#### **INNOVATING FOR COMMUNITIES**

# Universal Eye Care

#### Thulasiraj Ravilla Aravind Eye Care System

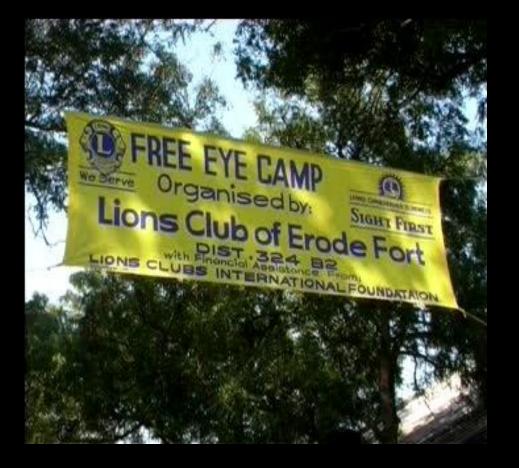
## The problem

- 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 care<sup>1</sup>
- Those with rarer eye conditions were not addressed

<sup>1</sup> "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

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