

## MORE LIGHT, MORE LIFE

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No denying, the eyes are the most useful organs of our sense the eye sight is the most precious gift of God to mankind. The eyes bring the beauty of the earth to us. What a magic! The two little balls and the world full of beauty and wonder. And without these two there is darkness-darkness everywhere. What a curse! Not only that, these two have their own beauty and add beauty to our personality. The twinkling, the flapping, the side glance, the staring all have their own language and can captivate men and women alike. As such the eyes become such a steady source to poets and literatures. No need to exaggerate, when a man is deprived of eye sight his life becomes meaningless and even burden to himself, not to speak of other. The whole grandeur, the entire purpose of his life is lost and the usefulness of other remaining organs is virtually reduced to utmost a nil. We should, therefore, lay utmost importance in the task of preventing this heinous and troublesome misfortune of mankind.

A heavy toll of useful human lives is taken through ailments of eyes which are curable, if not, preventable at least. Hats off to modern medical science to bring the ailments under the grip of preventable measures. Still blindness remains a serious and troublesome public health problem in India even in these days of 21<sup>st</sup> century. The cause is simple enough to understand—it is due to lack of eye care consciousness in our countrymen. Besides this most of the blindness, as experts opine, is due to malnutrition, illiteracy and ignorance of the people about eye health. Superstitions still play havoc in our country. What a shame! But it remains a fact that a significant percentage of the country's heavy population still rushes to "Mantra-Jantra" instead of eye specialist when eyes trouble them. May poverty be a cause behind such attitude of our people. But certainly can not be the solitary one. Light, yes, light of

consciousness can only onslaught these odds. And as a sensible citizen of a civilized nation everybody of us must have a moral obligation to remove ignorance, illiteracy and superstition from our country. We can't simply overlook it.

A general opinion is that common people don't have anything to do in removing the curse of blindness as it is a subject of medical science. But in a country like ours medical facility is too scanty to reach every body of us. Hence people having consciousness have much to do away with blindness. People are to be assured that most of the blindness can be avoided, prevented and minimised. Only what is essential most in this regard, is mass awareness, proper eye health care. They are also to be taught that proper eye health care nutrition and good habits can go a long way in solving the problem. In short education and consciousness are essential to replace ignorance, illiteracy and superstitions by providing light of knowledge.

To provide eye health information and education to each person of our country is a gigantic task certainly. And to add difficulty to this heavy task there is diversity in socio-cultural backgrounds, diversity in habits interests and beliefs. The task, therefore, very reasonably seems unsurmountable. But we must not surrender to odds and adversities. Was not landing to the moon unsurmountable or better to say, unthinkable before 1969? But it is very much possible today. So why not we can cope with these odds and adversities? The task may seem a mammoth one and it does so actually to an individual. But a joint all out effort can easily unroot the problem. The teaching community can play the leading role in this regard. Being a member myself of this community. I do feel this very much. Let's come and promise to leave a blindness-free world for the future generation. □□