

Project vision

It gives me great pleasure to share our first newsletter on behalf of the trustees and friends of Dhwanishruti foundation. Let me start by wishing you all a wonderful 2024 and hope all your aspirations for the next 12 months bear fruit and plenty of learning opportunities are provided.

With the support of each one of you we embarked on Project vision a program to reduce avoidable blindness amongst children in government and government aided schools. This program has been implemented since November 2018 and most recently under the umbrella of the foundation.

We have been fortunate to participate in screening over 90000 children since we started and around 30000 children since the foundation has been formed. The program began in BBMP schools, Bangalore south and moved to Hassan district where we have been able to reach children in 6 taluks so far out of the 8 taluks.

Your contributions have helped us fund this program delivered by team from Rakesh Nethralaya. Children identified needing spectacles have been provided the same by our network partner One Sight Essilor Luxottica foundation. They have been very efficient and professional in that over 98% of the children have received the spectacles within 1 month of screening. Children referred for further care have been sent by ophthalmologists in Hassan and remaining ones from these taluks are continuously being contacted to visit eye clinic. Our partner Vittala eye hospital has provided care for children needing surgical intervention and enhanced treatment.



We have learnt on reflection from the data collected that majority of the children needing spectacles are from high school and tend to be females with referrals being male. We also learnt that the problem exists more in the urban part of the taluk in comparison to the rural part. Our understanding of the data has got better over the last 12 months and over the last 6 months. We have shared the same with local governmental staff in both education and health department as part of our working in partnerships with public bodies.

The cooperation of the personnel from the education department and the various teachers has been fantastic. It is a joy to meet many teachers who studied in the same school now having returned to participate in its development for others.

In the new year we hope to continue doing this work as we find joy in it and we are grateful that we can participate in reducing needless avoidable blindness amongst our children. Your support hence been greatly appreciated both in kind and action. We would like you to help us reach many more children, raise awareness of eye health issues, and raise more funds beside your contribution continuously.

I would like to end this conversation with you all with a small poem I feel would be appropriate in this journey,

*Reducing blindness, a vision,
Doing it with many a mission,
For alone you can go a mile,
With many we go many miles,
Without your hands,
The reach is shorter,
With you along,
The joy of clearer vision brighter,
Humbled we are in life in your company.*



With folded hands and warmest wishes for 2024
Vineeth