

INNOVATING FOR COMMUNITIES

Universal Eye Care

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The problem

- Visual impairment and blindness is largely amongst the elderly and women
- A lot of the blind tend to be in rural areas
- While eye care is urban centric
- Access & Affordability to quality eye care is a major issue

Current Strategies to address the problem in the elderly

- Eye care services through Secondary & Tertiary hospital network
- Outreach screening eye camps

Breaking the access barriers



2012-13:

- 2,841 screening eye camps
- 554,413 patients examined
- 89,547 spectacles dispensed
- 90,547 surgeries performed

Note: Excludes 444,265 school children screened to be normal

Effectiveness of screening camps?



- **We reached only 7% of those in need of eye care¹**
- **Those with rarer eye conditions were not addressed**

¹ “Low uptake of eye services in rural India”; Astrid E. Fletcher et al; Archives of Ophthalmology Vol 117, Oct 1999

New strategies needed for
Universal Coverage

Enhancing Access - Vision Centers

Solution Conceived:

- Permanent facility in rural areas
- Covering 60,000 population (5-7 km radius)
- Staffed by Technicians (tough to get doctors to work in villages)

Challenge:

- Competence: Comprehensive eye exam to ensure quality – right diagnosis & prescription
- Management of the facility
- Financially sustainable

Solution 1: Primary eye care centers



- 42 centers covering a population of 3 million
- 1000 patients each day
- Telemedicine consultation & online health records for everyone
- 91% of them received full care at the center
- Over 80% penetration in 3 years

Population coverage of Vision Centres since inception

Age of VC	No.	Population	Unique patients	Est. coverage
< 1 year	6	401,117	4,410	5%
1 – 2 years	5	300,377	40,886	68%
3 - 4 years	13	810,037	103,855	64%
> 4 years	15	1,059,588	188,397	89%
Total	40	2,635,763	337,548	64%
From outside service area			184,480	
Total			522,028	

Estimated Coverage calculation:

assuming that 20% of the population is in need of eye care

Refractive Error Services through Vision Centres (since inception)

Total (unique) Patients seen	522,028	
No. of Refractions done	289,056	55%
No. of Prescriptions given	121,861	
No. of purchases	112,969	93%

Universal Coverage and service delivery is a real possibility

Key Challenges to scaling

India would need 20,000
Primary Eye Care Centres

40,000 Vision Centre staff &
pipeline to meet the attrition



Human Resource

Management - Making it work

- Supply chain
- Finance Control
- Performance

Challenges: Political Will

- Governments
- National & International bodies working in health arena
- Evidence



An ambitious target
It can be and needs to be done