

LVPE Institute partners StanChart to redress avoidable blindness



DTMT Network

Hyderabad's L V Prasad Eye Institute and the Standard Chartered Bank have jointly launched two programs to improve eye care delivery - the "Standard Chartered-LVPEI Program for Eye Care Education" and "Technology-Enabled Primary Eye Care Services" (Futuristic Vision Centre).

The objective of Futuristic Vision Centre is to provide basic eye care including detecting common blinding eye

conditions, correction of refractive errors and appropriate referral of complex cases to the next level.

The partnership envisages setting up of 58 futuristic vision centres across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, and Karnataka from 2019 through 2023. The first of the 58 Futuristic Vision Centres is scheduled to be operational in the first week of October, 2019.

The other program has the goal of developing a high quality, pan India, eye care education framework to address the burden of visual impairment in India. The project will create an innovative and replicable model for high quality eye care education.

Approximately 20,000 eye care professionals will benefit through various training programmes offered under the project's combined endeavor in three years.

Dr Gullapalli N Rao, Founder and Chair, L V Prasad Eye Institute, said, "Each technology enabled vision centre is expected to examine 5000 patients per annum. More importantly, close to 20% of those who are currently being referred, need not be referred, as enhanced services are available in the vision centre itself. This is expected to not only expedite eye care delivery at the primary level, but also bring about a substantial indirect cost saving to the patients and to the community at large."

Karuna Bhatia, Head of Sustainability, Standard Chartered Bank, India, said, "The scarcity of well-trained eye care personnel of all cadres being a major barrier to the elimination of avoidable blindness, the 'Standard Chartered – LVPEI Programme for Eye Care Education' envisages building a programme to create an empowered workforce of high-quality eye care professionals to meet the eye care needs to combat blindness and visual impairment in India."