adoption of these four villages near Manor. In the presence of esteemed guests Mr. Samir Shah and Mrs. Jasmine Shah of Sumangal Medical Centre, Ladies and Youth Wing members and the Sarpanch of 2 villages,

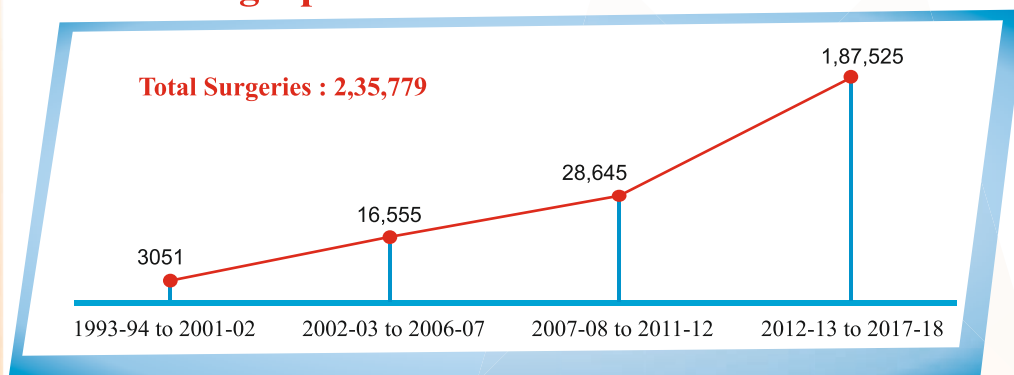
Ladkai Samre, a 65 year old housewife had resigned herself to a life of darkness. She blamed her advancing age and her poverty for her doomed fate...until Vision Foundation of India reached her little village. Life took a beautiful about-turn when she was diagnosed with advanced cataracts in both eyes that were surgically treatable! Today her adoring gaze constantly follows her playful grandsons...

20 year-old Ashish Yadav lost his eye in a tragic accident. He was teased and tormented by all the village boys and slowly slipped into depression. But a miracle awaited him. VFI stepped in and procured a donor eye from the Navnitlal Shah Eye Bank. His eye was restored and so also his zest for Life!!

Dr. Kothari stated, "With monthly camps, VFI was able to attend to only a limited number of patients. Now with eyecare adoption, VFI has planned a structured, multi-pronged approach to various issues. First we will focus on eliminating cataract related blindness. Then other major illnesses like Glaucoma and Diabetic Retinopathy will be tackled. At the same time, possibilities will be explored to rehabilitate individuals where eye issues cannot be reversed".

With this adoption, the first of many more in future, VFI comes a step closer to their objective to prevent, arrest and reverse the occurrence of blindness amongst the underprivileged sections of the society.

Statistics graph



BRIEF ACTIVITY REPORT OF VFI Free Eye Surgeries done Since 1993 till 31st December 2017

VFI visits Associate Hospitals

To maintain standard practices and high levels of quality, VFI representatives made visits to seven hospitals across the country in the last three months. Apart from monitoring hospital activities, VFI constantly evaluates potential areas of development and appreciates the hard work of these hospitals to relentlessly treat the underprivileged sections of society.

Associate Members at VFI

Members from associate hospitals in VFI office, Mumbai



VFI representatives visiting associate hospitals in Odisha, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh & Karnataka

Dr. Kulin Kothari had the pleasure to meet representatives from Nayonika Eye Care, Sightsavers India, Tara Sansthan & Sai Lions who visited Mumbai to review current activities and discuss future plans.

Webinar on Glaucoma



On 7th October Dr. Vaishali Jadhav, renowned Glaucoma specialist from Bombay City Eye Institute & Research Centre conducted a Webinar on 'Challenges in Diagnosis & Management of Glaucoma'. Dr. Jadhav's Webinar is part of the proactive training in quality control and continued development of associate hospitals by VFI. It was a case-based discussion attended by almost all associate hospitals across the country.



▼ Representatives of the Ladies' Wing



Joint Meeting of All Teams of VFI

Vision Foundation of India
wishes you & your family
**Happy
New Year
2018**



Release of the newsletter Light House (3rd Issue) by
dignitaries

On 9th September 2017, VFI hosted a joint meeting for the members of all teams-Managing Council, Team Brigadiers, Ladies' Wing & Youth Wing. The agenda was to give members an overview of VFI activities; get an understanding of tasks undertaken by different VFI teams; an open forum discussion; and planning for the future responsibilities of VFI. A strong attendance of members showed the robust support system that has been built by VFI.



Mr Nihchal Israni, Hon. President, VFI, praising
the dedication of team VFI



▲ Representatives of the Youth Wing



Dr. Kulin Kothari presenting an overview of
VFI activities.

Dr. Saumil Kothari welcomed all members and introduced a touching short film created by the Youth Wing which depicted how VFI is giving the Light of Hope to the underprivileged. Dr. Kulin Kothari gave an overview of ongoing VFI activities and credited its success to all the supporters of VFI.

Next up were presentations by the Ladies' Wing and Youth Wing on the progress of their current activities and future plans. Team Brigadiers stressed the importance of efficient networking and Government liaison for VFI. This point was further elaborated by our esteemed member Mr. Manoj Gursahani.

The entire audience then engaged in an interactive open discussion on several topics including expansion of VFI activities in North-East India; effective use of social media to get more supporters; possibility of associating with Mobile Crèche; donations for covering admin costs of VFI. The meeting was concluded on a positive note, pledging immediate actions that will be taken by VFI and its various teams to meet our vision.

100+ surgeries in 3 days in Shirdi



To commemorate the 100-year celebrations of Shri Sai Baba Samadhi at Shirdi, Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust invited VFI to conduct a 3-day surgical eye camp in Shirdi and to treat all needy devotees with any eye related issues. VFI mobilised their expert team of surgeons for this noble cause. Dr. Saumil Kothari led the team of Dr. Saumya Kurup, Dr. Shalini Kaul, Dr. Vaishali Jadhav and the OT staff. This competent team conducted 107 cataract surgeries and 2 squint surgeries in a short span of 3 days.

Cross-border fellowship facilitated by VFI

In October 2017, Dr. Tapuwa and Dr. Josepha from Mozambique visited VFI for their observing Fellowship under the guidance of Dr. Saumil Kothari. As VFI was holding a free eye check-up camp in Shirdi that attracted thousands of patients, Dr. Tapuwa and Dr. Josepha had the opportunity to observe many surgeries and complicated cases



‘JOY OF GIFTING’ in the Festival of Lights



STAR INDIA PVT. LTD, owners of India's most widely watched TV channels, took a noble stand for their Diwali gifting this year. They gifted 'JOY OF GIFTING' cards to sponsor one free eye surgery on behalf of each of their employees. This gesture inspired many individual employees to endorse 'Joy of Gifting' cards in their personal social networks.

To further promote the brilliant initiative of the Gift of Sight through the 'Joy of Gifting' cards, VFI along with Bombay City Eye Institute organised a unique Diwali celebration. All members and guests were gifted a free eye check-up and a 'Joy of Gifting' card.

World Sight Day

World Sight Day (WSD) was held on 12th October 2017. This year the call of action was 'Make Vision Count'.

On this occasion Dr Kulin Kothari was interviewed on a digital platform through the You-Tube channel 'Speak Health' where he spoke to Dr Rashmi Kotian on Diabetic Retinopathy and the Vision Foundation of India.

(Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t3wvpGVuKSA&sns=fb>)



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SEE THE FEELING, FEEL THE SIGHT

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