

Gullapalli Pratibha Rao International Centre for Advancement of Rural Eye Care (GPR ICARE)
Hyderabad, India

Vision

To create excellent and equitable eye care systems that reach all those in need.

Mission

The mission of L V Prasad Eye Institute is to be a centre of excellence in eye care services, basic and clinical research into eye diseases and vision-threatening conditions, training, product development, and rehabilitation for those with incurable visual disability, with a focus on extending equitable and efficient eye care to underserved populations in the developing world.

The LVPEI Eye Health Pyramid



L V Prasad Eye Institute

L V Prasad Eye Institute is a comprehensive eye health facility with its main campus located in Hyderabad, India. A World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Prevention of Blindness, the institute offers comprehensive patient care, sight enhancement and rehabilitation services and high-impact rural eye health programs. It also pursues cutting edge research and offers training in human resources for all levels of ophthalmic personnel.

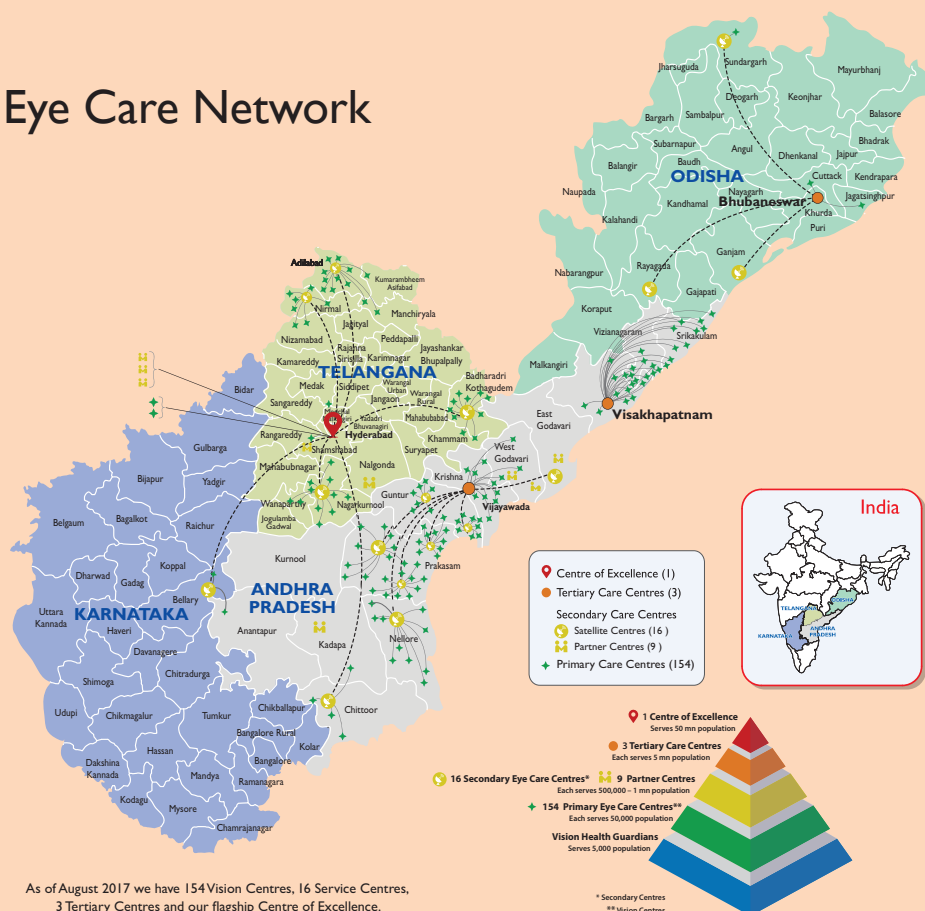
LVPEI's mission is to provide equitable and efficient eye care to all sections of society. Since its establishment in 1987 it has served over 23.8 million (2.38 crore) people with more than 50% services provided free of cost, regardless of complexity; provided direct service to over 3600 villages through secondary and primary care; trained 19,497 eye care professionals from India and abroad; awarded 43 PhDs and published over 2023 research papers; helped rehabilitate over 0.15 million people with irreversible blindness or low vision; facilitated and collected over 69,084 donor corneas and transplanted over 34,096; helped upgrade eye care programs in 18 states of India and 16 other countries.

L V Prasad Eye Institute works out of 176 locations, its network including a Centre of Excellence in Hyderabad, 3 tertiary centres in Bhubaneswar, Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada, 16 secondary and 154 primary care centres that cover the remotest rural areas in the state of Andhra Pradesh, India, as well as several City Centres. The institute's innovative and comprehensive approach to community eye health, the LVPEI Eye Health Pyramid, has been adopted as a model by the government of India and by other developing countries.

LVPEI is a not-for-profit organization governed by two trusts: the Hyderabad Eye Institute and the Hyderabad Eye Research Foundation. The institute is a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Prevention of Blindness and a Global Resource Centre for VISION 2020: The Right to Sight initiative. The Institute's Kallam Anji Reddy Campus in Hyderabad & the Bhubaneswar Campus are accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH).

The institute's rural and urban community eye health programs include surveys of over 6,000 villages with a total population of over 6.8 million, of which about 12.5% were identified as having eye problems. Teams of community eye health workers, including local volunteers have conducted more than 7,007 community screening and 7,711 school and anganwadi screening programs.

The LVPEI Eye Care Network



Gullapalli Pratibha Rao International Centre for Advancement of Rural Eye care (GPR ICARE)

The Gullapalli Pratibha Rao International Centre for Advancement of Rural Eye care (GPR ICARE) was founded in 1998, and is an integral part of the Institute. LVPEI's community eye care services are planned and managed by GPR ICARE. LVPEI has been involved in developing eye care services in the areas of Andhra Pradesh and other parts of India where such facilities are neither available nor well developed. GPR ICARE is an organized large-scale effort to reduce avoidable blindness in rural and unreached India, and other parts of the developing world, over the long term.

GPR ICARE strives towards the following major objectives:

- To develop high quality self-sustaining eye care services in the needy areas of India and other parts of the developing world
- To train all cadres of eye care personnel to provide excellent and efficient eye care services
- To participate in the planning of eye health initiatives in the developing world based on well-documented and reliable epidemiological information about blindness and visual impairment among the population
- To undertake operations and research projects to understand the best way to deliver eye care services to entire communities

GPR ICARE was established with the support of Christoffel Blindenmission, Germany and Sightsavers International, United Kingdom. GPR ICARE offers training programs under the Ramachandra Pararajasegaram, Community Eye Health Education Centre.

Community Eye Health

Community eye health extends the individual patient-based traditional clinical practice of ophthalmology to the assessment and facilitation of good eye health to the population as a whole.



Community Screening Program

Need for the program

The principle of community eye health is to apply the knowledge of eye care to offer the best possible eye care services to the community to reduce blindness and visual impairment. This specialized area of study is not included in the routine curriculum of ophthalmology/ optometry teaching in India and to the best of our knowledge, in other developing countries. Hence, Diploma in Community Eye Health Program aims to help professionals to focus on delivering quality eye care to benefit the community as a whole.

Demographic and epidemiological transitions and changing lifestyles have led to an increase in eye ailments and blindness. The knowledge and skills required to prevent and treat visual impairment and rehabilitate the blind and the visually impaired, improves the quality of their lives and also benefits society. The skills learnt from this program can be applied to other health care and development programs. The program fits the broad objectives of the global 'VISION 2020: The Right to Sight' program.

Role and scope

The role and scope of the community eye health specialist would include either or all of the following:

- Assessing the eye care needs of communities and the population
- Designing and implementing eye care programs
- Management of Eye Health programs
- Evaluation of eye care programs
- Development of community eye health program and training programs
- Advocacy for community eye health and influencing health policy
- Epidemiological research into blindness and visual impairment and major eye diseases and health services
- Writing proposals to raise funds for eye care service delivery to address blindness

Learning outcomes

At the end of the program the students will:

- Acquire the knowledge and understanding of the core elements of community eye health
- Know how to apply the core elements for activities related to the prevention of blindness
- Transfer the skills learnt to their peers and subordinates at their work place
- Use the broad-based curriculum to implement systems in any health-related field
- Use problem-solving skills effectively
- Improve their interaction and communication skills and become computer literate

Career and advancement

The program is planned so as to examine eye care in the context of health care as a whole. This greatly enhances its utility and practicability, since the core components of the courses taught are applicable to any general health care program.

Program audience & requirements

- Ophthalmologists with a recognized postgraduate degree from the Medical Council of India (MCI) or any other board of education and with an aptitude for application of clinical ophthalmology for the benefit of the community
- General doctors with a Bachelor's degree in Medicine and Surgery recognized by the MCI or any other board of education with at least one year relevant experience in eye care service delivery
- Optometrists with a recognized Bachelor's degree and demonstrable one-year work experience at an eye hospital/eye centre.
- Administrators and managers of eye hospitals/centres with a Bachelor's degree, preferably in Science, and with a demonstrable experience of running an eye centre for a continuous period of one year.
- Special consideration will be given to candidates who may not satisfy the above criteria, but who are eye care professionals with a collective experience of at least three years in the field of eye care. Students should be proficient in reading & writing English as this is the medium of instruction. Basic computing skills are essential.



School Screening Program

Program outline

Introduction to Community Eye Health

Course Convener: Dr Rohit Khanna

Aim	Major contents	Duration
To provide an understanding of major global initiatives regarding prevention and control of blindness, and an ability to translate these to the local level	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The concept of a 'community'• Definitions of blindness and visual impairment• Global initiatives of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight• Impact of blindness and visual impairment at global and local levels• Issues in the prevention and control of major blinding eye diseases	2 weeks

Epidemiology & Biostatistics for Community Health Needs Assessment

Course Convener: Md Hasnat Ali

Aim	Major contents	Duration
To develop an ability among participants to assess the eye care needs of the community using epidemiology & biostatistical applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scope and uses of epidemiology• Measuring the frequency and effect of disease• Framing a hypothesis• Understanding survey methods, sampling methods and data management• Planning an eye disease screening program• Descriptive and inferential statistics• Development of a validated survey instrument	4 weeks

Epidemiology of Eye Diseases

Course Convener: Dr Srinivas Marmamula

Aim	Major contents	Duration
To inculcate an ability to apply the principles of community eye health for the prevention and treatment of common blinding eye diseases in adults and children	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Role of screening programs in the prevention and control of blindness and visual impairment• VISION 2020 initiative for elimination of avoidable blindness• Causes and risk factors associated with common blinding diseases in adults and children• Investigating epidemics of communicable eye diseases	4 weeks

Advocacy and Education in Community Eye Health

Course Convener: Mr Jachin David Williams

Aim	Major contents	Duration
To provide an understand of advocacy, health promotion and education as applied to community eye health.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Impact of health care systems on the work of community eye health professionals• Analysis and interpretation of policy at various levels including formation and utilization• How to advocate eye health• Application of the principles of health promotion and education and their roles in community eye health• Planning and producing IEC (information, educational and communication) materials• Planning, implementation and evaluation of community eye health promotion and education strategies	3 weeks

Eye Health Economics and Sustainability

Course Convener: Dr Srinivas Marmamula

Aim	Major contents	Duration
To impart the basics of economic evaluation and also the principles of sustainability and factors critical to the sustainability of an eye care program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to health economics• The concept of opportunity cost• Economics of eye care delivery• Methods of economic evaluation and their application to eye health programs• The concept of sustainability with relevance to eye care• Sustainable service delivery systems	3 weeks

Eye Care Program Management

Course Convener: Ms M Asha Latha

Aim	Major contents	Duration
To impart an ability to the participants in applying knowledge on issues related to community eye health and incorporate this knowledge with management principles and functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Program planning and management• Eye care service delivery models• Social marketing• Management systems and tools• Human resource development• Eye care program monitoring and evaluation• Managerial skills	4 weeks

Admission

Student recruitment: Only those students identified by sponsoring organizations or institutions who are willing to support their expenses on fee, travel and living costs will be enrolled. Students applying to GPR ICARE directly should forward a copy of their application form to the sponsoring organizations for possible consideration, if slots are available. Organizations can also sponsor students for individual course but students enrolled for an individual course are not eligible to receive a stipend.

Number of students: A minimum of 15 and a maximum of 20 students will be enrolled into the program.

Program dates: The DCEH 2018 program will be conducted from 8th January, 2018. The program offers students the facility to combine individual courses or pursue a single course.

For application and brochure download please log on to: [http:// http://icare.lvpei.org/training-programs.php](http://http://icare.lvpei.org/training-programs.php)

Award of diploma: A 'Diploma in Community Eye Health' will be awarded to candidates who successfully complete the six months program. Students enrolling for a single course have the choice to take all the courses within the specified time period of three years and qualify for the diploma certificate. Students enrolling for selected course will receive a certificate of completion after completing the chosen course.

Stipend: Full-time sponsored students will be paid a stipend of ₹ 4,000 per month to cover their expenses. Students receiving special fee packages for the program and those attending individual course are not eligible for a stipend.

Accommodation: Fulltime students are provided shared accommodation in the GPR ICARE campus. Indian vegetarian food at subsidized rates is available in the campus canteen. Students with special needs will be facilitated in finding accommodation close to the campus

Fee (excluding taxes):

	Low Income Countries & India (INR)	Middle Income Countries (INR)	High Income Countries
Program fee	300,000	400,000	500,000
Living costs	72,000	72,000	72,000
Total	372,000	472,000	572,000
	(US \$5904)	(US \$7492)	(US \$9079)
Fee per course*	50,000	68,000	85,000

**does not include living expenses*

(1 US\$ = ₹ 63 approximately)

Staying in campus, though optional, is recommended. The living expenses would be approximately ₹ 12,000 - 15,000 (about US \$ 190-238) per month in Hyderabad, India, which covers shared accommodation, and boarding.

Travel costs to and from the work place to Hyderabad to attend the program will be borne by the students.

Note: Low, middle and high income economy countries as per World Bank ranking

For details please log on to www.sitesources.worldbank.org

Program Conveners

Dr Rohit Khanna
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Dr Srinivas Marmamula
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Internal Faculty

M Ashalatha

K Jyothi

Rohit Khanna

Md Hasnat Ali

V Rajashekar

P Shailaja

Varsha Rathi

Srinivas Marmamula

Jachin David Williams

Kartheek S

(We will also draw on the expertise of the LVPEI medical and scientific faculty during the program)

External Faculty

Kasinath Bhoosnurmath

Franklin Daniel

Navratan Dhanuka

Kuldeep Dole

Parikshit Gogate

Kasinath Lakkaraju

Santhosh Moses

R Pararajasegaram

Usha Raman

G M Subba Rao

GV Rao

P Srinivasa Reddy

B R Shamanna

Asim Kumar Sil

Chamila Liyanage



Snapshot of GPR ICARE Campus



Diploma in Community Eye Health Students - 2017

Testimonials

"This is the most scientific course for ophthalmic paramedics as it provides extensive training on the planning and management of eye care programs. Guidance provided on report and proposal writing techniques is the highlight of the course."

Shankar Adhikari

"I can now develop program budgets, write proposals and my networking skills have also improved significantly. These skills will help me provide effective quality eye care services in my area."

Pushpa Babu

"DECH is an excellent course and it has changed my perception towards public health. This course is very beneficial for those who are interested in community and public health."

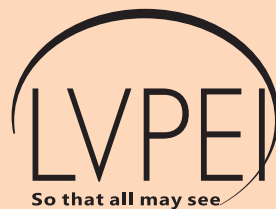
Pradeep Kumar Behra

"The course helped me learn all the components of successfully implementing an eye care program such as planning, marketing, advocacy and proposal writing."

Ram Sing Tamang



*Diploma in Community Eye Health (DCEH),
Students, GPR ICARE and OEU team members 2017*



**LV Prasad Eye Institute
Ramachandra Pararajasegaram
Community Eye Health Education Centre**

Gullapalli Pratibha Rao International Centre for Advancement of Rural Eye Care (GPR ICARE)

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