

MAHARASHTRA SEVA SAMITI ORGANIZATION

**FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT
(30th September 2016)**

**Blindness Prevention among Rural Children in Dhule, India
(031806 - S065466)**

**NGO Partner
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Sponsored by

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Executive Summary

The project is progressing at a much faster rate than originally expected at the time of the submission of the project proposal. The stipulated target of screening 40,000 students by the end of the project has already exceeded; till the reporting period the number of students screened stands at 282,971. Taking into account the low speed in the initial start-up period of the project, and the current high rate, this number is likely to exceed 400,000 by the end of the project.

The target for teacher training in eye health awareness was 500 teachers in a year. However, the outreach team has trained only 1,423 teachers till the end of the reporting period; this is short of 577 in relation to the target number of 2,000. The outreach team has to depend on the district school board's own training program, and thus has no control on this issue.

In the total of 16 staff there were three turnovers during the reporting period. The partner was able to fill the position with short vacancy gap during the turnover time. Thus the overall efficiency in the staff performance was easily maintained.

The successful counseling by the outreach team has led to a sharp drop in the number of parents returning the eye glasses. From the highest of 23 during the first annual report it has steadily decreased to zero in the current annual report.

As per the target, the outreach team was to locate 200 dropout females. This has exceeded far beyond the expectation. As of the end of the reporting period more than 3,685 dropout females have been located. Parents of all of them were provided counseling, though only 30% of them agreed for the eyesight screening of their daughters. For the current annual report 476 were traced and 27% of the parents agreed for screening.

The outreach team has gone beyond the call of their duty; (1) they conducted eye screening camps during vacations which benefitted 1,074 children; (2) they screened 954 adults for vision deficiency; (3) they distributed clothes to poor rural children during Diwali season.

Overall the project is progressing very well.

Separately attached PMF table gives the overall performance indication against the targets. The below descriptive report will support the data in the PMF table.

Activity 110 & 120: Appoint a team of experts and support staff for paediatric ophthalmology including an ophthalmologist, four optometrists, a project administrator, a matron, two nursing assistants, two counsellors, two assistant counsellors, two drivers, an accounts clerk, a research assistant for data processing and two security persons.

Three staff members out of 16 left the job (1 Driver and 2 Counsellors) during the reporting period. The partner filled the positions (1 Driver & 1 Counsellor), one counsellor position still remains vacant which is expected to be filled within next few months. This has not affected the efficiency of the outreach team.

Table below includes all students who are screened - regular ones screened during school visits, the ones screened at the Summer Camp and any stray which were referred to through various other sources. The reasons for student absenteeism were explained in the first interim report.

Table 1: Screening Report of School Visits

| | 1 Oct 2015 to 30 Sept 2016 | | | Cumulative till Sept 2016 | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------|--------|---------------------------|---------|---------|
| | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female |
| Total enrollment | 85,847 | 47,275 | 38,572 | 381,551 | 205,489 | 176,062 |
| Present and screened | 61,165 | 33,785 | 27,380 | 282,971 | 151,954 | 131,017 |
| Percentage screened | 71% | 71% | 71% | 74.16% | 73.94% | 74.41% |
| Needing eye glasses | 1,588 | 862 | 726 | 7,482 | 3,749 | 3,733 |
| Needing treatment at hospital | 1,338 | 784 | 554 | 7,131 | 4,017 | 3,114 |
| Total with vision deficiency | 2,926 | 1,646 | 1,280 | 14,613 | 7,766 | 6,847 |
| Needing counseling | 2,356 | 1,294 | 1,062 | 10,181 | 5,208 | 4,973 |
| Percentage needing counseling | 81% | 79% | 83% | 83% | 82% | 85% |

As an immediate outcome till 30th September 2016 the outreach team has identified 14,613 students with vision deficiency. Of these 7,482 needed eyeglasses and 7,131 needed treatment at the hospital. The tables below provide breakdown of these numbers in various categories.

Table 2: Treatment referral status

| | 1 Oct 15 to 30 Sept 16 | | | Cumulative till 31 Sept16 | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|-----|-----|---------------------------|-------|-------|
| | Total | M | F | Total | M | F |
| Referred to hospital | 1,338 | 784 | 554 | 7,131 | 4,017 | 3,114 |
| Visited hospital | 313 | 188 | 125 | 1,666 | 913 | 753 |
| Not Visited hospital | 1,025 | 596 | 429 | 5,465 | 3,104 | 2,361 |
| Total Operation | 55 | 32 | 23 | 180 | 103 | 77 |

Of the 1,338 students referred to the hospital during the year, only 313 visited the hospital of which 55 (M 32 & F 23) needed surgeries. The remaining 253 students were treated with prescription medicines. The corresponding cumulative figures are 7,131 were referred to the hospital. Of the 1,666 students who visited the hospital 180 needed surgeries (103 M and 77 F) of various types as detailed in the above table. The remaining 1,486 students were treated with prescription medicines.

Table 3: Eyeglasses distribution status

| Classification of eye glasses provision | 1 st Oct 15 to 30 Sep 16 | | | Cumulative till Sep 30, 16 | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|------|--------|----------------------------|-------|--------|
| | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female |
| (a) Supplied free to poor students | 205 | 128 | 77 | 781 | 443 | 338 |
| (b) Non-poor bought from assigned supplier | 55 | 31 | 24 | 642 | 331 | 311 |
| (c) Non-poor bought from outside supplier | 505 | 289 | 216 | 1,788 | 956 | 832 |
| (d) Total who received eyeglasses (a)+(b)+(c) | 765 | 448 | 317 | 3,211 | 1,730 | 1,481 |
| (e) Non-poor opted but did not buy elsewhere | 823 | 414 | 409 | 4,270 | 2,018 | 2,252 |
| (f) Total Needing eye glasses (d)+(e) | 1,588 | 862 | 726 | 7,481 | 3,748 | 3,733 |
| (g) Total opting for outside supplier (c)+(e) | 1,328 | 703 | 625 | 6,058 | 2,974 | 3,084 |

The below table provides the number of parents returning the eye glasses during each interim report.

Table 4: Details of parents returning eye glasses

| | Total | | | Free | | | Paid | | |
|-------------------------|-------|----|----|-------|---|---|-------|----|----|
| | Total | M | F | Total | M | F | Total | M | F |
| 1 st Interim | 6 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| 2 nd Interim | 19 | 9 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 17 | 8 | 9 |
| 3 rd Interim | 11 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 3 | 7 |
| 4 th Interim | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 5 th Interim | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 6 th Interim | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 th Interim | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 th Interim | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 42 | 18 | 24 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 34 | 13 | 21 |

From the table it is evident that the number of students returning eye glasses is consistently decreasing with every interim report. (The figures for the 7th Interim may be considered as random fluctuation.) From a maximum of 19 it has reduced to 0. This is an indication of successful counseling by the outreach team.

Activity 210a: Organize and equip two mobile clinics for screening activity.

The outreach team using two fully equipped mobile vans has picked up the speed in their screening activity. The project objective is to provide free vision check-up to 40,000 rural children over five years. However, the target has already screened 282,971 students till the end of the Fourth Annual report. (The number 282,971 includes 260,875 from the screening in the Dhule district, as specified in the below table, plus 22,096 from the screening done outside Dhule district.

As shown in the table below, the outreach team has covered 503 villages and 1,109 schools till the end of the 4th reporting period.

Table 5: Numbers of villages and schools

| | Total | 4 th Year | to date | Balance |
|--------------------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|---------|
| No. of Villages | 686 | 106 | 503 | 183 |
| No. Schools | 1,881 | 237 | 1,109 | 772 |
| No. Playschools | 2,129 | 246 | 1,290 | 839 |
| No. of Students in Schools | 382,895 | 43554 | 191,019 | 191,876 |
| No. of Students in Playschools | 98,759 | 15556 | 69,856 | 28,903 |
| Total Number of Students | 481,654 | 59110 | 260,875 | 220,779 |

Activity 210b: Identify school dropout female students for participation in screening.

As an immediate outcome our target was to trace 200 dropout girls amongst which 25 were expected to have vision deficiency. The target number of parents to be counselled was 25 with 20 consenting. As outlined in the above table, the outreach team traced 3,685 dropout females, only 133 of them were found to have vision deficiency. Parents of all dropout females were counselled only 1,097 consented for the screening. The details are given in the table below

Table 6: Screening of dropout females

| | 4 th Year | | | Cumulative till Sept.2016 | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------|---------------------------|--------|---------|
| | Total | Male [^] | Female | Total | Male | Female |
| Total traced | 476 | 6 | 470 | 3,685 | 26 | 3,659 |
| Parent consent for screen | 129 | 6 | 123 | 1,097 | 26 | 1,071 |
| Parents declined screening | 347 | 0 | 347 | 2,588 | 0 | 2,588 |
| Needing eye glasses* | 12(9) | 1(1) | 11(8) | 56(48) | 4(4) | 52(44) |
| Needing treatment at hospital* | 12(12) | 2(2) | 10(10) | 77(67) | 13(12) | 64(55) |
| Total with vision deficiency* | 24 | 3 | 21 | 133(115) | 17(16) | 116(99) |

[^]Male dropouts were brought to the screening by their parents.

*The figures in the bracket indicate the number of parents of dropout females who declined eyeglasses and/or treatment at the hospital.

Activity 310: Publicize and deliver counselling services intended for parents of sight impaired students.

Parents of all the students identified with vision deficiency are contacted and counselled. As explained in the previous report, special attention is given to concerns of the parents of female students with vision deficiency. Group counselling of students to remove stigma in wearing glasses is continuing with high rate of success. (The number of students returning eye glassed has reduced from maximum of 19 to 2.)

Activity 410: Design gender sensitive teacher training manual, awareness video and related materials on preventive measures for eye health.

As mentioned in the previous report, the outreach team has devised power point presentations, slide shows, a booklet and a CD on eye health.

Activity 420: Deliver training to (f, m) teachers across the project catchment area.

With the help of the district school board, the outreach team is conducting the teacher training program. The team also included playschool teachers in the training program. The target was to train 500 teachers in a year. The team has trained 1,423 till the end of the third annual report period. This shortfall of 577 teachers could not be avoided, since we have to depend on the help of the district school board.

Table 7: Teacher Training Details

| | Fourth Annual | | | Cumulative | | |
|---------------------|---------------|----|-----|------------|-----|-------|
| | Total | M | F | Total | M | F |
| Teachers | 53 | 40 | 13 | 655 | 379 | 276 |
| Trainee teachers | 0 | 0 | 0 | 60 | 14 | 46 |
| Playschool teachers | 171 | 0 | 171 | 708 | 0 | 708 |
| Grand Total | 224 | 40 | 184 | 1,423 | 393 | 1,030 |

Beyond the call of duty

The outreach team could work with the school children only when the schools are in session. During the period of school vacations, the outreach team schedules complimentary activities which are not part of their duty. One of the activities is organizing camps outside the schools. The following are the details of one such camp.

Table 8: Screening activity at the summer Camp in 2016

| | Summer Camp 2016 | | | Cumulative till 2016 | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|-----|-----|----------------------|-------|-------|
| | Total | M | F | Total | M | F |
| Present and screened | 1,074 | 629 | 445 | 15,945 | 8,601 | 7,344 |
| Needing eye glasses | 66 | 35 | 31 | 654 | 394 | 260 |
| Needing hospital treatment | 52 | 34 | 18 | 726 | 432 | 294 |
| Total with vision deficiency | 118 | 69 | 49 | 1,380 | 826 | 554 |
| Needing counseling | 118 | 69 | 49 | 1,349 | 816 | 533 |

The summer camp totals include new students, repeat students, dropouts (both male and female) and those who were absent during the school visit. Total dropouts of 1015 included 562 males and 453 females. Out of 52 needing hospital treatment only 13 visited the hospital (M10 + F3), one of them (female) needed operation.

The Outreach team also conducted screening of adults on the occasion of World Eye donation week. The following table provides the details.

Table 9: Screening of Adults

| | Adult Camp 2016 | | | Cumulative till 2016 | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----|-----|----------------------|-------|-------|
| | Total | M | F | Total | M | F |
| Present and screened | 954 | 455 | 499 | 2,754 | 1,427 | 1,327 |
| Needing eye glasses | 345 | 178 | 167 | 1,052 | 571 | 481 |
| Needing hospital treatment | 165 | 81 | 84 | 605 | 307 | 298 |
| Total with vision deficiency | 510 | 259 | 251 | 1,657 | 878 | 779 |
| Needing counseling | 510 | 259 | 251 | 1,657 | 878 | 779 |

Table 10: Diagnostic of vision deficiency at Adult Camps

| | 2016 Camp | | | Cumulative all camps | | |
|----------------------|-----------|----|----|----------------------|-----|-----|
| | Total | M | F | Total | M | F |
| Referred to hospital | 165 | 81 | 84 | 605 | 307 | 298 |
| Cataract | 136 | 63 | 73 | 487 | 236 | 251 |
| Pteregium | 10 | 5 | 5 | 55 | 30 | 25 |
| Ptosis | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Other | 19 | 13 | 6 | 61 | 40 | 21 |
| Operated | 9 | 2 | 7 | 148 | 66 | 82 |

Up till now we referred (605 = M 307+ F 298) Adults of which (487 = M 236 + F 251) adults are referred for Cataract of which 146 get operated.

Literacy classes for dropout girls

In the previous year, we received help from M.S.W. students who interned at our project as part of their degree program. This year no M.S.W. students registered for internship and hence we were short on manpower. As a result, we could not conduct literacy classes for drop out students.