

Blindness Prevention in Rural Children (S065466)

Mission Dates: January 8 – 11, 2015

Project Sites: Dhule and surrounding villages in Maharashtra

Canadian Partner: Maharashtra Sewa Samiti Organization (MSSO)

Local Partner: K.S. Wani Memorial Trust (KSWMT)

Eye screening camp in a village



These camps are not well organised. Simple steps could be introduced to bring some discipline in order to deliver services in a systematic and professional manner.



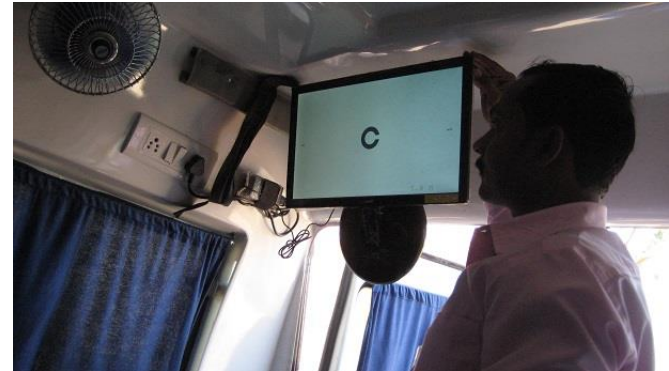


Project widened the scope by including infants and children up to 18 years so that dropout girls from education can also be covered. Group of adolescent girls who are not attending schools have also benefitted from the project.

Fully equipped mobile clinic. It has a public address system, TV for screening eye care related films, computerised eye testing instruments and others. Staff travels in this van, visits schools and examines screened children.



**Mobility through fully equipped van increased the outreach in rural areas.
Financial support by CIDA has been acknowledged prominently
on both vans.**





Project made a good progress on GE and its integration in the project. Good material has been developed. Presentations on GE and nutrition are made in schools. Reasons and discrimination for inequality are explained through interactive sessions with school children.

**Interaction with girls prescribed with glasses.
Representative from MSSO, KSWMT and Lioness Club
were present.**





Meeting with parents whose children benefitted through corrective surgeries at *Sharada Netralaya / Eye Hospital.*



As a part of the monitoring, a rapid participatory exercise was conducted on two issues: i) Key success factors for achieving four times (167,890 children) of the target during the 3rd as against 40,000 children over five year project period; and ii) Contribution made by mobile clinic in the project.

This exercise was actively participated by the staff, board members, and reps from MSSO, Calgary. Results of this exercise were integrated into the mission report- see point # 2.

Meeting with a local rep from the Government of India's national program, Headmasters, and Teachers.





At the end of the field mission, Sampath / DFATD debriefed Board members (KSWMT), reps from MSSO and project staff.