

early i.e before 1976. The country empowered itself to increase the cataract surgeries from 1.19 million per year in 1985 to 4.82 million surgeries per year in 2005 and 90% of these receive I.O.L. During the last two decades the country has reduced cataract blindness from 80% to currently 47%. Refractive related blindness from 20% to 7%. Glaucoma, Diabetic Retinopathy and Age Related Macular Degeneration have emerged as new causes of blindness. The annual incidence of cataract which is single largest silent visual impairer is 5 million whereas annual cataract surgery rate per annum is less than 2.75 million. The huge backlog of cataract surgeries in India which runs into several millions is indeed a cause for concern. Even though there have been significant developments both in terms of technique, technologies and numbers which have helped battle the blindness growth in the country, lot remains to be done.



The Society has been making its concerted efforts to bring to the masses deprived of the precious "Gift of Sight" affordable, accessible, preventive curative and quality eye care services through our programs run at our Hospitals and Branches. The job at hand looks to be daunting and uphill. When we have to deal with figures which reflect there are 161 million people who are visually impaired and the figures are growing. Mercifully, more than 120 million people fall in categories which are namelessly blind or treatable. In

India itself, it is estimated that there are more than 15 million people who are needlessly blind whose "Gift of Sight" would be given through relatively simple and inexpensive medical procedures. What we need today is to use modern technology, the skills of our Engineers, Indian Ophthalmic and Paramedics and increase the number of surgeries that could be done using good management practices, efficient spread of resources and plan outreach activities.

One of the challenges that we had to face has been shortage of dedicated Doctors who have a flair and believe in Community Ophthalmology. Fortunately, cherished moments and glint of joy and happiness that we see amongst our brothers and sisters who have been given the "Gift of Sight" is the greatest moment of pride with our work and the source of motivation.

**OCULAR MORBIDITY
WORK BY UNITS
& BRANCHES
ACTIVITY REPORT-
April 01, 2006 To
March 31, 2007**

PARTICULARS	THIS YEAR
School Visual Health Screening Program	
Number of Schools Surveyed	91
Number of Students Screened	20,893
Students found with Defective Vision	1,732
Out-Reach Community Services	
Number of Eye Camps	101
Number of Patients Examined	25,157
Number of Operations Performed	3,334
Hospital & Research Centre Activities	
Number of Patients Examined in OPD	33,383
Number of Refractions	9,521
Number of Operations Performed	2,192

NSPB-INDIA HOSPITALS

The Society runs three Eye Hospitals directly under its control to provide the "Gift of Sight" to as many beneficiaries as possible. The hospitals undertake quality eye care services at the hospital and as-well-as at doorstep of the patients.

