

“From Darkness to Light” Impact of Vision Foundation of India Eye Care Services during 2023-24



VISION FOUNDATION OF INDIA
Providing Community Eye Care



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Conducting the impact assessment study for the Vision Foundation of India for its entire projects during the year **2023-24** has been an enriching and fulfilling experience. This report summarizes the findings from the survey and highlights the significant impact of VFI's initiatives. Its successful completion demonstrates the dedication and collective efforts of all the field research team involved in it. Undertaking fieldwork across **19 states** during the peak monsoon season within a timeline was not an easy task, yet the determination of the team ensured its successful execution.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the **Vision Foundation of India** and its dedicated team for their invaluable support and guidance throughout the study. The logistical support provided by VFI's associated hospitals across the country played a crucial role in facilitating our fieldwork. I would like to express special appreciation to **Mr. Anshuman Mangalam**, Chief Sustainability Officer, for his encouragement and guidance during the study. My heartfelt thanks also go to **Mr. Hitesh Turkul** and **Ms. Rajul Kothari** for their continuous coordination with the associated hospitals, ensuring smooth operations.

Furthermore, I am deeply thankful to the **Associate Hospitals** for their ongoing support during the fieldwork phase and to all the participants who willingly contributed their time and insights, making the data collection process efficient and meaningful.

Lastly, I would like to express my heartfelt and profound gratitude to **Dr. Kulin Kothari** for his continued trust in our abilities and for providing the opportunity to undertake this vital study

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ACRONYMS

AH	Associate Hospital
CEC	Charity Eye Clinic
CEC-2OT	Second-Time Operations
CEC-COPD	Charity OPD
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FOPD	Free OPD
IDI	In-depth interview
KII	Key Informants Interview
MUSE	Mumbai Urban Slum Eye Care
OBC	Other Backward Class
PJ	Police Jyoti
RNY	Rastriya Netra Yagna
SC	Scheduled Caste
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SPSS	Statistical Packages for Social Sciences
ST	Scheduled Tribes
VFI	Vision Foundation of India

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

This section summarizes key findings from the impact assessment of VFI's eye care interventions across India during 2023–24. The findings are presented thematically, covering outreach, demographic profile, intervention effectiveness, quality of life, economic upliftment, psychosocial well-being, and perceptions of hospital services.

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OUTREACH AND SERVICE COVERAGE

- The VFI projects successfully **treated 45,367** patients across **19 states of India in 2023-24**
- Special attention was given to economically disadvantaged and socially weaker sections, ensuring inclusive access to services.
- Projects reached diverse groups through focused initiatives such as '*Bal Drishti*' for school children, '*Rashtriya Netra Yagna (RNY)*' for elderly cataract patients, '*Police Jyoti*' for police professionals, and mobile eye camps for rural and remote populations.

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF BENEFICIARIES

- **Age Distribution:** 60.9% of beneficiaries were aged 61 years and above.
- **Gender:** Females comprised 53.9% of the sample, while males accounted for 46.1%.
- **Social Groups:** Participation included Scheduled Castes (23%), Scheduled Tribes (11.6%), and Other Backward Classes (35.4%).
- **Education:** A substantial 50.5% had no formal education.
- **Residential Location:** 73.5% resided in rural areas.
- **Occupation:** A majority were engaged in farming, daily wage labor, or informal sector jobs (e.g., shops, stalls, small trade).
- **Income Levels:** 56.2% of beneficiaries earned below ₹5,000 per month.
- **Access and Mobility:** 64.1% relied on hospital-provided transportation, and most travelled within a 100 km radius to avail services.

EFFECTIVENESS OF EYE CARE INTERVENTIONS

- **Pain Relief:** 82.4% reported that pain/discomfort completely subsided post-surgery.
- **Satisfaction:** A high 99.2% of beneficiaries were satisfied with the treatment.
- **Side Effects:** 88.2% experienced no post-operative side effects; minor discomforts such as itching, blurry vision, or light sensitivity were noted by a small proportion.

✚ IMPROVEMENTS IN DAILY FUNCTIONING AND QUALITY OF LIFE

- **Independence:** 86.4% noted a reduced dependence on others.
- **Personal Care:** 84.6% could now manage tasks like bathing, dressing independently.
- **Household Tasks:** 82.6% were better able to handle chores like cooking, cleaning etc.
- **Leisure and Hobbies:** 79.2% resumed activities such as sewing, reading, or gardening.

✚ ECONOMIC IMPACT AND LIVELIHOOD RESTORATION

- **Work Ability:** 87.2% of respondents could work without difficulty post-treatment.
- **Income Generation:** 84.9% resumed their livelihood activities.
- **Income Increase:** 68.3% reported a noticeable rise in income due to improved vision.

✚ PSYCHO-SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

- **Mobility:** 96.5% experienced enhanced independent mobility.
- **Social Engagement:** 63.6% reconnected with friends and neighbors; 81.4% participated more in community events.
- **Caregiving:** 83.3% improved their ability to care for dependents.
- **Mental Health:** 64.0% reported reduced anxiety about eye health.
- **Communication:** 83.0% could better engage in phone or message-based communication.
- **Literacy:** 78.5% experienced improvement in reading and or writing abilities.

✚ BENEFICIARY PERCEPTION OF HOSPITAL SERVICES

Information Clarity:

- 74.7% received a clear explanation of surgical procedures and associated risks.
- 77.7% found pre-operative instructions to be very clear.
- 82.4% were well-informed about post-operative care and follow-up requirements.

Cleanliness & Infrastructure:

- 95.7% rated the facilities as clean.
- 82.2% felt the hospital setup met all their needs.
- 64.0% found hospital amenities to be of high quality.

Staff Behavior:

- 90.0% rated hospital staff as very friendly or exceptional in behavior.

The impact assessment of VFI's 2023–24 interventions highlights impacts on preventing and treating vision impairments across socioeconomically diverse communities. Positive changes were observed across **health, livelihood, education, and psychosocial** dimensions.

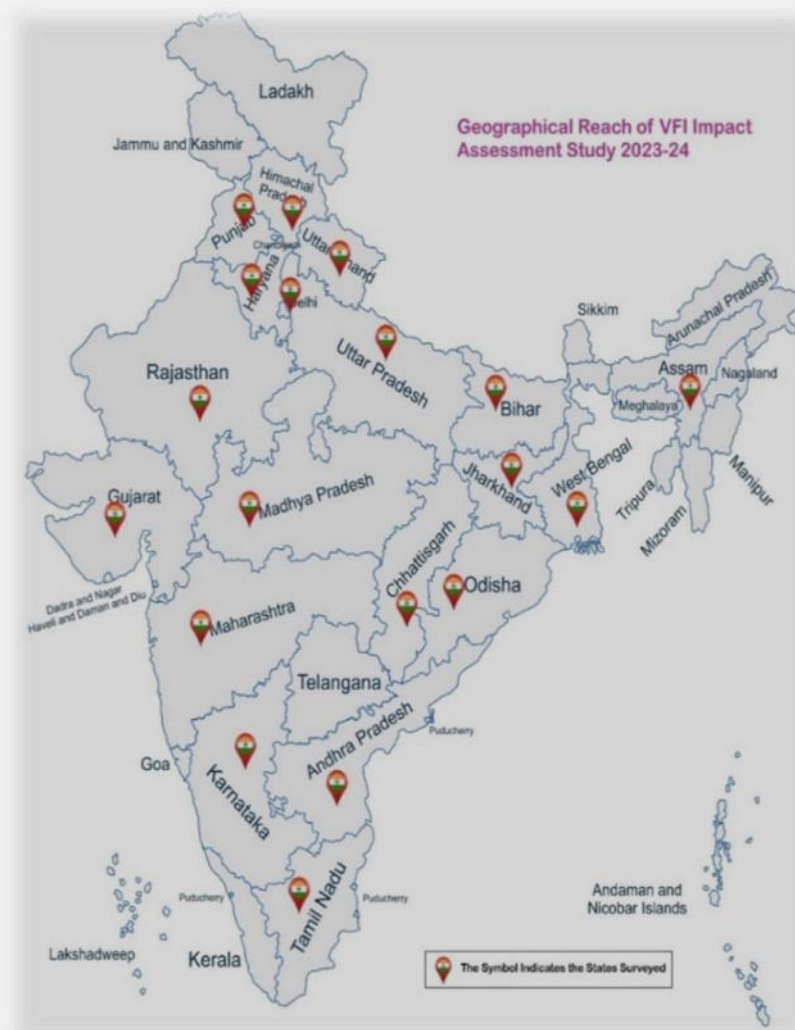
CHAPTER ONE: METHODOLOGICAL BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

1.1: THE OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

The Vision Foundation of India (VFI) has been at the forefront of providing eye care services to the weaker sections of India. Over the financial year 2023-24, significant numbers of eye surgeries have been performed across various states in India. To evaluate the impact of this program, a thorough assessment is conducted of all the initiatives of VFI

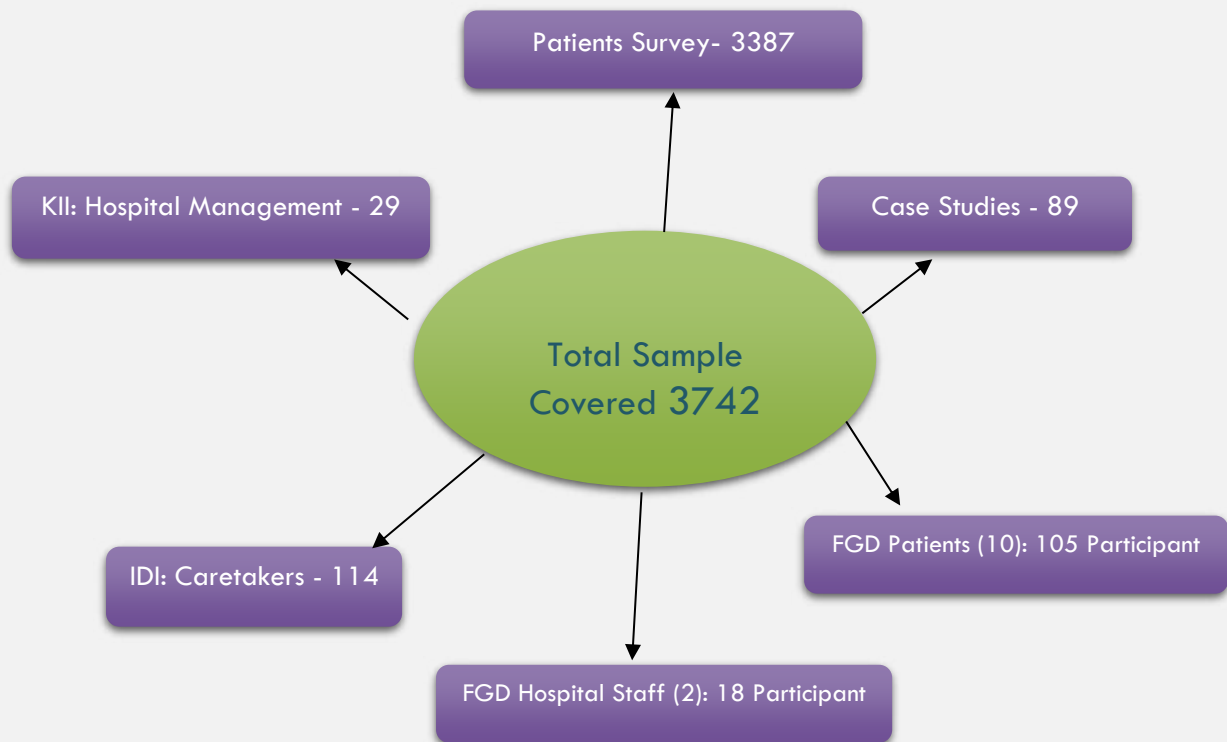
- The primary objective of this survey was to evaluate the impact, outreach, and effectiveness of VFI's eye care programs conducted during the year 2023-24

1.2: STUDY COVERAGE



A total of 3,387 beneficiaries were surveyed from states such as Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal. The data provides valuable insights into the impact of the project in diverse settings, including heavily industrialized states like Maharashtra and Gujarat, agriculturally focused regions like Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, and underserved areas like Bihar and Odisha.

1.3: SAMPLING FRAME:



The study comprises a comprehensive and diverse sample that includes qualitative and quantitative sources to ensure a holistic assessment of the VFI programs. In total, 3,742 participants were engaged through various methods. This approach strengthens the reliability of the findings and provides a comprehensive evaluation of the impact. This sample size surpasses the minimum required for large population surveys as per standard sampling guidelines to achieve a 95% confidence level with a 5% margin of error (Krejcie & Morgan, 1970).

1.4: DATA COLLECTION TOOLS AND PROCESS

The data collection process employed a structured survey questionnaire to gather quantitative information from beneficiaries across 19 states. A pre-tested survey tool was used to capture key indicators, including demographic details, access to services, health outcomes, satisfaction levels, and socioeconomic improvements.

The tool included sections on:

-  **Demographic profile:** Age, gender, education, income, and social category.
-  **Access to services:** Transportation, distance, and barriers faced.
-  **Health impact:** Vision improvement, reduction in pain, and side effects.

- ✚ **Socioeconomic outcomes:** Work productivity, income levels, independence in daily tasks, and participation in community life.
- ✚ **Patient satisfaction:** Quality of care, staff friendliness, cleanliness, and adequacy of facilities.

Surveys were administered at hospital units. Field investigators were trained to ensure consistency and accuracy during data collection. Data was recorded in SPSS software, cleaned, and analyzed to identify trends, correlations, and outcomes.

1.5: DATA ANALYSIS:

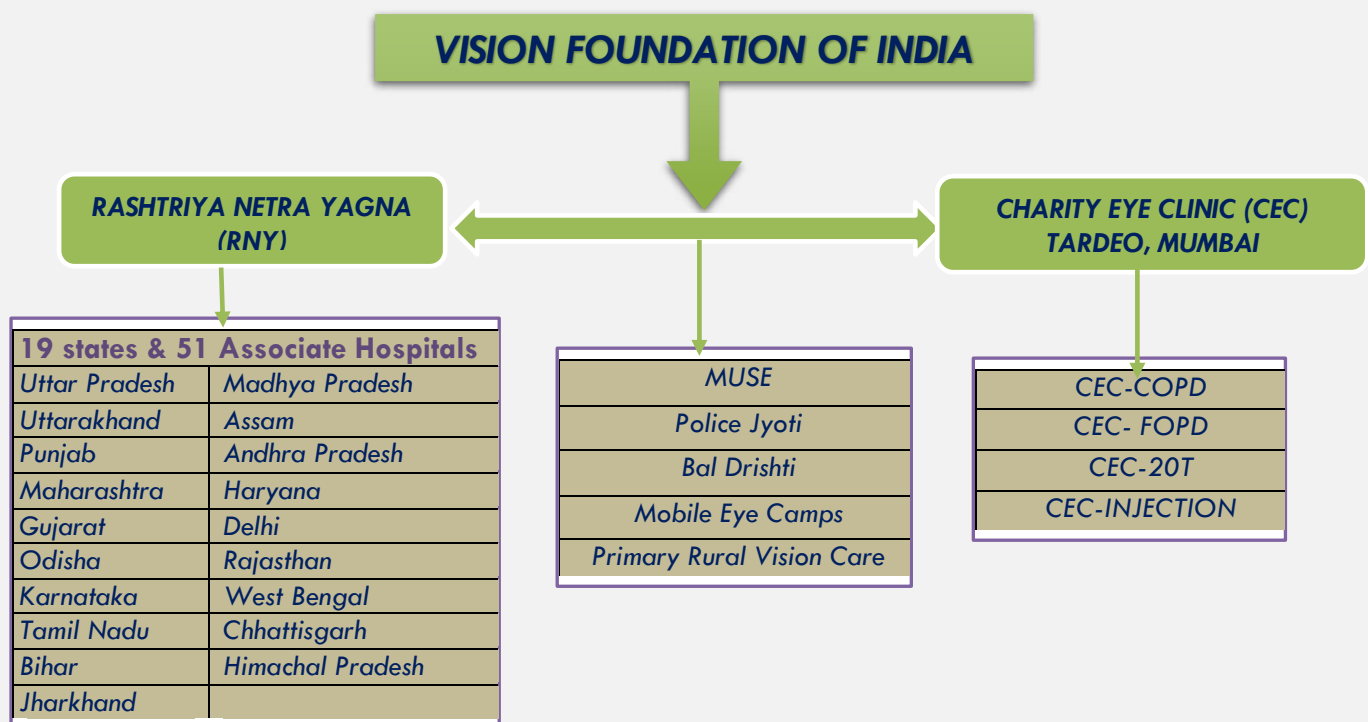
Quantitative data collected through surveys has been analyzed using appropriate statistical methods. Descriptive statistics, such as frequencies and percentages, have been calculated to summarize the data. Qualitative data obtained from interviews and direct observations have been analyzed thematically to identify common themes, patterns, and key findings

1.6: ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Ethical guidelines were strictly followed throughout the study to ensure the rights, safety, and well-being of all participants. Ethical approval was obtained from the associate hospitals before initiating the research. Informed consent was obtained from all adult participants after providing detailed information about the study's objectives and procedures. For pediatric participants under 14 years of age, consent was sought from their parents or guardians. Participants were assured that their privacy and confidentiality would be strictly maintained with sensitive information.

CHAPTER TWO: OVERVIEW OF VFI EYE CARE INITIATIVES

According to global estimates, India accounts for a third of the world's blind population, with cataracts being the leading cause of blindness. The lack of awareness, affordability, and timely interventions exacerbates these issues, impacting quality of life, productivity, and social inclusion. Restoring vision directly influences an individual's ability to lead an independent and productive life. In this context initiatives undertaken by the Vision Foundation of India play a transformative role. Since its inception, VFI has prioritized underserved populations, including individuals from remote rural, and economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Through targeted interventions such as free and subsidized eye surgeries, school screening programs, and mobile eye camps, VFI ensures that no individual is deprived of essential eye care due to financial constraints or geographic barriers. VFI runs following eye care projects to ensure no one is left from the treatment of avoidable vision problem



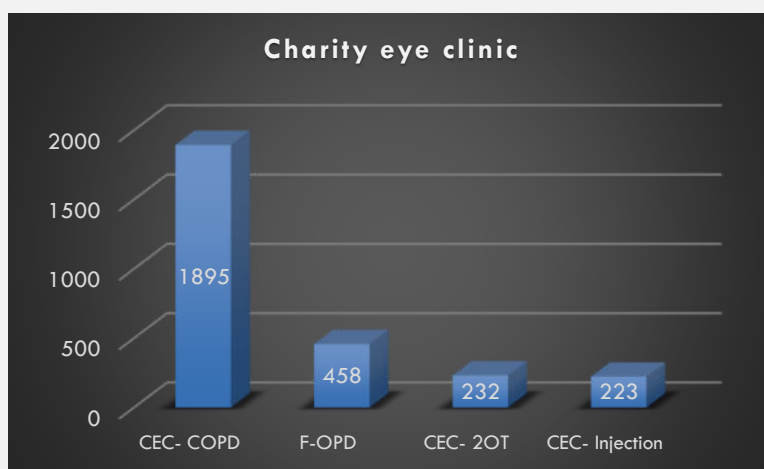
2.1: RASHTRIYA NETRA YAGNA (RNY): A NATIONWIDE INITIATIVE OF VFI

RNY is a flagship project of the Vision Foundation of India, dedicated to curable blindness in underserved communities across the country. The initiative targets socio-economically disadvantaged populations, particularly in rural regions and urban slums, where access to healthcare is limited.

In 2023-24 the program has performed 42,384 nationwide eye surgeries. These surgeries have not only restored vision but have also empowered beneficiaries by enabling them to regain independence, improve productivity, and participate fully in their families and communities. By collaborating with local hospitals, community leaders, and volunteers, the project ensures that quality eye care services reach the unreached population. Mobile eye camps and outreach programs play a pivotal role in identifying and bringing patients to treatment centres. Through its dedication to providing equitable healthcare RNY is alleviating the burden of blindness and contributes to the socio-economic upliftment of vulnerable communities.

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2.2: CHARITY EYE CLINIC (CEC), TARDEO



The Charity Eye Clinic (CEC) in Tardeo, Mumbai, was established on May 4, 2022, offering advanced eye care at free or subsidized rates for patients of economically weaker sections. Operated by the Vision Foundation of India

the clinic is equipped with advanced technology to provide comprehensive and quality eye care services while emphasizing affordability and accessibility

2.2.1: CEC-COPD (Charity OPD):

Under the Charity Eye Clinic, the CEC-COPD initiative focuses on providing high-quality surgical interventions at subsidized rates for patients from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. The CEC-COPD initiative aims to address preventable blindness and vision impairments by offering subsidized surgeries to patients who cannot afford the high costs of treatment. The number of surgeries performed under this project in the year 2023 -24 is 1,895. The surgeries were performed at a lower cost than the market. This makes it subsidized rates to low-income families.

- Patients are screened at the clinic to identify those requiring surgical interventions.
- Comprehensive diagnostic tests are conducted to ensure accurate identification of conditions
- Patients who qualify based on their economic status are offered surgeries

- Follow-up consultations and necessary medications are also provided at minimal or no cost

2.2.2: FOPD (Free OPD):

The Free OPD under the Charity Eye Clinic is designed to provide completely free eye care services, including surgeries, to economically disadvantaged patients. This program reflects VFI's mission to eliminate financial barriers and extend quality eye care to the most vulnerable sections of society. The initiative aims to ensure that individuals from underprivileged backgrounds receive necessary eye surgeries and treatment without any financial burden. In the years 2023 -24 number of Surgeries Performed is 458. The project typically follows the following steps and processes

- Patients identified through outreach camps or clinic visits
- Diagnostic services are performed to determine the nature of the treatment required
- Surgeries, such as cataract, glaucoma, or other critical procedures are conducted at no cost
- Patients receive follow-up care and necessary medications to ensure successful recovery

2.2.3: CEC-2OT (Second-Time Operations):

The CEC-2OT initiative under the Charity Eye Clinic is specifically designed to provide secondary surgical interventions for patients who require follow-up or additional operations due to technical or medical necessities. The CEC-2OT initiative focuses on addressing complex cases where a second operation is medically necessary. The number of Surgeries Performed during the year 2023 -24 is 232. The follow-up process involves a thorough examination of patients after their initial surgery to assess the need for any additional procedures.

2.2.4: CEC-Injection Procedures Initiative:

The CEC-Injection Procedures initiative under the Charity Eye Clinic offers specialized eye treatments through injections, addressing complex vision problems and eye diseases such as macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and other retinal disorders. By offering these advanced procedures at subsidized or free rates, the program ensures that patients from economically disadvantaged backgrounds have access to critical eye care. In the 2023-24 years, this initiative has successfully treated 223 patients who received medically recommended injections personalized to their specific eye conditions. The process involves comprehensive eye examinations, followed by the prescription and administration of injections only when considered essential by ophthalmologists.

2.3: BAL DRISHTI

The Bal Drishti is a child-focused eye health initiative of the VFI to address vision-related challenges during the crucial developmental years. Recognizing the profound impact of clear vision on a child's growth and overall cognitive development, this initiative provides early detection and treatment of eye disorders for school-aged children. Uncorrected eye conditions during formative years can lead to permanent vision problems and hinder brain development, resulting in delays in learning and social interaction. The Bal Drishti initiative seeks to mitigate these risks by ensuring timely intervention and treatment. Under the Bal Drishti program, 17 children have successfully undergone surgeries to correct vision impairments. These interventions not only restored their sight but also enhanced their ability to participate fully in academics and everyday activities, fostering holistic growth. The initiative conducts comprehensive eye screening camps in both municipal and private schools. The program also emphasizes raising awareness among teachers and parents about the importance of regular eye check-ups and maintaining good eye health for children.

2.4: MOBILE EYE CAMPS

The Mobile Eye Camps Initiative by the Vision Foundation of India is an important outreach program designed to deliver eye care services to underserved and inaccessible communities. Utilizing a mobile van equipped with advanced portable diagnostic and treatment machines, this initiative ensures accessibility to quality eye care for populations in marginalized areas. By addressing barriers such as distance, affordability, and availability of healthcare facilities, the program brings medical services directly to the doorstep of those in need, particularly in rural and underserved urban regions. In 2023-24, a total of 60 Mobile Eye Camps were organized where patients who needed further evaluation were referred to the charity eye clinic. Apart from these surgeries organizations have provided services that included basic eye check-ups, prescription of corrective glasses, and minor treatments to many needy patients. These camps are conducted with local organizations and community leaders to maximize reach and community participation. This initiative addresses immediate eye health concerns and raises awareness about the importance of regular eye care.

2.5: MUSE (MUMBAI URBAN SLUM EYE CARE)

For many residents in Mumbai's slums, obtaining medical treatment, particularly for eye-related issues, is often beyond reach. The costs associated with eye examinations, treatment, and surgeries, coupled with a lack of awareness, lead to neglect of even severe conditions.

This initiative bridges the gap by providing critical eye care at subsidized rates or entirely free for those in need. To facilitate easy access to services, primary eye care centers have been strategically established within slum areas. These centers serve as the first point of contact for individuals seeking diagnosis, and treatment. The comprehensive care provided ensures timely detection and management of conditions, preventing long-term complications. This project has delivered affordable, and accessible eye care to marginalized populations in a slum, ensuring no one is deprived of curable vision problem due to financial constraints. Through the MUSE initiative, 40 individuals have undergone successful eye surgeries during 2023 -24.

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2.6: PJ (POLICE JYOTI)

The Police Jyoti initiative is a dedicated project aimed at improving eye health among Mumbai's police personnel and their families. Launched in 2005 under the guidance of the then Commissioner of Police, Mr. A.N. Roy, the program reflects a collaborative effort between the Vision Foundation of India and the Mumbai Police to ensure that those serving in the force receive essential medical attention for their vision needs. Police personnel face challenging work conditions that often lead to the neglect of their health, including eye care. Recognizing these unique challenges, the PJ initiative was designed to provide accessible, high-quality eye care services tailored to their needs. This ensures that police personnel and their families do not have to compromise their vision and health due to financial or logistical constraints. Camps are organized at various police stations, making eye care services easily accessible to the personnel. These camps provide initial screenings and consultations to detect vision issues at an early stage. In the year 2023 – 24 the project has facilitated 58 successful surgeries. These surgeries have enabled beneficiaries to perform their duties effectively and improved the quality of life for their families

CHAPTER THREE: RURAL VISION CARE INITIATIVES

The Primary Rural Vision Care initiative, of Vision Foundation of India in collaboration with the *Shevantilal Kantilal Trust* in Manor, Palghar and the *Adivasi Kalyan Mandal* in Shahapur block in Maharashtra, aims to provide accessible and quality eye care to the rural and tribal populations of these areas. This initiative is designed to primarily address curable blindness. With a focus on reducing preventable blindness the organisation serves as a lifeline for thousands of individuals, making free screenings, surgeries, and spectacles available to those in need. By relentlessly reaching out to rural populations, these centers have become a vital part of improving healthcare access and quality of life for the underserved rural population in Maharashtra.

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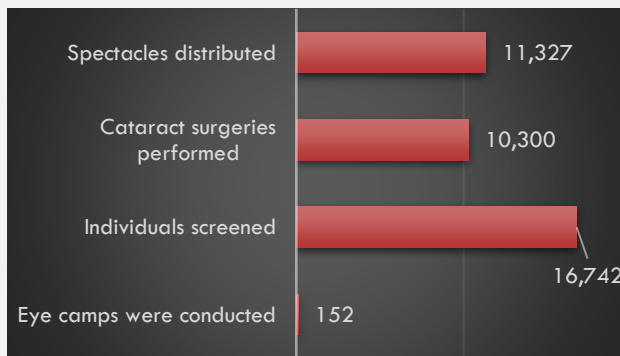
3.1: Eye Care in Manor Town of Palghar District in Maharashtra



Pic: The eye screenings and medication provided at Manor

The Vision Foundation of India, in collaboration with the Shevantilal Kantilal Trust (founded by Lt. Jayantilal Popatlal Shaha), has been providing free, high-quality eye care and other essential health services to rural, predominantly tribal populations in Manor town, Palghar district. Shevantilal Kantilal Trust, with over 42 years of service to poor rural communities of this area offers a range of medical services, including general OPD services, dental care, gynecology, and eye care, all free of charge.

Milestones Achieved from 2006:



152 eye care camps were conducted in the Manor including screening 16,742 individuals. Among them 10,300 cataract surgeries were performed. This initiative significantly benefits poor and tribal patients. Additionally, 11,327 pairs of spectacles were distributed free

of cost by the associated partner. These efforts, led by VFI and the Shevantilal Kantilal Trust, have had a transformative impact on local communities, particularly tribal populations. The initiative has restored vision and enhanced the quality of life for individuals who once faced blindness or severe visual impairment due to untreated cataracts.

3.1.2: Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with beneficiaries:



A focus group discussion was conducted with beneficiaries of VFI's rural eye care services in Manor. The participants shared their experiences regarding vision impairments, challenges, perceptions of cataract surgery, and the impact of restored vision on their daily lives. Participants reported significant difficulties in daily activities such as recognizing

family members, reading, and navigating their surroundings. A participant from Dhuktan village mentioned, *"I struggled to manage my daily routine tasks because I couldn't see clearly."* There was a prevalent fear that cataract surgery might cause permanent eye damage or involve unethical practices. A participant admitted, *"I was afraid of the surgery because I heard it could make my vision worse or that they might use animal parts in the procedure."* The participants expressed satisfaction with the treatment quality and outcomes. They appreciated the comprehensive care including transportation to Mumbai, accommodation, and post-surgery support, all provided free. A participant from Abede village shared, *"After my surgery, I can see clearly and manage my farm work without any problems."* Regaining sight significantly improved their quality of life, enabling independence and reducing reliance on family members.

A 60-year-old agricultural labourer, stated, *"Now that I can see again, I feel like I have been given my life back. I can care for myself, and that's all I ever wanted."* The FGD highlighted the transformative impact of VFI's eye care services on rural underserved individuals. Addressing misconceptions about cataract surgery and providing comprehensive, free care was crucial in overcoming barriers to vision restoration.

3.1.3: SOME FIELD STORIES OF RURAL VISION CARE OF MANOR

Ms. Anusaya Lahu Gaikwad



Mrs. Anusaya, an elderly resident of Dhuktan village, struggled with poor vision and the challenges of managing household chores alone after being separated from her sons and unsupported by her daughters-in-law. Attending a VFI eye camp, she was diagnosed with cataracts and underwent free surgery at their Mumbai clinic. The successful surgery restored her vision and independence, enabling her to manage

daily chores easily. Grateful for the surgery, she shared, *"Now I can see again, I feel like I have been given my life back. I can care for myself, and that's all I ever wanted."*

Mr. Mohan Keshav Gharat



Mohan Keshav Gharat, a small landholder supporting a family of 10, struggled with cataracts, leaving him unable to recognize even his family or perform agricultural tasks. Diagnosed at a VFI camp, he received free surgery at their Mumbai clinic. The procedure restored his vision, enabling him to work his land again. Mohan expressed, *"Thanks to the VFI's care and support, I am now able to work on my land and live*

my life without the daily struggles caused by his vision impairment"

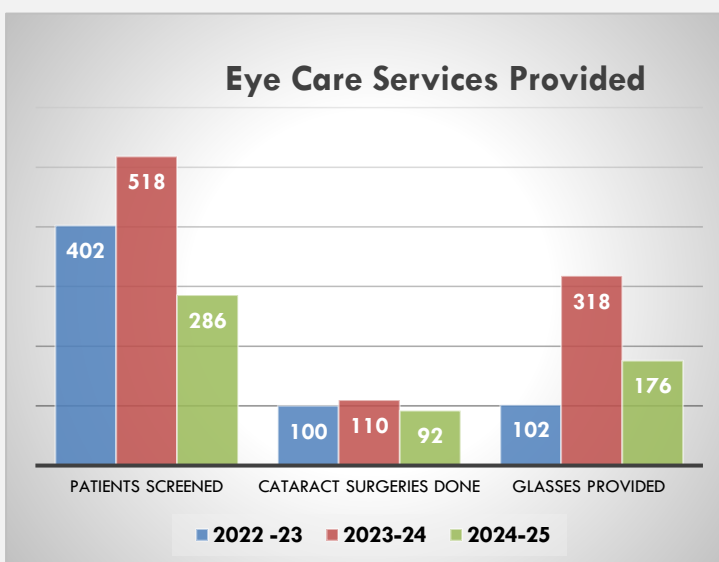
3.2: EYE CARE SERVICES IN SHAHAPUR TOWN, THANE DISTRICT

Adivasi Kalyan Mandal serving the tribal and remote communities of Shahapur block in Thane district since 1982. The organization provides comprehensive healthcare and educational services to the remote and tribal population of Thane district. *Adivasi Kalyan Mandal* has set up a well-equipped health center in Shahapur that caters to the medical needs of the tribal population. The organization conducts health camps twice a month, focusing on providing medical care to critical patients.

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3.2.1: Eye Care in collaboration with Adivasi Kalyan Mandal in past three years



The chart highlights the consistent efforts in providing eye care services over three years: 2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25. The number of patients screened peaked in 2023-24 at 518, an increase from 402 in 2022-23. Cataract surgeries showed 100 surgeries in 2022-23 and a further 110 in 2023-24 followed by 92 surgeries in 2024-25. Similarly, the glasses distribution is 318 in 2023-24, 102 in 2022-23 and continued to benefit 176 people in 2024-25.

A significant aspect of Adivasi Kalyan Mandal's healthcare services is its collaboration with the Vision Foundation of India. On the first Sunday of every month, the organization holds an eye care camp in partnership with VFI. During these camps, ophthalmologists, and vision technicians from VFI conduct on-field eye screenings to identify cataract patients and other vision-related issues. Patients diagnosed with cataracts are transported to VFI's eye clinic in Mumbai for surgery with all transportation, food and surgery expenses covered. The process of cataract surgery is meticulously organized starting with preliminary screenings at the health camp followed by comprehensive tests at the VFI clinic, including Eye examinations, Slit lamp examinations, Sonography, and other necessary tests. After successful surgeries patients undergo post-operative examinations and are discharged the following day. Adivasi Kalyan Mandal ensures that these patients are safely transported back to their homes and provides follow-up care including prescription and provision of spectacles as needed.

Ms. Rami Mangal Gawda - Shahapur



Rami Mangal Gawda, a 70-year-old woman from the remote Takeshwar village in Shahapur taluka, faced challenges accessing healthcare. At a VFI eye camp in Shahapur, she was diagnosed with cataracts in both eyes. VFI arranged her transportation, accommodation, meals, and medical care. After successful cataract surgery and thorough post-operative care,

Rami was safely transported back home. Grateful for the support, she shared, *"On Tuesday, doctor sahib took me to the Mumbai city-based hospital, and on Thursday after my eye surgery, they dropped me home. During this procedure, these people took care of my food, stay, tea, travel, medicines, and everything."*

CHAPTER FOUR: CHILDHOOD BLINDNESS: PEDIATRIC EYE CARE SERVICE



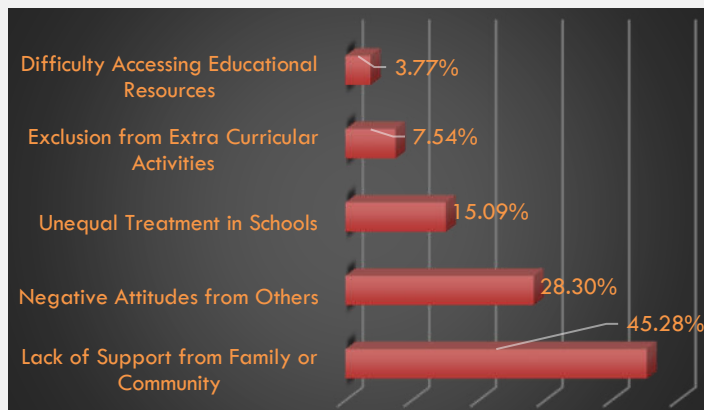
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The Vision Foundation of India's pediatric eye care initiatives address critical challenges faced by children with vision impairments. This initiative emphasizes timely intervention, high-quality treatment, and the holistic development of young individuals. Children with visual impairments often face profound challenges that extend beyond health and impact their education, mental well-being, and social inclusion. A survey of 53 children who underwent eye surgeries provided insights into the transformative role of VFI in restoring vision and improving the quality of life for affected children.

Through specialized pediatric programs, VFI has enabled life-changing surgeries and treatments for children from underserved communities across India. By addressing conditions such as cataracts, trauma-induced injuries, and congenital issues, the foundation provides young patients with a renewed ability to participate in education, family life, and social activities. Case studies and field interviews reveal how interventions not only improve visual capabilities but also significantly enhance confidence, independence, and overall well-being. Beyond the immediate benefits of vision restoration, the survey highlights VFI's broader impact on breaking the cycle of stigma and social exclusion often associated with pediatric vision impairments. This section explores the deep changes these efforts bring to young lives, setting the foundation for a brighter and more inclusive future.

4.1: SURVEY FINDINGS OF PATIENTS UNDER 18 YEARS (Total Respondents (N): 53)

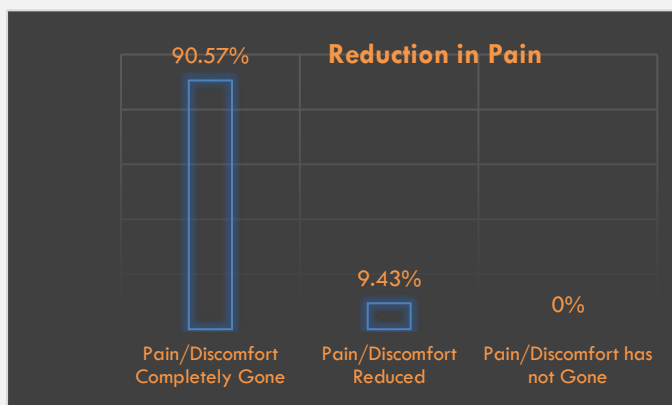
Pre-Treatment Discrimination at Home and Beyond



Children with vision impairments faced significant challenges before treatment. Lack of respect from family and community affected 45.28%, while 28.30% experienced negative attitudes. Unequal treatment impacted 15.09%, and 7.54 % reported

the exclusion from extracurricular activities. 3.77% encountered barriers to assessing educational services.

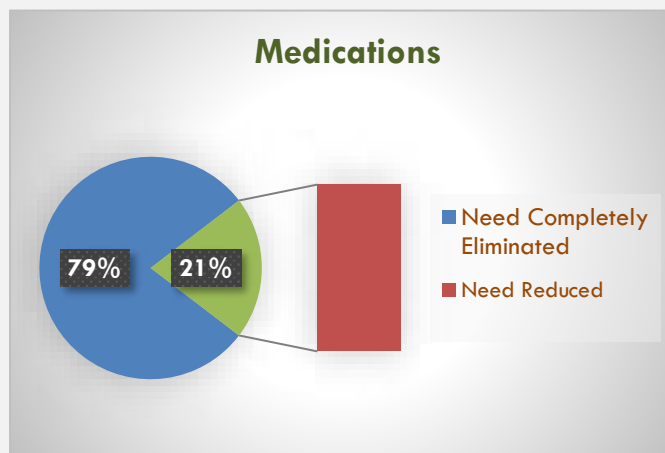
Relief from Eye Pain After Treatment



The data reveals that an overwhelming 90.57% of respondents experienced complete alleviation of their pain or discomfort following treatment. Additionally, 9.43% of respondents reported a reduction in pain or discomfort. None of the respondents

reported pain had not gone indicating the effectiveness of the treatments provided

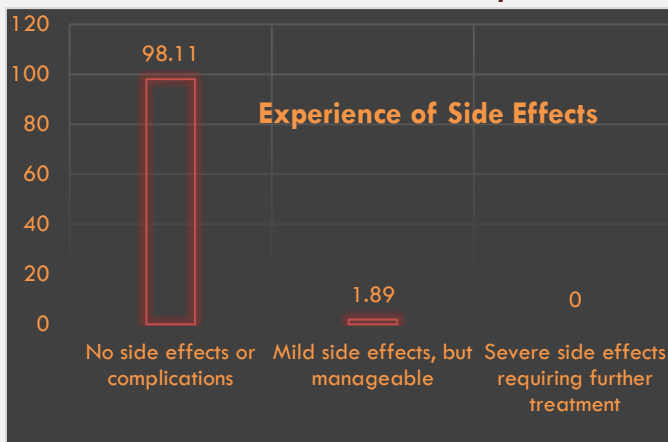
Reduced Dependence on Medications Post-Treatment



This graph shows how treatment has influenced the dependency on eye drops or other medications. A significant 79.25% of respondents reported that the treatment eliminated the need for frequent eye drops or other medications. Another 20.75% indicated that the treatment reduced their dependency on such

medications.

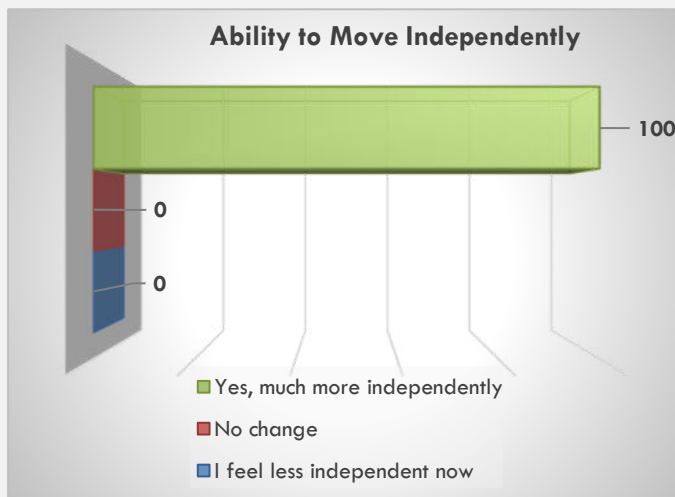
Post-Treatment Side Effects and Complications



This graph shows side effects after eye treatment. Most 98.11% reported no issues, and only 1.89% experienced mild, manageable side effects. No severe complications were noted, indicating the treatments were highly successful with minimal adverse effects.

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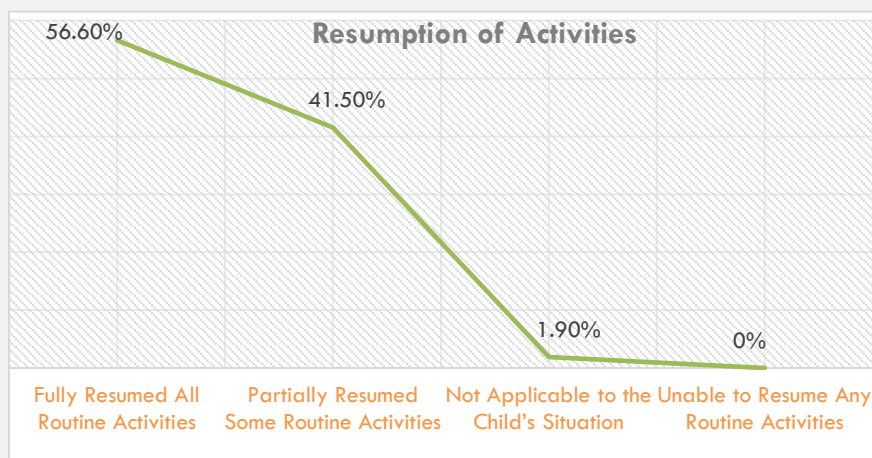
Enhanced Mobility and Independence After Treatment



All respondents (100%) reported a significant improvement in their ability to move more independently after receiving treatment. The results clearly show that the eye care services were highly effective in improving the respondents' ability to navigate their environment independently. Enhanced mobility can also contribute to increased

confidence and a greater sense of autonomy

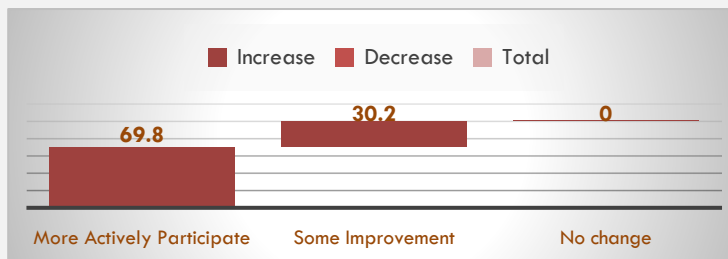
Returning to Activities After Surgery



The graph presents the ability to return to activities that were difficult before the eye treatment. Most respondents 56.6% reported that they had resumed all

their activities post-treatment. Additionally, 41.5% of the respondents indicated that they have resumed some of their activities.

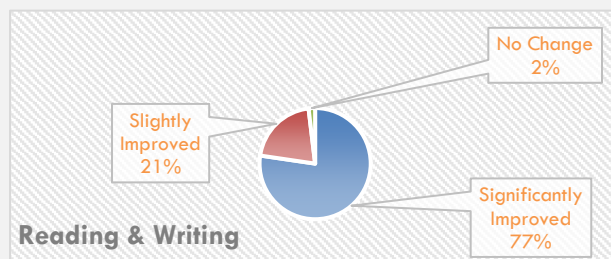
Improved Social Engagement After Eye Treatment



The table presents the responses from individuals under 18 years regarding their ability to participate in community or social events, such as religious

gatherings, festivals, and meetings, after receiving eye treatment. A significant majority (69.8%) of respondents indicated that they now participate more actively in such events, highlighting a considerable improvement in their social engagement post-treatment. Additionally, 30.2% of respondents reported some improvement in their participation, suggesting that there has been progress.

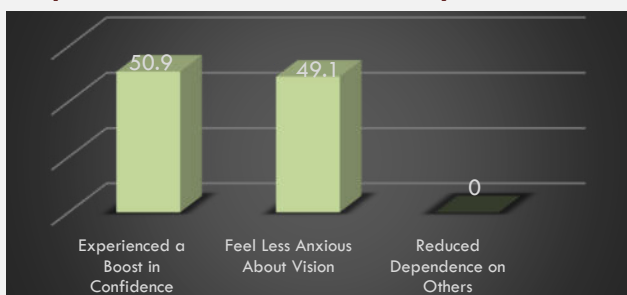
Enhanced Reading and Writing Skills After Eye Treatment



The table illustrates the improvements in the ability to read and write among individuals under 18 years after receiving eye care services. A significant majority of respondents (77.4%)

reported a substantial improvement in their ability to read and write, suggesting that the eye treatment had a profound impact on their vision, enabling them to engage more effectively in academic and everyday tasks. Additionally, 20.8% of the respondents experienced slight improvements, indicating a positive but less change. Only 1.9% of respondents noted no change. Improved vision can directly contribute to better learning outcomes, increased confidence, and greater participation in academic activities.

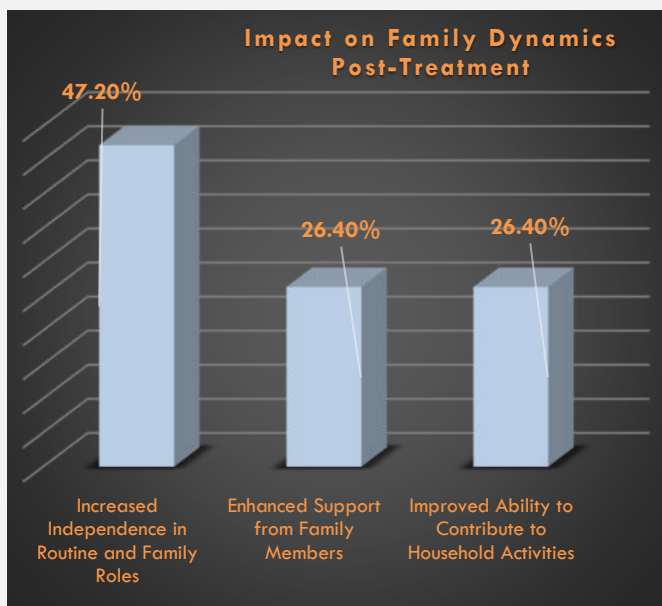
Improved Mental Health After Eye Treatment



The table reveals how eye treatment has impacted the mental health of respondents under 18 years. 50.9% percent of children experienced a boost in self-esteem or confidence because of their improved vision. Additionally,

49.1% of respondents felt less anxious about their vision and eye health, indicating that the treatment fostered a sense of emotional well-being. Overall, these findings highlight the positive mental health outcomes i.e. increased self-esteem and a decrease in anxiety

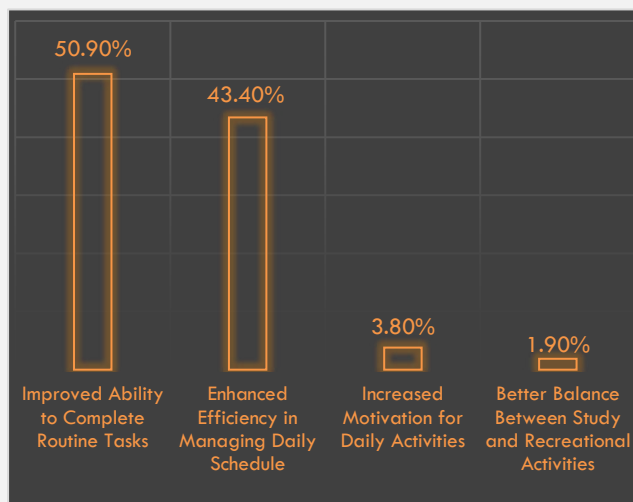
Impact on Family Relationships After Eye Treatment



The graph reflects the positive changes in relationships with family members following eye treatment. A significant portion of respondents 47.2% reported feeling more independent in fulfilling family roles and responsibilities after treatment. Additionally, 26.4% of respondents noticed that their ability to contribute to household tasks and caregiving responsibilities had improved. This suggests that the treatment had a

practical impact on their ability to assist with family duties. Similarly, another 26.4% of respondents observed that their family members became more supportive after the treatment. This change could be a result of improved communication and an increased sense of capability

Improved Productivity in Personal Tasks After Eye Treatment



A significant majority of respondents (50.9%) reported that their ability to complete household chores had improved, which indicates that the treatment enhanced their efficiency in carrying out everyday responsibilities. Additionally, 43.4% of respondents stated that they can manage their schedules more efficiently. This reflects a broader ability to handle time

management and prioritize tasks effectively, likely due to an improvement in their vision and overall independence. A smaller proportion (1.9%) reported being able to balance personal and professional responsibilities better, which might reflect the importance of vision in both academic and social settings for younger individuals. A small group of respondents (3.8%) also noted a significant increase in motivation

4.2: LIFE EXPERIENCES FROM THE CHILDREN'S EYE CARE INITIATIVE (Bal Drishti)

4.2.1: Jehil Patel, Gujarat



Jehil Patel, a 14-year-old student from Shri Jallaram High School in Selvasa, Gujarat, faced a serious challenge when a cataract clouded his vision in one eye. Struggling to read textbooks and see the blackboard, his worsening condition alarmed his parents when his eyes turned white. The

surgery cost seemed impossible with his father earning around Rs. 12,000 per month. Fortunately, they learned about the RNY cataract surgery camps. Jehil underwent a free cataract operation, which restored his vision and transformed his life. Now excelling in school and daily activities, Jehil and his parents credit the RNY program for his renewed future and bright opportunities ahead.

4.2.1: Chotu Kumar Verma, Jharkhand



Chotu Kumar Verma, a 15-year-old from Bigarah village, struggled with cloudy vision despite prior surgery on his left eye. His parents, Santosh and Baby Devi, were deeply concerned as his vision problems hindered his ability to study and participate in class. After an eye checkup, Chotu underwent

another surgery, which significantly improved his sight. While he still faces some night vision challenges, prescription glasses have helped him manage. With a clearer vision, Chotu's academic performance has improved, and he now actively participates in school and group activities. Chotu expressed, *"I can study properly now, and I go to school every day. My marks have improved, and I feel much better about myself."*

4.2.2: Aisha, Karnataka



Aisha, a 14-year-old from Dharwad, Karnataka, faced vision issues since 6th grade, struggling to read small letters and blackboard text. Her declining academic performance raised concerns among her family and teachers. After a successful surgery, she reported immediate improvement in her vision. Five months later, Aisha excels academically. *Her mother stated, "We cannot thank the hospital and VFI enough for giving our daughter a new lease on life. Aisha is back to being the bright student she always was."*

4.2.3: Naira, Karnataka



Naira, a 10-year-old from Dharwad, Karnataka, faced a traumatic eye injury when a sharp object struck her right eye during school bullying, causing her eyeball to misalign. Her parents, a daily wage worker and a homemaker, rushed her to Jayapriya Eye Hospital, trusted for its reputation. Doctors recommended immediate surgery and the operation was successful. Restoring vision Naira continues regular activities with confidence

4.2.4: Pratap, Karnataka



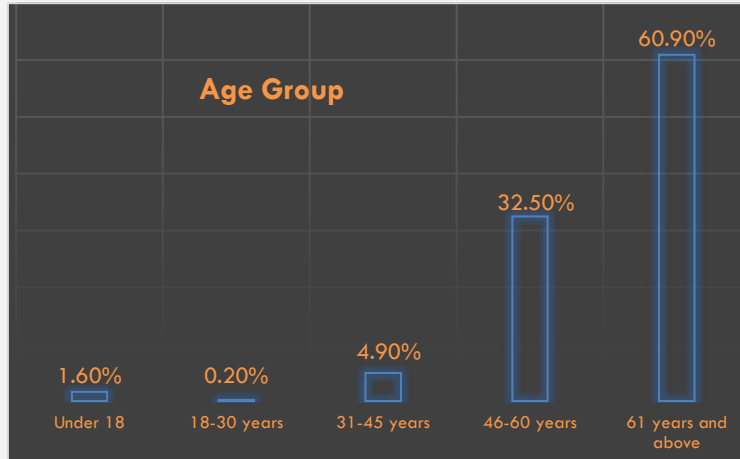
Pratap, a 10-year-old from Haveri, Karnataka, complained of blurred vision and frequent eye shaking. After consulting a government hospital, he was referred to Jayapriya Eye Hospital, where he was diagnosed with cataracts in both eyes and underwent successful surgery. Pratap, who had mental health challenges, experienced no pain during recovery. Eight months later, his vision improved, and the eye shaking

stopped. Pratap shared, *"I feel different, excited, and happy to move around and go to school."* His story shows the power of timely medical intervention in transforming lives.

CHAPTER FIVE: MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SURVEY

5.1: SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE OF THE BENEFICIARIES

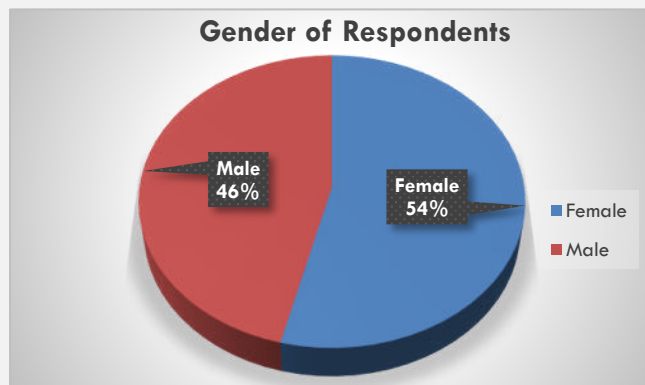
5.1.1: Age of respondents



The survey shows respondents, with 60.9% aged 61 and above, and 32.5% between age of 46-60 years. In comparison younger age groups are less with 0.2% aged 18-30 and 1.6% under 18. Overall, the surveyed population is largely older

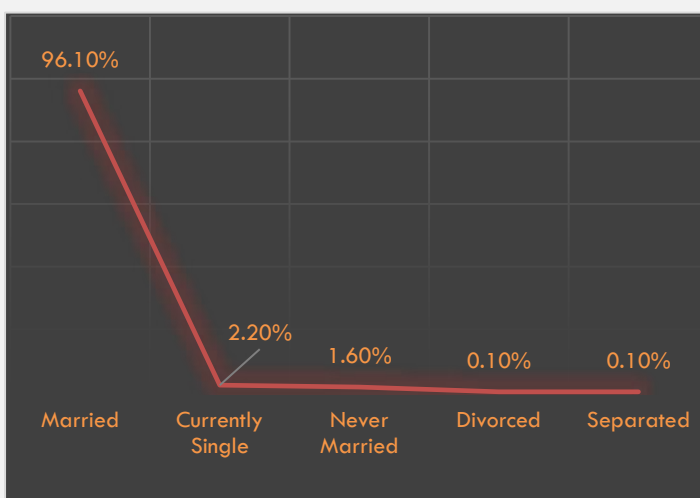
because mostly the cataract and age-related vision issues.

5.1.2: Gender of Respondent



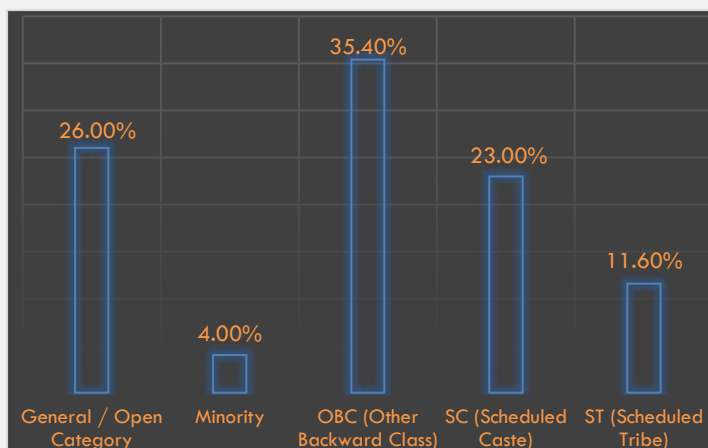
The gender distribution of respondents shows a slight majority of females, who make up 53.9% of the sample, while males account for 46.1%. This indicates a relatively balanced representation of both genders, with females being slightly more represented in the survey

5.1.3: Marital Status



Most respondents 96.1% are married. The percentages of single, never-married, divorced, and separated individuals are less but they need targeted outreach support

5.1.4: Social Categories



The distribution of respondents across various social categories provides valuable insights into the demographic composition of the individuals benefiting from the various projects of VFI. The largest group of respondents falls under the OBC (Other Backward Class) category, comprising 35.4% of the

total, followed by the General/Open Category with 26%. The Scheduled Caste category represents 23%, while Scheduled Tribe respondents make up 11.6%, indicating that the program has engaged with marginalized communities, which is an important aspect of inclusive healthcare.

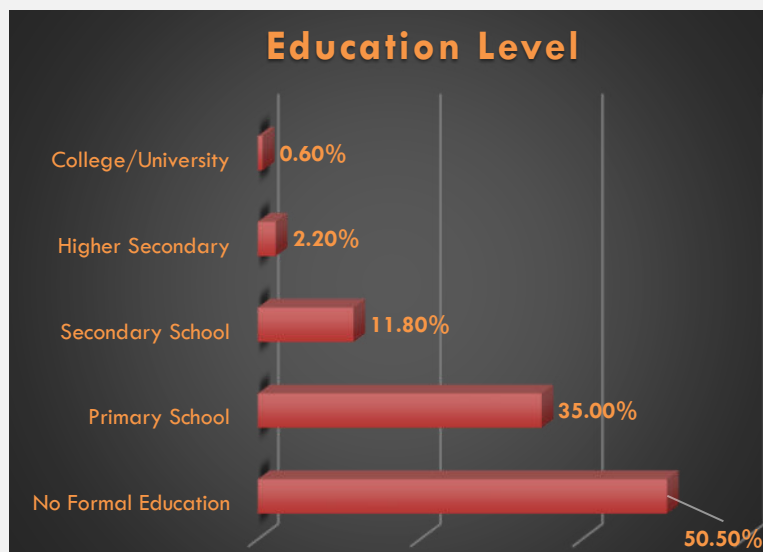
5.1.5: State wise Social Category of Respondents

State	General	Minority	OBC	SC	ST	Total
Andhra Pradesh	3 (8.82%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (5.88%)	15 (44.12%)	14 (41.18%)	34 (1.0%)
Assam	14 (70.0%)	0 (0.0%)	4 (20.0%)	2 (10.0%)	0 (0.0%)	20 (0.59%)
Bihar	55 (12.97%)	5 (1.18%)	145 (34.2%)	190 (44.81%)	29 (6.84%)	424 (12.52%)
Chhattisgarh	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	31 (41.89%)	41 (55.41%)	2 (2.7%)	74 (2.18%)
Delhi	55 (94.83%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.72%)	2 (3.45%)	0 (0.0%)	58 (1.71%)
Gujarat	46 (7.62%)	1 (0.17%)	333 (55.13%)	92 (15.23%)	132 (21.85%)	604 (17.83%)
Haryana	8 (66.67%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	4 (33.33%)	0 (0.0%)	12 (0.35%)
Himachal Pradesh	12 (75.0%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (18.75%)	1 (6.25%)	0 (0.0%)	16 (0.47%)
Jharkhand	4 (5.56%)	1 (1.39%)	46 (63.89%)	9 (12.5%)	12 (16.67%)	72 (2.13%)
Karnataka	260 (53.38%)	38 (7.8%)	140 (28.74%)	14 (2.87%)	35 (7.19%)	487 (14.38%)
Madhya Pradesh	7 (7.95%)	0 (0.0%)	10 (11.36%)	56 (63.64%)	15 (17.05%)	88 (2.6%)
Maharashtra	188 (35.34%)	27 (5.08%)	185 (34.77%)	53 (9.96%)	79 (14.85%)	532 (15.71%)
Odisha	35 (14.34%)	0 (0.0%)	106 (43.44%)	77 (31.56%)	26 (10.66%)	244 (7.2%)
Punjab	75 (36.95%)	1 (0.49%)	37 (18.23%)	87 (42.86%)	3 (1.48%)	203 (5.99%)
Rajasthan	14 (20.59%)	0 (0.0%)	30 (44.12%)	11 (16.18%)	13 (19.12%)	68 (2.01%)
Uttar Pradesh	36 (13.48%)	6 (2.25%)	98 (36.7%)	97 (36.34%)	30 (11.24%)	267 (7.88%)
Uttarakhand	22 (26.83%)	38 (46.34%)	15 (18.29%)	6 (7.32%)	1 (1.22%)	82 (2.42%)
West Bengal	46 (45.1%)	18 (17.65%)	12 (11.76%)	23 (22.55%)	3 (2.94%)	102 (3.01%)
Total	880 (25.97%)	135 (3.99%)	1198 (35.39%)	780 (23.03%)	394 (11.62%)	3387 (100%)

States such as Gujarat and Maharashtra show the highest outreach, with Gujarat having a substantial OBC representation 55.13% and Maharashtra showcasing a balanced distribution among General, OBC, and ST categories. Similarly, Bihar's beneficiaries were predominantly SC 44.81% and OBC 34.2%, benefitting interventions among socially marginalized groups. Tribal populations were the focus in states like Andhra Pradesh 41.18% and Gujarat 21.85%. These insights emphasize VFI's inclusive approach, ensuring representation from most marginal socio-economic backgrounds

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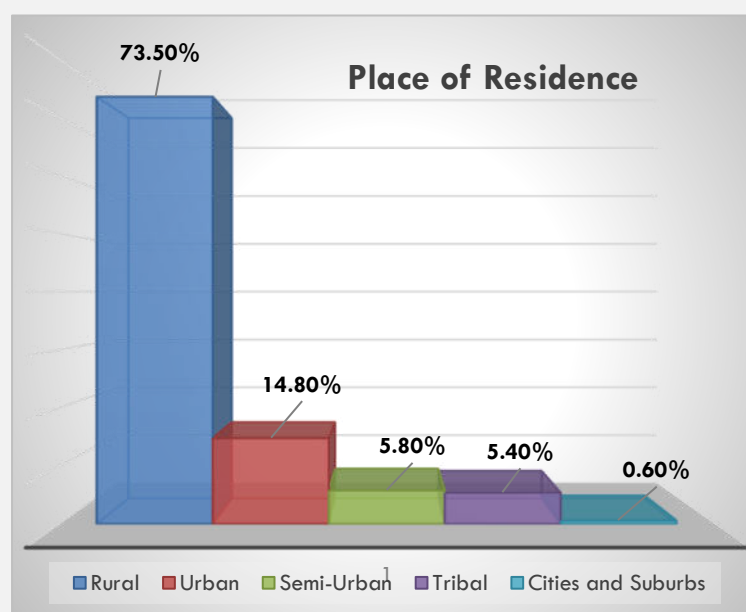
5.1.6: Highest formal education level



A significant proportion, 50.5%, have no formal education. 35% have studied primary school level. Only 2.2% of respondents have higher secondary education, and a minimal 0.6% have attended college/university. These findings suggest that the VFI is engaged with the patients

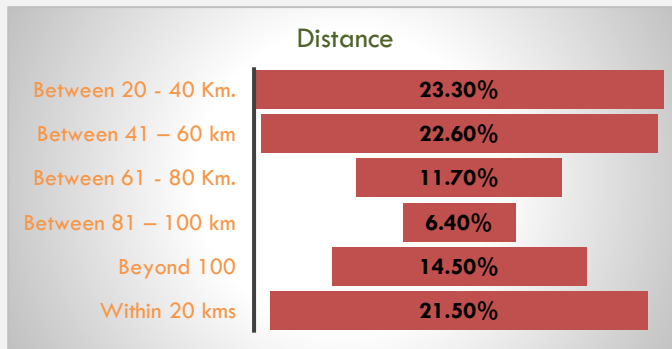
of marginal background including the low literacy or education levels.

5.1.7: Place of Residence



A large majority, 73.5%, reside in rural areas. Urban areas make up 14.8% of the respondents, while cities and suburbs contribute a small 0.6%. Semi-urban and tribal areas represent 5.8% and 5.4% of the respondents. This distribution suggests that the VFI is reaching underserved rural and tribal populations

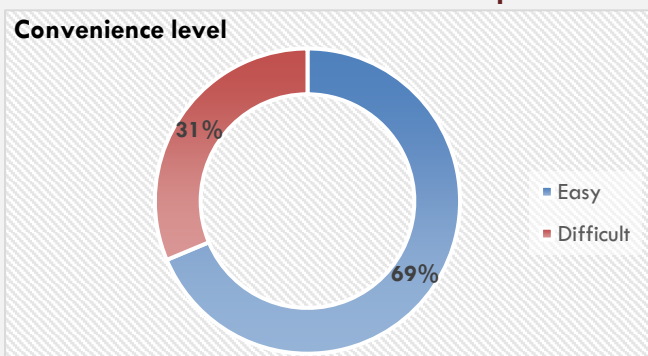
5.1.8: Distance to Hospital from Residence



The analysis of hospital accessibility under the VFI eye care projects shows that 44.80% of respondents live within 40 km, ensuring better access to eye care. However, 34.30% travel 41–80 km, facing moderate challenges, while 20.90%

reside beyond 80 km, likely experiencing significant barriers to healthcare access due to transportation and delays. To address these gaps VFI mobilizes mobile health camps, and transportation support to enhance service delivery and ensure equitable healthcare access for remote populations.

5.1.9: Convenience to Reach the Hospital



The data shows that 68.7% of respondents find it easy to reach the hospital, while 31.3% face difficulties. This indicates that while most beneficiaries can access healthcare with ease, a significant proportion still encounters challenges. VFI is

addressing these barriers through improved transportation options and outreach.

Hospital Outreach Through Mobile Van



The VFI associate hospitals play a significant role in ensuring accessibility to healthcare services for underprivileged patients residing in remote and hard-to-reach areas. Recognizing the challenges faced by such

patients due to the lack of transportation options, these hospitals provide dedicated transportation facilities. This initiative enables economically disadvantaged individuals to travel to the hospitals with ease for timely access to necessary eye care treatments and surgeries.

5.1.10: Main Occupation Categories

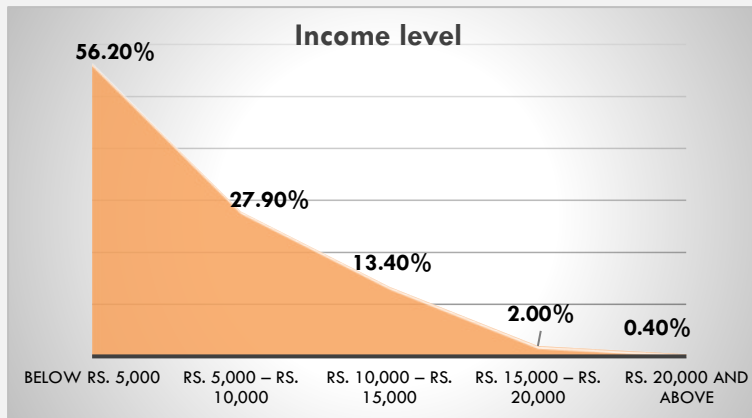
Main Occupation	Frequency	Percent	Who Comes Under This Category
Farming	1,008	29.80%	Farmers, shepherds, fishers, khadi workers involved in agriculture-related tasks.
Daily Wage Labor	949	28.00%	Daily laborers, kuli, mine workers, and other unskilled wage-based workers.
Homemaker/Housework	926	27.40%	Homemakers, housewives (all variants), and individuals performing housework.
Informal Sector (Shops, Stalls, Small Traders)	252	7.40%	Owners/workers of kirana shops, tea stalls, pan tapris, dress shops, etc.
Office Work/Skilled Jobs	84	2.50%	Office workers, drivers, carpenters, plumbers, cooks, ASHA workers (retired).
Unemployed	51	1.50%	Individuals with "no work," and those unable to work due to old age.
Service Providers and Artisans	117	3.40%	Tailors, masons, priests, astrologers, barbers, rickshaw drivers, temple workers, waste collectors, etc.
Total	3,387	100.00%	

The data reveals that farming is the most common occupation, accounting for 29.8% of respondents, followed closely by daily wage labor (28.0%) and homemakers (27.4%). These three categories collectively represent the majority (85.2%) of respondents, indicating a significant reliance on agriculture, unskilled labor, and household work within this population.

The informal sector contributes 7.4%, reflecting small-scale entrepreneurial activities, while skilled service providers and office workers together account for 5.9%, indicating a smaller segment engaged in skilled or formal employment. Unemployment make up the smallest category (1.5%), suggesting limited economic inactivity among respondents.

Further the data indicates the project's focus on vulnerable and economically disadvantaged groups. This occupational distribution highlights the importance of subsidized or free vision care services like cataract surgeries, as many beneficiaries rely on physical labor or household work, where good vision is critical for productivity and quality of life.

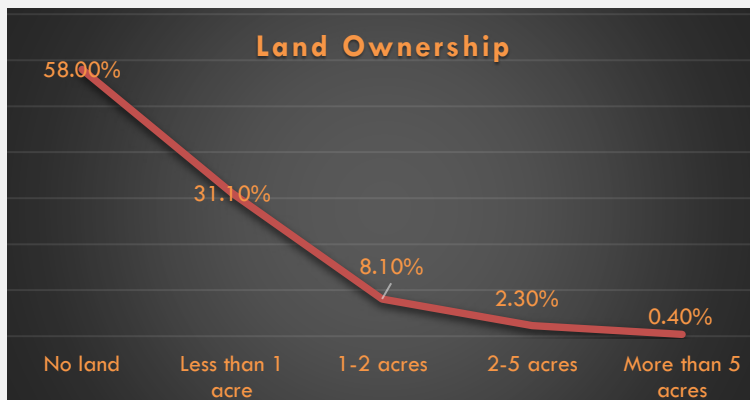
5.1.11: Current Monthly Income Level



The majority of respondents 56.2% earn below Rs. 5,000 per month, indicating a low-income population that likely faces financial constraints in accessing healthcare services, including cataract surgeries. An additional

27.9% earn between Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 10,000, suggesting that a significant portion of the population has limited disposable income. Only a small percentage 2.0% earn between Rs. 15,000 and Rs. 20,000, and even fewer 0.4% have an income exceeding Rs. 20,000. This income distribution highlights the financial vulnerability of the population, underscoring the importance of providing affordable or free cataract surgeries. With the majority earning below Rs. 10,000, cost barriers are likely a significant obstacle to accessing healthcare. Therefore, initiatives of VFI for eye care treatments are crucial to ensure that those with limited income can benefit from essential vision care.

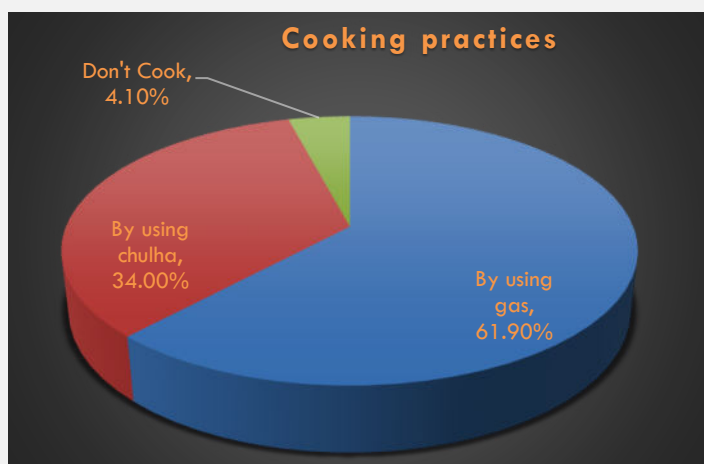
5.1.12: Agricultural Land Ownership



A significant portion of the respondents 58.0% own no agricultural land. Additionally, 31.1% own less than 1 acre, suggesting limited land resources for agricultural activities. Only a small percentage of respondents

8.1% own between 1-2 acres, and an even smaller proportion 2.7% possess larger land holdings. The data reflects a predominantly landless and smallholder farming population, which may have limited financial and resource capacity for agricultural practices. Given that many respondents are involved in labour-intensive occupations like farming or daily wage work. In the context of cataract surgeries, this landlessness or limited landholding may also restrict their ability to afford necessary medical treatments, underlining the need for targeted, affordable eye healthcare services that address the economic constraints of landless or smallholder farmers

5.1.13: Cooking Practices



61.9% of respondents use gas for cooking, indicating a use of modern and more convenient cooking methods. A significant portion 34.0% still relies on traditional chulha (wood-fired stoves), which can be associated with health risks like smoke inhalation. Additionally, 4.0% of

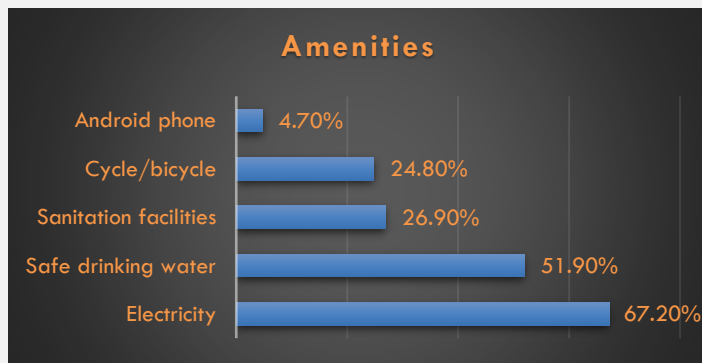
respondents were uncertain or did not specify their cooking method. The widespread use of gas for cooking among many respondents is a positive indicator of access to modern cooking facilities, which can improve health outcomes, including better indoor air quality. However, the substantial portion still using chulhas.

5.1.14: Impact of Cooking Practices on Emergence of New Eye Problems Post-Treatment

Cooking Practices	No Side Effects/ Complications	Severe Side Effects	Mild and Manageable Side Effects	Total
Cooking By Chulha	981 (85.06%)	6 (0.52%)	166 (14.42%)	1153(100%)
Cooking By Gas	1897(90.33%)	2 (0.10%)	201 (9.57%)	2100(100%)
Not Applicable	111 (82.84%)	0 (0.0%)	23 (17.16%)	134 (100%)
Total	2989 (88.20%)	8 (0.20%)	390 (11.50%)	3387 (100%)

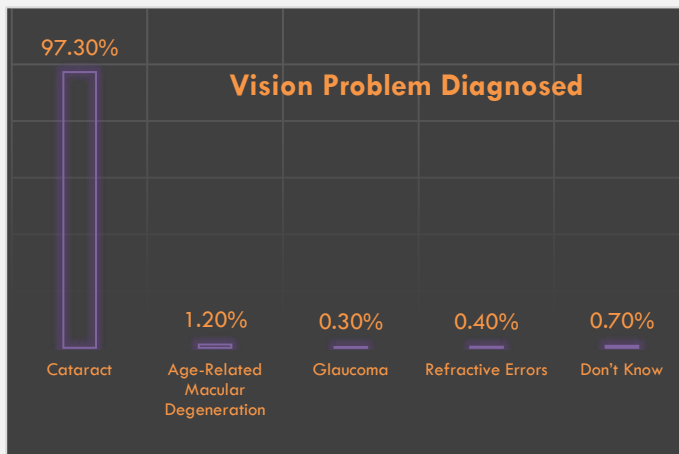
Most of respondents (88.20%) reported no side effects or complications. A higher proportion of individuals using gas for cooking (90.33%) experienced no issues compared to those using chulhas (85.06%). This highlights the potential health advantages of using cleaner cooking methods. Individuals using gas reported the lowest incidence (0.10%) while chulha users experienced slightly higher rates of Severe Side Effects (0.52%). A greater proportion of chulha users (14.42%) reported mild and manageable side effects compared to gas users (9.57%), suggesting that traditional cooking practices might expose individuals to higher risks of post-treatment complications. These findings suggest that cleaner cooking methods, such as using gas, not only improve the overall health outcomes but also reduce the likelihood of new eye-related problems following treatment.

5.1.15: Availability of Basic Amenities at Home (Multiple Responses)



Electricity is the most commonly available amenity, with 67.2% of respondents reporting access. Safe drinking water follows closely, with 51.9% of respondents and sanitation facilities are available in 26.9% of households. The availability of cycles/bicycles and Android phones is comparatively lower, at 24.8% and 4.7% respectively indicating that access to transportation and technology remains limited in many households

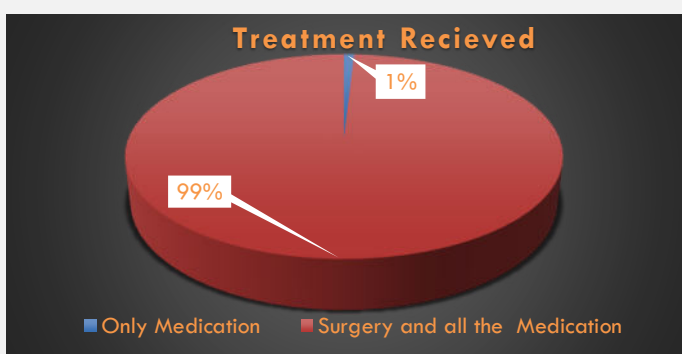
5.1.16: Diagnosed Eye Conditions



Cataract is the predominant eye condition, with 97.3% of participants diagnosed, highlighting it as the primary cause of vision impairment in the surveyed population. This aligns with common trends in India, where cataract is a leading cause of blindness and visual impairment, particularly among the elderly.

Other conditions, such as Age-Related Macular Degeneration (1.2%), Glaucoma (0.3%), and Refractive Errors (0.4%), are present but in much smaller proportions. These conditions contribute to vision issues but are less prevalent in comparison to cataracts.

5.1.17: Types of Treatment Received



The majority of respondents 99.1% received surgery as their primary treatment, which aligns with the intervention of the cataract surgery. A very small percentage of 0.9% received medication without surgery. Individuals receiving

medications suggested that they have minor eye health issues

5.1.18: Transportation Options for Accessing Eye Care Services

Main Transport Modes	Frequency	Percent	What Comes Under This Category
Hospital-Provided Transport	2,172	64.10%	Includes hospital-provided bus services, ambulance, auto services, and cost of transport reimbursement.
Public Transport	571	16.90%	Includes public buses and trains.
Private Vehicles	532	15.70%	Includes private/shared taxis and auto-rickshaws.
Walking/Cycling	92	2.70%	Includes walking and cycling (plus unknowns added here).
Help from Others	20	0.60%	Includes instances where someone helped them reach the hospital.
Total	3,387	100.00%	

Most respondents 64.1% depend on hospital-provided transportation. Public transport was used by 16.9% of individuals, and 15.7% used private vehicles, either individually or in shared arrangements. A small percentage 2.7% reached the hospital by walking or cycling, and only a very few 0.6% were helped by others to get to the hospital. The data reported that the eye care project is effectively addressing transportation barriers for most patients by providing associate hospital-based transport services. This ensures that access to eye care is facilitated, especially for those who are not having easy transport access.

5.1.19: Challenges Faced in Accessing Eye Care Services

Category	Frequency	Percent	Details Included in Each Category
Financial Constraints	1,517	44.80%	Direct financial challenges and affordability issues.
Distance to Hospital/Clinic	868	25.60%	Includes distance and physical accessibility issues to reach the healthcare facility.
Lack of Transportation	366	10.80%	Transportation issues, including lack of private or public transport options.
Lack of Information	326	9.60%	Includes lack of awareness about available services or hospital facilities.
Cultural/Social Barriers	90	2.70%	Includes cultural or social barriers, language barriers, and lack of accompaniment.
No Challenges Faced	175	5.20%	Includes responses of No problem and similar answers.
Other	45	1.30%	Responses that do not fit into other categories, such as specific cases of free services.
Total	3387	100	

The most common challenge faced by respondents in accessing eye care services was financial constraints, with 44.8% citing affordability issues as a barrier. Distance to the hospital or clinic was the second most common challenge 25.6%, indicating accessibility issues for patients living far from healthcare facilities. A smaller proportion 10.8% faced difficulties with transportation, while 9.6% reported a lack of information about available services. Cultural or social barriers were noted by 2.7% of respondents, and 5.2% reported that they faced no challenges.

The data suggests that the primary barriers to accessing eye care services are financial constraints and the distance to healthcare facilities, which are significant issues for individuals living in remote areas or with limited resources. The high percentage of individuals facing financial difficulties shows the importance of addressing affordability in healthcare interventions, such as offering free or subsidized services. While transportation and lack of information are also notable challenges. Cultural and social barriers are relatively less prevalent but may still require attention to ensure inclusivity in healthcare outreach efforts.

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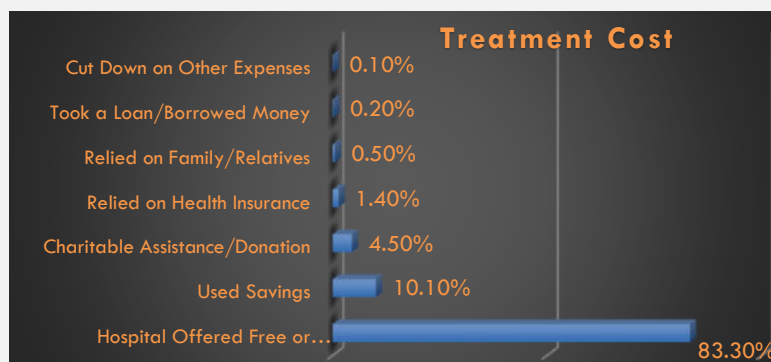
Ms. Ramila Rahu, Gujrat



Ramila Rahu, a 58-year-old woman from Gujarat, lost her husband five years ago and lives with her brother's family. Though she helps with chores and farm work, she felt like a burden, especially as cataracts clouded her

vision. Unable to contribute, she feared she was adding to her brother's financial struggles. When the cost of surgery seemed out of reach, the village head informed them of the free cataract surgery program. Ramila underwent successful surgery in August 2024 and regained her eyesight and confidence. Now she is ready to contribute once again, embracing her role with renewed hope.

5.1.20: Methods of Managing the Cost of Eye Care Services



A significant majority of respondents 83.3% were able to manage the cost of eye care services through free or subsidized services offered by the VFI projects. 10.1% of respondents were

also reported that they have used their saving to cover the cost relating to their eye treatment. Charitable assistance or donations helped 4.5% of individuals, while a very small proportion 0.5% relied on family members or relatives for financial support. The need to take out loans, cut down on other expenses or rely on health insurance was minimal with only 0.2% and 1.4% using loans or insurance respectively.

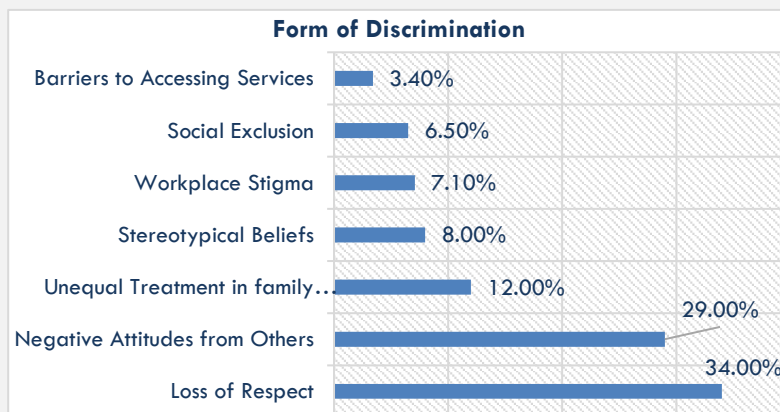
Mr. Arjun Manjhi, Bihar



Mr. Majhi, a 65-year-old from a remote village in Gaya, belongs to the Musahar community. As an agricultural laborer, he earned 5 kg of grains daily to support his family of six. When he developed vision problems, no farmer would hire him, leaving him jobless. He could not afford treatment due to financial struggles. Then, he heard about free cataract surgeries. Six months ago, he underwent the

procedure. Today, his eyesight is restored, and he is back to work. He shared, *"I thought I had lost everything when I couldn't work. Seeing my family suffer was heartbreaking. But after the surgery, it feels like a second chance from God. Now, I can see, work, and provide food for my family again."* His story highlights how free cataract surgery transformed his life

5.1.21: Pre-Treatment Discrimination Linked to Vision Impairment



The data reveals that the most prevalent form of discrimination faced by individuals with vision impairment was loss of respect, with 34% of respondents reporting feeling undervalued or

disrespected by family or society. Negative attitudes from others followed closely, affecting 29% of individuals, indicating a widespread societal stigma toward people with vision problems. Another significant challenge was unequal treatment 12%, where individuals felt treated unfairly even after receiving some treatment. Additionally, workplace stigma and stereotypical beliefs were noted by 7.1% and 8%, respectively, highlighting how prejudice extends into professional and social contexts. The data shows the deep-rooted social and cultural biases that people with vision impairments face in their daily lives.

Mr. Nagesh Rao, Andhra Pradesh



Mr. Rao, an agricultural worker from struggled with vision loss in his left eye, affecting his work and family involvement. Unable to contribute fully, he felt excluded from family decisions, which deeply hurt him. After learning about the RNY-free surgery scheme, he underwent the

procedure. With his vision restored, Nagesh can now perform his routine tasks as before. He quoted, *“After I gained my vision again, I felt confident, independent, and respected again, regaining my role in both my work and family life.”* This example shows how these surgeries work to overcome the pre-treatment discrimination linked to vision Impairment

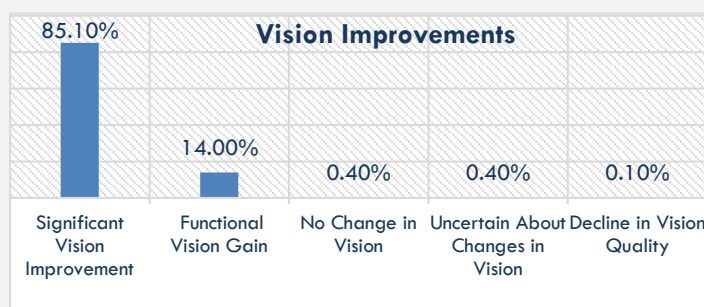
Ms. Shakuntala, Delhi



Shakuntala, an 82-year-old widow from Uttam Nagar, Delhi, struggled with severe vision loss, creating strain in her family and escalating tensions between her son and daughter-in-law. After cataract surgeries in late 2023 and mid-2024, Shakuntala regained her sight and can now

manage cooking and household chores. *This improvement has relieved her son of the caregiving burden, stabilized the family dynamic and allowed him to focus on his work. The positive change has brought peace to their home*

5.1.22: Improvement in Vision Following Surgery

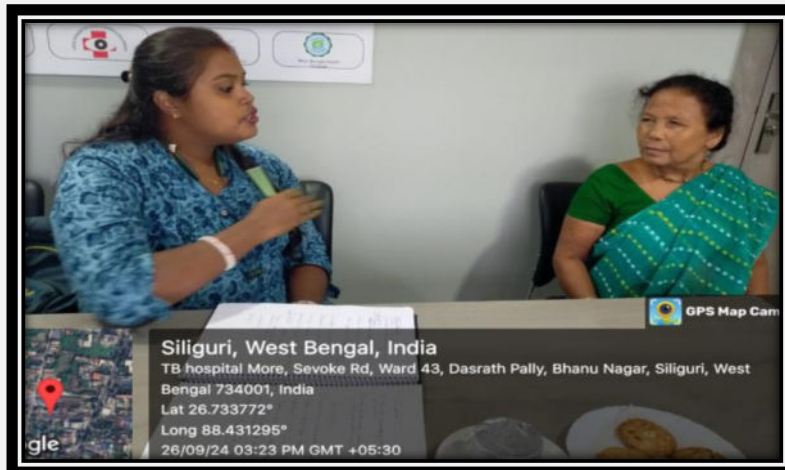


The data on improvement in vision following surgery demonstrates a highly positive outcome. A vast majority, 85.1% reported significant vision enhancement. This substantial

improvement in vision is a key indicator of the success of the project in restoring sight and enhancing the quality of life for those affected by cataracts and other eye conditions.

Additionally, 14% experienced noticeable vision improvement, further reflecting the overall success of the surgeries. However, a very small fraction of participants, 0.4%, were uncertain about vision changes, and no improvement following surgery. Only 0.1% experienced a decline in vision, which suggests a very low rate of complications.

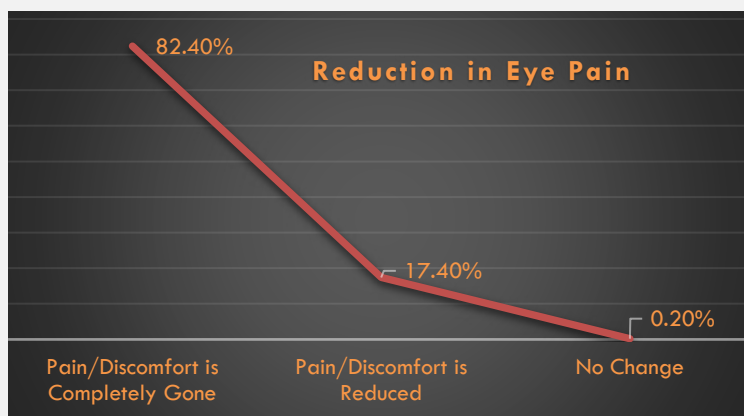
Ms. Soneka Roy, West Bengal



Soneka Roy, a 62-year-old woman from Siliguri, felt like a burden to her family due to her worsening eyesight and her son's limited income. Her world grew darker each day as cataracts clouded her vision, and surgery

seemed impossible due to their financial struggles. However, a free cataract surgery camp offered hope. On December 31, 2023, Soneka underwent surgery on her right eye. When she opened her eyes her world came alive again with a clear vision restoring her sense of joy. Soneka was grateful for the light and happiness the surgery brought back into her life.

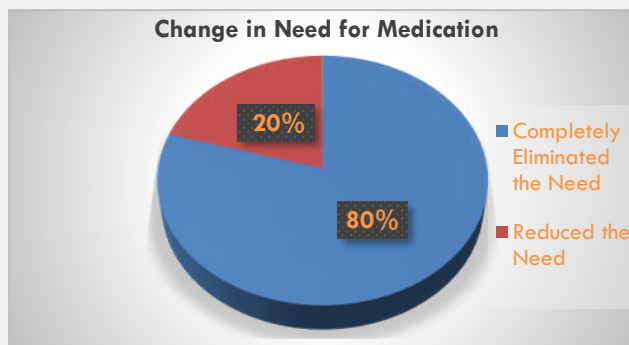
5.1.23: Reduction in Eye Pain or Discomfort Following Treatment



82.4% of respondents reported that their pain or discomfort is completely gone after treatment. Additionally, 17.4% experienced reduced pain or discomfort, further demonstrating that most participants experienced some

level of improvement in their symptoms. Only a very small percentage 0.2% reported no change in their eye pain or discomfort following the treatment. The data indicates the significant positive impact of eye care services in relieving eye pain or discomfort. The fact that over 99% of participants reported a reduction or complete elimination of pain suggests that the treatment provided by the Vision Foundation of India is highly successful in addressing the physical discomfort associated with cataracts.

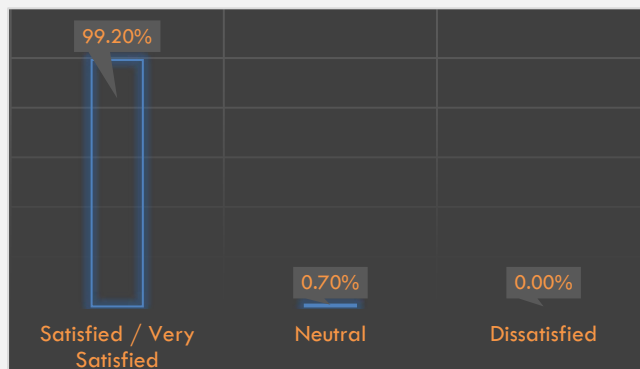
5.1.24: Reduction in the Need for Eye Drops or Medications Following Treatment



The data on the reduction in the need for eye drops or medications following treatment highlights the positive impact. A significant majority, 79.6%, reported that the need for eye drops or medications was eliminated following treatment. Additionally, 20.3% saw a

reduction in the need for medications. A very small fraction, 0.1%, reported no change, meaning they still required medications or eye drops despite the treatment.

5.1.25: Satisfaction with Follow-Up Care and Monitoring



99.2% of respondents reported being either satisfied or very satisfied with the follow-up care and monitoring provided after their treatment, indicating a high level of endorsement. Only a small fraction, 0.7%, expressed neutral feelings, while 0.0% reported being dissatisfied. The huge positive feedback (99.2% satisfaction rate) suggests that the follow-up care services are well-received and meet the expectations of most patients.

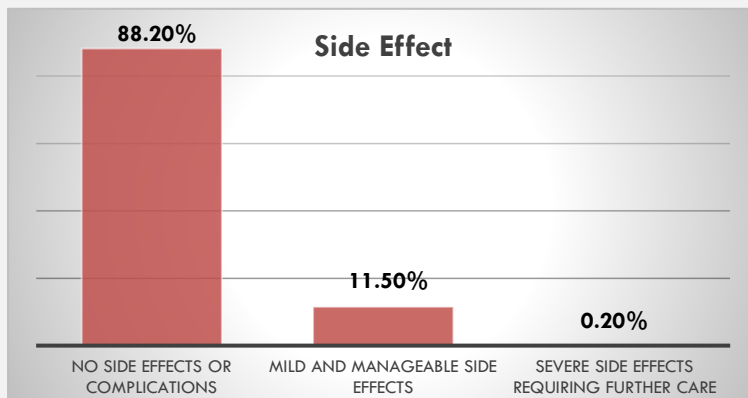


Ms. Lakshmi: Palakol, Andhra Pradesh

Lakshmi, is a 50-year-old housewife from Andhra Pradesh. She was struggled with poor vision due to cataracts. This was making household tasks overwhelming. After months of difficulty she visited Associate Hospital, where doctors recommended surgery. Following a

successful operation, Lakshmi's vision was restored, and she said, *"I am fortunate that I learn about this hospital now I can see clearly again. I am so thankful to everyone who helped me, now I can care for my family without feeling helpless."*

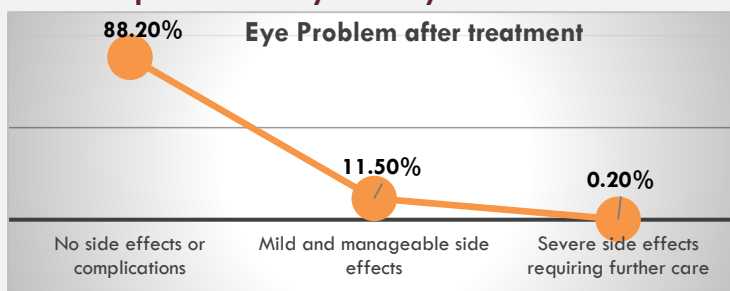
5.1.26: Experience with Side Effects or Complications from Eye Treatment/Surgery



A vast majority, 88.2%, of respondents reported experiencing no side effects or complications following their eye treatment or surgery. 11.5% experienced mild and manageable side effects, while only a small

percentage, 0.2%, faced severe side effects requiring additional care. The low incidence of severe side effects indicates that the treatment and surgery are safe with minimal complications. The vast majority of patients experienced no side effects, suggesting the effectiveness of the medical procedures.

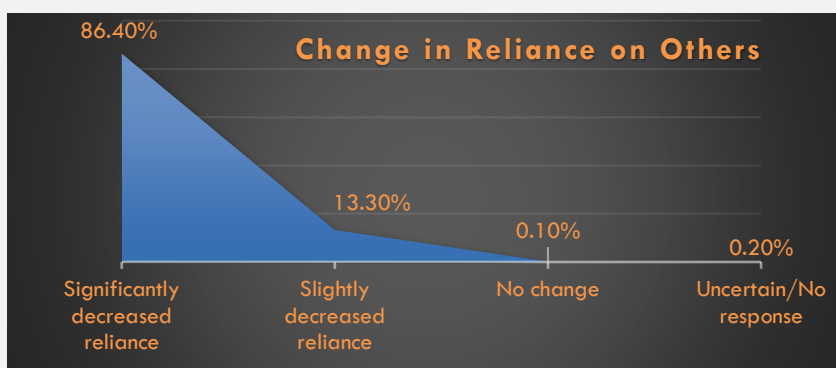
5.1.27: Experienced Any New Eye Problems After Treatment



88.2% of respondents reported experiencing no new eye problems after their treatment. 11.2% experienced minor issues, while only 0.6% encountered significant issues that required further care.

The data indicates that the patients did not face any new eye issues following their treatment.

5.1.28: Change in Reliance on Others for Daily Activities After Treatment



A significant 86.4% of respondents reported that their reliance on others for daily activities significantly decreased after the treatment. 13.3%

experienced a slightly decreased reliance, while only 0.1% experienced no change, and 0.2% were uncertain or did not respond. The data suggests that the eye treatment had a profound positive impact on the patient's independence, with a substantial majority reporting a significant decrease in their reliance on others for daily tasks.

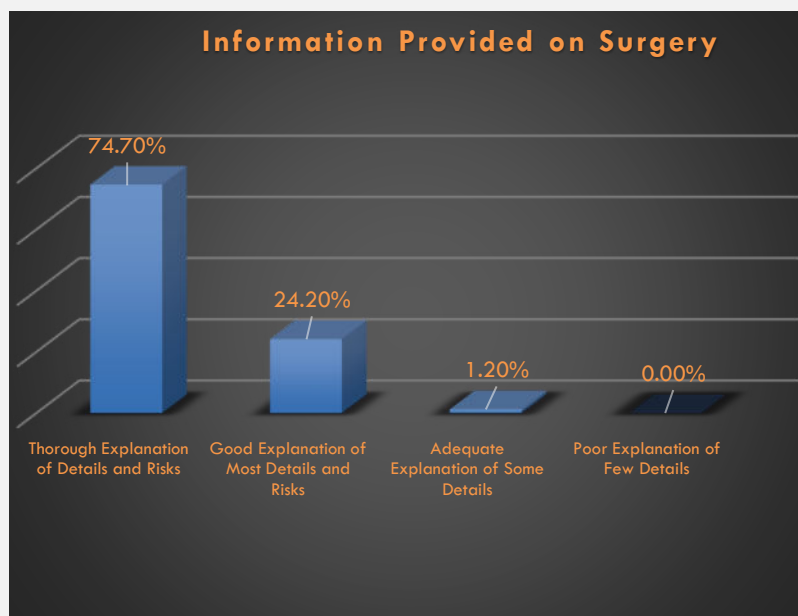
Ms. Anita Goyal, Haryana



Ms. Anita Goyal is a 46-year-old housewife from Ballabgarh, Faridabad. She was facing severe vision loss due to cataract. Because of this she was struggling to recognize people and manage household expenses. This affected her self-esteem and feeling of burden to her

family. Last year Ms. Anita underwent cataract surgery which transformed her life. Post-surgery she regained her ability to see, manage her daily tasks independently and confidently. As she has started working and earning again, she feels like ***“the surgery brought me new independence and relief to me and my family.”*** Her reliance on others for daily activities after treatment has significantly reduces which boost her self esteem

5.1.29: Information About the Surgical Procedure and Its Risks



Most patients, 74.7%, reported receiving a thorough explanation of the surgical procedure and its risks. Another 24.2% indicated that they received a good explanation of most details. Only 1.2% felt they received an adequate explanation, while 0.0% felt they

received a poor explanation. The data indicates that many patients were well-informed about the surgical procedure and its risks, with 98.9% reporting either thorough explanation. This suggests that healthcare providers took care to adequately prepare patients for the surgery.

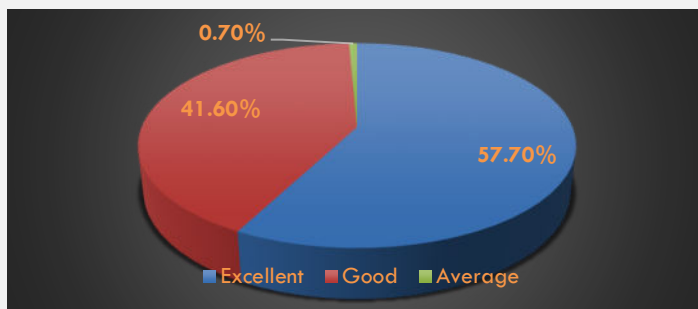
Ms. Saraswati Devi, Jharkhand



Ms. Saraswati Devi, a 75-year-old suffered from severe vision loss due to cataracts. At a health camp doctors advised her to undergo surgery but she was afraid. She believed in a myth that doctors would replace her eye with a goat's eye. **After proper counseling**

and clear information about the procedure, she agreed to the surgery. Following Durga Puja her operation was successful. She can now see clearly and recognize people again. Saraswati is grateful to the doctors for restoring her vision.

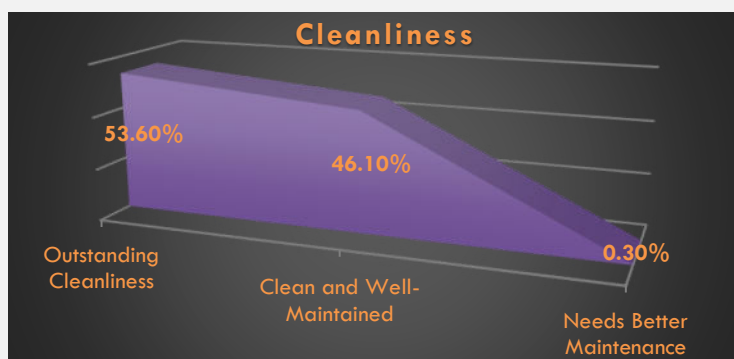
5.1.30: Quality of Surgical Care Received



A majority of respondents, 57.7%, rated the surgical care they received as excellent, while 41.6% described it as good. Only a small percentage, 0.7%, considered the care to be

average. Most patients, 99.3%, were either satisfied or highly satisfied with the quality of surgical care, with the bulk of them rating it as excellent. This indicates a high level of patient satisfaction with the surgical treatment.

5.1.31: Cleanliness and Maintenance of Hospital Facilities



A strong majority, 95.7%, rated the hospital facilities as clean indicating a high level of satisfaction with cleanliness. Only 0.3% mentioned minor issues with cleanliness or maintenance. The hospital's

cleanliness and maintenance received overwhelmingly positive feedback suggesting that the associate hospitals uphold high standards of hygiene and maintenance, contributing significantly to the patient's overall satisfaction.

5.1.32: Friendliness and Hospitality of Hospital Staff

Rating	Frequency	Percent
Exceptional: The staff were exceptionally friendly and helpful	1,420	41.90%
Very Good: The staff were very friendly and helpful	1,629	48.10%
Good: The staff were generally friendly and helpful	329	9.70%
Fair: Staff were somewhat friendly but not consistently	09	0.30%
Total	3,387	100

44

A substantial majority, 90.0%, rated the hospital staff's friendliness as very good or exceptional, reflecting a positive overall experience. A small portion, 9.7%, considered the staff good, while a very minimal 0.3% rated them as fair. The hospital staff received overwhelmingly positive feedback on their friendliness and hospitality. 90% of the respondents acknowledged the staff as very friendly and helpful, with a notable 41.9% rating them as exceptional. This indicates strong patient satisfaction with the interpersonal aspects of care, contributing positively to the overall experience of the hospital visit. Only a very small fraction of respondents indicated dissatisfaction with the staff's conducts

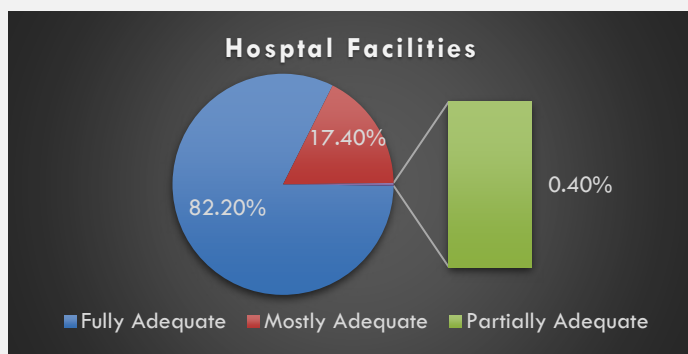
Mr. Mukeshbhai Naika, Gujrat



Mr. Mukeshbhai is a 53-year-old agricultural laborer who struggled with vision loss due to cataracts. This was making his work nearly impossible. As the sole breadwinner his worsening condition deeply affected his family. Due to financial issues he couldn't afford surgery. Hope came when he learned about a free cataract surgery program under the RNY program. **At the**

hospital, the staff welcomed him warmly, guided him through every step, and reassured him with kindness. The doctors and nurses patiently explained the procedure, easing his fears. After a successful surgery Mukeshbhai regained his sight and he returned to work and support his family. The compassionate care he received restored his vision and filled him with gratitude and confidence.

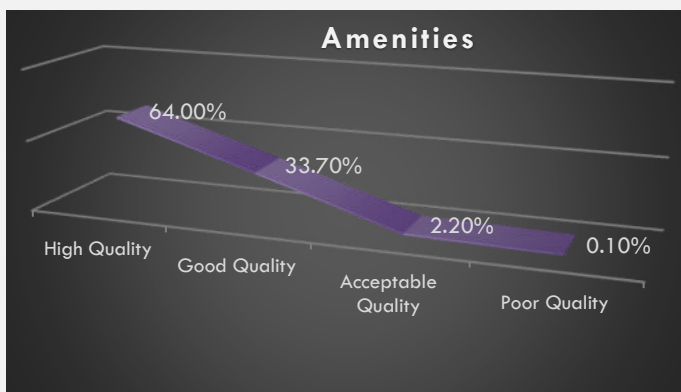
5.1.33: Adequacy of Hospital Facilities (e.g., Waiting Areas, Restrooms)



Most respondents 82.2%, found the hospital facilities to be fully adequate for all their needs, while 17.4% identified minor issues. Only a very small percentage, 0.4%, reported that the facilities were somewhat inadequate. The

results indicate that most respondents were satisfied with the hospital's facilities, including waiting areas and restrooms suggests that the hospital effectively meets the basic needs of its patients in terms of comfort and functionality

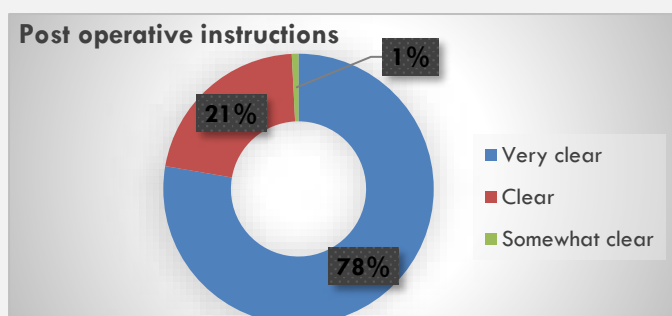
5.1.34: Quality and Availability of Amenities (e.g., Food Services, Wi-Fi, Entertainment)



Most respondents, 64.0%, found the amenities provided during their stay to be of high quality and readily available. A significant proportion, 33.7%, considered the amenities to be good and mostly available. Only a very small percentage, 2.2%, found the

amenities acceptable but limited, and 0.1% reported poor quality or lack of availability. The results suggest that the hospitals are providing quality and accessible amenities.

5.1.35: Clarity of Preoperative Instructions (Regarding Medication, Fasting, and Postoperative Care)



77.7% of respondents found the preoperative instructions to be very clear and easily understood. A further 21.5% thought the instructions were generally clear with only minor ambiguities. Only

0.8% felt the instructions were somewhat clear and lacking detail. The results indicate that 99.2% of respondents were satisfied with the clarity of preoperative instructions. The associated hospitals appear to communicate well regarding the preparation for surgery, which likely contributes to patients' confidence and understanding of the procedure.

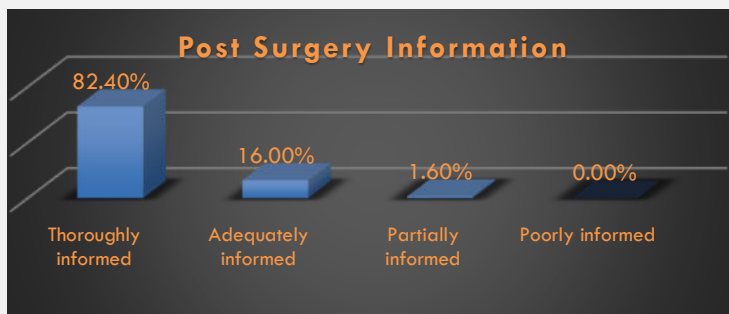
5.1.36: Overall Experience with Hospital Services



The majority of respondents rated their experience as either Good (49.5%) or Outstanding (48.4%). Only 2.1% of respondents described their experience as Fair. This reflects a highly positive reception of the hospital's services, with 97.9% of

patients describing their overall experience as either Good or Outstanding. This indicates strong satisfaction with the care, staff, and services provided, contributing to the hospital's positive reputation.

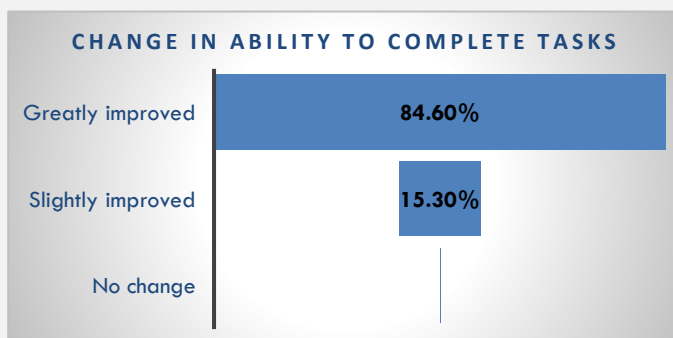
5.1.37: Post-Surgery Guidance and Support (e.g., recovery instructions, follow-up appointments etc.)



The 82.4% of patients reported being thoroughly informed about post-surgery recovery instructions and follow-up appointments, while 16.0% felt adequately

informed. Only a very small percentage of respondents felt partially informed 1.6% or poorly informed. This demonstrates that the hospital is providing comprehensive and effective post-surgery support to most of its patients, with over 98% feeling sufficiently informed about their recovery process.

5.1.38: Improved Ability to Complete Daily Personal Tasks Since Treatment (e.g., bathing, dressing, grooming)

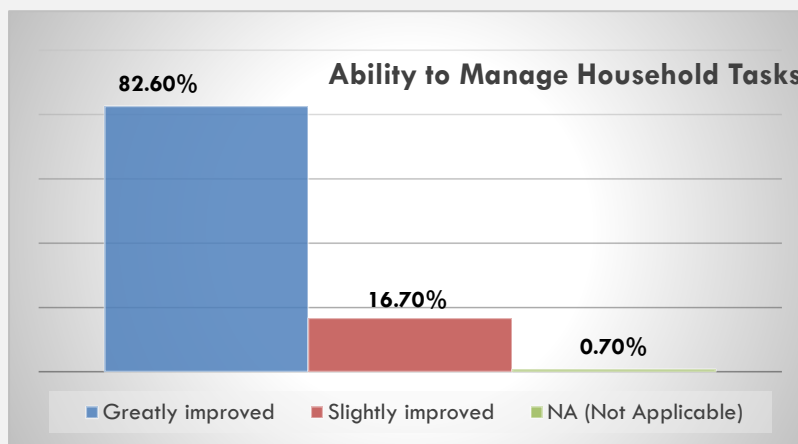


A significant majority of patients (84.6%) reported that their ability to complete daily personal tasks such as bathing, dressing, and grooming has greatly improved since receiving treatment. 15.3% of respondents experienced a slight improvement,

while only 0.1% experienced no change.

This demonstrates that eye treatment has had a positive impact on daily functioning for most patients, with over 99% of individuals reporting at least some improvement in their ability to perform personal tasks. This shows the effectiveness of the treatment not only in terms of vision but also in enhancing overall independence.

5.1.39: Improved Ability to Manage Household Tasks Since Treatment (e.g. cooking, cleaning, and washing)



The 82.6% of patients reported that their ability to manage household tasks such as cooking, cleaning, and shopping has greatly improved after treatment. 16.7% experienced a slight improvement, while 0.7%

marked this question as not applicable. The treatment appears to have had a substantial positive effect on household management, with 99.3% of respondents reporting some level of improvement. This further supports the treatment's contribution to enhancing patients' independence in daily life beyond personal tasks, positively affecting their ability to perform household duties.

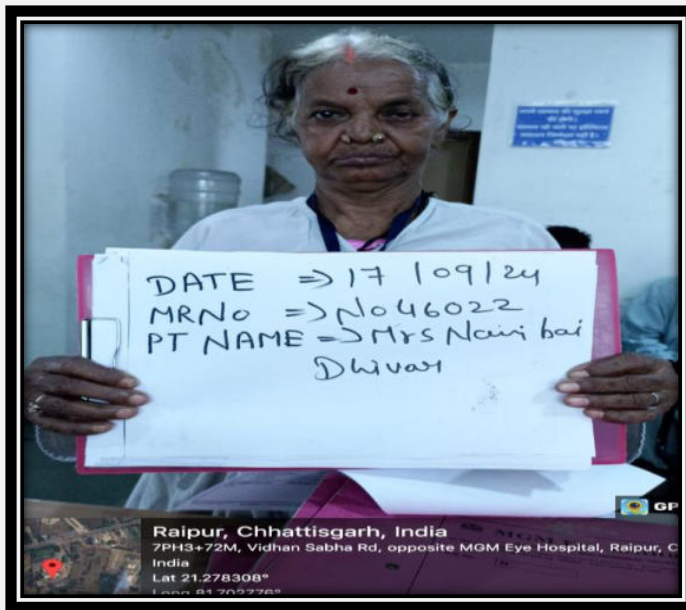
Ms. Sanju-Bihar



Sanju is a 55-year-old woman from a remote village in Gaya, Bihar. *She has struggled with worsening cataracts that made daily chores like cooking, cleaning, and washing difficult.* She felt helpless and dependent on her family, which led to

frustration and sadness. Six months ago, she underwent cataract surgery and her vision was restored. Now, she manages all household tasks independently from preparing meals to keeping her home clean. With her eyesight back, Sanju feels confident, respected, and happy, living with a new sense of purpose.

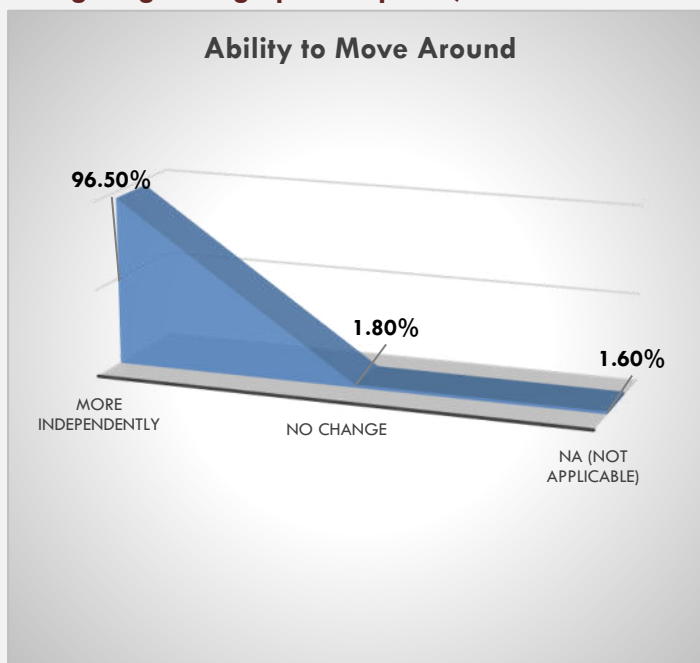
Ms. Noni Bai Dhivar, Chhattisgarh



Ms. Noni Bai Dhivar, a 66-year-old homemaker from Mahant Janjigiri village, struggled with daily tasks due to cataracts. Living with her family of eight, her husband's income of Rs. 9,000 from farm labor was their only support, making her role in managing the household work. As her vision worsened, cooking and cleaning became difficult, leaving her feeling unable to contribute as she

once had. After cataract surgery at AH, her life transformed. Her vision was restored, and Ms. Dhivar could again manage her household without fear and worry. She is grateful for the free surgery and said, ***"I can see again and do everything on my own—it is like getting my life back."*** The surgery restored her happiness.

5.1.40: Ability to Move Around Independently After Treatment (e.g., walking alone, navigating through public spaces)



An overwhelming majority of 96.5% of patients reported being able to move around much more independently after receiving eye care services. Only 1.8% experienced no change, and 1.6% marked the question as not applicable. The data suggests that the eye care services had a highly positive impact on patients' mobility and independence. 96.5% of patients can now navigate more freely, which

reflects the significant improvement in their overall quality of life post-treatment.

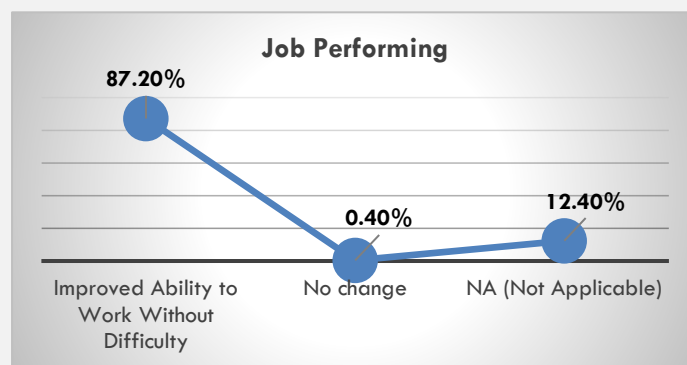
Mr. Chawa Ram Shahu, Chattisgarh



Mr. Chawa Ram Shahu is a 63-year-old farmer. His cataracts make even basic tasks like walking to the toilet and moving around alone difficult. His blurry vision filled him with anxiety, making him dependent on others for daily activities. After undergoing

successful cataract surgery, his life changed completely. Now, he walks confidently without assistance and navigates public spaces with ease. Thankful for his returned vision, he shared, *"I felt helpless before, but now I can move freely again. It feels like I have got my life back"*

5.1.41: Ability to Work or Perform Job-Related Tasks After Treatment



A significant majority 87.2% of patients reported that they can work without difficulty after treatment. A small portion 0.4% experienced no change, and 12.4% marked the question as not applicable, which may reflect non-

working individuals or those for whom the question was irrelevant. This proves that the treatment had a substantial impact on the ability to perform job-related tasks, with 87.2% of patients experiencing a notable improvement in their work capabilities. This suggests a strong positive correlation between eye care treatment and enhanced employability or productivity in daily job-related activities.

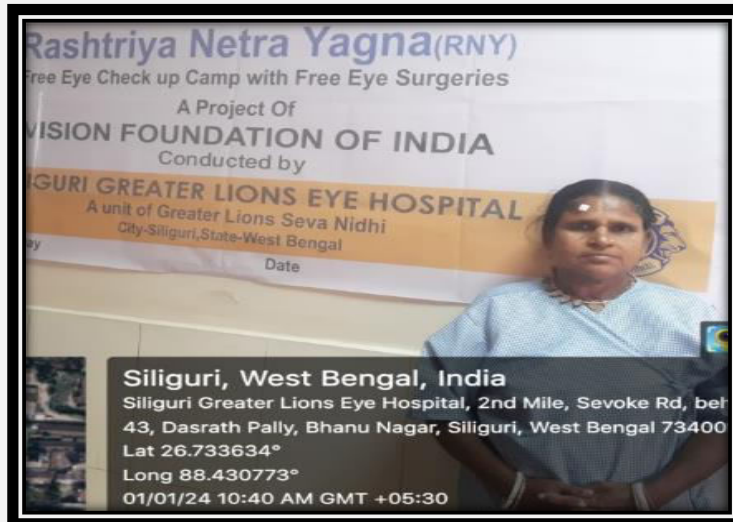
Mr. Mushtaq Ali, Uttarakhand



Mushtaq Ali is a 73-year-old vegetable vendor from Haridwar, Uttarakhand. Due to cataracts his vision was blurred and made him difficult to identify currency leaving him vulnerable to being cheated. His business and his ability to care for his family were at risk.

He underwent successful cataract surgery under RNY and got his sight back. Mushtaq said *"Earlier, I was afraid to handle money because I couldn't see clearly. I was cheated many times but felt helpless. Now, with my new vision, I can work without fear and work in the late evening also. It feels like a new light come to my life"*

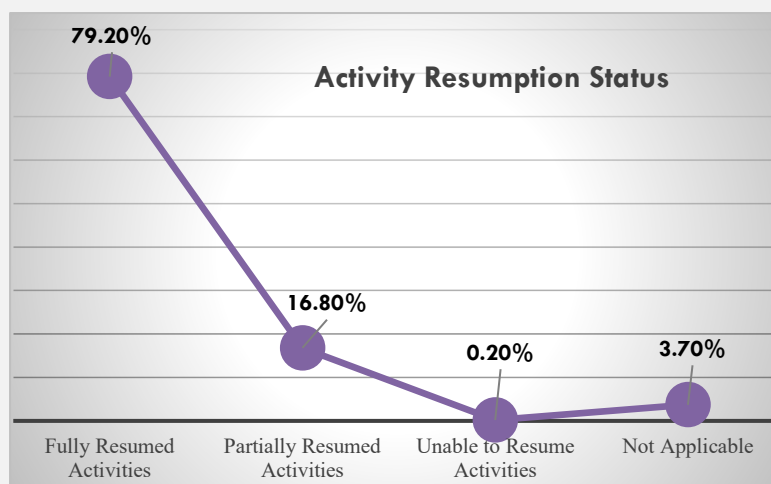
Ms. Iti Chakraborty, West Bengal



Iti Chakraborty, a 41-year-old woman from Amtala, Ghogomali, became the pillar of her family after her husband's accident left him unable to work. She took on the role of supporting them, working as a cook while managing his expensive medical treatments. Amidst the financial strain, Iti's

vision worsened due to cataracts, but she neglected her health to focus on her husband's recovery. In December 2023, she learned about a free cataract surgery camp and underwent surgery. When she opened her eyes afterward, her vision was restored, bringing energy and hope to her life.

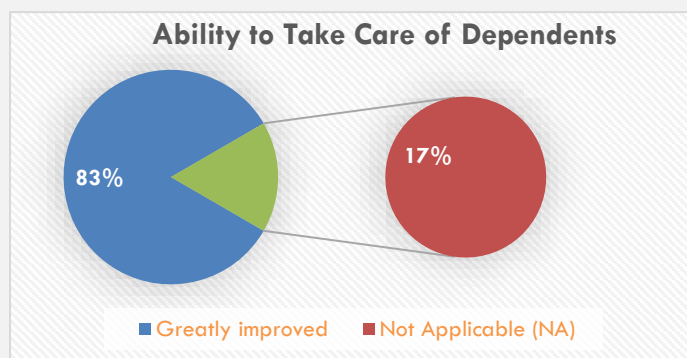
5.1.42: Return to relaxation activity After Treatment (e.g., sewing, reading, gardening)



The majority of 79.2% reported that they have resumed all their activities after treatment, with 16.8% resuming some activities. A small percentage 0.2% still cannot perform those activities, and 3.7% marked the question as not

applicable (likely due to not engaging in such activities). The data indicates that the eye care treatment has had a positive impact on the ability of most respondents to return to their recreational activities.

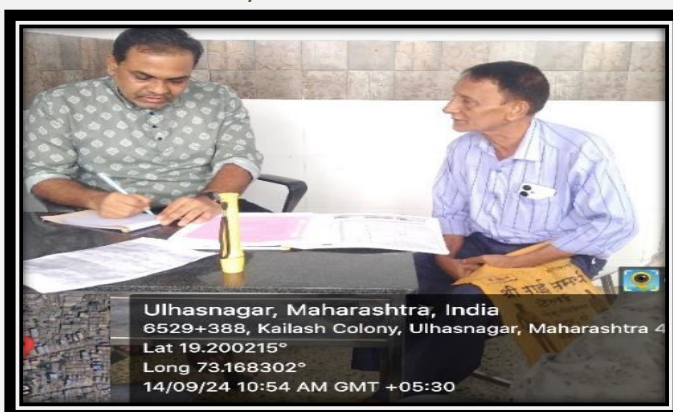
5.1.43: Ability to Take Care of Children or Dependents After Treatment



83.3% of respondents reported that their ability to take care of their children or other dependents has greatly improved after receiving treatment. 16.7% marked the question as not applicable, which likely includes individuals

without dependents or those who did not feel the need to engage in caregiving roles. The data strongly suggests that the eye care treatment has had a positive impact on respondents' capacity to care for dependents. The improvement in the ability to care for others reflects a significant gain in functional independence and quality of life after the treatment.

Mr. Nitin Chavan, Maharashtra



After retiring Mr. Nitin moved in with his family, looking forward to spending time with his grandchildren. However, cataracts in both eyes made it difficult to enjoy these moments. Struggling financially without a pension, he could not afford surgery. In May 2023, he

finally had the surgery under RNY and his life changed. With his vision restored, he now enjoys hobbies, outdoor activities and precious moments with his family and fully embraces his retirement years.

Mr. Karma Joshi, Panjab

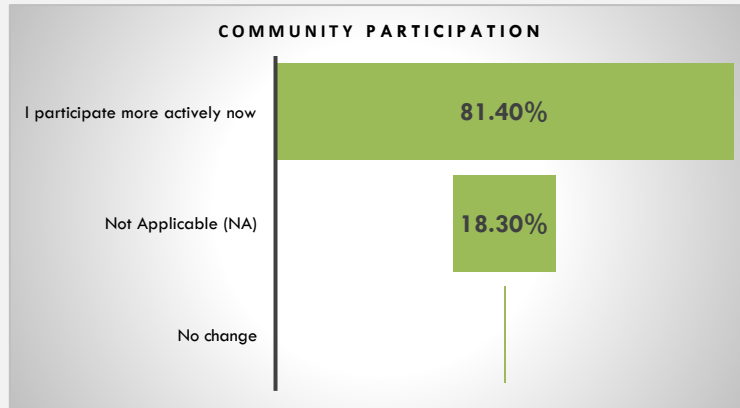


Karma Joshi, a 74-year-old retired painter from Jalandhar, struggled with cataracts in his left eye, which made daily tasks challenging. Living with his family on a modest income, he found it hard to contribute and support his household. After

attending an eye camp in his neighbourhoods, he underwent successful surgery.

His vision was restored, bringing him back to his daily routines, including household chores and school runs. Karma is deeply grateful for the second chance to regain his independence and help his family, highlighting the transformative power of accessible healthcare.

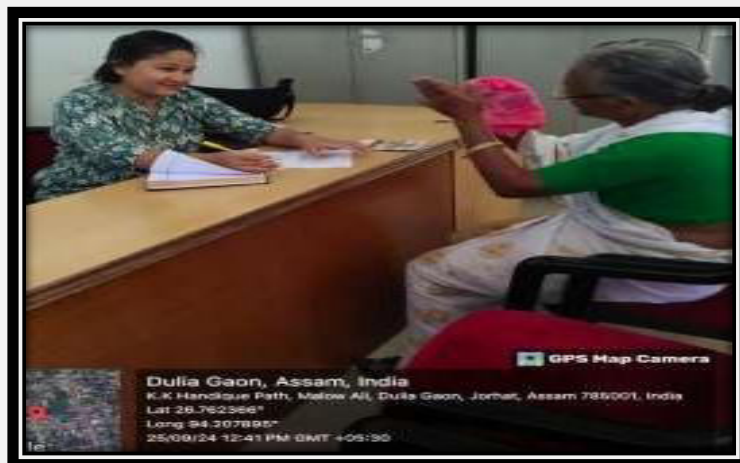
5.1.44: Ability to Participate in Community or Social Events After Treatment (e.g., religious gatherings, festivals, meetings)



Most respondents 81.4% reported that their ability to participate more actively in community or social events has improved after receiving treatment. 18.3% indicated that the question did not apply to them, possibly due to a lack

of social engagements or other reasons. A small proportion 0.3% reported no change in their participation. The data demonstrates a strong positive impact of the treatment on social participation, reflecting improvements in vision that have enhanced the ability to engage in social and community life. This could also indicate an overall improvement in social inclusion and community integration following the treatment.

Ms. Tulashi Devi, Assam



In the village of Dokhin Dolijolia Gaon, Golaghat, Assam, 74-year-old Tulashi Devi faced difficulties with her vision due to farsightedness and cataracts, which left her feeling isolated and worried. *Living with just one other family member, her daily life became challenging, and she*

feared missing out on social activities. After undergoing cataract surgery on both eyes, Tulashi's life transformed. Though she still used glasses, her vision improved significantly, allowing her to engage confidently in community activities and manage her care. Her social life became more active, and her emotional well-being improved. Tulashi no longer feared being alone and felt independent and joyful once again

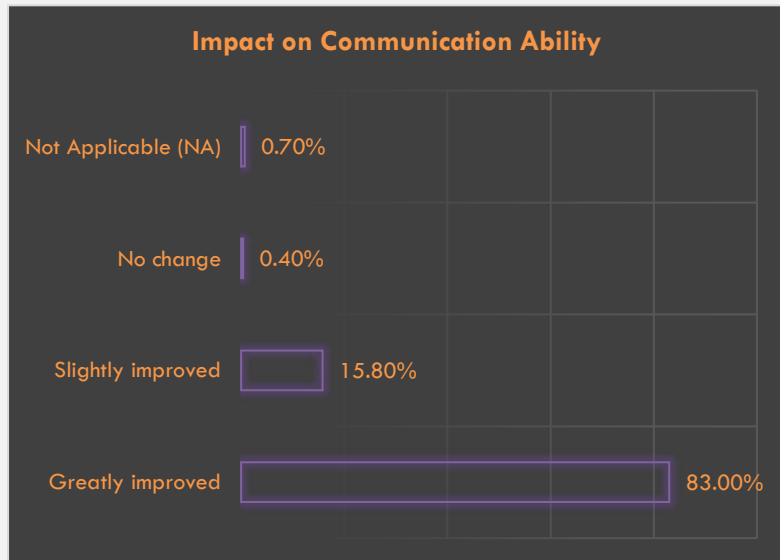
Mr. Jagdev Singh, Himachal Pradesh



Jagdev Singh is a 62-year-old farmer from Village Danson in Una, Himachal Pradesh. He struggled with cataracts in his left eye. This made it difficult for him to work on his farm. It also affected his ability to interact with others in his community. As his vision

worsened, he stopped attending village meetings and religious gatherings, feeling isolated. After undergoing free cataract surgery, his vision improved, allowing him to reconnect with his community. Now, he actively participates in festivals, social events, and village discussions with confidence. Grateful for his restored sight, he shares, *"I felt cut off from my own people, but now I can see, celebrate, and be part of my community again"*

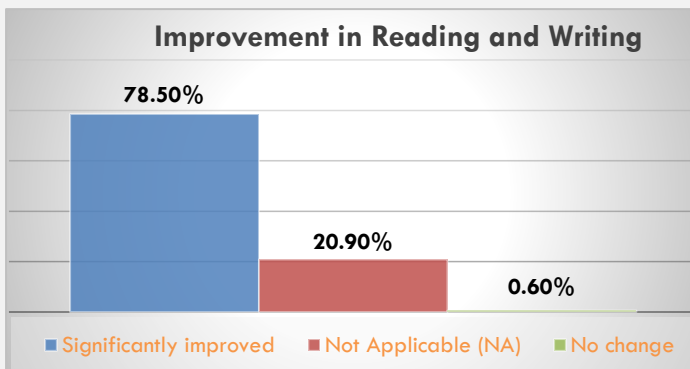
5.1.45: Impact of Treatment on Ability to Engage in Communication (e.g., using a phone, reading messages)



83% of respondents reported a significant improvement in their ability to engage in communication activities, such as using a phone and reading messages, following their eye treatment. A smaller percentage of 15.8% noted a slight improvement, while only a very small

proportion of 0.4% felt there was no change. This shows that eye care treatment had a positive impact on the daily communication abilities of most individuals, improving their ability to interact effectively and independently. This aligns with the program's goal to restore vision and enhance quality of life, enabling individuals to perform essential tasks independently and engage more fully in social and professional activities.

5.1.46: Improvements in Ability to Read and or Write After Receiving Eye Care Services



A significant majority of respondents 78.5% reported a significant improvement in their ability to read and or write after receiving eye care services. 20.9% stated that the question did not apply to them, likely because they do not engage in reading or writing activities. Only a small portion 0.6% experienced no change in their ability to read and write. This data indicates a substantial positive impact of the treatment on functional abilities such as reading and or writing.

Ms. Kalavati Devi, Bihar



Ms. Kalavati Devi, a 72-year-old housewife from Gaya, Bihar, struggled with cataracts that impaired her vision, affecting her ability to care for her family and engage in spiritual practices. As a devoted reader of sacred scriptures, her declining sight deeply saddened

her. In March 2024, after successful cataract surgery, her vision was restored. She can now once again read the Bhagavad Gita and manage her household tasks, bringing renewed joy and peace to her life.

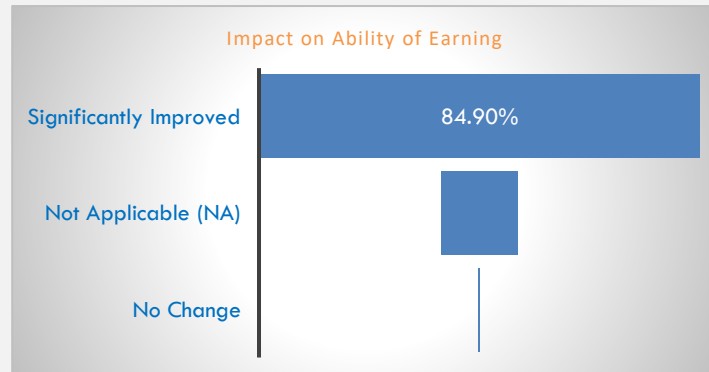
Mr. Bitul Bora, Assam



Bitul Bora, a 67-year-old farmer from Pheta Gaon, Assam, struggled with cataracts that made even simple tasks like reading prayers and working on his farm difficult. His vision blurred, and he felt isolated from his community. Despite a modest family income of Rs. 12,000, Bitul's family decided to proceed with cataract surgery.

After the surgery, Bitul's sight was restored, bringing clarity to his life. He returned to his spiritual duties at the Namghar, engaged more in community activities, and felt useful on the farm again. The surgery gave him not only his sight back but also renewed his sense of purpose and joy

5.1.47: Impact of Eye Care Services on Ability to Work or Earn a Living



84.9% reported a significant improvement in their ability to work or earn a living after receiving eye care services. A very small percentage of 0.3% experienced no change, and 14.8% indicated that the question

did not apply to them. This suggests that eye care services play a crucial role in enhancing employment opportunities and financial independence for individuals, enabling them to perform tasks more effectively.

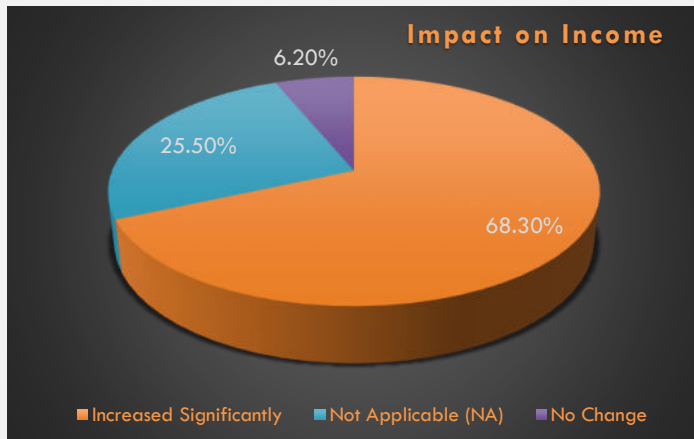
Mr. Rama Rao, Andhra Pradesh



Rama Rao, a 65-year-old watchman from Varidhanam, Andhra Pradesh, struggled to continue his job due to worsening cataracts. His vision loss was putting his livelihood and dignity both at risk. Living alone with no

financial support, he approached the Associate Hospital under RNY, where doctors diagnosed him and recommended cataract surgery. After a successful procedure, Rama Rao regained his vision and was able to return to work without any difficulty. He now manages his duties independently and confidently, without needing anyone's help. He felt grateful for the compassionate care he received at hospital, he shared with emotions, *"I had lost all hope. I thought darkness had taken away my eye. But now, I can work again, earn with pride, and live with self-respect."*

5.1.48: Impact of Eye Care Treatment on Income Levels



A significant portion of respondents (68.3%) reported a notable increase in their income levels following eye care treatment, highlighting the positive economic impact of improved vision. Only 6.2% reported no change in their income, and

25.5% stated that the question did not apply to them. This suggests that for many individuals, restoring vision has led to enhanced productivity and better opportunities for earning a living. The fact that respondents experienced a significant increase in their income levels after receiving eye care services suggests that the program not only restores vision but also improves the financial stability of individuals by enabling them to return to work or increase their productivity. This reinforces the value of eye care programs in promoting not just health, but also economic empowerment for the beneficiaries.

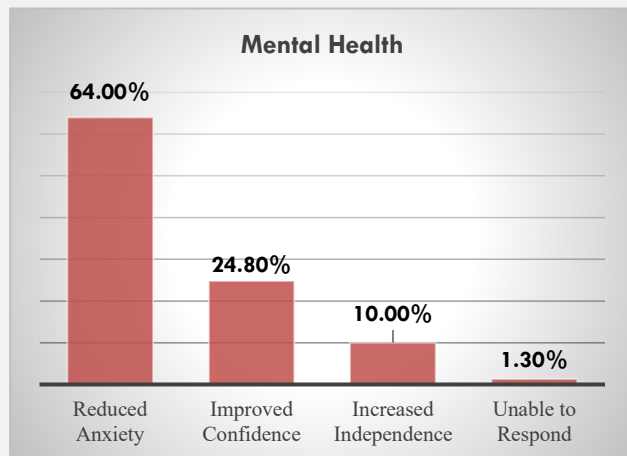
Mr. Chinna Samy, Tamilnadu



Mr. Chinna Samy is a 59-year-old plumber from Chennai. He struggled with vision loss after an eye injury. This made his work difficult, reducing his monthly income from 18,000–20,000 to just 8,000–10,000. In early 2024, he underwent cataract surgery under RNY and regained clear vision. Now, his income has returned to 18,000–20,000, ensuring

financial stability. He shared, *"I used to fear every evening, thinking these are my last days at work. But after the surgery, light came back into my eyes and life both. Now I do not feel as a burden to anyone and feels self-confident and autonomous"*

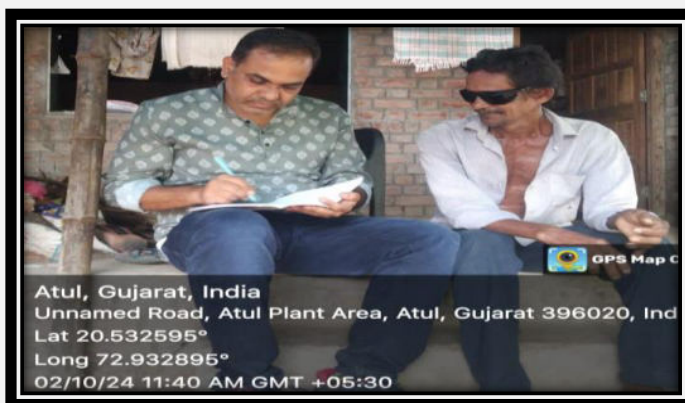
5.1.49: Impact of Eye Care Treatment on Mental Health



The 64.0% of respondents reported a reduction in anxiety regarding their vision and eye health, demonstrating a significant improvement in mental well-being after treatment. Additionally, 24.8% of participants experienced a boost in self-esteem or confidence, while 10.0% felt less dependent on others for assistance. Only 1.3% of respondents

were unable to answer the question. This suggests that eye care treatment positively impacts mental health, fostering greater confidence and reducing emotional distress related to vision concerns.

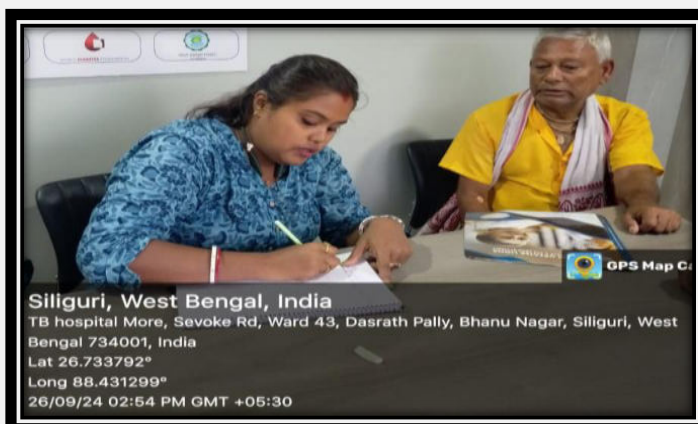
Mr. Hariya Barchali, Gujarat



Hariya a 60-year-old agricultural laborer, felt deep anxiety as his vision worsened and fearing the loss of his livelihood. He underwent cataract surgery that restored his sight and confidence. Now, he works without stress. He shared, *"I no longer live in fear, I feel hopeful and*

at peace again."

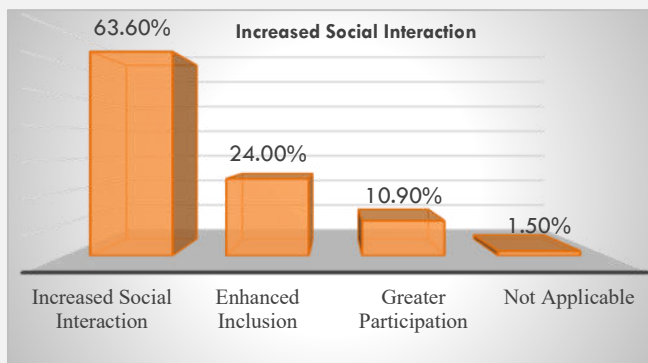
Mr. Harekrishna, West Bengal



At 77, Mr. Harekrishna a hawker from Jalpaiguri felt his world shrink as cataracts damaged his vision. He suffered anxiety and helplessness because he was relying on his son for his needs. But hope arrived with a free eye surgery camp under RNY. On

March 11, 2024, his sight and peace of mind returned. He said, *"Seeing again feels like living again, now back at work with joy."*

5.1.50: Impact of Eye Care Treatment on Participation in Community Activities



A substantial number of respondents 63.6% indicated that the treatment allowed them to reconnect more actively with friends and neighbors, highlighting a significant improvement in social engagement post-treatment. Additionally, 24.0% felt more

accepted and included in their communities, and 10.9% were able to participate in social gatherings and festivals due to improved vision. Only 1.5% of respondents did not provide an answer. This recommends that VFI eye care treatment has a notable positive impact on social participation. By improving vision, individuals can re-establish connections with their social circles and engage in community activities, which are essential for emotional and social well-being.

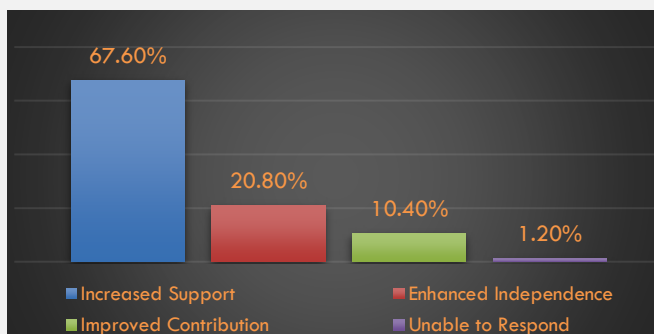
Mr. Numaliya Saikia, Assam



In Majuli, Assam a 63-year-old farmer Numaliya struggled with blurry vision, especially at night. This made his daily tasks and social interactions difficult. After undergoing cataract surgery, his vision was restored, allowing him to engage confidently in community activities and improve his farming and

market visits. With his sight regained, Numaliya felt more independent and happier

5.1.51: Impact of Eye Care Treatment on Family Relationships



67.6% of respondents reported that their family members became more supportive after receiving eye care treatment. Additionally, 20.8% felt more independent in fulfilling their family roles and responsibilities, while

10.4% saw an improvement in their ability to contribute to household tasks and caregiving. Only a small percentage 1.2% were unable to provide an answer.

These results suggest that eye care treatment not only improves individuals' health but also positively affects their relationships with family members by enabling them to be more active and independent within the household.

Ms. Gurbachan Kaur, Himachal Pradesh



Gurbachan Kaur a 69-year-old from Hoshiarpur. Her cataracts make it hard to care for her bedridden husband. After successful surgery her restored vision eased her family's burden. She now manages her independently. This has made her family bond stronger. She said, *"With*

my vision back, I can once again take care of my husband and support my family. This brings me out from the helplessness."

5.1.51: Impact of Eye Treatment on Participation in Community Events (e.g., Community gatherings, local festivals)

Impact on Participation in Community Events	Frequency	Percent
Improved Communication: Enhanced ability to interact in community events	2,006	59.20%
Enhanced Social Status: improvement in reputation within the community	598	17.70%
Greater Community Contribution: Increased ability to assist with community tasks	279	8.20%
Increased Confidence: More self-assured in public interactions	189	5.60%
Reduced Dependence: Less reliant on others to participate in social activities	160	4.70%
Active Decision-Making: Greater involvement in community decisions	130	3.80%
Unable to Respond: Did not provide an answer	25	0.70%
Total	3,387	100.00%

A significant 59.2% of respondents reported a positive change in their ability to communicate and socialize with friends, neighbors, and family members after receiving eye care services. Additionally, 17.7% noticed an improvement in their social standing or reputation within their community. A smaller percentage 8.2% felt that their ability to contribute to community tasks had improved, while 5.6% felt more confident when interacting with others in public spaces. Only a small percentage of respondents reported becoming more involved in decision-making processes 3.8% or feeling less dependent on others for social activities 4.7%.

These results indicate that improving vision through eye care services leads to a greater sense of empowerment and inclusion within the community. As individuals gain more independence and confidence in social situations, they are more likely to participate in public events and community activities.

Mr. Sanyasi Devendra Baba, Uttarakhand



Sanyasi Devendra, a 43-year-old sadhu from Haridwar, struggled with cataracts that clouded his vision, isolating him from others and hindering his spiritual practice. His vision became blurry due to which even simple tasks became difficult. He got operated on under RNY's free cataract surgery. After successful

surgery, he has connected his spiritual world and resumed his spiritual journey with peace.

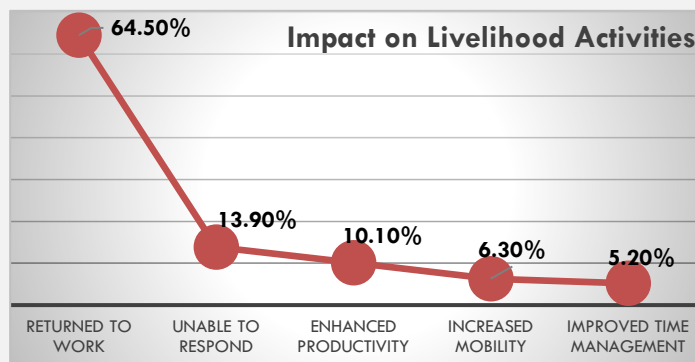
Mr. Ramdas Damu Dabhade, Maharashtra



Ramdas, a 66-year-old resident of Manmad in Nasik district, faced severe vision problems for several years, which hindered his ability to read religious texts and see pictures clearly. As a member of the "**Warkari Sampradaya**" a bhakti spiritual tradition, this

limitation deeply affected his spiritual practice. After deciding to seek help, he underwent cataract surgery on April 23, 2023, under the RNY initiative. The surgery transformed his life; he can now read sacred texts like the **Pothi Puran** (Religious Scripture) without glasses, allowing him to find inner peace. Ramdas shared, **"I chose this hospital because I have known it for 40 years and trust its excellent service. Now, I can comfortably perform all my spiritual activities and offer pooja."**

5.1.52: Impact of Vision Improvement on Professional or Livelihood Activities



64.5% of respondents reported that they were able to return to work following their vision improvement. Additionally, 10.1% of respondents indicated that their ability to complete tasks on time had improved, while 5.2% felt

they could manage their time more effectively. A smaller portion 6.3% reported improvements in their ability to travel for work. Notably, 13.9% of respondents were unable to answer the question, possibly due to factors such as being aged or not currently employed.

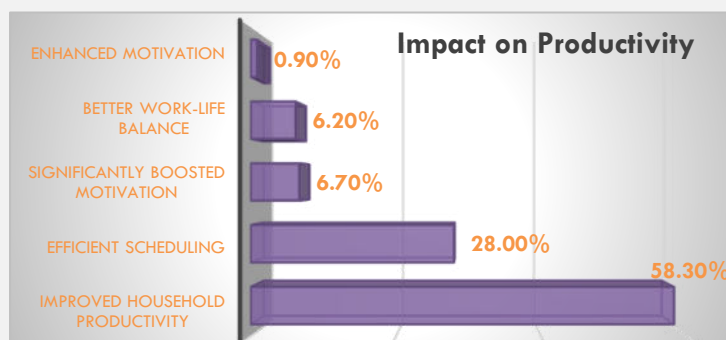
Ms. Suresh, Haryana



Suresh, a 64-year-old widow from Faridabad, struggled with vision problems that affected her household and tailoring work, which were crucial for her family's livelihood. With a monthly income of Rs. 15,000 her eye problem caused emotional and financial

strain. After undergoing cataract surgery on one eye last year, Suresh regained her vision

5.1.53: Productivity in Daily Personal Tasks



The data highlights the substantial impact of VFI's eye care project on beneficiaries' task productivity, with 58.3% reporting an improved ability to complete household chores.

This finding underlines the

transformative role of vision health in enabling individuals, especially women, to perform daily domestic tasks efficiently which is a critical factor in maintaining family well-being. Additionally, 28% indicated better efficiency in managing personal schedules. A smaller but notable proportion 6.2% highlighted better work-life balance. Enhanced motivation for learning and productivity was observed in 7.6%. This shows how vision care can boost personal growth and active engagement in life.

CHAPTER SIX: HOSPITAL'S ROLE IN PROVIDING EYE CARE SERVICES

This thematic analysis of the in-depth interviews with hospital trustees, management officials, and pathologists, offers a comprehensive overview of the strategies and challenges associated with delivering high-quality eye care within the VFI and its AH network. Derived from 31 in-depth interviews, the report highlights the multifaceted efforts of hospitals in maintaining clinical excellence, ensuring patient satisfaction, and navigating operational complexities to support VFI's mission of reducing avoidable blindness across India. The qualitative data also sheds light on persistent challenges, including resource constraints, high patient volumes, financial barriers, and the need for greater awareness and compliance among patients. By capturing these insights, the report highlights the operational strengths of VFI and its affiliated hospitals

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7.1: QUALITY ASSURANCE IN PATIENT CARE

To ensure the delivery of high-quality patient care the Vision Foundation of India's eye care projects adopt a multidimensional approach that incorporates clinical excellence and patient satisfaction. Data from the interviews with trustees and hospital management officials reveal the following deliveries to ensure quality assurance in patient care

7.1.1 Standard Operating Procedures and Accreditation

Hospitals associated with the VFI project uniformly emphasize adherence to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for clinical and administrative functions. Many of these institutions are NABH (National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers) accredited or in the process of accreditation as a part of their commitment to maintaining recognized quality standards.

One Associated Hospital highlighted that, "Our hospital has implemented standard operating procedures (SOPs) across pre-operative, intra-operative, and post-operative care to ensure consistency and precision in delivering patient care"

7.1.2: Infection Control and Hygiene Standards

The VFI-associated hospitals have established robust infection control protocols, which include stringent hygiene practices, sterilization of surgical instruments, and the use of disposable medical supplies. Dedicated hospital teams oversee compliance with these measures, and regular audits are conducted to identify and mitigate risks. Infection control mechanisms minimize post-operative complications, contributing to better surgical outcomes and patient trust in the system.

7.1.3: Regular Staff Training and Skill Development

Training programs for medical and paramedical staff are an integral part of quality assurance. Hospitals frequently organize and allow their staff to participate in workshops and refresher courses to enhance the technical competencies of their teams. This effort ensures that staff remain updated with advancements in ophthalmic care.

7.1.4: Monitoring and Evaluation

Hospital management employs robust monitoring and evaluation tools to track the effectiveness of their quality assurance measures. Some hospitals have implemented digital dashboards to monitor real-time data. Key performance indicators (KPIs) regarding eye care delivery are regularly reviewed. VFI on its own conducts baseline and end-line surveys as a part of regular evaluations of its projects and their outcomes.

7.2: STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

Staff development and training is a critical component of the VFI and its AH which implements the eye care project. Staff training ensures that associated hospitals maintain a high standard of care while addressing the challenges of serving diverse populations across India. The insights from interviews show a robust and multi-layered strategy focused on capacity building, knowledge enhancement, and performance monitoring within the VFI and its associated hospitals

7.2.1: Training Activities: Some A.H. emphasizes structured training activities to build clinical and non-clinical staff's technical and soft skills. Training is customized to address the specific requirements of different staff categories, including paramedical staff, counselors, and support personnel. Regular hands-on training sessions are conducted on surgical techniques, diagnostic procedures, and the use of advanced ophthalmic equipment. Staff are trained in communication, patient handling, and conflict resolution to foster a patient-friendly environment. *"The continuous support from VFI serves as valuable training for our staff in documentation and record-keeping. Compliance with RNY documentation standards has equipped our team with robust and standardized documentation practices,"* said a Trustee from an associated hospital.

7.2.3: Exposure to Cutting-Edge Technology

Hands-on training on the use of advanced ophthalmic equipment such as phacoemulsification machines and diagnostic tools is provided to the technicians. Such training ensures that staff remain adept at leveraging technology for better patient outcomes. A hospital shared how training on the latest imaging techniques for retinal diagnosis significantly improved diagnostic accuracy.

"From Darkness to Light": Impact of Vision Foundation of India's Eye Care Services during 2023-24

7.2.4: Focused Continuing Education

Many hospitals encourage staff to pursue certifications, diplomas, and short-term courses in ophthalmology and related fields. Hospitals often provide financial or logistical support for these educational endeavors. Staff are encouraged to attend national and international conferences to stay updated on emerging trends in eye care.

7.3: EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE AND AVAILABILITY

The availability and maintenance of ophthalmic equipment are essential for the eye care projects. Interviews highlights the structured approach taken by hospitals to ensure that critical diagnostic and surgical equipment remains operational

7.3.1: Importance of Equipment in Service Delivery

The availability of functional and advanced ophthalmic equipment, such as phacoemulsification machines, autorefractors, optical coherence tomography (OCT), and slit lamps, is fundamental to ensuring quality eye care services. The hospitals recognize that the precision of diagnosis and treatment outcomes directly correlates with the quality of their equipment. Several hospitals emphasized that equipment reliability significantly impacts patient surgical success rates.

7.3.2: Equipment Accessibility in Remote Areas

Hospitals serving remote and rural areas face unique challenges in maintaining equipment availability due to logistical constraints and limited access to technical expertise. Many of these hospitals mitigate these challenges by maintaining an inventory of essential equipment and leveraging mobile units equipped with portable devices for outreach camps. Mobile units equipped with autorefractors and portable slit lamps are commonly deployed in rural outreach programs to ensure services reach underserved populations.

7.3.3: Upgradation and Adoption of Technology

To remain competitive and ensure optimal patient care, hospitals periodically upgrade their equipment to align with advancements in ophthalmic technology. This includes adopting automated diagnostic systems and integrating digital tools for enhanced accuracy and efficiency. Some hospitals reported recent investments in OCT machines for retinal diagnostics and fundus cameras for diabetic retinopathy screenings. Regular equipment upgrades help hospitals offer cutting-edge services and improve patient outcomes.

7.4: PATIENT FEEDBACK AND COMPLAINT HANDLING

Effective patient feedback and complaint handling are reported very effective mechanisms in VFI and its associated hospitals. Insights from interviews highlight structured systems for collecting, analyzing, and addressing patient feedback for quality improvement and enhancing patient satisfaction.

7.4.1: Mechanisms for Collecting Feedback

Hospitals under VFI have implemented multiple channels to gather feedback from patients. These mechanisms include both formal and informal methods as mentioned below:

Feedback Forms: Patients are asked to fill out standardized forms at the end of their treatment or surgical procedure, covering aspects such as service quality, waiting time, and staff behavior.

Verbal Feedback: In many rural and outreach settings, verbal feedback is collected from patients who may have literacy constraints

Digital Tools: Some hospitals have introduced online platforms to gather feedback more efficiently.

7.5: INFECTION CONTROL AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Infection control and safety protocols are fundamental to the Vision Foundation of India's eye care initiatives. The interviews highlight strategies and measures implemented to ensure patient safety and prevent healthcare and associated infections. Hospitals associated with VFI follow strict infection control guidelines, adhering to national and international standards to prevent infections These include:

Sterilization of Surgical Instruments: All surgical instruments are sterilized using autoclaves or advanced sterilization techniques such as ethylene oxide (ETO) sterilization, ensuring they are free from pathogens.

Pre- and Post-Surgical Care: Patients are provided with antimicrobial prophylaxis before surgery and monitored post-operatively for any signs of infection.

Clean Room Practices: Surgical suites are maintained as sterile environments, with mandatory gowning, hand scrubbing, and controlled air filtration systems.

7.5.1: Waste Management and Disposal

Biomedical waste management is an important component of infection control. Associated Hospitals implement comprehensive waste segregation and disposal systems to minimize the risk of infection from contaminated materials. Waste is segregated at the source into color-coded bins for sharp objects, infectious waste, and non-infectious waste.

7.5.2: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The use of PPE is strictly enforced, especially in surgical and high-risk areas. Healthcare workers are provided with gloves, masks, face shields, and gowns to reduce the risk of infection transmission. Hospitals ensure a steady supply of PPE and conduct regular hands-on training on proper usage and disposal practices.

A hospital manager mentioned that *“the availability of high-quality PPE during the COVID-19 pandemic helped maintain uninterrupted services while safeguarding staff and patients”*

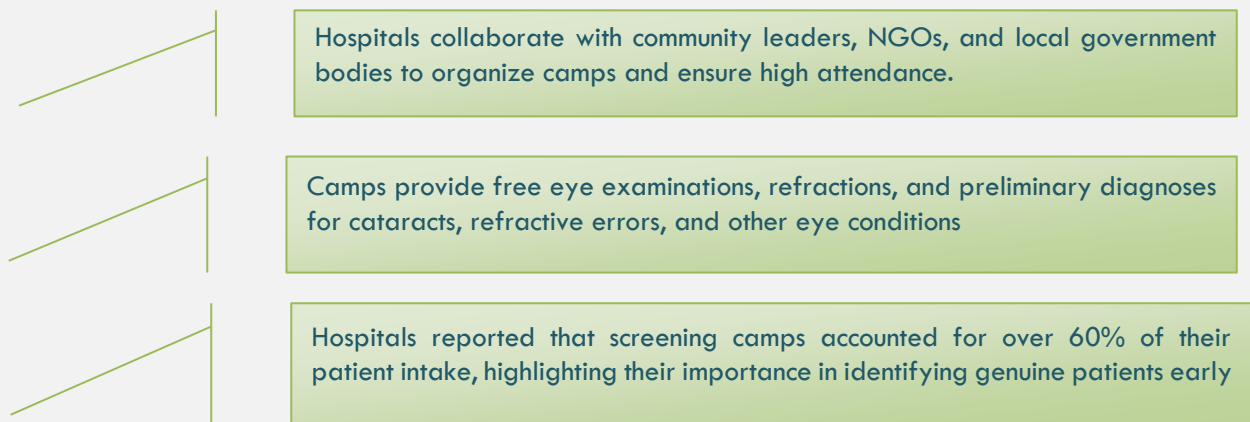
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7.6: OUTREACH STRATEGIES

Outreach strategies enabling eye care services to be delivered to underserved and remote populations across 19 states. The outreach strategies emphasize innovative and inclusive approaches to maximize impact ensure accessibility and build awareness about eye care.

7.6.1: Community-Based Eye Screening Camps

Community screening camps are the most effective outreach strategies adopted by VFI and its AH. These camps are organized in rural and semi-urban areas to identify individuals requiring eye care services.



7.6.2: Awareness Campaigns and Mobilization

Awareness campaigns are conducted to educate communities about eye health, the importance of regular check-ups, and available treatment options.

- Use of IEC Materials in the form of Posters, pamphlets, and audiovisual content in local languages are distributed to increase awareness and engagement
- Focus on marginalized groups who are often underserved in healthcare
- Field workers visit households to inform them about upcoming camps and services
- Individuals identified with potential eye conditions are given personalized invitations to attend camps or visit hospitals

7.6.3: Use of Mobile Eye Care Van



Mobile eye care units equipped with diagnostic tools are deployed to reach remote and geographically challenging areas. These units provide services such as vision testing, refractions, and minor treatments, reducing the need for patients to travel to

hospitals. Patients requiring further treatment are referred to the hospitals with transportation facilities

7.7: POST-SURGICAL FOLLOW-UP

Post-surgical follow-up ensures that patients receive complete care after their surgeries. A robust post-surgical follow-up system monitors recovery, addresses complications, and enhances the long-term effectiveness of interventions.

7.7.1: Structured Follow-Up Protocols

Hospitals implementing VFI's eye care project adhere to structured post-surgical follow-up protocols to ensure continuity of eye care.

- Patients are counselled on the importance of follow-ups, eye care, and complications.
- Hospitals use phone calls, text messages, or community health workers to remind patients of their scheduled visits.
- The first check-up is typically expected within 1-2 weeks post-surgery to assess the surgical outcomes and identify any early complications.
- During subsequent visits, the patients are usually advised to return for follow-ups at one month, three months, and six months after surgery to monitor recovery and ensure optimal vision restoration.

7.7.2: Post-Operative Care Instructions

Hospitals provide detailed instructions to patients and their caregivers to promote recovery and prevent complications. Instructions include the use of prescribed eye drops, avoiding water exposure, and refraining from strenuous activities. Patients are provided with emergency contact details in case they experience pain, redness, or vision loss.

KEY INSIGHTS FROM HOSPITAL STAFF THROUGH FOCUSED GROUP DISCUSSION (FGD)

The Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was conducted to gather qualitative insights from the hospital staff regarding their operations, particularly focusing on the RNY program. The discussion aimed to explore the current practices, challenges faced, and the advancements in technology that support the hospital's eye care services.



Participants highlighted the significance of organizing health camps in partnership with local groups, CBOs, and NGOs. This collaborative approach enables the hospital to effectively extend its services into the community, ensuring that those in need are reached. During these camps, individuals are screened for cataracts. Those identified with cataracts are referred to the hospital for further assessment and treatment. Upon referral to the hospital, patients undergo a series of essential tests to evaluate their overall health and suitability for surgery. These tests include:

- **Blood Tests:** To assess general health.
- **Sugar Levels:** To determine the presence of diabetes, which can affect surgery outcomes.
- **Serum Analysis and Urine Tests:** For additional health insights.
- **HIV and Hepatitis B & C Screenings:** To ensure patient safety during surgical procedures.
- **Chest X-Ray:** To evaluate lung health.

After all these assessments, MD doctors conduct a final fitness evaluation, ensuring that each patient is in optimal condition for surgery.

IMPACT STORIES FROM PROJECT SITES ACROSS INDIA

FIELD STORIES - ORISSA

Ms. Kurmuli Munda



associate hospital, she underwent successful cataract surgery and regained her vision

72-year-old widow Kurmuli Munda lost her eyesight due to cataracts and got a hip injury due to this. She heard about the free eye camps under RNY and availed of the service. After managing her high blood pressure by an expert doctor at the

FIELD STORIES - BIHAR

Ms. Devi



undergoing cataract surgery in March and May 2024, Mrs. Devi regained her vision and can now work alongside her husband again.

Mrs. Devi, a 60-year-old agricultural laborer from Nagariyawan village in Gaya district, Bihar, faced a difficult time when cataracts in both eyes left her unable to work. This significantly impacted her family's survival. After

Mr. Rambalak Manjhi



earned his living through daily labor in the fields. His poor vision often led to accidents while hoeing. After cataract surgery in March 2024, Shri Manjhi regained his sight and expressed deep gratitude to the hospital for giving him a new vision. With restored eyesight, he can work efficiently and continue to support his family with ease.

Shri Rambalak Manjhi, a 65-year-old agricultural laborer from Khaira village in Gaya district, Bihar, faced challenges due to cataracts that affected his ability to work. Living with his wife, sons, daughters-in-law, and grandsons, he

Mr. Saguni Manjhi



Shri Saguni Manjhi, a 65-year-old man from from Gaya district. Despite being illiterate and paralyzed in his left leg, he supports his small family by raising two buffaloes and selling their milk. However, cataracts made it difficult for him to care for his buffaloes and perform everyday tasks. After cataract surgery in March

2024, his vision was restored. He can now work easily

FIELD STORIES - DELHI

Mr. Sawaran Pal Singh



Sawaran Pal Singh, a 59-year-old mechanic from Uttam Nagar, Delhi, struggled with cataracts that forced him to leave his job. As the main earner for his family, his vision loss caused financial strain. After cataract surgery on both eyes, Sawaran regained his vision and

confidence. Now, he is ready to work again and contribute to his family's income.

Ms. Laxmi



Laxmi, a 50-year-old woman from Naraina Vihar, Delhi, struggled with cataracts for three years, making it impossible for her to continue working at an export company. With her husband earning Rs 14,000 as a cleaner, their financial situation was tough, and Laxmi couldn't contribute.

After cataract surgery in June 2023, Laxmi gained her vision. She is now ready to work again and support her family, feeling empowered and hopeful for a future.

Ms. Renu Singh



Ms. Renu is a 44-year-old housewife from Uttam Nagar, Delhi, struggled with cataracts while her husband couldn't work due to poor health. This placed the responsibility of supporting the family on their daughter, who worked as a Manager at a BMW showroom, leaving her overwhelmed. After cataract

surgery on one eye in October 2023, Renu regained the ability to help with household tasks and care for her husband. This eased the burden on her daughter, and with plans for surgery on her other eye, Renu looks forward to fully restoring her role in the family.

STORIE FROM TAMILNADU

Ms. P. S. Rajalakshmi



Ms Rajalakshmi, an 83-year-old woman from Palavakkam, Chennai, faced vision loss due to aging, making daily tasks difficult. Living at Vishanthi Old Age Home without family support, she withdrew socially and struggled with physical challenges. After cataract surgery on her left eye, she regained her vision and

confidence, enabling her to independently manage her activities. Her story highlights how, even in old age, we can maintain independence and live without relying on others. *"For a long time, I saw only shadows both around me and in my heart. But after the surgery, I found light again, not just in my eyes, but in my will to live freely and with dignity."*

Ms. Kannama



Ms Kannama, an 86-year-old from Palavakkam, Chennai, faced vision loss due to cataracts, leading her son to move her to Vishanthi Old Age Home five years ago. Her son's infrequent visits caused her mental distress. However, after cataract surgery on her left eye in late 2023, she

regained her confidence and independence. Now, she actively interacts with others, cares for herself, and no longer focuses on her son's visits, embracing the ability to thrive on her own.

FIELD STORIES FROM PANJAB

Mr. Banarsi Das



Banarsi Dass, a factory worker from Killa Mohalla, Jalandhar, faced growing difficulty in performing his daily tasks due to cataracts in his right eye. His vision was blurred, and with a monthly income of Rs. 17,000 to support his family of four, the financial burden of treatment

added stress. When Banarsi attended an eye camp at Adarsh Nagar, a thorough eye examination revealed the cataract. After a successful operation, Banarsi gained clear vision and could return to work without the hindrance of blurred sight. He shared his felling, *"Each day, I worried that my declining eyesight would cost me my job and push my family into deeper hardship. I felt helpless watching my eye blur. But after the surgery, it felt like a blindness lifted not just from my eyes, but from my life. I can now work with confidence and look my children in the eye knowing I won't let them down."*

Mr. Sukhjinder Singh



Sukhjinder Singh, a car painter from Nakodar, Jalandhar, struggled with cataracts in his right eye, which made it difficult for him to perform his job effectively. Earning Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 22,000 per month, he

supported a family of seven, but his declining vision was impacting his livelihood. When a neighbor informed him about an eye camp nearby, Sukhjinder took the opportunity to attend. The doctor recommended cataract surgery. Post-surgery, Sukhjinder experienced a remarkable improvement in his vision, enabling him to work better and improve his overall quality of life.

Mr Gurmeet Singh



Gurmeet Singh, a 60-year-old cycle rickshaw driver from Jalandhar, was forced to stop working due to cataracts in his right eye. Due to this he was in financial stress for his family. In August 2024, he attended an eye camp at a local Gurdwara

and underwent successful surgery. He fully regained his vision and overcame the stress of his livelihood and family responsibility

Mr. Jagdish Singh



Jagdish Singh, a car painter from Jalandhar had a vision problem due to cataracts in his eye. Cataract was significantly impacting his work and family income. After attending a camp, he underwent surgery on August 20, 2024. With his vision fully

restored, Jagdish is back to work and relieved to have his eyesight perfectly fine.



Mr. Sukhwinder Singh



Sukhwinder Singh, an auto-rickshaw driver from Jalandhar, had been struggling with cataracts in his left eye. The blurred vision affected his ability to drive and made it difficult for him to earn a stable income to support his family. Life became uncertain, and every ride felt like a risk. After attending a local eye

camp organized under the Vision Foundation of India (VFI) initiative, Sukhwinder underwent successful cataract surgery. Post-surgery, his vision was restored, and with it, his confidence returned. He now drives safely ensuring a better livelihood for his family. **"For a while, it felt like my life was disappearing into darkness. After the surgery, I saw not just the road clearly but also the future of my children. I got my life back similar to earlier,"** says Sukhwinder with a smile of relief

FIELD STORIES FROM JHARKHAND

Mr. Satyanarayan Verma



Satyanarayan Verma, a 66-year-old farmer from Bigarah village, struggled with severe vision problems due to cataracts. He couldn't see objects at a distance or recognize faces, making daily life difficult. During a health camp, Mr. Verma visited Associate Hospital for an eye examination. He underwent cataract surgery on his left eye,

followed by his right eye a month later. Both surgeries were successful, fully restoring his vision. Mr. Verma expressed gratitude for the free transportation, counseling, medication, and glasses he received, saying, **"I can now see clearly with both eyes. My life has greatly improved."**

Mr. Madan Ram



Madan Ram, a 61-year-old Thela Wala (street vendor) from Deoghar Puranda village, struggled with severe vision problems due to cataracts in his left eye. He had difficulty seeing objects at a distance and recognizing faces, which affected his daily work. During a health camp in his village, he was advised to undergo surgery and referred

to a nearby hospital. After a thorough examination, cataracts were confirmed, and he successfully underwent surgery on his left eye. A month later, his right eye was also treated, fully restoring his vision. Thanks to free transportation and counseling, Mr. Ram has returned to his work and can now see and identify people clearly.

Ms. Kamala Devi



Kamala Devi, a 75-year-old woman from Singhjori village, struggled with severe vision problems due to cataracts. She couldn't see objects at a distance or recognize faces, making daily life challenging. At a village health camp, she was advised to undergo surgery and was referred to a nearby hospital. After a

detailed examination, cataracts were confirmed in her left eye. Kamala successfully underwent surgery and attended follow-up check-ups to ensure her recovery. The hospital provided transportation, free counseling, and advice on healthy eating and eye care. Now, Kamala can see clearly and recognize people, greatly improving her quality of life.

Ms. Gauri Devi



Gauri Devi, a 75-year-old woman from Bhandaro village, struggled with blurry vision due to cataracts in her right eye. She had difficulty recognizing faces and seeing objects clearly. During a health camp in her village, she was advised to have surgery and was directed to a

nearby hospital. After an eye exam, it was confirmed she had cataracts in both eyes. Gauri underwent surgery on both eyes and received follow-up check-ups. The hospital arranged free transportation and counseling for her. Now, Gauri can see clearly and recognize people, improving her quality of life.

FIELD STORIES FROM HARYANA

Mr. Salem Khan



Salem Khan, a 70-year-old tailor had to stop working due to cataracts. After cataract surgery last year his vision improved and he gained his confidence. He is eager to return to tailoring, bringing hope for an active, independent future and relief to his family.

Ms. Anita Haryana



Anita, a 55-year-old packaging worker from Faridabad faced financial stress after vision loss kept her away from work for four months. Following cataract surgery, her vision improved, and she is now on her job. The surgery brought hope for a more secure future for her family.

Ms. Rambati Haryana



Rambati a tailor from Faridabad, challenged vision loss from cataracts, affecting her ability to support her family tasks. After cataract surgery, her vision was returned. She feels happy and self-respected after gaining her vision

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STORIES FROM HIMACHAL

Mr. Bhag Ram



Bhag Bhag Ram, a 68-year-old agricultural laborer from Hoshiarpur, struggled with cataracts that left him unable to work and support his family. After attending an eye camp, he underwent successful surgery, restoring his vision. Grateful and hopeful, he can now work again to

provide for his household.

Ms. Meeto Rani



Meeto Rani, a 70-year-old from Chohal, Hoshiarpur, struggled with cataracts, making household tasks difficult. Her son took her to an eye camp where she underwent surgery. Her vision was restored. This allows her to care for her family. With teary eyes and a warm smile, she shares *"I felt*

helpless when I could not even recognize the faces of my own grandchildren. After the surgery, I see them clearly and my heart feels filled again,"

Mr. Joginder Singh



Joginder Singh, a 68-year-old farmer from Munarikipur had cataracts that hindered his farm work. In February 2024, he underwent cataract surgery and restored his vision and confidence. Now, he supports his family and thrives in his community

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Ms. Darshana Devi



Ms. Darshana is a 60-year-old from Chohal, struggled with cataracts, making household tasks difficult and causing frustration. Living in a hilly area with a limited family income of Rs. 10–12,000 her vision loss added to her

challenges. After cataract surgery, her eyesight was restored and resulting in to dignity.

Mr. Bhagu Ram



Bhagu Ram, a 50-year-old laborer from Sarai, Hoshiarpur, struggled with blurred vision. With a family of 11 relying on his income, he sought treatment at an eye camp. After successful cataract surgery, Bhagu recovered clear vision and returned to work.

Mr. Jasha Ram



Jasha Ram, a 64-year-old from Hoshiarpur faced severe vision problems due to cataracts. This forced him to quit his factory job. This caused financial stress. After a successful cataract surgery at a free eye camp, Jasha regained his vision and returned to work

Ms. Salochna Devi



Salochna Devi from Kashipur struggled with cataracts that made daily tasks difficult. After attending a free eye camp, she underwent successful surgery. Four months later, Salochna resumed work

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Mr. Mohinder Singh



Mohinder Singh, a laborer from Nakhri village, Una, faced financial stress when cataracts in his left eye forced him to stop working. In August 2024, he attended a free cataract camp and underwent a successful surgery. Now Mohinder is ready to return to work and support his family

FIELD STORIES - MAHARASHTRA

Ms. Chaya Khodarkar



Ms. Chaya is a 77-year-old woman from Sindhudurg. due to vision problems she frequently falls. Living alone and managing daily tasks became challenging. Since she lives single, her sister's family brought her to Ulhasnagar for better care, but Chaya's attachment to her village made

her reluctant to stay long. Whenever her health declined, a kind neighbor would reach out to her sister's son, who would travel to the village, bring her to the city for treatment, and, once she recovered, accompany her back to her home. Chaya says with determination *"My eyes and health may have weakened but I feel alive only when I hear the sounds of my home... the temple bells, the birds, the breeze. After every treatment, I just want to go back and live my life where my heart belongs,"*

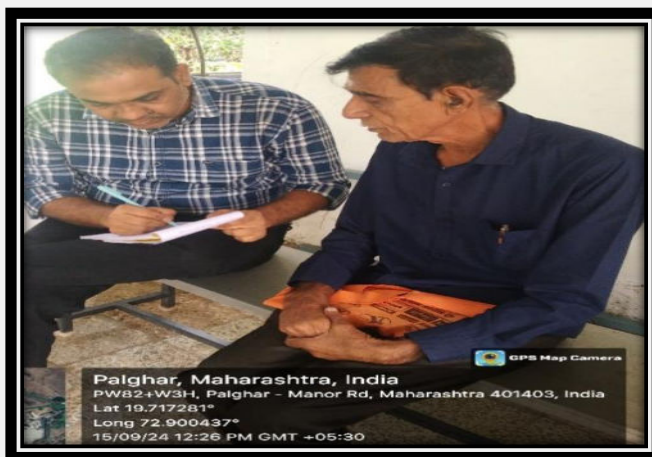
Mr. Kamlabai Mhaskar



Kamlabai, a 60-year-old woman with a leg disability, lives with her brother's family. When her vision became blurry and affected her daily life, they decided to have her undergo surgery under RNY. After the surgery, her vision improved significantly, boosting her confidence to participate in daily activities. *She said, "Now that I can see*

clearly, I feel like I have a new lease on life. I can enjoy family gatherings and the beauty around me."

Mr. Parshuram Babu Patil



Parshuram Patil, a farmer from Abede village, came up with a poor vision that hindered his daily life and rice cultivation on his two-acre land. Last year, VFI's rural outreach program provided him with free cataract surgery including transportation and care. Impressed with the results, he returned this year for surgery on his other eye

Mr. Vanasha Raghu Kurada

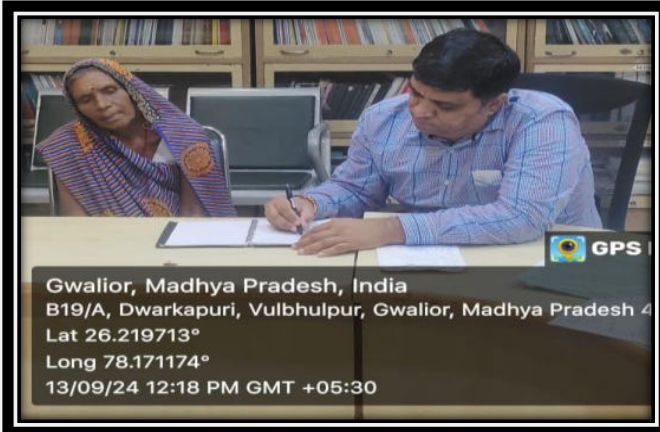


Wanasha Raghu Kurada, a 60-year-old agricultural laborer from Dhamangaon, Nasik district, struggled with severe vision loss, relying on his grandsons for daily tasks. At a VFI camp in Manor, he was diagnosed with cataracts and underwent free surgery at their Mumbai clinic. The successful

procedure fully restored his vision, allowing him to return to farm work and regain his freedom.

FIELD STORIES - MADHYA PRADESH

Ms. Sheela Rathore:



Sheela Rathore, a 72-year-old farmer from Sabri Village, Gwalior, struggled with cataract-related vision loss, which made daily tasks like cooking and moving around difficult. After undergoing successful cataract surgery in late 2023, Sheela regained clear vision. She can now

cook independently and move around freely, improving her quality of life. With her renewed sight, Sheela feels proud to contribute to her household and maintain her independence.

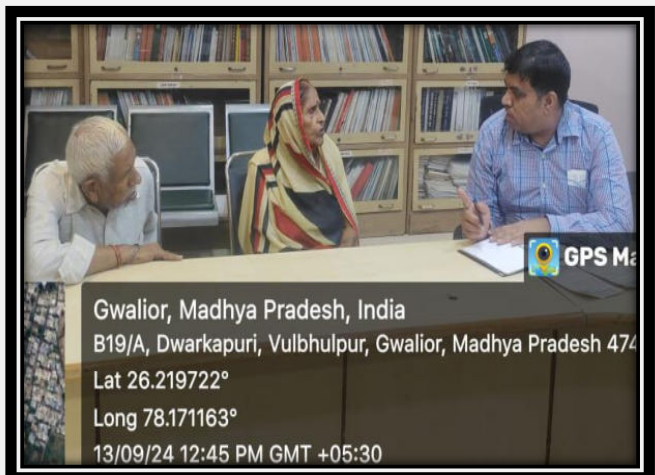
Ms. Parwati Bai:



Parwati Bai, a 75-year-old shopkeeper from Marora Village, Gwalior, struggled with cataracts, making it difficult to recognize people and handle transactions. After a successful cataract surgery in mid-2023, her vision was restored. She can now recognize customers, manage her

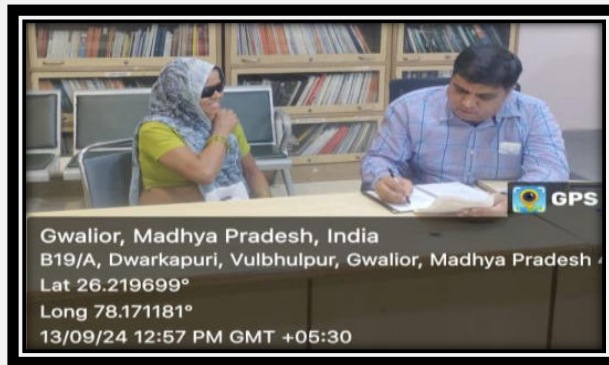
shop, and handle money confidently. This improvement has allowed Parwati to continue her work and regain her independence, significantly enhancing her quality of life.

Ms. Chandrawati



Ms. Chandrawati, is a 70-year-old shopkeeper from Gwalior, faced difficulties managing her gutka shop due to worsening vision. After cataract surgery last year, her eyesight improved significantly. She can now run her shop independently, recognize customers, and handle transactions confidently.

Ms. Somanti Jatav



Somanti Jatav, a 57-year-old woman from Morena, MP, had to quit her job at an export factory due to deteriorating vision. Her husband is a construction worker. They must struggle with household expenses. After cataract surgery earlier this year, Somanti regained her sight and

returned to work, improving her family's financial situation

FIELD STORIES - RAJASTHAN

Mr. Jeram



Jeram, a 66-year-old farmer from Khemli village, struggled with vision loss, which made daily activities unsafe and left him dependent on his family. With a limited income of Rs. 4,000 from old-age pensions, his vision impairment worsened their financial strain. Last year, after cataract surgery

on one eye, his eyesight was restored. Jeram regained his independence, resumed farming, and reduced the burden on his family. His improved vision brought stability, hope, and a sense of self-reliance, significantly enhancing his quality of life.

Mr. Ramchandra



Ramchandra, a truck driver from Swaraj Nagar, Udaipur, faced a significant setback when severe vision impairment forced him to stop working for three months, affecting his family's livelihood. With a family of twelve to support, the loss of income

placed immense strain on them. In 2023, after undergoing cataract surgery, Ramchandra regained his vision and returned to driving. This restoration of his sight resumes driving and brings back stability to his household.

Mr. Durjan Singh



Durjan Singh, a 65-year-old resident of Khiriwada village in Rajasthan works in his farm and occasional driving jobs to support his family. But gradually, vision loss due to cataracts began to challenge with his ability to work. In early 2023 Mr. Durjan

underwent cataract surgeries on both eyes under the support of RNY. With energy and confidence he said, *"When I couldn't see clearly, I felt like I was losing my life. But after the surgery, it's like god gave me a second life,"* his eyes reflects both gratitude and hope

Mr. Govind Lal Sharma



Govind Lal Sharma, a farmer faced significant challenges due to diminishing vision. This affected both his farming and pan shop business. He has in his family, his son, daughter-in-law, and widowed daughter. His

reduced productivity placed a financial burden on the family. After undergoing cataract surgery his vision was restored. Now, Govind contributes fully to the family needs

Mr. Deva Ji



Deva Ji is a 67-year-old farmer from Udaipur who lost his vision after an accident that led to cataracts. The vision loss hindered his work. After getting cataract surgery he gained his sight as a result he returned to his farm work. *"When I couldn't*

see, I felt excluded from my land. After the surgery, I saw the green of my fields again and with that, I found my strength. Farming is not just work... it is purpose of my life," says Deva Ji with emotion.

FIELD STORIES - UTTAR PRADESH

Mr. Birpal



Birpal, a 64-year-old fruit hawker from Karawal Nagar, Delhi, had cataracts that left him unable to see in sunlight. This suffered his work for over a month. As the primary earner, his impaired vision caused financial and mental stress on his family. After cataract surgery Birpal regained his sight. The surgery eased his mental burden

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Ms. Satto



Ms Satto, a farmer from Siroha village in Ghaziabad, struggled with induced vision loss that left her unable to perform household tasks. Living with her daughter, she felt like a burden due to her physical and emotional limitations. After successful cataract surgery on one eye, Satto regained her vision and resumed cooking and farm chores.

Ms. Sunita



Sunita from Ghaziabad faced vision loss and pain due to cataracts. She is a vessel cleaner and, in a stress, thinking to lose her work. After cataract surgery on both eyes, she regained her sight and came out of the work-related stress and trauma. She found relief from stress and financial worries after getting her eyesight

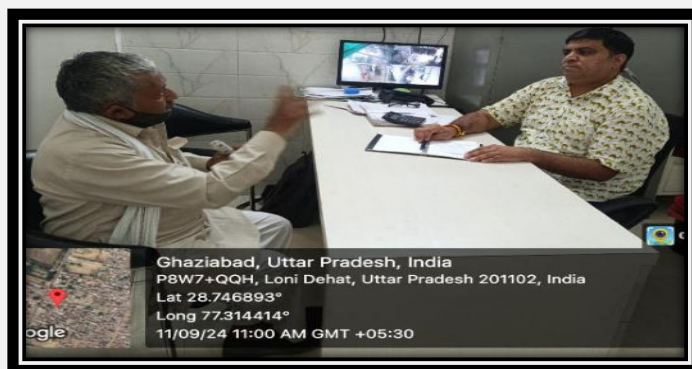
Ms. Mahmudan



Mahmudan is a 60-year-old widow from Delhi. She identified with cataracts that disrupted her garment work and caused severe head pain. After cataract surgery her vision and health improved. Now she can return to work and support her family with new confidence

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Mr. Rajpal



Rajpal is an undergarment hawker from Loni, Ghaziabad. He had a vision problem due to which he was facing problems in identifying garment sizes and currency notes. He had a fear that surgery could worsen his condition, he hesitated

but eventually underwent cataract surgery on both eyes. Post-surgery his vision was restored. Rajpal resumed work confidently, coming out of the mental and social burden he once carried. He now encourages others in his community to seek the same treatment

FIELD STORIES - UTTARAKHAND

Mr. Baba Jagir Singh



Baba Jagir Singh, a 100-year-old man living in the Nirmal Kutiya Gurudwara in Haridwar. Because of the clouded vision it was hard for him to engage in his daily prayers and spiritual practices. With no family by his side, his devotion was

his constant companion. In October 2023, he underwent free cataract surgery under the Rashtriya Netra Yagna program of VFI. Now he can see clearly again. Baba Jagir immerses himself in prayer with new energy and focus. He now enjoys a deeper connection to his surroundings and spirituality.

Ms. Shambini



Ms Shambini is a housewife from Haridwar. She was struggling with blurred vision which made daily tasks and stepping outside difficult. After cataract surgery under the Rashtriya Netra Yagna program of VFI in March 2024, her sight was restored. She regained her independence, resumed caring for her family, and even enjoyed evening walks again.

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Ms. Santosh



Ms. Santosh is a 65-year-old farmer. She was struggling with vision problem due to cataracts. It was making her difficult to perform essential farming tasks and manage her household. This caused frustration and helplessness. After hearing about an eye camp organized under the Rashtriya Netra Yagna program, Ms.

Santosh underwent successful cataract surgery in January 2024. Post-surgery, her vision was restored, allowing her to resume her farming work and household chores with ease.

FIELD STORIES - WEST BENGAL

Mr. Anil Chaudhury



Anil Chaudhary, a 64-year-old tea shop owner from Siliguri, faced a vision problem due to a cataract. This leads him to stop working and add financial strain. After cataract surgery in 2024, his vision was restored. He reopened his tea shop, regaining his ability to support his family. He shared

"Due to the vision problem I had lost the ability to work. The surgery restored my sight and gave me back my freedom. I Reopened my tea shop and it was like a return to life."

Ms. Lila Roy



Ms. Roy, a 51-year-old widow from Sevoke Road, worked as a maid to support her daughter's education. As cataracts worsened, she lost her job, and worries grew about her daughter's future. She underwent free cataract surgery and her

vision was restored, and she returned to work. Ms. *Lila says "After year in darkness, the surgery gave me back my eyes. Now I work with dignity and support my daughter. With my vision back, I see a hope,"*

Ms. Alo Das

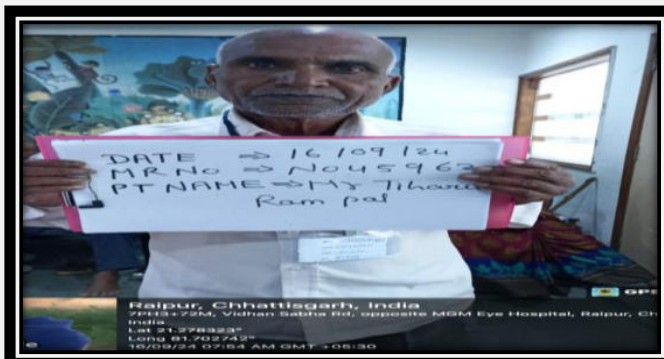


Ms. Alo a 50-year-old housewife from Bhaktinagar, Fakdaibari, lived with her son and daughter-in-law. As her vision worsened, she could not help at home, adding to their financial and emotional strain. When they heard about a free eye camp, Alo underwent free cataract surgery.

Her vision was restored, and she resumed household work.

STORIES FROM CHATTISGARH

Mr. Tiharu Ram Pal



Mr. Tiharu Ram Pal, a 65-year-old construction worker from Raipur, lost his job due to cataracts and declining vision. With a family of nine and limited income, he became dependent on others. After learning about free cataract surgery, he

received treatment under RNY. *"Restoring my sight gave me back my independence and the strength to support my family and return to the work I love,"* he said.

CONCLUSION AND LESSON LEARNED

The impact assessment of the Vision Foundation of India's (VFI) eye care initiatives for 2023-24 has demonstrated a transformative change in the lives of thousands of individuals, particularly among marginalized communities. Through nationwide interventions, free cataract surgeries, pediatric eye care, and mobile outreach programs, VFI has successfully restored countless beneficiary's vision, dignity, and independence.

Beyond the medical impact, the study highlights these initiatives broader social and economic benefits. Many beneficiaries, who were previously dependent on others due to their vision impairments, have regained their ability to work, participate in household tasks, and re-engage in social and religious gatherings. The restoration of sight has not only improved their quality of life but has also strengthened family bonds and community participation.

The overwhelming satisfaction expressed by beneficiaries, along with the high success rates of surgeries and treatments, reinforces the importance of continuing and expanding these initiatives. VFIs efforts in awareness-building, early detection, and post-operative care will further enhance the long-term impact of the program on curable blindness. VFIs strengthened partnerships with local organizations, government agencies, and community leaders have ensured that VFI's services reach the most vulnerable populations.

With a commitment to eliminating preventable blindness, VFI's journey continues to be one of hope and resilience. The stories of transformation captured in this study serve as a powerful reminder that restoring vision is not just about treating a medical condition but it is about restoring dignity, independence, and a brighter life for individuals, families, and communities.



SNAPSHOTS OF VFI'S ON-GROUND ACTION



VFI professional counseling patients in the waiting area, with the VFI eye care team in the next image



Reserved beds in charity hospitals and a free canteen for patients from weaker sections.



washing, cleaning, and disinfecting of hospital textiles



Eye care professionals diagnosing patient's eye conditions



Medical and optical facilities are available at the charity eye care hospital at subsidized rates



Patient Record Management & Post-Surgery free Transportation Support



VISION FOUNDATION OF INDIA

Charity Eye Clinic, Film Centre Building, Ground Floor, 68,
Tardeo Road, Opp. Foam Home, Tardeo, Mumbai - 400034



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