

# SUPPORT COMPLICATED MAJOR EYE SURGERIES

## Surgeries performed on indigent patients in Kolkata / Chennai



### Objective of the Project

1. To identify patients with Complicated eye disorders that require surgery, from the camps conducted in Rural areas or those who come to Sankara Nethralaya from across the country seeking treatment.
2. Provide Comprehensive Eye Care including Surgery totally free of cost including post-operative care.
3. Criterion for Totally free eye treatment will be only those patients who come from economically poor background (whose family income is less than US \$ 240 per month).

### Need for the project:

Even though Cataract is accepted as the leading cause of preventable blindness, Glaucoma, Childhood blindness, Retinal problems constitute a major bulk of the cause of blindness in India. India has about 15 million blind patients of which greater than 40% is due to causes other than Cataract. The average expenses for this kind of major eye surgery is more than US \$ 465/- However, Sankara Nethralaya requests a support of US \$ **250**/- per surgery. The deficit amount would be borne by Sankara Nethralaya.

## **Project Details:**

At Sankara Nethralaya, each year, on an average, we perform about 6000 free Major eye surgeries, totally free of cost to the Indigent Patients who come to the hospital. We seek the support of organizations and individuals to support us through a grant towards performing these major eye surgeries.

### **Joining hands through Corporate Social Responsibility Project for a Mutually Beneficial Relationship:**

The Mission of Sankara Nethralaya is to “provide Total Eye-care solutions of highest standards to all sections of community”. To achieve this mission, Sankara Nethralaya reaches out to Society by conducting eye screening camps to identify the needy people.

#### **❖ Impact on Community**

The Free eye care is provided to the weaker sections of society – both medical and surgical:

- ◆ To the indigent who come through the Camps conducted, from the rural districts of West Bengal/Tamilnadu.
- ◆ Besides this, free treatment is provided to the poor patients who come from across the Eastern Zone – Bihar, Orissa, Assam and other North-eastern states.
- ◆ This project of Free eye care has a very large impact on Society across the country.
- ◆ Sankara Nethralaya makes no distinction with respect to Religion, Caste, Gender or Region. All patients undergo the same treatment – whether they are free or paying. The only criterion for providing free treatment is Economic status.

#### **❖ Impact on Society**

❖ Patients under going free treatment for complex eye diseases come in two broad age-groups:

- ◆ **Above 40 years of age.**
- ◆ As they belong to the economic weaker sections of the society, each one of them – both male and female – have to earn their livelihood. Many of them are daily wage earners
- ◆ Due to the eye problem, many of them are unable to continue their work and are therefore dependent on their immediate family for their living. Considering the fact that the entire family is poor, loss of income from one member increases the hardship faced by the family.
- ◆ By undergoing treatment, the patients regain their vision and thereby their livelihood is restored. This also improves the financial status of the entire family.
- ◆ **Infants / children / young adults:**
- ◆ This group of individuals have their entire productive life in front of them.
- ◆ If they are without treatment, they would lose their vision and thereby become a financial responsibility of the family and society

❖ **Impact study of the project:**

| <b>Sr. No</b> | <b>Activity</b>   | <b>Desired Outcome</b>   | <b>Indicators you will use to Measure Outcome</b> |
|---------------|---|--|---|
| 1             | Carrying out Complex eye surgeries totally free of cost for the indigent patients | Treatment and restoration of workable vision (wherever possible) for those patients who could otherwise not be able to afford treatment for complex conditions | Number of patients undergoing free eye surgery    |

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Sankara Nethralaya USA is a 501 (c) (3) registered non-profit organization and all donations made to it are tax exempt in the USA

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