



An Impact Assessment Report for CSR Initiatives of Happy Eyes Project



Conducted by

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Executive Summary

In 2021, Titan Company Ltd partnered with Sankara Eye Foundation to spearhead four CSR projects across various districts in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. These initiatives aimed to combat avoidable blindness and visual impairment in underserved communities. The Cataract Blindness Backlog Free (CBBF) initiative targeted Aruppukottai and Annur Blocks in Tamil Nadu, striving to eliminate cataract-related blindness. In Yadgir, the Happy Eyes – Nannakkannu Project focused on pediatric eye care, offering screenings, glasses, surgeries, and teacher training across four blocks. The Mobile Rural Vision Screening Program (MRVP) utilized a fully equipped mobile unit to extend specialized eye care services to rural populations, ensuring accessibility to those in remote areas. Additionally, Vision Centers were established as dedicated facilities to provide comprehensive eye care services, emphasizing early detection, referral, and appropriate treatment, thus significantly impacting eye health in the region.

Key Achievements

The program reached 352,780 individuals through screening efforts, with 21,061 individuals benefiting from glasses distribution. 3,914 surgeries were successfully conducted. The Nannakkannu training program also reached over 636 teachers, thereby enhancing community awareness and expertise in pediatric eye care.

CBBF:

The survey findings reveal the positive impact of the CBBF initiatives, particularly in Annur, where the collaboration between the project and local authorities, effective screening services, and successful surgeries garnered overwhelming satisfaction from beneficiaries. The satisfaction levels among those who underwent surgeries suggest that the program has made a positive difference in their lives.

Happy Eyes Initiative:

Nannakkannu program made substantial strides in addressing vision issues among students. The program strategically targets underserved areas, aligns with national and international frameworks, and demonstrates a collaborative effort that engages stakeholders at various levels. Through its streamlined processes, affordability, and tangible outcomes in the form of improved vision for thousands of students, ensuring ongoing teacher training, collaboration with local healthcare providers, and community involvement, it ensures sustainability.

The Mobile Rural Vision Screening Program (MRVP):

With a track record of screening over 26,000 individuals, supplying glasses to 10,835, and guiding 6,094 towards advanced medical referrals, the program's growth highlights its ability to adapt to dynamic community requirements.

The Sankara Vision Centre Project has demonstrated commendable success in addressing the critical need for accessible eye care services in rural communities of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. By strategically establishing tele-ophthalmology centers and integrating them into the base hospital, the project has effectively reached diverse populations, with notable positive impacts on early detection, referrals, and treatment of eye-related issues.

Recommendations:

- CBBF: Conduct door-to-door visits and screening camps exclusively on weekends or in the evenings to ensure reach. Provide ongoing training for project staff, key informants, and healthcare workers to enhance their skills in community engagement. Explore use of mobile apps or SMS notifications, to inform and remind residents about upcoming health camps and screenings.
- Nannakkannu: Consider implementing an annual screening schedule to enhance the program's ability to detect and address evolving vision issues among students. Streamline the process for delivering spectacles to students, aiming

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for a turnaround time of less than one month. Conduct baseline and endline for each teacher after teacher training.

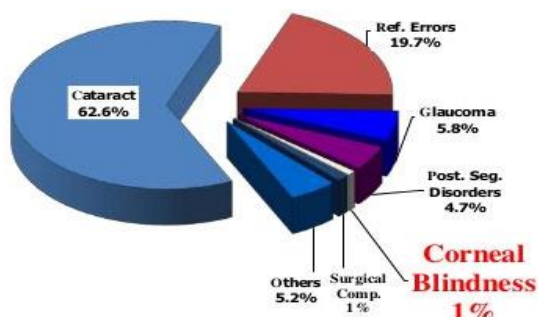
- MRVP: Implement follow-up process to track individuals referred to base hospitals. Conduct a thorough evaluation to identify gaps in geographic coverage. Collaborate with community leaders to address barriers to accessibility in certain regions. Establish a system to monitor the long-term usage and compliance of eyeglasses among beneficiaries.
- Vision Center: Address regional disparities by reallocating resources based on the demand and healthcare needs of different areas. Implement targeted programs to increase awareness and utilization of healthcare services in areas with lower walk-in. Explore funding sources, such as partnerships with local businesses, NGOs, or government grants. Launch public awareness campaigns to highlight the importance of financial contributions and community support for sustaining Vision Centres, emphasizing the positive impact on local health and well-being.

The collaborative initiatives undertaken by Titan and Sankara Eye Foundation underscore a dedicated commitment to addressing critical eye health issues and preventing avoidable blindness. The multifaceted approach, reflects a comprehensive strategy that reaches various demographics, including older adults, school students, and the broader community.

A. Introduction

Globally, preventable blindness remains a pressing issue, affecting millions of people, especially in developing countries. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that around 2.2 billion people worldwide suffer from vision impairment or blindness, with the majority of cases concentrated in low-income regions. While some cases of blindness are unavoidable due to genetic or incurable diseases, a substantial portion is preventable or treatable. Among the preventable causes, cataract and optical errors stand out as major contributors. These conditions, if addressed in a timely and effective manner, can alleviate a considerable burden of blindness, particularly among students.

Causes of Blindness in India



Cataracts, the clouding of the eye's lens, and optical errors like myopia, hyperopia, and astigmatism are common culprits leading to vision impairment. For students, visual impairment can hinder their academic performance, limit educational opportunities, and affect their overall quality of life. Early detection and intervention play a crucial role preventing these conditions from progressing to

irreversible blindness.

India, with its vast and diverse population, faces a substantial burden of visual impairment. The National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment

Figure 1 Leading Causes of Blindness in India

(NPCB&VI) reported that cataract alone is responsible for more than 62% of blindness in India. Additionally, uncorrected refractive errors contribute significantly to visual impairment, in especially among students. Despite government initiatives, the lack of access to eye care services, especially in rural areas, remains a significant challenge. Limited infrastructure, a shortage of trained eye care professionals, and a lack of awareness contribute to delayed or inadequate treatment. This disproportionately affects individuals in remote regions, exacerbating the prevalence of preventable blindness.

Eye experts and hospitals play a crucial role in preventing blindness by conducting screenings, performing surgeries, and providing corrective measures. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives from private entities can also make a substantial impact by supporting eye care programs, setting up camps in underserved areas, and contributing to the development of sustainable eye care infrastructure.

In conclusion, the battle against preventable blindness requires a comprehensive approach involving government initiatives, healthcare professionals, corporate support, and community engagement. By addressing the specific needs of students, improving access to eye care in rural areas, and leveraging corporate responsibility,

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India can make significant strides in reducing the burden of blindness and ensuring a brighter future for its citizens.

B. Background

I. About Titan

Titan Company, a pioneer in the watch and jewellery industry, exemplifies a steadfast commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) that extends beyond mere philanthropy. Rooted in a holistic approach to social and environmental stewardship, Titan has achieved notable success in its CSR initiatives. Through programs such as Titan Kanya, Titan Scholarships, and diverse community development projects, the company has positively impacted the lives of thousands. Notably, Titan's focus on health, the differently abled, creating parks, promoting women's empowerment, and fostering skill development reflects a dedication to inclusive growth. Titan Company stands embodies the ethos that CSR is not just an obligation but an integral part of its corporate identity.

II. About Sankara Eye Care

Sankara Eye Foundation, founded in 1985 by Dr. R V Ramani and Dr. Radha Ramani, emerged from a commitment to addressing preventable blindness in India. Starting with a Primary Health Care Centre in Coimbatore, the foundation expanded its reach with the vision of providing high-quality, cost-effective eye care to rural India. The "Gift of Vision" program, launched in 1990, exemplifies their mission to offer world-class eyecare free of cost to 80% of the population, supported by paid services for the remaining 20%. Over the years, Sankara Eye Foundation has grown to establish 13 Super Speciality Sankara Eye Hospitals across 10 states, working tirelessly towards eradicating curable blindness. The foundation's sustainable model garnered international support, with the establishment of the Sankara Eye Foundation in the USA. Guided by a dedicated Board of Trustees and Leadership Council, Sankara Eye Foundation remains steadfast in its pursuit of providing unmatched eye care and making a significant impact in the lives of those in need.

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III. About the Collaboration

Titan and Sankara Eye Foundation collaboration focused on four projects in 2021. These projects were implemented in multiple districts in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka

- CBBF: The Cataract Blindness Backlog Free (CBBF) Taluk initiative by Sankara Eye Foundation India is a project aimed at addressing avoidable blindness and visual impairment in Aruppukottai and Annur Blocks in Tamil Nadu. Through community mobilization methods, the initiative focuses on creating awareness and identifying needy individuals for eye care services. Screening camps, institutional screenings, and targeted surgeries are conducted, with the goal of achieving specific criteria for cataract surgical coverage and visual outcomes, ultimately declaring the Taluks as Cataract Blindness Backlog Free.
- Happy Eyes – Happy Eyes – Nannakkannu Project: A comprehensive paediatric eye care program that entails eye screening, services like glasses, surgeries, teacher training. Conducted in four taluks in Yadgir District of Karnataka.
- Mobile Rural Vision Screening Program (MRVP) : The Mobile Rural Vision-Screening Program (MRVP) in Karnataka, India, is a holistic initiative utilizing a fully equipped mobile unit to deliver specialized eye care services to rural communities. The project focuses on raising awareness of eye health, conducting screenings for various ailments, providing refraction services, distributing spectacles, and facilitating access to base hospital services.
- Vision Centers: Vision Centers serve as specialized facilities dedicated to delivering comprehensive eye care services with a primary emphasis on early detection, referral, and the provision of appropriate treatment to prevent blindness and visual impairment.

C. About the Assessment

Social Audit Network-India was approached by Titan to conduct a thorough and comprehensive social impact assessment of the eye care initiatives conducted by Sankara Eye Foundation and supported by Titan in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The objectives of the assessment were:

- To assess the Cataract Blindness Backlog Free (CBBF) Taluk initiative's effectiveness in addressing avoidable blindness in Aruppukottai and Annur blocks.
- To evaluate the impact of the Happy Eyes – Nannakkannu Project, vis a vis the success of eye screening, provision of glasses, surgeries, and teacher training in improving paediatric eye health and well-being in the targeted communities.
- Map the success of the MRVP project in raising awareness of eye health, conducting screenings, providing refraction services, distributing spectacles, and facilitating access to base hospital services.
- Assess the effectiveness of vision centres in early detection, referral, and provision of treatment to prevent blindness and visual impairment.

D. Scope and Methodology

The social impact assessment was spearheaded by Mrs Latha Suresh, Director-SAN India. Under her guidance, the assessment was facilitated by Ms. Neeta NK and Dr. Madhuri R, Social Auditors, SAN India. The team visited the program sites between the 25th October – 9th of November 2023.

The details are as follows:

| Date of Visit | Project | Location | Program Sites | No of beneficiaries met |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|--|-------------------------|
| 25/10/2023 | CBBF | Aruppukotai | SuthhamadamMaravarperungudiVaazhvaangiVadhuvarapatti | 76 |
| 25/10/2023 | Nannakkanu | Aruppukotai | GHPS | 55 |
| 25/10/2023 | Vision Center | Aruppukotai | Arupukkottai Vision Centre | 11 |
| 31/10/2023 | Vision Center | Ambur | Ambur Vision Centre | 7 |
| 02/11/2023 | CBBF | Annur | Mookanur,VadakalurNallichettaipallayam | 48 |
| 02/11/2023 | Overall | Coimbatore | Coimbatore Base Hospital | 18 |
| 03/11/2023 | Vision Center | Anaikkatti | Anaikkatti | 11 |
| 07/11/2023 | Overall | Bengaluru | Bengaluru Base Hospital | 22 |
| 07/11/2023 | MRVP | Yeshwantpur | Yeshwantpur Taluk – Rural Bengaluru | 28 |
| 08/11/2023 | Nannakkanu | Yadgir | Hunasagi, Shahapur | 44 |
| 08/11/2023 | Nannakkanu | Yadgir | Gurumitkal, Wadegara | 76 |

The assessment employed the following research methodologies:

- One to one interview with patients, team at the base hospitals and vision centers.
- 7 Villages in Arupukkottai, Annur, patients screened, patients who underwent surgery, program staff and local village authorities.
- Visit to MRVP site, meeting with patients who underwent screening and local program coordinators.
- Field visit and interviews with screened students, students who underwent surgery and parents of students, school authorities in Yadgiri, Annur and Arupukkottai.
- Semi-structured interviews with members of the staff, Program team.
- Evaluation of Sankara Eye Care's secondary, primary and secondary data.

E. Report on Performance- Overview

Eyecare in rural India is pivotal for community well-being and socio-economic development. Improved vision enhances productivity in agriculture, a primary livelihood in rural areas. It also facilitates better educational outcomes, enabling access to information and opportunities. Addressing eyecare needs reduces the economic burden of untreated vision problems and fosters a healthier workforce. Sankara Eye Hospital has prioritized eyecare in rural India through accessible services and awareness initiatives which only improves individual health but also catalyzes overall community progress. The CSR support from Titan has been instrumental in implementing affordable and accessible eyecare services, along with awareness programs to mitigate the impact of visual impairments and promote healthier communities. The highlights of the program are -

- The program reached out to a total of 3,52,780 individuals via the screening efforts. This metric is crucial for identifying potential eye health issues at an early stage, allowing for timely intervention and prevention. MRVP has the highest number of individuals screened at 26,504, followed by CBBF (2,09,218), Nannakkannu (1,05,150), and Vision Centre (11,908).
- A total of 21,061 individuals received glasses across the entities. MRVP provided glasses to the highest number of individuals (10,835), followed by CBBF (6,408), Nannakkannu (1,489), and Vision Centre (2,329). This indicator reflects the

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entities' efforts in addressing visual impairments and improving the quality of life for those in need.

- In terms of Surgeries, a total of 3,914 surgeries were conducted. MRVP and Nannakkannu contributed to this indicator with 670 and 21 surgeries, respectively. CBBF performed 1,733 surgeries, while Vision Centre conducted 1,490 surgeries. The Surgeries indicator highlights the entities' commitment to addressing more severe eye health issues and providing surgical interventions when necessary.
- Over 636 teachers were reached via the Nannakkannu training program.
- The comprehensive eye health initiatives undertaken by the program have yielded significant impact, reaching a total of 3,52,780 individuals through effective screening efforts. With MRVP leading in both screenings and glasses provision, followed by CBBF, Nannakkannu, and Vision Centre, the program demonstrates a commendable commitment to early intervention, preventive measures, and addressing severe eye health issues through surgeries. Additionally, the training program reaching over 636 teachers underscores a broader community-focused approach, ensuring sustained awareness and education on eye health. Collectively, these efforts reflect a holistic strategy in improving the quality of life for individuals by enhancing vision care accessibility and addressing visual impairments in a multifaceted manner.

F. Program-Wise Impact Report

I. Cataract Blindness Backlog Free (CBBF) Zones Project

i. About the Program

The project aimed to transform Aruppukottai and Annur into Cataract Blindness Backlog Free (CBBF) Zones. The primary objectives include the elimination of avoidable blindness and visual impairment (VI) in the selected Taluks. The project included a Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Visual Impairment survey, that provided insights into the prevalence of visual impairment and served as a baseline for the intervention outcomes. Community empowerment was a cornerstone, achieved through targeted awareness campaigns on eye care, fostering a strong link to Vision Centers. This project aimed to sustain efforts in the identification and referral of cases, ensuring a holistic

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approach to clearing the backlog and creating enduring positive impacts on eye health within these Taluks.

ii. Process

The process for the CBBF Project is as follows

- The strategy was initiated with a Baseline Survey employing the Rapid Assessment of Visual Impairment (RAVI) tool. A random cluster sampling method, similar to the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) methodology, was implemented, and non-respondents were revisited for data collection. The examination protocol included assessing visual acuity and near vision.
- The Implementation Plan, based on findings from the Baseline Survey, utilized the Key Informant Methodology (KIM). Taluks were demarcated into clusters considering factors such as households, population, cataract, and visual impairment prevalence. A comprehensive project process flow was developed to guide subsequent actions.
- Community Identification and Referral through KIM involved the identification of Key Informants (KIs) in villages, such as health workers and Panchayat workers. KIs were oriented about project objectives and basic eye screening methods, provided with screening kits and pre-numbered referral cards, and supported by deployed Field Workers for regular monitoring.
- Project Information Booths were set up in common locations, such as primary health centers and panchayat offices. These booths served to disseminate information about the project, utilizing canopies, banners, and brochures to raise awareness.
- Outreach Screening Camps were organized in coordination with Field Workers and KIs, offering activities such as registration, vision tests, doctor consultations, refraction, and counselling. Selected patients were provided with free transportation to the Base Hospital.
- Post-Surgical Follow-up involved reviewing surgery patients after a month in their villages. The Base Hospital provided free food, accommodation, and treatment, and post-surgery patients were subsequently transported back to their villages.
- Patients advised with refractive errors received corrective eyeglasses, with the distribution of glasses taking place at the camp. Corrective glasses for Uncorrected Refractive Errors were provided through Vision Centres.

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iii. Overall Reach

a. Overview

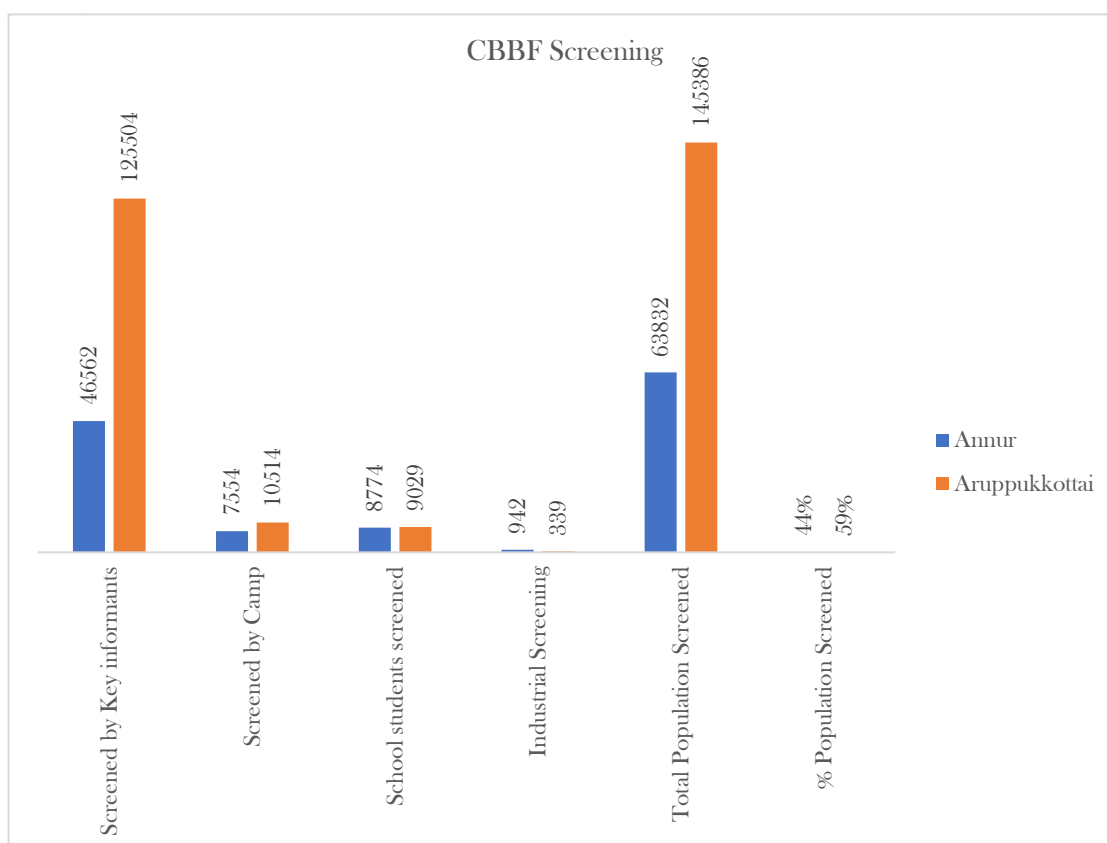
- **Annur CBBF Project:** Annur, with a total population of 145,760, is a significant area covered under the CBBF (Community Based Basic Framework) Project. The project has made notable progress in this region, extending its reach to 357 villages or wards. These wards are vital components in understanding the diverse needs and challenges faced by the local population. Through a dedicated effort, the project has conducted a substantial number of 136 camps, providing essential services and support to the community. Furthermore, the CBBF Project has made a significant impact on the educational landscape of Annur. A total of 62 schools have been covered, indicating a comprehensive approach to addressing educational needs. By engaging with schools, the project aims to uplift the standard of education and contribute to the overall development of the community. Additionally, the industrial sector in Annur has not been overlooked. The project has extended its coverage to 12 industries, recognizing the importance of economic development and sustainability. By involving industries, the CBBF Project demonstrates a commitment to enhancing employment opportunities and promoting economic growth in Annur.
- **Aruppukkottai CBBF Project:** Aruppukkottai, with a total population of 245,365, is another focal point for the CBBF Project. The project's extensive reach is evident in its coverage of 138 villages or wards within the Aruppukkottai region. This broad coverage allows the project to address the unique needs and challenges specific to this locality, ensuring a targeted and effective approach to community development. In terms of outreach, the project has conducted a commendable 137 camps in Aruppukkottai, showcasing a commitment to on-the-ground engagement and the delivery of essential services to the residents. This approach is crucial in building trust and understanding the community's immediate requirements. The educational sector in Aruppukkottai has not been neglected, with the project covering 57 schools. This involvement emphasizes the importance of education in the overall development of the community. By working closely with schools, the CBBF Project aims to uplift educational standards and create a positive impact on the lives of the students. Furthermore, the project has extended its coverage to three industries in Aruppukkottai, recognizing the role of the industrial sector in driving economic growth. By

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including industries in its scope, the CBBF Project demonstrates a holistic approach to community development, considering both social and economic dimensions in its initiatives.

b. Screening

- Annur: In Annur, the screening process involved 46,562 individuals identified through key informants, forming a crucial initial step in understanding the eyecare needs of the community. The project conducted screenings through 7,554 camps, providing accessible services to the residents. The project has screened 8,774 school students in Annur. This focused effort on the student population highlights the project's commitment to identifying and addressing eye health issues early in life, contributing to the overall well-being of the community. Furthermore, industrial screenings in Annur reached 942 individuals working in various industries. Recognizing the occupational eyecare challenges in the industrial sector, this initiative showcases the project's holistic approach in addressing these concerns across different segments of the population. In total, the Annur screening efforts have covered 63,832 individuals, constituting 44% of the total population. This percentage reflects that the less than half the population have not been covered, demonstrating the project's inability to widespread eyecare coverage and community engagement.

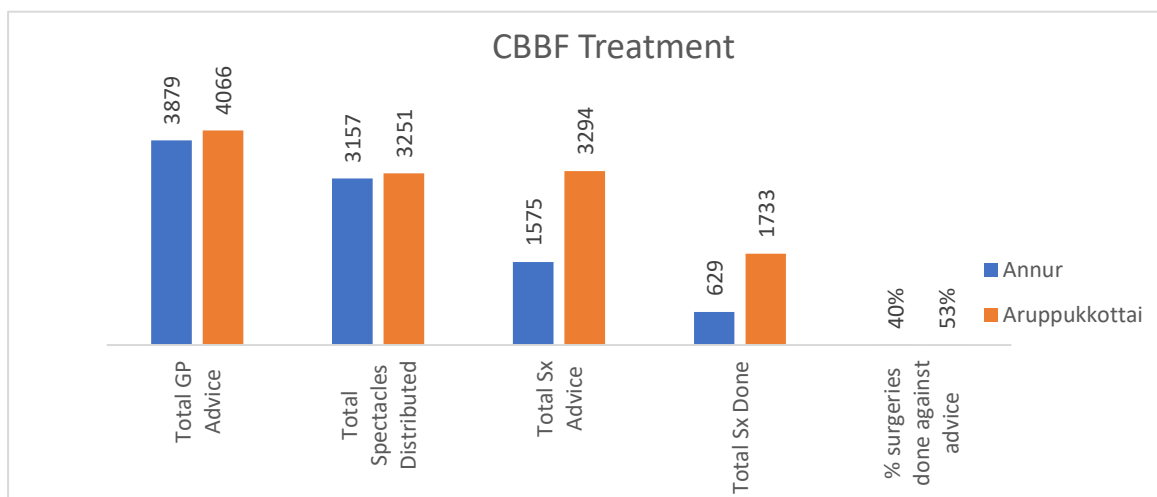


- Aruppukkottai: In Aruppukkottai, the CBBF Project has undertaken comprehensive screening efforts to assess the cataract status of the local population. Leveraging key informants, the project identified 125,504 individuals for screening, forming a robust foundation for understanding the needs and challenges unique to Aruppukkottai. Camp screenings in Aruppukkottai involved 10,514 individuals, providing a vital avenue for accessible eyecare services. A targeted effort towards school students resulted in the screening of 9,029 individuals in Aruppukkottai. The industrial screening initiative in Aruppukkottai covered 339 individuals, acknowledging the unique challenges faced by those working in industries. In total, the screening efforts in Aruppukkottai encompassed 145,386 individuals, reaching 59% of the total population. This effort also was not sufficient to contribute to widespread coverage in Aruppukkottai.

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c. Eyecare Services and Treatment

- Annur: A total of 3,879 instances of GP advice have been offered, indicating a commitment to addressing a wide range of health concerns that impact visual



health in the community. Moreover, the distribution of 3,157 spectacles in Annur highlights the project's dedication to improving vision and promoting eye health within the community. Surgery advice have also been a focus in Annur, with 1,575 instances of advice provided. Surgical interventions in Annur include 629 cases conducted and 1,283 individuals (40%) referred to a base hospital for further medical attention. This dual approach ensures that both minor and major surgical needs are addressed appropriately, with a focus on comprehensive eye health delivery. Additionally, the project in Annur has performed nine other surgeries, showcasing a commitment to addressing a variety of eyecare conditions and ensuring a range of medical services are available to the community.

- Aruppukkottai: A total of 4,066 instances of GP advice have been provided, demonstrating a commitment to addressing diverse eyecare concerns in the community. The distribution of 3,251 spectacles in Aruppukkottai underscores the project's dedication to improving eye health and enhancing the quality of life for residents with visual impairments. Access to vision correction is a fundamental aspect of prevention of preventable blindness, and this initiative showcases a targeted effort to address specific health needs. 3,294 instances of surgery advice were given but only 1,733 surgeries(53%) conducted.

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iv. Survey Findings

a. Aruppukottai

The SAN team conducted a survey in Aruppukottai in late October, focusing on the impact of door-to-door screening. During the survey, four villages were visited, and over 25 households per village were visited to gain insights into the community's perception of this screening method. However, it was noted that during the time of the visit, not many residents were available, making it challenging to effectively reach and engage with the community.

- **Door- to Door Visits:** Observations revealed that the Key Informants staff of Sankara encountered difficulties in reaching all households because villagers were not available during the day. Additionally, attendance at screening camps was low, particularly as they were being conducted during the week. This highlights a key logistical challenge in terms of timing and availability.
- **Feedback regarding surgeries:** Despite these challenges, feedback from those who had undergone surgeries was positive. The individuals expressed extreme satisfaction with the services provided by Sankara, and they highly rated various aspects, including the quality of services, the reputation of the hospital, the behaviour of the staff, affordability, ease of services, and their overall experience at the base hospital.
- **Visit to old—age home:** Further, an old age facility with over 40 residents was visited, where the CBBF program was provided. During the visit, it was observed that both the management of the facility and the beneficiaries (the elderly residents) were very pleased with the services offered by Sankara Eye Hospital.
- **Project Satisfaction levels:** The satisfaction expressed by the management and beneficiaries suggests a positive impact of the CBBF program's treatment initiatives in the block. It may indicate that the services provided are meeting the needs and expectations of the elderly residents, potentially improving their well-being and overall quality of life.
- **Overview:** In light of the positive feedback and the challenges observed during the survey, there is a strong recommendation to modify the approach. Specifically, it is suggested to conduct door-to-door visits and screening camps exclusively on weekends or in the evenings only. This strategic shift aims to address the issue of low availability during weekdays and increase the participation of villagers in the screening process.

b. Annur Block

The SAN team conducted a comprehensive survey during their visit to Annur Block, covering six villages. The feedback received from the panchayat and local residents was overwhelmingly positive, indicating a high level of satisfaction with the implemented project. The findings are as follows:

- **Local Coordination and Manpower Utilization:**The local coordination was reported to be excellent, with seamless collaboration between the Sankara appointed staff and the local authorities, including Village Health Nurses (VHN), and ASHA workers. This effective teamwork contributed to the success of the program. The utilization of manpower was considered optimal, as local government personnel played a crucial role in the project's implementation. This approach ensured that the program tapped into the existing network of healthcare workers, enhancing its efficiency.
- **Screening Services:**Door-to-door screening services were found to be not only present but also deemed adequate by the survey team. This approach was essential in reaching every household and identifying potential issues early on. The accessibility of Sankara Eye Hospital's helpline numbers in every household contributed to the effectiveness of the screening services. The presence of awareness posters at strategic points in the villages further reinforced the importance of screening.
- **Feedback from Beneficiaries:**Beneficiaries and their families expressed extreme satisfaction with the early identification of issues. This early intervention was crucial in providing timely and effective eye healthcare services. The affordability of the services was highlighted as a positive aspect, indicating that the program catered to the financial constraints of the local population.
- **Positive Feedback on Surgeries:**The general feedback regarding surgeries was reported to be positive, indicating that the surgical interventions were well-received by the beneficiaries. This suggests that the eyecare services provided met the expectations of the community.
- **Program Success:**Overall, the survey findings strongly suggest that the program has been successfully implemented in Annur Block. The positive feedback from both the panchayat and local residents, coupled with the effective utilization of manpower and comprehensive screening services, reflects the success of the project.

c. Sankara Eye Hospital, Coimbatore: Comprehensive Healthcare Excellence

Sankara Eye Hospital in Coimbatore stands as a beacon of comprehensive excellence, particularly in the field of eye care. With a commitment to delivering top-notch eye health services, the hospital boasts an impressive array of infrastructure, a well-qualified and skilled workforce, and a robust network that ensures patients receive timely eye care.

- **Infrastructure:** The hospital is equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure that caters to the diverse needs of its patients. The facility houses modern operation theatres, well-equipped diagnostic facilities, and comfortable patient rooms. The emphasis on creating a conducive environment is evident right from the waiting room to the post-operative ward, in the design and layout of the hospital.
- **Manpower:** Sankara Eye Hospital takes pride in its team of highly qualified and experienced eyecare professionals. The hospital is staffed with skilled ophthalmologists, nurses, technicians, and support staff who work collaboratively to provide optimal care. The commitment to ongoing training and professional development ensures that the team stays abreast of the latest advancements in medical science.
- **Network:** The hospital's network extends beyond its physical premises. It collaborates with other research institutions, specialists, NGO and support services to ensure patients receive a continuum of care. This network facilitates seamless referrals, second opinions, and access to a broader spectrum of medical expertise.
- **Patient Care:** Patient welfare is at the core of Sankara Eye Hospital's mission. From the moment patients enter the hospital, they experience a well-organized and efficient system to ensure their treatment and stay are successful. The waiting rooms are designed for comfort, and the staff ensures minimal waiting times. Adequate beds are available to accommodate patients for various durations, depending on the nature of the treatment. More number of underprivileged patients report treatment support when compared to paid staff.
- **Investigations:** The hospital places a strong emphasis on diagnostic precision. The right diagnostic facilities are available within the hospital premises,

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reducing the need for patients to travel for tests. From pre-surgery investigations to post-surgery follow-ups, the hospital ensures that every patient undergoes a thorough examination, contributing to accurate diagnoses and effective treatment plans for each eye.

- **Specialized Care for Cataract Patients:** Sankara Eye Hospital specializes in cataract care, providing a dedicated pathway for patients requiring cataract surgeries. The hospital's facilities are well-equipped to handle these cases, from pre-surgery evaluations to post-operative care. The average 2-3 day stay for cataract patients is designed to optimize recovery and minimize any inconvenience.
- **Amenities:** The hospital's commitment to patient comfort is evident in the amenities provided. The ambiance is designed to promote healing, and facilities such as well-maintained rooms, nutritious meals, and attentive nursing care contribute to a positive patient experience.
- **Overview:** Sankara Eye Hospital in Coimbatore stands as a paragon of excellence in eyecare. Its robust infrastructure, dedicated manpower, extensive network, and patient-centric approach make it apt for those seeking high-quality eye care. The hospital's ability to handle complex cases, particularly in cataract care all at zero cost to those in need, reflects its commitment to advancing eyecare expertise and improving patient outcomes to the poor and underprivileged.

v. Testimonials and Quotes

Voices from the Field- Beneficiaries

"From Dependency to Empowerment: Transformative Stories of Independence Through Cataract Surgeries at Sankara Eye Hospital"

- **Sarasamma (65 years old):** The cataract surgery has been a blessing for me. Before the surgery, I struggled with daily tasks and felt a sense of dependency. Now, with clear vision, I can confidently navigate my surroundings, cook my meals, and manage household chores independently. It is like regaining my freedom, and I cannot thank the dedicated team at Sankara enough for giving me back my pride.
- **Sivakami (72 years old):** After undergoing cataract surgery at Sankara Eye Hospital, my life has taken a positive turn. The newfound clarity in my vision

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has allowed me to move around, and even travel alone without any hesitation. Being able to live independently is a precious gift, and I am immensely grateful to the skilled professionals at Sankara for restoring my self-sufficiency and enhancing my overall quality of life.

- Ramanathan (48 years old): I had diabetes related complications. The surgery supported by Sankara Eye Hospital not only restored my vision but also reignited my professional life. Before the surgery, my work suffered due to blurry vision, and I faced the fear of losing my job. Thanks to the remarkable results, I am back at work with renewed focus and productivity. The surgery has truly been a career-saving blessing, and I am grateful to the entire team at Sankara for giving me the opportunity to earn for myself again.
- Kalliammal (52 years old): As a small business owner, cataracts posed a significant threat to my livelihood. Sankara Eye Hospital's cataract surgery was a lifeline for me. The quick recovery and improved vision allowed me to actively manage my puncture repair business once again. I can see the small holes and punctures in the tyres, work confidently, and handle financial matters independently. The surgery not only saved my business but also gave me the ability to earn for myself, ensuring a secure future.
- Vijayakumar (57 years old): After years of struggling with my eye issue, I could not perform my job effectively, and it took a toll on my financial stability. Sankara Eye Hospital's cataract surgery not only restored my vision but also gave me the confidence to return to the fields. I am earning for myself, and supporting my family.

Cataract Surgery Restores Clarity in Sight and Family Relationships"

- Ishwaran (76 years old): Before the free cataract operation, my blurred vision caused misunderstandings within my family. I struggled to perform daily tasks, and this led to frustration and even disrespect. However, post-surgery, my family witnessed my newfound independence and clear vision, and their attitude changed completely. Now, I am treated with respect, and the warmth in our relationships has been restored. The surgery not only brought clarity to my vision but also to my family dynamics.
- Vendhai (66 years old): Living with cataracts affected not only my vision but also strained my relationships. My family, unknowingly, treated me differently due to my limitations. After the successful cataract surgery, the improvement in my vision was a revelation. My family, witnessing my increased vitality and

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ability to engage fully, has become more understanding and supportive. The surgery not only restored my sight but also brought a positive shift in the way my family treats and respects me. My thanks to Sankara Eye Care Hospital.

- Govindamma (72 years old): Before the cataract surgery, my family members didn't fully comprehend the challenges I faced due to my diminishing vision. This sometimes led to neglect, frequent fights and misunderstanding. The surgery not only cleared my vision but also bridged the gap in understanding within my family. Now, with improved sight, I am more actively involved in family activities, and the dynamics have shifted positively. I am grateful for the renewed respect and consideration from my family.

- "A Ray of Light in the Darkness: Chellappan's Remarkable Journey to Sight"

At 84 years old, Chellappan found himself navigating life in complete darkness. Almost 75% blind and unable to read, he faced the daunting challenge of living without the ability to recognize even his own kith and kin. His world, shrouded in perpetual night, seemed insurmountable.

However, fate took an unexpected turn when the compassionate team at Sankara Eye Hospital came knocking at his doorstep. Identified through Sankara Eye Hospital's CBBF project's doorstep screening initiative, Chellappan was provided free cataract surgery that would restore his vision.

After undergoing the cataract surgery, Chellappan emerged from the darkness that had defined his existence. With newfound sight, he discovered the joy of reading the newspaper—a simple pleasure that had eluded him for years. The restoration of his vision not only brought back the ability to recognize faces but also provided a renewed sense of independence and ease in daily living. Chellappan journey serves as a testament to the transformative power of compassion and early screening and intervention, proving that even in the darkest moments, a ray of light can shine through, bringing hope and a brighter future.

" The Empowering Journey of Marudham after Cataract Surgery"

Marudham (an 82-year-old resident of Annur Block)'s success story is a testament to the positive impact that healthcare interventions can have on the lives of individuals, especially the elderly. Before the cataract surgery, Marudham faced numerous challenges that significantly affected his daily life. His deteriorating vision made it impossible for him to read, and he struggled to walk, often leading to falls and fractures. These physical limitations confined him to his house, creating a sense of loneliness and dependency. He did not realize he had cataract and his family members were fed up of having to care for him.

The turning point in Marudham life came when he was screened for cataract and learned about the no-cost cataract surgery program conducted by Sankara Eye Hospital. Marudham availed himself of this opportunity and underwent the cataract surgery.

The hospitalization experience was positive, with a team of skilled medical professionals providing care and support throughout the process. The surgery not only restored Marudham vision but also had a cascading effect on various aspects of his life. Post-surgery, Marudham experienced a remarkable improvement in his overall well-being. With the ability to see clearly, he regained his independence and confidence. The struggles he faced with walking and the fear of falling were alleviated, allowing him to move freely without apprehension. This newfound mobility not only improved his vision but also had a positive impact on his mental and emotional well-being. No longer confined to his house, Marudham stepped out into the world with renewed vigor. He could now walk without the constant fear of stumbling, and this freedom allowed him to engage with the community, fostering a sense of connection and happiness. The once lonely individual found joy in his ability to fend for himself and participate in various activities that he had previously abandoned.

Marudham's success story is a testament to the transformative power of early screening, diagnosis and intervention. The cataract surgery not only restored his vision but also liberated him from the shackles of physical limitations, enabling him to lead a more fulfilling and independent life in his golden years. His journey serves as an inspiration, highlighting the positive impact that the CBBF program had on the lives of individuals, especially the elderly.

vi. Performance (REESS)

The Cataract Free Program emerges as a beacon of hope in the underserved regions of Aruppukottai and Annur, where cataract stands as the leading cause of blindness among the elderly population. This initiative aims to address the pressing issue of visual impairment by providing essential eye care services to a demographic that has long been overlooked.

a. Relevance

- **Underserved Population and Geriatric Focus:** The project focuses on the geriatric population in areas where access to quality healthcare is limited. Undoubtedly, the elderly in these regions face the brunt of visual impairment due to cataracts, leading to a diminished quality of life.
- **Lack of Similar Service Providers:** The scarcity of similar service providers in the region underscores the urgency of the Cataract Free Program. With no other hospitals undertaking similar initiatives, this project is pivotal in bridging the healthcare gap and ensuring that the underserved receive the attention they deserve.
- **Responsiveness and Support from Stakeholders:** The involvement and support from local panchayat leaders and anganwadi workers highlight a positive step towards community engagement. Their active participation and ownership contribute to the success of the program, making it more responsive to the specific needs of the community.
- **Response from Beneficiaries:** The positive response from beneficiaries is a testament to the program's impact. Elderly individuals express joy and gratitude for regaining their vision, signifying a tangible improvement in their overall well-being. This positive feedback strengthens the program's credibility and underscores its significance in the community.
- **Adherence to UN SDGs and Government of India's Vision:** The Cataract Free Program aligns seamlessly with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in promoting good health and well-being. Furthermore, it complements the Government of India's National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment (NPCB&VI), contributing to the nation's broader vision of eradicating preventable blindness.

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- Adherence to Titan's CSR Mandate: Titan's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) mandate finds fulfilment in supporting the Cataract Free Program. By actively participating in initiatives that directly impact the community, Titan reinforces its commitment to social responsibility and the well-being of the underserved.
- Adherence to Sankara Eye Hospital's Vision: The alignment with Sankara Eye Hospital's vision further solidifies the program's credibility. Leveraging the expertise and resources of a renowned eye care institution amplifies the impact of the Cataract Free Program and ensures the delivery of high-quality services.

b. Effectiveness

The Cataract Free Program unfolds as a pivotal initiative, strategically designed to tackle cataract-related blindness by emphasizing early identification, timely treatment, and a seamless continuum. This multifaceted approach not only addresses the immediate surgical needs of the elderly but also promotes a broader understanding of eye health within the community.

- Early Identification of Cataract: Early identification forms the cornerstone of the Cataract Free Program. Leveraging the expertise of a dedicated team of field staff, individuals are subjected to a first-level screening using Snellen's chart, enabling the timely detection of cataracts and other eye issues.
- Timely Treatment via Surgeries: The program ensures swift action by facilitating timely cataract surgeries. Through a streamlined process, patients identified with cataracts are promptly referred to base hospitals, where specialized medical teams conduct surgeries with precision and efficiency.
- Patient Referral System: A robust patient referral system guarantees a smooth transition from identification to treatment. The established process ensures that individuals flagged during initial screenings are seamlessly guided to the base hospital, creating a continuum of care that minimizes delays in critical interventions.
- Complication Rates and Successful Outcomes: The absence of recorded post-surgery complications is a testament to the program's success. Rigorous post-surgery monitoring and care contribute to positive outcomes, underscoring the effectiveness of the Cataract Free Program in restoring vision without additional health concerns.

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- **Access to Services:**The program is committed to providing accessible cataract services within the community. By eliminating the need for extensive travel, especially for elderly individuals, the initiative ensures that cataract treatments are readily available in their own areas, thereby enhancing accessibility and uptake.
- **Community Awareness:**The Cataract Free Program extends beyond treatment to actively raise community awareness. Through educational campaigns and community engagement, people are becoming more cognizant of cataracts, emphasizing the importance of early detection and treatment for maintaining optimal eye health.
- **Availability of Infrastructure:**The program benefits from a well-established infrastructure, with dedicated field staff conducting initial screenings and comprehensive camps equipped with medical professionals and state-of-the-art testing equipment. Base hospitals boast advanced facilities, including waiting rooms, wards, testing equipment, surgery operating theatres, and post-surgery recovery rooms, ensuring a seamless and well-rounded eyecare experience.

c. Efficiency

The efficiency of the Cataract Free Program is a testament to its meticulous resource utilization, staff training initiatives, affordability, streamlined processes, and embracing technology. This program has set a good precedent in delivering prompt, comprehensive, and high-quality eye care services to underserved communities in Annur and Aruppukottai.

- **Resource Utilization:** The CBBF project optimizes its resources by strategically deploying field staff in Annur for house visits. However, there is a need to realign house-visit schedule in Aruppukottai to accommodate the availability of villagers during weekends. This adjustment will ensure that the field staff's efforts are maximized, reaching the intended beneficiaries more effectively. This requires immediate attention.
- **Training and Capacity Building:**Continuous training programs is required to enhance the skills of the field staff in early identification, convince the patients to increase uptake of the services. This investment in staff education ensures a

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well-informed and skilled workforce, contributing to the overall efficiency of the program.

- **Affordability and Waiting Time:**The program's commitment to affordability is evident in its provision of free services. Waiting times are minimized, with surgeries scheduled within a week post-identification. Patients spending an average 2-3 days in the hospital, reducing the burden on both time and resources.
- **Cost per Surgery:**The program meticulously manages costs, ensuring that each cataract surgery is conducted efficiently without compromising quality. The cost-effectiveness of the surgeries allows the program to extend its reach and impact, maximizing the number of beneficiaries within the allocated resources. The camps are conducted in the local, reducing venue costs. It also leverages the support of the local panchayat authorities.
- **Operational Efficiency:**Systematic record-keeping and parameter monitoring characterize the operational efficiency of the Cataract Free Program. Each visit is meticulously documented, contributing to data-driven decision-making, quality assurance, and continuous improvement.
- **Patient Reach and Scale:**The program is designed for optimal patient reach, ensuring that a significant number of individuals receive timely and effective eye care. The streamlined processes, from identification to surgery and post-operative care, enable the program to cater to a larger demographic.
- **Technology Utilization:**Leveraging technology, the program embraces video calls for investigations and utilizes cameras during surgeries. This not only enhances the precision of medical procedures but also allows for remote consultations, extending the reach of the program and facilitating expert guidance when needed.
- **Community Engagement Impact:**The Cataract Free Program's efficiency is magnified by its impact on community engagement. By actively involving the community in the process, creating awareness, and adapting schedules in Anaikkatito suit their needs, the program builds trust and strengthens its roots within the communities it serves. The scheduling requires attention in Aruppukottai though.

d. Sustainability

The sustainability of the Cataract Free Program extends far beyond immediate interventions, encompassing a holistic approach that ensures long-term impact on eye health. Through robust monitoring and evaluation, community empowerment,

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stakeholder engagement, health education initiatives, integration with existing healthcare systems, and a focus on epidemiological impact, the program sets the stage for lasting change.

- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** The program's sustainability hinges on continuous monitoring and evaluation. Regular assessments of key performance indicators, patient outcomes, and the effectiveness of interventions enable the program to adapt and refine its strategies, ensuring that it remains responsive to the evolving needs of the community.
- **Community Empowerment:** The program empowers communities to take charge of their own eye health. The program actively involves community members, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility. Through awareness campaigns and educational initiatives, individuals are empowered to prioritize eye health, contributing to the program's lasting impact.
- **Local Stakeholder Engagement:** The Cataract Free Program engages with local stakeholders, including community leaders, panchayat members, and volunteers. This collaboration not only ensures cultural sensitivity but also cements the program within the fabric of the community, fostering trust and long-term commitment.
- **Health Education Initiatives:** program invests in health education initiatives, equipping individuals with the understanding of preventive measures, early identification of eye issues, and the importance of post-surgery care. This educational foundation becomes a catalyst for sustained eye health practices.
- **Epidemiological Impact:** The program's sustainability is measured not just in individual outcomes but in its broader epidemiological impact. By systematically addressing the prevalence of cataracts and related eye issues, the program aims to contribute to a reduction in the overall burden of visual impairment, promoting long-term community well-being.
- **Contribution to Prevention of Blindness:** The aforementioned indicators suggest that the program is able to contribute to the prevention of blindness on a larger scale. Through early identification, timely interventions, and health education, the Cataract Free Program becomes a proactive force against preventable blindness, creating a sustained impact on the community's visual health.

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e. Social Impact

The social impact of the Cataract Free Program is a catalyst for profound and positive transformations in the lives of individuals and the community. From improved well-being to long-term social change, the program serves as a beacon of hope and equity for those in Annur and Aruppukottai.

- **Improved Well-being and Quality of Life:** The most immediate and tangible social impact of the program is the enhancement of individuals' well-being and the overall quality of life. Restoring vision not only enables people to navigate their surroundings but also empowers them to engage more fully in daily activities, fostering a sense of independence and confidence.
- **Accessibility and Equity:** The program champions accessibility and equity in healthcare. By providing free cataract services directly within the community, it eliminates barriers related to affordability and geographical constraints, ensuring that everyone, regardless of socio-economic status, has equal access to essential eye care.
- **Community Awareness:** A ripple effect of the program is the heightened community awareness regarding eye health. Through educational initiatives, the program instills a sense of responsibility and awareness, encouraging community members to prioritize eye health, seek early interventions, and contribute to the overall well-being of the community.
- **Social Inclusion:** Restored vision facilitates social inclusion by breaking down barriers that were once imposed by visual impairment. Individuals who have undergone cataract surgery are reintegrated into social activities, reducing isolation and fostering a sense of belonging within families and their community.
- **Reduction in Discrimination:** The program actively contributes to the reduction of discrimination against individuals with visual impairments, even by their own families. By addressing the root cause of blindness and visual impairment, the program dismantles societal prejudices, promoting a more inclusive and accepting community.
- **Family and Social Relationships:** Improved vision positively impacts family and social relationships. Individuals can actively participate in family dynamics, community events, and social gatherings, strengthening bonds and reinforcing the interconnectedness of the community.

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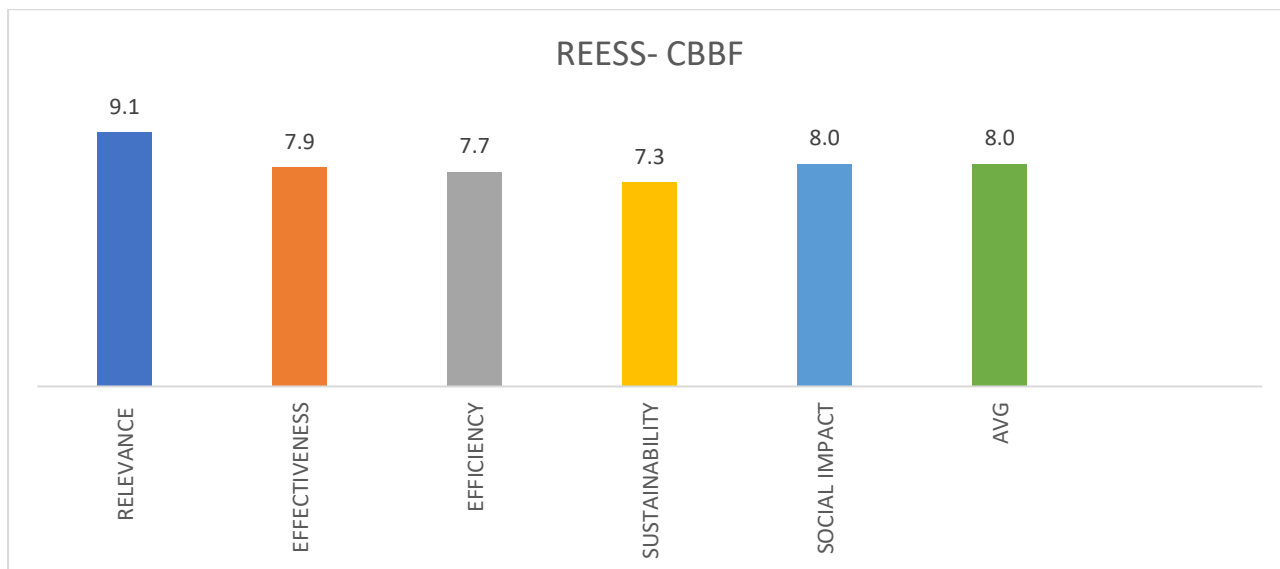
- **Gender Empowerment:**The program serves as a catalyst for gender empowerment by ensuring that both men and women have equal access to eye care services. Through gender-inclusive initiatives and awareness campaigns, it contributes to breaking down gender-based barriers in accessing healthcare.
- **Long-Term Social Change:**Beyond immediate impacts, the program seeds the ground for long-term social change. As community members become more aware and proactive about their eye health, and as barriers to eyecare access diminish, the program contributes to a sustained improvement in the overall health and well-being of the community.

f. Overall REESS ratings for the CBBF project

| REESS RATING FOR CBBF PROJECT | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------|
| RELEVANCE | Need for the project | 10 |
| | Lack of similar service providers | 8 |
| | Responsiveness and Support from stakeholders | 8 |
| | Response from beneficiaries | 7 |
| | Adherence to UN SDG | 10 |
| | Adherence to Govt of India's vision | 10 |
| | Adherence to Titan's CSR mandate | 10 |
| | Adherence to Sankara Eye hospital's vision | 10 |
| | AVERAGE RELEVANCE | 9.1 |
| EFFECTIVENESS | Community uptake of cataract screening | 6 |
| | Timely treatment of Cataract via surgeries | 7 |
| | Access to Services | 8 |
| | Community Awareness | 7 |
| | Success of surgery | 9 |
| | Training and Capacity Building of the Sankara Team | 9 |
| | Follow-up process | 8 |

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| | | |
|----------------|---|------------|
| | Availability of Infrastructure to conduct the program | 9 |
| | AVERAGE EFFECTIVENESS | 7.9 |
| EFFICIENCY | Resource Utilization | 7 |
| | Cost-Efficiency (Fund Utilisation) | 7 |
| | Waiting time for patient | 9 |
| | Adherence to MOU timelines and objectives | 5 |
| | Affordability of surgery | 10 |
| | Operational Efficiency | 8 |
| | Technology Utilization | 8 |
| | AVERAGE EFFICIENCY | 7.7 |
| SUSTAINABILITY | Monitoring and Evaluation | 8 |
| | Community Empowerment | 7 |
| | Local Stakeholder Engagement | 7 |
| | Health Education Initiatives | 7 |
| | Integration with Existing Healthcare Systems | 7 |
| | Contributes to prevention of cataract-based blindness | 8 |
| | AVERAGE SUSTAINABILITY | 7.3 |
| SOCIAL IMPACT | Improved well-being and quality of life | 8 |
| | Accessibility and Equity to eye care | 8 |
| | Community Awareness on Cataract | 8 |
| | Social Inclusion | 8 |
| | Reduction in Discrimination | 8 |
| | Improvement in Family and Social Relationships | 8 |
| | Gender Empowerment | 8 |
| | Productivity | 8 |



vii. Gaps and Recommendations

a. Gaps:

- **Incomplete Coverage:** In both Annur and Aruppukkottai, the screening efforts reached only 44% and 59% of the total population, respectively. This indicates a significant gap in achieving widespread coverage and community engagement.
- **Timing and Availability Challenges:** The door-to-door screening approach faced challenges in reaching households due to the unavailability of villagers during the day. Additionally, low attendance at screening camps, especially on weekdays, poses a logistical challenge in terms of timing and participation.
- **Discrepancy in Industrial Screening:** While industrial screenings were conducted in both areas, the percentage of individuals covered was low (942 in Annur and 339 in Aruppukkottai). Considering the importance of occupational health, there's a gap in adequately addressing the unique challenges faced by industrial workers.
- **Surgery Implementation Gap:** Despite providing surgery advice, the actual implementation of surgeries in Aruppukkottai was only 53%. This indicates a

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gap in translating advice into practical interventions, potentially impacting the overall well-being of the community.

b. Recommendations:

- **Enhance Community Engagement Strategies:** Modify the screening approach by conducting door-to-door visits and screening camps exclusively on weekends or in the evenings to address the issue of low availability during weekdays. This strategic shift aims to increase community participation and ensure a more comprehensive screening process.
- **Optimize Industrial Health Initiatives:** Increase the focus on industrial screenings to ensure a more significant percentage of workers are covered. Collaborate with industries to implement preventive health measures and address occupational challenges effectively.
- **Improve Surgery Implementation:** Implement strategies to bridge the gap between surgery advice and actual surgeries. This may involve increased awareness campaigns, counselling services, and collaboration with local healthcare providers to ensure timely and effective surgical interventions.
- **Strengthen Survey Methodology:** Schedule surveys during times when residents are more likely to be available, ensuring better community engagement and representation in the survey findings. This may involve coordinating with local leaders to choose optimal timing for community interactions.
- **Continuous Training and Sensitization:** Provide ongoing training for project staff, key informants, and healthcare workers to enhance their skills in community engagement, health screenings, and awareness campaigns. Sensitize the staff to the cultural and logistical nuances of each locality to improve effectiveness.
- **Utilize Technology for Outreach:** Explore the use of technology, such as mobile apps or SMS notifications, to inform and remind residents about upcoming health camps and screenings. This can improve attendance and community participation in health initiatives.
- **Regular Monitoring and Evaluation:** Establish a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track the progress of health initiatives, identify gaps in real-time, and make necessary adjustments promptly. Regular feedback from the community and stakeholders should inform continuous improvement strategies.

The Cataract Blindness Backlog Free (CBBF) Projects in Annur and Aruppukkottai reflect fair efforts in addressing the diverse eyecare needs of the local populations. Both projects have demonstrated a comprehensive approach to community development, spanning education, healthcare, and economic sectors. The focus on engaging with villages and wards underscores an understanding of the nuanced challenges faced by each community. However, notable gaps in health coverage, timing challenges in community engagement, and disparities in industrial screenings highlight areas for improvement. These projects, while making significant strides, can benefit from strategic adjustments in their methodologies to ensure more inclusive and impactful outcomes. The survey findings reveal the positive impact of the CBBF initiatives, particularly in Annur, where the collaboration between the project and local authorities, effective screening services, and successful surgeries garnered overwhelming satisfaction from beneficiaries. Despite challenges noted in Aruppukkottai, the high satisfaction levels among those who underwent surgeries and positive feedback from an old-age home suggest that the CBBF program has indeed made a positive difference in the lives of the communities it serves. Moving forward, a continued commitment to community engagement, addressing identified gaps, and leveraging technology for outreach can further enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of the CBBF Projects in Annur and Aruppukkottai.

II. Happy Eyes – Nannakkannu Project

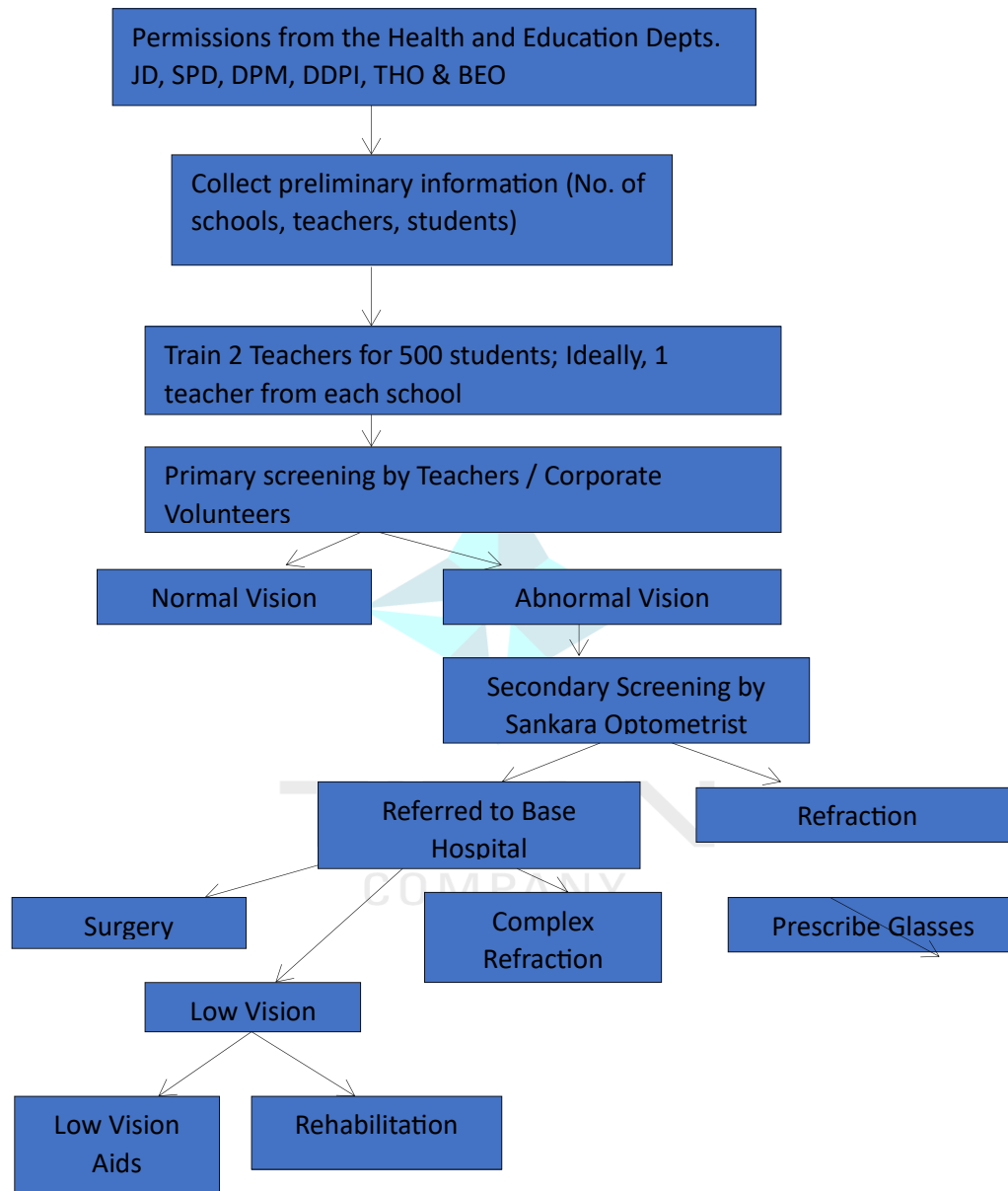
i. About the Program

The Happy Eyes Nannakkannu Project, under the banner of Happy Eyes Rainbow initiative, was aimed at providing comprehensive eye care services to underprivileged school children in the Yadgiri district. The project, which focused on eye examinations for 1,00,000 students, aimed to ensure that no school-going child would be needlessly blind. For those with irreversible blindness or low vision, the objective was to grant them equal rights and access to services, enabling active participation in society. The geographic area covered by the project included all government schools in two talukas of the Yadgiri district.

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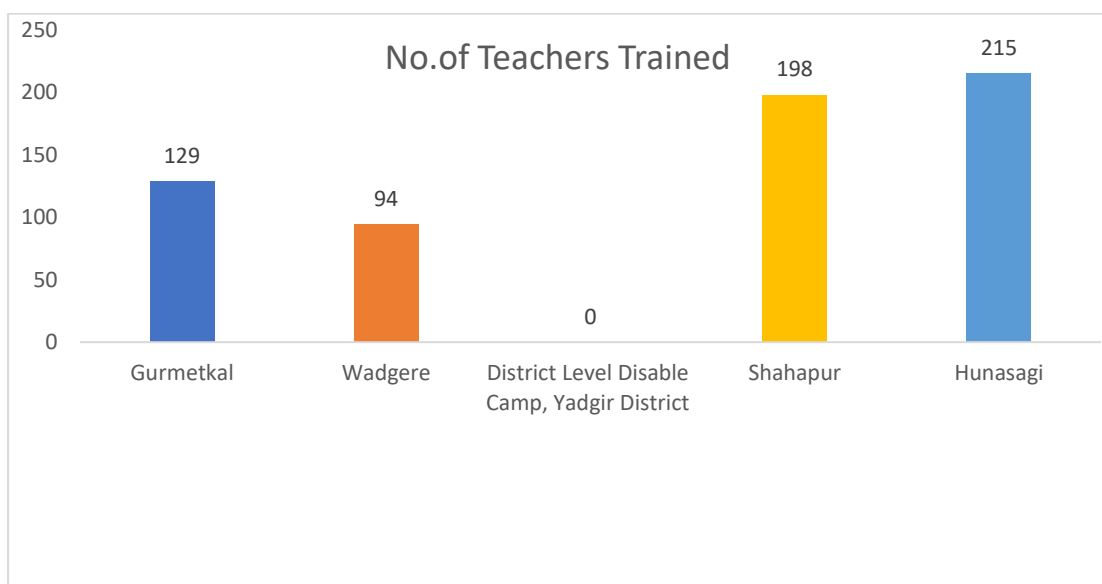
ii. Process

The project was contingent upon a well-defined process:



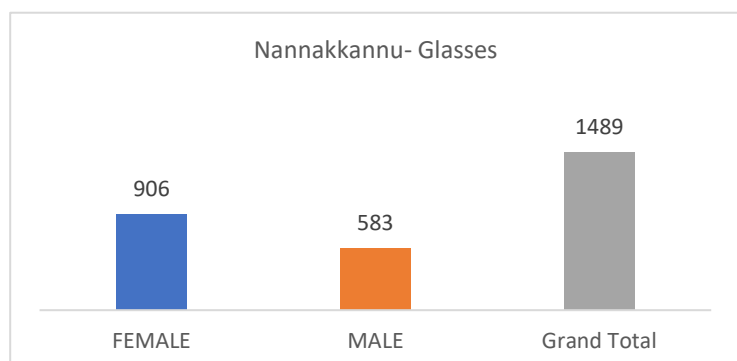
Overall Reach

- **Teacher Training:** The Happy Eyes Nannakkannu Project School Eye camps focused on empowering educators through comprehensive teacher training programs. Across the taluks, a total of 636 teachers underwent training to enhance their awareness and ability to identify potential eye health issues in students.



- **School Screenings:** An integral aspect of the project was the systematic screening of 623 schools to identify and address potential eye health concerns among students. This extensive coverage underscores the project's commitment to reaching diverse educational institutions and ensuring a broad impact in the identification of eye health issues among school children.

- **Children Screened:** In alignment with its mission, the project successfully screened a significant number of children across the taluks. A total of 105,150 children underwent screenings, reflecting the project's expansive reach and effectiveness in identifying potential eye health issues at an early stage. Gurmetkal screened



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19,862 children in January 2023, Wadgere screened 19,908 children over January and February, and the District Level Disable Camp in Yadgir District screened 89 children during the camp. In February 2023, Shahapur screened 31,837 children, while Hunasagi screened 33,454 children, further contributing to the overall impact.

- **Refractive Errors Identified and Spectacle Distribution:** The project's emphasis on identifying refractive errors and providing necessary interventions was evident as 1,489 children were identified with refractive errors. Tailored interventions included the distribution of 280 spectacles in Gurmetkal, 192 in Wadgere, 15 during the District Level Disable Camp, 476 in Shahapur, and 526 in Hunasagi.
- **Surgeries Performed and Referrals to Base Hospital:** In addressing more severe eye conditions, the Happy Eyes – Happy Eyes – Nannakkannu Project conducted surgeries and facilitated referrals to base hospitals. Taluk-specific data revealed that in Gurmetkal, five surgeries were performed in January 2023, with 161 children referred to the base hospital. Wadgere witnessed one surgery and 147 referrals over January and February. The District Level Disable Camp in Yadgir District included four surgeries and 50 referrals. In February 2023, Shahapur reported seven surgeries and 276 referrals, while Hunasagi reported four surgeries and 260 referrals. These interventions highlighted the project's commitment to holistic eye health care.

| Type of surgeries | BOTH EYES | LEFT EYE | RIGHT EYE | Grand Total |
|------------------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-------------|
| DacryoCystoRhinostomy (DCR) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Oculoplasty | 3 | 0 | 2 | 5 |
| Orbit and oculoplasty | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Ptosis | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| SICS + IOL | 1 | 4 | 4 | 9 |
| SOI | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Squint | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Vitreo - retina | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Grand total | 7 | 6 | 8 | 21 |

iii. Survey Findings

a. Students who received glasses

- The survey findings highlight a unique and significant impact on students who received glasses while attending a camp for the first time. It is notable that these students were unaware of the need for eye check-ups prior to the camp, emphasizing the importance of awareness and access to eye care in the district.
- The fact that all interviewed students claimed the absence of eye hospitals near their residences suggests potential barriers to accessing eye care services in their communities. This underscores the importance of initiatives such as the camp that provided free glasses, addressing the gap in vision care and ensuring that students receive the necessary support for their visual health.
- The reported benefits of vision improvement are substantial. The provision of glasses likely corrected refractive errors, such as near-sightedness or farsightedness, leading to clearer vision. This improvement in visual acuity can have a profound impact on various aspects of their lives.
- **Reduced Headaches:** Many individuals with uncorrected vision problems often experience headaches due to eye strain. By providing glasses, the camp not only addressed the immediate issue of blurry vision but also potentially alleviated headaches associated with untreated visual impairments.
- **Improved Reading Abilities:** Clear vision is crucial for academic success, and the ability to read without difficulty is a fundamental aspect of learning. The students' newfound ability to read suggests that the glasses played a vital role in enhancing their educational experience, potentially boosting their academic performance.
- **Enhanced Overall Quality of Life:** Clear vision contributes significantly to an individual's overall quality of life. Beyond academic pursuits, improved vision enables students to engage more fully in various activities, fostering a sense of independence and confidence.



b. Screened Students

- Lack of Awareness about Eye Check-ups: The screened students who participated in the survey were attending the camp for the first time, suggesting that they may not have been informed or aware of the importance of eye check-ups. The fact that they did not know about the necessity of eye examinations raises awareness issues regarding eye health, emphasizing the need for educational initiatives on the importance of regular eye check-ups.
- Perceived Lack of Eye Hospitals: An overwhelming 80% of the interviewed students claimed that there were no eye hospitals near their place of residence. This perception may contribute to the neglect of eye health, as individuals might believe they lack access to eye care facilities. This finding underscores the importance of improving accessibility to eye care services and dispelling misconceptions about the availability of eye hospitals.
- Free Eye Screening: All participants mentioned that the eye screening they received was done for free. This information is crucial as it highlights the positive aspect of the initiative, making eye care services accessible to those who may not have the financial means to undergo screenings. The provision of free eye screenings not only promotes the importance of eye health but also addresses potential economic barriers that might prevent individuals from seeking eye care.

c. Parents

- The survey findings indicate a generally positive response from parents whose children received support through surgeries. The program received a perfect score of 5/5 in terms of affordability from all parents whose children underwent surgeries. This suggests that the financial aspect of the program is perceived as highly favourable.

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- In terms of ease of transport to the Bengaluru base hospital, a significant majority of 4 out of 5 parents gave it a perfect score of 5/5. This reflects a high level of satisfaction with the transportation arrangements, suggesting that the program has successfully implemented convenient and accessible means for parents to transport their children to the hospital for surgeries.
- The overall accessibility of the program received an average rating of 5, suggesting that parents perceive the program as highly accessible. Accessibility is a crucial factor in healthcare programs, and a perfect average score indicates that the necessary resources and support were readily available to meet the needs of the children undergoing surgeries.

iv. Testimonials and Quotes

Empowered Educators: Transforming Lives through Vision Training

- "After the training, I feel empowered to identify students with visual difficulties. Before, my knowledge was limited, but now, doing the screening is easy and does not take much time. It's fulfilling to know that early detection has positively impacted the academic journey of our students."
- "The training was enlightening, increasing my knowledge on identifying visual difficulties in students easily. Using the chart during screenings is easy. Witnessing how my support helped the students in being referred for the next line of screening was gratifying."
- "I feel a sense of pride and empowerment in my role as a teacher after the training. Before, my understanding of visual difficulties was limited. Now, incorporating the Snellen chart into screenings has made the process smooth, and it's fulfilling to contribute to the needs of students who may have otherwise faced visual challenges."
- "The training provided me with valuable insights into recognizing visual difficulties in students. Using the knowledge gained, I can identify potential issues early on and ensure that students receive the necessary assistance. It feels empowering to contribute to their academic success."

Clear Vision, Bright Futures: Testimonials from Students Touched by Sankara's Eye Screening Initiative

- Shankar, 8th Grade Student: "I used to struggle to see what was written on the board, and it made studying really hard. Thanks to Sankara, I got glasses, and now everything is so clear! I can participate in class without any problems.
- Govindappa, 6th Grade Student: "I never realized I needed glasses until the screening at our school. I got my glasses quick, and now I am able to see better. I can play sports without missing the ball!"
- Anjali Devi, 9th Grade Student: "Being from a small village, we did not have a good eye hospital near our house. The Sankara team came to our school. The teacher first checked my eyes and sent me to them. I got my eyes checked, and they gave me glasses. Now, I can read and study comfortably.
- Meenamma, 7th Grade Student: "I was having headaches a lot, and I didn't know it was because of my eyes. The Sankara team found the problem, and now I have glasses. No more headaches, and I can focus better on my studies. Thank you, Sankara
- Basavappa, 5th Grade Student: "I used to sit in the front row to see the board clearly, but even then, it was tough. Thanks to the Sankara hospital, they found out I needed glasses. Now, I can sit anywhere, and everything is clear. I feel much more confident in class!"
- Vikas, 9th Grade Student: "Earlier, everything was a bit blurry until the hospital came to our school. They gave me glasses, and now I can see everything!"
- Kavitha, 7th Grade Student: "I struggled with reading the blackboard for a long time, and it affected my grades. The Sankara team visited our school, and after a simple eye check, I got glasses. Now, words are clear, and my grades have improved. Thanks, Sankara team.
- Priya, 6th Grade Student: "I never thought my constant squinting was a sign of vision problems until the Sankara eye screening at our school. They identified my need for glasses, and since then, everything has changed.
- Arjun, 8th Grade Student: "I used to avoid reading and writing because it gave me terrible headaches. The Sankara team diagnosed my vision issues and provided me with glasses. Now, not only are my headaches gone, but I'm also more enthusiastic about learning.

"A Community Transformed: Voices from School and District Administrators"

- Mr Ramakrishna, Teacher, GHPS, Devatkal. "The Sankara Eye Screening Program has brought a positive change. The screenings and follow-ups are commendable. The collaboration with the Sankara team has been seamless, and we appreciate their dedication to enhancing the vision health of our students."
- HM, GHPS, Sardana: The efficiency of the process, from teacher training to screenings and receiving glasses, has impressed us. It's heartening to see our students receiving the necessary eye care, contributing to their overall growth."
- Mallikarjuna IERT, Yadgir District Level Disable Camp: "The inclusion of the District Level Disable Camp in the Happy Eyes – Happy Eyes – Nannakkannu Project has been a boon. The screenings have been thorough, and the surgeries performed have made a lasting impact on the lives of these children."
- Mr Kulkarni, HM, GHSS, Devanahalli: "As a school administrator, seeing the positive outcomes of the project is incredibly satisfying. We appreciate the efforts that go into ensuring our students have the best vision care."
- Mr JandevGend, HM, GHS Devatkal: "In our remote area, access to quality healthcare is a challenge. The school eye screening project has filled a crucial gap, providing eye care services that were otherwise inaccessible. The training provided to our teachers has empowered them to actively participate in the screenings, making a lasting impact on our students' lives."
- Venkatesh, HM, GHPS, Jaigami: We are grateful for the support from Sankara and the collaborative efforts that prioritize the well-being of our students." Please continue this great project every year.

"Visionaries of Change: Sankara's Holistic Approach to Eye Care and Community Transformation"

- Hussain, father of Sameer Mohammad: "When we learned that our son needed eye surgery, we were overwhelmed with worry. Living in a rural area, access to affordable healthcare seemed like an impossible dream. However,

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thanks to Sankara's free surgery, we discovered a ray of hope. The surgery not only transformed our child's vision but also provided for free. Sankara is truly a blessing for families like ours."

- Rajesh, Father of a Young Patient: "As parents, we were oblivious to the severity of our child's eye condition. Sankara not only performed a life-changing eye surgery but also played a crucial role in creating awareness about the importance of eye health in our community. If the surgery did not happen, my son would have been blind in one eye. Thanks to Sankara team.
- Latha, Mother of a Surgically Treated Child: "Before Sankara, we were unaware of the eye issues our child faced. The team not only educated us but also provided the much-needed surgery in their hospital in Bengaluru. All the services were provided for free. If not for Sankara, we would not have been able to identify and treat my child's condition. Grateful for their support.
- Sekar, Father of Bhargavi: "Seeing our daughter struggle with a squint was heartbreaking, especially knowing the societal pressures she might face. The Sankara team helped with squint correction in Bengaluru. Now, she carries herself with confidence, and we no longer worry about perceptions hindering her chances of a happy marriage in future. Sankara not only corrected her squint but also gave her a new lease on life.

v. Performance (REESS)

a. Relevance

- The School Eye screening program, funded by Titan and implemented by Shankar Eye Care, addresses a critical need for the early detection of vision problems among students, particularly myopia. Myopia, or near-sightedness, is a common vision issue that often develops during childhood and can impact a student's academic performance. Recognizing this prevalent problem, the program aims to identify and address visual impairments early on, ensuring that students have the necessary support for optimal learning and development.
- The program is especially relevant in underserved areas that it caters to. These areas often lack access to comprehensive eye care services, leading to a high prevalence of untreated vision issues among students. By targeting such regions, the School Eye screening program bridges the gap in healthcare services, catering to the specific needs of students in marginalized communities.

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Government school students, who are often from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, may have limited access to healthcare resources. By concentrating efforts on government schools, the project aims to reach those who may not otherwise have the means to receive eye care services.

- In the absence of similar service providers, the program fills a crucial void. Currently, government initiatives are sporadic, and the School Eye screening program steps in to provide a consistent and systematic approach to eye care in schools. This not only enhances the overall effectiveness of vision screening but also ensures that a broader spectrum of students receives the necessary attention.
- The responsiveness and support from stakeholders further contribute to the program's success. By gaining the support of school authorities, the Department of Education, headmasters, and parents, the program establishes a collaborative effort to prioritize students' visual health. Even teachers, who are trained to identify potential vision problems, feel a sense of ownership in ensuring the eye care of their students.
- The response from beneficiaries has been overwhelmingly positive. Students express happiness at having their vision issues addressed, while parents feel relieved knowing that potential problems are being identified early on. Headmasters request annual check-ups, showcasing the program's impact and the perceived value it brings to the school community.
- The School Eye screening program aligns with several international and national frameworks. It adheres to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on health and well-being, contributing to the broader global effort to ensure good health for all. The program aligns with the Government of India's National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment (NPCB&VI), reinforcing its commitment to national health priorities.
- Furthermore, the program aligns with Titan's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) mandate, which emphasizes health and well-being. Titan's support for this initiative reflects its commitment to creating a positive impact on the communities it serves. Sankara Eye Hospital's vision for comprehensive eye care is realized through the implementation of this program, showcasing a synergy between corporate social responsibility and healthcare objectives.

b. Effectiveness

The Happy Eyes –Nannakkannu program demonstrates effectiveness through its extensive screening coverage. By conducting screenings within the comfort of schools,

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the program ensures a high level of participation, reaching a large proportion of students. This approach eliminates barriers to access and facilitates the identification of vision issues among a diverse student population.

- Timely detection is a cornerstone of the program's effectiveness. Conducting screenings within schools allows for the swift identification of students with vision problems. This enables timely intervention, and reducing the risk of long-term complications.
- Referrals are a vital component of the program, ensuring that students identified with vision issues receive the necessary follow-up care. Those in need of spectacles or additional treatment are referred appropriately, bridging the gap between identification and intervention. This holistic approach to eye care enhances the overall impact of the program, addressing the diverse needs of students with varying degrees of visual impairment.
- Follow-up compliance is a key indicator of the program's success. All students referred for treatment are adequately followed up, ensuring that they receive the recommended interventions. This commitment to post-screening care enhances the effectiveness of the program, promoting continuity in addressing students' visual health needs.
- The School Eye screening program contributes to academic performance improvement by addressing vision issues that may impact learning. Students who can see the blackboard clearly, study without strain, and experience fewer migraines are better equipped to excel academically. The program's impact extends beyond eye health, positively influencing students' overall educational experience and performance.
- Distribution of spectacles is a tangible outcome of the program, reflecting its commitment to addressing identified vision issues. Through this initiative, a significant number of students, have been provided with spectacles. This not only addresses individual needs but also contributes to the broader goal of enhancing the visual well-being of the student population.
- The program effectively improves the knowledge of the community on screening students for vision issues. By training teachers to conduct screenings using the Snellen chart, the program empowers educators to play an active role in identifying potential vision problems among their students. This community-based approach not only enhances awareness but also fosters a sense of

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responsibility and ownership in ensuring the visual health of the student population.

c. Efficiency

- The efficiency of the Happy Eyes – Nannakkannu program is evident through its streamlined screening process, minimizing the time required for each session. With a quick and straightforward process of reading the Snellen chart, each screening session takes hardly 2 minutes. Once a vision issue is identified, each child spends less than 5 minutes with the optometrist for a thorough examination. This efficiency not only ensures a swift screening process but also reduces the overall time taken for students to receive necessary eye care. The program's focus on time efficiency is particularly beneficial in minimizing disruptions to the students' academic schedules, and it significantly decreases the time parents need to spend traveling to hospitals for eye check-ups.
- Teacher satisfaction is a crucial aspect of the Happy Eyes – Happy Eyes – Nannakkannu program's effectiveness. Teachers express contentment with the training provided on identification techniques, enabling them to actively participate in the screening process. Moreover, the positive outcomes of the program, such as the quality of the provided spectacles, contribute to high levels of teacher satisfaction. The program's ability to engage and empower teachers in the eye care process fosters a sense of collaboration and shared responsibility in promoting the visual well-being of students.
- Affordability is a key factor contributing to the program's success. Both the screening process and the spectacles provided are offered free of charge. This eliminates financial barriers for parents, ensuring that all students, regardless of their economic background, have access to essential eye care services. Additionally, the program alleviates the need for parents to incur travel costs to seek eye care for their children, making it a cost-effective and accessible solution for families.
- The waiting time after screening is another indicator of the program's efficiency. Typically, within a month of the initial screening, spectacles are provided to the students in need. This swift turnaround time ensures that students do not experience prolonged periods without the necessary vision correction, contributing to the overall effectiveness of the program in addressing visual health needs promptly.
- The Happy Eyes – Nannakkannu program demonstrates tangible results in terms of improved vision. Students who receive spectacles through the program report a noticeable enhancement in their vision. This positive impact on visual

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acuity not only underscores the program's success in addressing identified vision issues but also contributes to the students' overall well-being and academic performance.

- The availability of trained local personnel is a strategic element contributing to the program's efficiency. The Sankara team has an adequate number of trained staff and optometrists, ensuring the seamless execution of screenings and follow-ups. Furthermore, local teachers are trained to actively participate in the screening process, providing a sustainable and community-driven approach to eye care. This availability of trained local personnel strengthens the program's reach and impact, particularly in remote or underserved areas.

The Happy Eyes Nannakkannu program's efficiency is unmistakably evident in its streamlined screening process, characterized by a rapid two-minute Snellen chart reading and a subsequent comprehensive examination by an optometrist in less than five minutes for identified cases. This swift approach not only minimizes disruptions to students' academic schedules but also significantly reduces the overall time parents spend seeking eye care for their children. The program's commitment to time efficiency, coupled with the active involvement and satisfaction of teachers in the screening process, underscores its effectiveness. The provision of free screenings and spectacles, coupled with a one-month turnaround time for eyewear, ensures affordability and prompt access to vision correction for all students, irrespective of their economic background. This, combined with tangible improvements in students' vision and a sustainable, community-driven approach facilitated by trained local personnel, solidifies the Happy Eyes – Nannakkannu program as an exemplar of efficient and impactful eye care intervention in both urban and remote areas.

d. Sustainability

- The sustainability of the Happy Eyes – Nannakkannu program is ensured through the presence of a robust system for ongoing teacher training and capacity building. Recognizing the critical role of teachers in the screening process, the program establishes mechanisms for continuous training, updating them on the latest identification techniques and best practices in eye care. This approach ensures that teachers remain well-equipped to identify potential eye issues among students, contributing to the sustainability and long-term impact of the program.

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- Collaboration with local healthcare providers is a key element in ensuring sustained support for the Happy Eyes – Nannakkannu program. Although not currently available, the potential for tie-ups with Primary Health Centers (PHCs) can be explored. Establishing partnerships with local healthcare providers creates a network of support for ongoing eye care services, leveraging existing infrastructure and expertise to enhance the program's sustainability in the long run.
- Collaboration with government entities, particularly in conjunction with the Directorate of Education, plays a crucial role in the program's sustainability. By aligning with government initiatives and policies, the Happy Eyes – Nannakkannu program can integrate seamlessly into the broader education and health frameworks. This collaboration not only strengthens the program's foundation but also ensures continued government support, enhancing its sustainability and scalability.
- Local stakeholder involvement is a cornerstone of the Happy Eyes – Nannakkannu program's sustainability. Local government officials and community leaders are actively apprised of the program, and their support is sought in organizing and promoting screening events. This community-driven approach fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility among community members, ensuring that the program becomes an integral part of the local healthcare ecosystem. The sustained involvement of the community contributes to the longevity and effectiveness of the program.
- The proactive involvement of schools is a key factor in the sustainability of the Happy Eyes – Nannakkannu program. School management, headmasters, and teachers actively participate in the program, advocating for the importance of eye care and facilitating the smooth execution of screening events. This engagement not only ensures the program's success in the short term but also establishes a foundation for its continued presence and impact in schools over time.
- Improving the awareness of teachers on identifying eye issues is a strategic initiative to strengthen the local ecosystem and ensure the sustainability of the program. By enhancing teachers' knowledge and skills in identifying potential eye problems, the program contributes to the creation of a self-sustaining model. This increased awareness not only benefits the current generation of students but also lays the groundwork for a culture of proactive eye care within the local community, promoting the program's sustainability in the long term.

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e. Social Impact

- The Happy Eyes – Nannakkannu program has a significant social impact by contributing to improved academic performance and attendance rates among students. By addressing vision issues promptly, the program ensures that students can fully participate in classroom activities without the hindrance of untreated eye problems. Improved attendance rates not only benefit individual students but also contribute to a more engaged and active learning environment within schools.
- Another crucial social impact of the program is the improvement in vision and eye health among students. By providing timely screenings and access to quality spectacles, the program directly enhances the visual well-being of students. Improved vision translates to better academic performance, increased self-confidence, and an overall positive impact on the quality of life for the students involved.
- The program initiates positive changes in community attitudes towards eye health. By actively involving community leaders and seeking their support in organizing screening events, the program fosters a sense of collective responsibility for eye care. This shift in community attitudes not only supports the success of the program but also creates a lasting impact on how eye health is perceived within the broader community.
- Similarly, the program brings about changes in schools' attitudes towards eye health. With the proactive involvement of school management, headmasters, and teachers, there is a growing recognition of the importance of prioritizing eye health as an integral part of overall well-being. Schools become advocates for eye care, emphasizing the significance of regular screenings and prompt intervention for the visual health of their students.
- The program contributes to the integration of eye health awareness into broader health and hygiene initiatives. By emphasizing the connection between eye health and overall well-being, the program becomes a catalyst for comprehensive health education. This integration ensures that eye health is not viewed in isolation but as an essential component of a holistic approach to health and hygiene.
- The program significantly promotes accessibility and equity in eye care services. By providing free screenings and spectacles, Happy Eyes – Nannakkannu removes financial barriers and ensures that all students, regardless of their economic background, gender and have equal access to essential eye care. This

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commitment to equity aligns with broader social goals of promoting inclusivity and equal opportunities for all students, fostering a more equitable society.

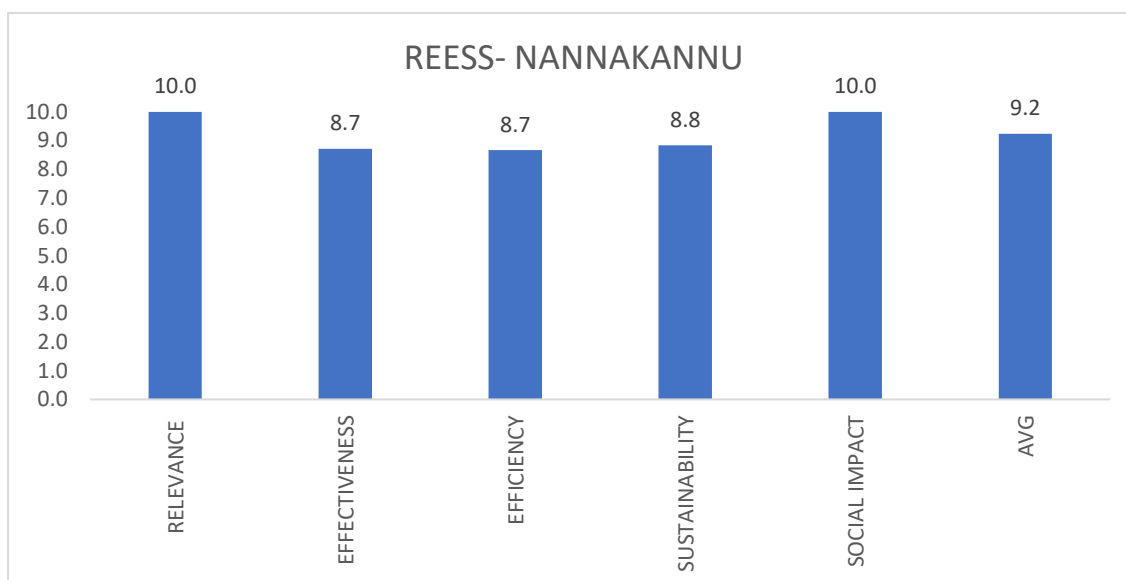
f. Overall REESS Rating

| REESS RATING FOR NANNAKKANNU PROJECT | | |
|---|---|------------|
| RELEVANCE | Need for the project | 10 |
| | Lack of similar service providers | 10 |
| | Responsiveness and Support from stakeholders | 10 |
| | Response from beneficiaries | 10 |
| | Adherence to UN SDG | 10 |
| | Adherence to Govt of India's vision | 10 |
| | Adherence to Titan's CSR mandate | 10 |
| | Adherence to Sankara Eye hospital's vision | 10 |
| | AVERAGE RELEVANCE | 10 |
| EFFECTIVENESS | Screening Coverage | 10 |
| | Detection Rate | 10 |
| | Referral Rate | 10 |
| | Follow-up Compliance | 8 |
| | Academic performance improvement | 7 |
| | Distribution of spectacles | 8 |
| | Improvement in knowledge of community on screening students | 8 |
| | AVERAGE EFFECTIVENESS | 8.7 |
| EFFICIENCY | Time required for each screening session | 9 |
| | Teacher satisfaction | 9 |
| | Affordability | 10 |

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| | | |
|-----------------------|---|------------|
| | Waiting time after screening | 6 |
| | Improved vision | 9 |
| | Availability of trained local personnel to conduct screenings and follow-ups | 9 |
| | AVERAGE EFFICIENCY | 8.7 |
| SUSTAINABILITY | Presence of a system for ongoing teacher training and capacity building | 8 |
| | Collaboration with local healthcare providers for sustained support | 9 |
| | Collaboration with Govt | 10 |
| | Community involvement in organizing and supporting screening events | 9 |
| | Involvement of school | 9 |
| | Improvement in awareness of teachers on identifying eye issues | 8 |
| | AVERAGE SUSTAINABILITY | 8.8 |
| SOCIAL IMPACT | Improved academic outcomes and school attendance rates | 10 |
| | Improved vision and eye health | 10 |
| | Changes in community attitudes towards eye health | 10 |
| | Changes in school's attitude towards eye health | 10 |
| | Integration of eye health awareness into broader health and hygiene initiatives | 10 |
| | Accessibility and Equity | 10 |
| | AVERAGE SOCIAL IMPACT | 10 |

With an average REESS rating of 9.2/10, it can be concluded that the program has been successful in creating a social impact in the communities that it serves.



vi. Gaps and Recommendations

a. Gaps:

- Frequency of Screening: The program requires an increased frequency of screenings to ensure more regular monitoring of students' eye health.
- Delivery Time for Glasses: The delivery time for eyewear is currently 2-3 months.
- No baseline of teacher's knowledge prior and after training.

b. Recommendations:

- Increase Screening Frequency: Consider implementing an annual screening schedule to enhance the program's ability to detect and address evolving vision issues among students.
- Optimize Eyewear Delivery Process: Streamline the process for delivering spectacles to students, aiming for a turnaround time of less than one month, to improve efficiency and meet the prompt access needs for vision correction.
- Conduct baseline and endline for each teacher after teacher training.

vii. Conclusion – Happy Eyes Nannakkannu Project

The Happy Eyes – Nannakkannu program has made substantial strides in addressing vision issues among students. The program strategically targets underserved areas,

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aligns with national and international frameworks, and demonstrates a collaborative effort that engages stakeholders at various levels. Through its streamlined processes, affordability, and tangible outcomes in the form of improved vision for thousands of students, ensuring ongoing teacher training, collaboration with local healthcare providers, and community involvement, it ensures sustainability. While acknowledging these strengths, addressing gaps in screening frequency, eyewear delivery time, and the need for baseline assessments of teacher knowledge can further enhance the program's impact and ensure a sustained positive influence on the visual health and well-being of students.

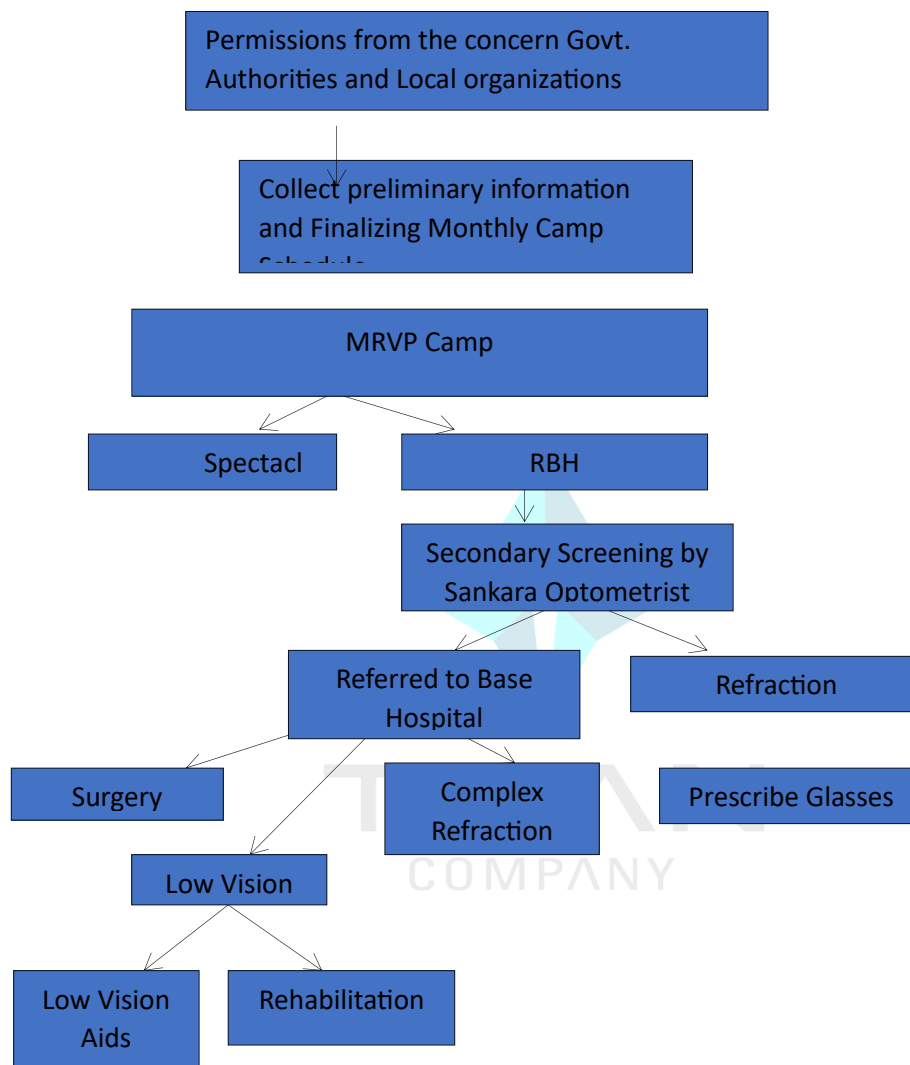
III. MRVP Project

i. About the MRVP Project

The Mobile Rural Vision Project (MRVP) is a transformative initiative dedicated to securing good eye care for adults by addressing visual impairments at their doorstep and delivering essential remedial measures. With an impressive track record spanning over eight years, the project has positively impacted the lives of over one lakh beneficiaries. A fully equipped mobile unit plays a pivotal role in this endeavour, offering a range of services such as raising awareness on eye health, conducting screenings for eye ailments, providing refraction services, and distributing spectacles. Moreover, the project extends its reach to base hospitals, further ensuring comprehensive and accessible eye care for its stakeholders.

ii. Process

The process for the MRVP Program is as follows



iii. Overall Reach

The MRVP (Mobile Rural Vision Screening Program) camps have been a crucial initiative in providing eye care services to diverse populations. In the 2021-22 period, a total of 11,393 individuals were screened across various camp types. Among them, 4,963 received glasses, signifying a commendable effort in addressing visual impairment. The referral rate to base hospitals stood at 19.0%, with 2,167 individuals referred for further medical attention. This implies that almost one-fifth of those

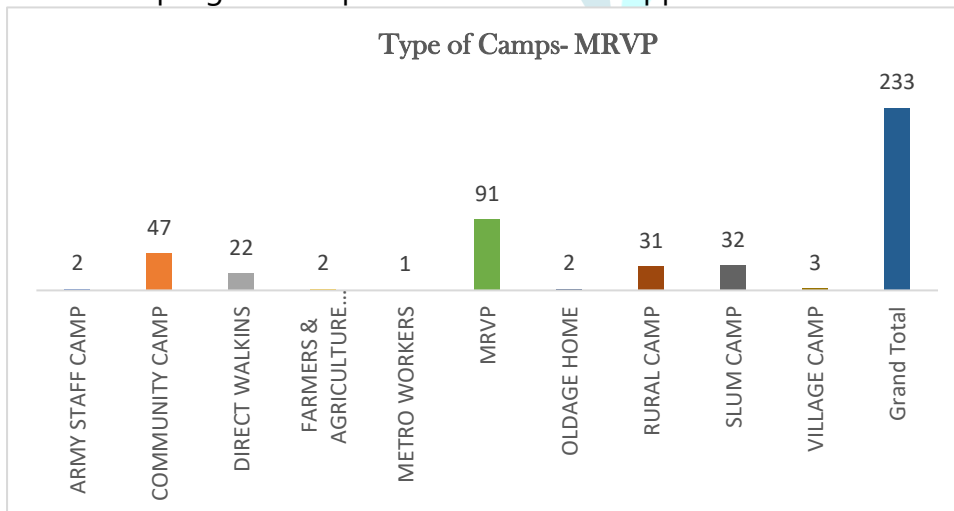
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screened required additional care, emphasizing the significance of these camps as an

entry point to broader healthcare services. Moving to the 2022-23 period, the scale of the MRVP camps expanded significantly, with 15,111 individuals screened. Out of these, 5,872 individuals were provided with glasses, showcasing a consistent commitment to enhancing visual well-being.

In all, 26,504 individuals were screened, with 10,835 receiving glasses. The overall referral rate for the two-year period stands at 22.9%, underscoring the program's impact in identifying and addressing eye health issues within the community. A total of 6,094 individuals were referred to base hospitals for further assessment and treatment, illustrating the camps' role as a crucial bridge between community members and comprehensive healthcare facilities.

No of Camps conducted: Examining the types of camps conducted, it is evident that the MRVP program adopted a multifaceted approach to reach diverse demographics.



A total of 233 camps were organized, including 91 dedicated MRVP camps and 47 community camps, ensuring that a wide range of

populations, from rural areas to slums, were covered. This strategic distribution of camps contributes to the program's success in reaching individuals from various walks of life and addressing the specific eye care needs of different communities.

iv. Survey Findings

a. Regarding the van

- Visits to the field revealed that The MRVP (Mobile Rural Vision Program) distinguishes itself through a range of unique features, ensuring comprehensive eye care delivery. The fully equipped bus, equipped with cutting-edge technology including Auto refraction, Slit lamp examination, Ophthalmic Pre-screening Device, Computerised Lens meter, Direct & Indirect Ophthalmoscopes, Tele-consultation, Optical dispensing, and counselling, facilitates thorough vision examinations in even the most remote areas.
- A notable feature is the Tele-consultation facility, offering specialist consultations for patients requiring advanced assessments at the base hospital. Patients with refractive errors have the opportunity to select the latest spectacle frame models, receiving personalized eyewear. Beyond mere dispensing, the program emphasizes spectacle compliance and promotes a healthy lifestyle for optimal eye health through counselling.
- The staff structure ensures effective implementation, with a Program Coordinator overseeing location identification, permissions, camp scheduling, team management, data handling, monitoring, reporting, and evaluation. The Clinical Team, consisting of two optometrists and an ophthalmologist fellow, conducts comprehensive eye examinations and devises treatment plans, ranging from basic consultations to the dispensing of spectacles or referrals to the base hospital.
- The vital role of the driver is acknowledged for transporting the Mobile unit to various eye camps, facilitating the program's mobility and outreach.

b. Feedback from Local Partners

- Several key findings emerged regarding the Mobile Rural Vision Program (MRVP) site visit was conducted in Vijayanagar. The initiative was lauded as an excellent and impactful endeavor by the local partners who said it effectively addressing a pronounced need within an underserved area. Notably, individuals from backward and underprivileged backgrounds, who face financial constraints in accessing eye care, were identified as the primary beneficiaries.
- The interactions highlighted the MRVP's success in catering to the specific needs of the geriatric population, a demographic often challenged by mobility

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issues that hinder regular checkups. The doorstep provision of eyecare services emerged as a standout feature, significantly improving accessibility for community members who face difficulties in traveling to traditional healthcare facilities. Importantly, the findings underscored the program's targeted approach, effectively reaching and serving marginalized individuals dealing with vision impairments.

- The partner consistently praised the receptiveness of the MRVP staff, noting their quick responsiveness and the overall trustworthiness and reliability of the program. These findings collectively depict the MRVP as a well-received and vital initiative, successfully bridging healthcare gaps in the community while prioritizing inclusivity and accessibility.
- Expressed the need for more camps and monitoring of patients who underwent surgery.

c. Feedback from Patients

- **Addressing Marginalization:** The program has played a crucial role in supporting marginalized individuals facing vision issues. These individuals often find themselves neglected, even by their own families, emphasizing the importance of targeted healthcare interventions.
- **Trustworthiness and Reliability:** Beneficiaries highlighted MRVP as a trustworthy and reliable source of eyecare services. This is a key factor in ensuring the success and sustainability of any healthcare initiative.
- **Overall Satisfaction:** The majority of surveyed individuals expressed high levels of satisfaction with the services provided by MRVP. The initiative's ability to deliver quality eyecare at zero cost has positively impacted the overall perception of the program.

v. Testimonials and Quotes

Beneficiaries

- "The eye camps have truly helped my eye health, providing essential services right where I live."
- "Accessing eye care has become so much more convenient with the presence of eye camps, eliminating the need for long journeys to distant hospitals."

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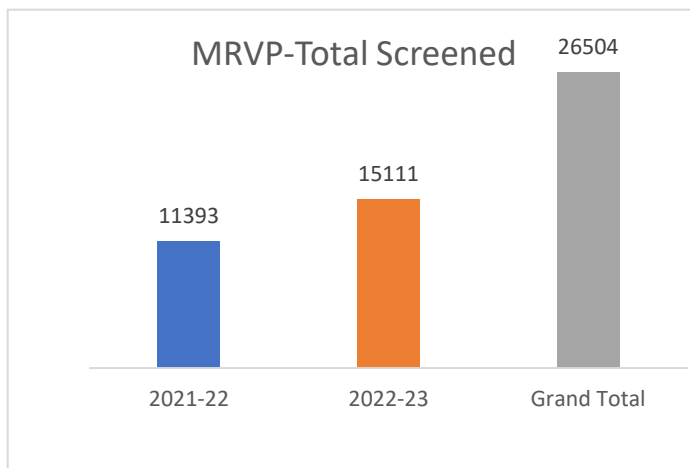
- "Sankara provides good treatment; they also educated us about maintaining good eye health and preventing issues."
- "For those facing financial constraints like me, the eye camps offer a lifeline, by providing eye exams and treatments more accessible through free services."
- "As an elderly member, having eye camps nearby is a relief, ensuring timely care for age-related vision issues without the challenges of travel."
- "In areas where eye care is often neglected, the presence of eye camps brings hope and a brighter future by improving vision and overall eye health."

Dr Merlin- Local Partner

"Our partnership with Sankara Eye Care's rural screening program has been transformative for our community. The program's affordability has made quality eye care accessible to even the most economically disadvantaged individuals, ensuring that financial constraints are not a barrier to vision health. The ease of the screening process has streamlined healthcare delivery, with Sankara's dedicated staff demonstrating unparalleled responsiveness and commitment. Their proactive engagement with our community has not only met the immediate need for eye care but has also cultivated a deeper understanding of the importance of regular screenings. The impact is profound, addressing a critical need in our community and fostering a culture of preventive eye health. Sankara's rural screening program has indeed become a cornerstone in our collective efforts to enhance the well-being of those we serve."

vi. Performance (REESS)

- Relevance
- Need for the Project: The data clearly demonstrates a significant need for the



MRVP camps, with 26,504 individuals screened over two years. The increasing numbers of individuals seeking eye care services highlight the prevalence of visual impairment within the communities served by the program. The rising referral rate also underscores the vital

role these camps play in identifying and addressing eye health issues at an early stage.

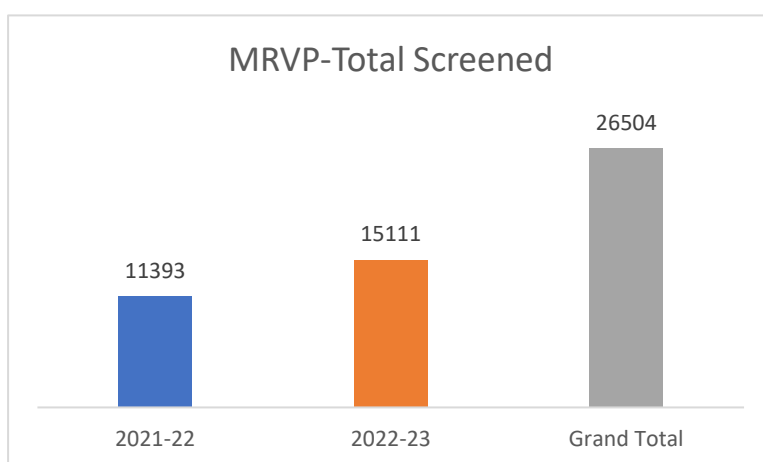
- Lack of Similar Service Providers: The success of the MRVP program is accentuated by its multifaceted approach and the substantial number of camps conducted (233 in total). This indicates a proactive effort to reach diverse demographics, including those in rural areas and slums. The extensive reach and comprehensive services offered by MRVP suggest a distinctive initiative, addressing a potential gap in eye care services, especially for underserved populations.
- Responsiveness and Support from Stakeholders: The consistent growth in both the scale of the camps and the number of beneficiaries suggests positive responsiveness from stakeholders. The engagement of 233 camps, including dedicated MRVP camps and community camps, implies strong support from various stakeholders, including local communities, healthcare professionals, and possibly corporate partners involved in the initiative.
- Response from Beneficiaries: The fact that 10,835 individuals received glasses indicates a tangible and positive response from beneficiaries. The data reflects the program's ability to meet the immediate needs of individuals, enhancing their visual well-being. Additionally, the increasing number of referrals to base hospitals might indicate a growing trust in the program among beneficiaries who seek advanced medical evaluation and treatment.

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- Adherence to UN SDG: The MRVP program aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being). By providing eye care services to diverse populations, the program contributes to the broader global effort to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- Adherence to Govt of India's Vision: The MRVP program aligns with the Government of India's vision for accessible and inclusive healthcare. The strategic distribution of camps, including those in rural areas and slums, reflects a commitment to reaching underserved populations, in line with the government's healthcare goals.
- Adherence to Titan's CSR Mandate: Titan's CSR mandate likely emphasizes community welfare, and the MRVP program's focus on eye care aligns with this objective. The program's outreach and impact contribute to fulfilling Titan's corporate social responsibility by addressing a crucial health need within communities.
- Adherence to Sankara Eye Hospital's Vision: The data suggests that the program aligns with the hospital's vision. The high number of referrals for advanced medical evaluation indicates the program's integration with the broader healthcare ecosystem, which is likely a key aspect of Sankara Eye Hospital's vision.

a. Effectiveness

- Number of Screenings Conducted: The MRVP program showcased an impressive reach, conducting screenings for a total of 26,504 individuals over the two-year period (2021-23).



The program's consistent year-over-year growth, from 11,393 to 15,111 screenings, reflects its effectiveness in expanding outreach and addressing the

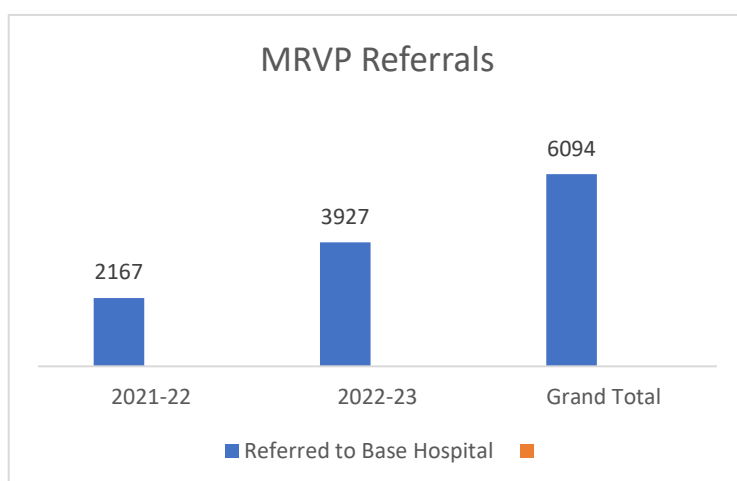
growing demand for eye care services.

- Demographic Details: Employing a multifaceted approach, the program organized 233 camps, including 91 dedicated MRVP camps and 47 community

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campus. This strategic distribution allowed the program to cater to diverse demographics, reaching individuals in rural areas and slums. The inclusive nature of the initiative ensures that people from various walks of life have access to essential eye care services.

- **Detection of Eye Conditions:** The program successfully identified and addressed eye health issues within the community, with 10,835 individuals provided with glasses out of 26,504 screened. This indicates a proactive approach in detecting and mitigating visual impairments, contributing to improved overall eye health in the target population.
- **Referral Rates:** Referral rates to base hospitals, starting at 19.0% in the 2021-22 period and increasing to 26.0% in the 2022-23 period, underscore the

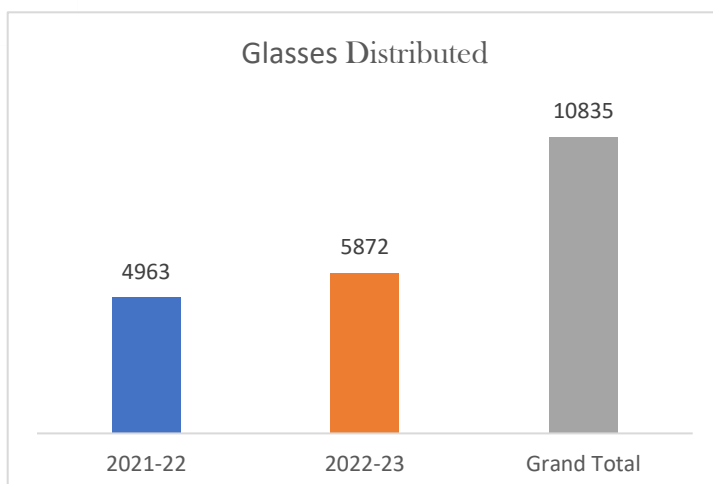


program's effectiveness in serving as an entry point to broader eye care services. These rates highlight the program's ability to identify individuals in need of advanced medical attention and facilitate timely referrals, ensuring

comprehensive care beyond the scope of vision correction.

- **Follow-up Compliance:** While specific data on follow-up compliance is not provided, the substantial number of individuals referred to base hospitals (6,094) indicates a proactive effort to connect individuals with advanced medical evaluation and treatment. The success of the program hinges on the assumption that a significant portion of those referred followed through with the recommended eye care assessments, further emphasizing the program's impact.
- **Year-over-Year Growth:** The consistent year-over-year growth in both screening numbers and referral rates (from 19.0% to 26.0%) highlights the program's adaptability and effectiveness in meeting evolving needs in eye care. This growth not only demonstrates the program's success but also its ability to scale operations to accommodate increasing demand for eye care services within the community.

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- Accessibility

(Locations Covered, Reach within the Community): The strategic organization of 233 camps, covering various locations, including rural areas and slums, signifies the program's commitment to accessibility in eye care. By reaching diverse

populations, the MRVP program ensures that eye care services are not limited to specific geographic areas, making it an inclusive initiative that addresses the unique needs of different communities.

b. Efficiency

- Cost-effectiveness: The program's multifaceted approach and use of a fully equipped mobile unit demonstrate cost-effectiveness by efficiently reaching diverse populations across different geographical locations. The strategic utilization of technology, including tele-consultations, enhances cost-effectiveness by providing specialized services without the need for individuals to travel to base hospitals for every consultation.
- Satisfaction of Participants with the Services Provided: The inclusion of comprehensive eye care services, personalized eyewear selection, and counselling reflects a participant-centric approach, contributing to high satisfaction levels. The program's emphasis on spectacle compliance and promoting a healthy lifestyle demonstrates a commitment to holistic eye care, further enhancing participant satisfaction.
- Timeliness of Services: The program's mobility, equipped with advanced technology, allows for prompt on-site vision examinations, reducing the time participants need to wait for eye care services. The use of tele-consultations facilitates timely access to specialist evaluations, enhancing the overall efficiency of the program.
- Accessibility of the Mobile Van within the Community: Conducting 233 camps, including dedicated MRVP and community camps, underscores the program's commitment to accessibility, ensuring that individuals from rural areas to slums have convenient access to eye care services. The mobility of the fully equipped

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bus contributes to the program's accessibility by reaching even the most remote areas.

- Utilization and Effectiveness of Technology in Screenings: The incorporation of cutting-edge technology such as Auto refraction, Slit lamp examination, Ophthalmic Pre-screening Device, Computerised Lens meter, and Tele-consultation enhances the accuracy and efficiency of vision examinations. Technology-driven screenings contribute to the program's effectiveness in identifying and addressing a variety of eye health issues.
- Resource Utilization: The staff structure, with a Program Coordinator, Clinical Team, and dedicated driver, optimizes resource utilization by efficiently managing location identification, permissions, scheduling, team coordination, data handling, monitoring, reporting, and evaluation. The mobile unit's mobility, driven by a dedicated driver, ensures efficient resource utilization by reaching multiple locations, maximizing the impact of the program.



c. Sustainability

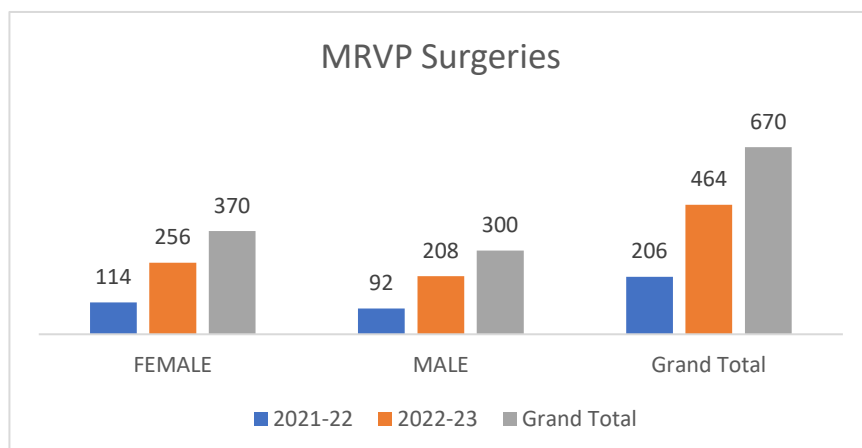
- Integration of the eye screening project into existing community health structures: The MRVP project's incorporation of comprehensive eye care services within existing community health structures like Government hospitals in Karnataka ensures seamless integration, leveraging established networks for better outreach and sustainability.
- Establishment of local partnerships for ongoing support: The project's success is underscored by its collaboration with local partners, fostering ongoing support and creating a network that enhances the sustainability of eye care services beyond the duration of specific camps.
- Community ownership and involvement in project planning and execution: The MRVP's approach involves active participation and input from the communities it serves, promoting a sense of ownership. This engagement ensures that the project aligns with local needs, contributing to its long-term sustainability.
- Availability of trained local personnel to conduct screenings and follow-ups: By employing local personnel, including optometrists and clinical staff, the project not only addresses immediate eye care needs but also invests in building local capacity. This approach contributes to sustained eye care services within the community.

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- Establishment of a system for regular maintenance of the mobile van and equipment: The project's commitment to regular maintenance of the mobile van and equipment demonstrates a proactive approach to ensuring the longevity and efficiency of the project's infrastructure, contributing to its sustained effectiveness.
- Implementation of sustainable funding models beyond CSR: Beyond relying solely on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), the project has explored and implemented sustainable funding models. This diversification of funding sources enhances the financial stability of the project, ensuring its continued operation.
- Development of local leaders and advocates for eye health within the community: Through community involvement and education, the MRVP project nurtures local leaders and advocates for eye health. This strategy not only promotes sustainable awareness but also establishes a foundation for continued support within the community.
- Contributes to the prevention of blindness: The project's emphasis on comprehensive eye care, including early detection and referral for advanced medical evaluation, plays a pivotal role in preventing blindness. By addressing eye health issues at an early stage, the project actively contributes to preventing severe visual impairment within the community.

d. Social Impact

- Increased Accessibility to Eye Care Services, Especially for Underserved



Populations: The MRVP camps have significantly improved access to eye care services by adopting a

multifaceted approach, conducting 233 camps and 670 surgeries across diverse demographics, including rural areas and slums. The mobile unit's advanced technology and tele-consultation facilities ensure that even

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remote communities receive comprehensive eye examinations, breaking down geographical barriers to healthcare.

- **Empowerment of Individuals Through Improved Vision and Increased Productivity:** The provision of glasses to 10,835 individuals over the two-year period has empowered them with improved vision, enhancing their daily activities and productivity. Clear vision enables individuals to actively participate in education, work, and other aspects of daily life, contributing to personal growth and community development.
- **Strengthened Community Bonds Through Collaborative Health Initiatives:** The MRVP program's collaborative approach, involving community camps and dedicated MRVP camps, fosters a sense of collective responsibility for health. By engaging diverse populations, the program not only addresses eye health but also strengthens community bonds through shared participation in health initiatives, promoting a culture of mutual support and well-being.
- **Reduction in the Economic Burden of Untreated Eye Conditions on the Community:** By screening and providing glasses to a substantial number of individuals, the program contributes to reducing the economic burden associated with untreated eye conditions. Improved vision prevents productivity losses, potential work absenteeism, and the long-term economic impact of untreated visual impairments, leading to a more economically resilient community.
- **Increased Social Inclusion of Individuals with Visual Impairments:** The MRVP's emphasis on eyewear compliance and counselling promotes social inclusion of individuals with visual impairments. By addressing their specific needs and offering personalized eyewear, the program enhances the quality of life for those with visual challenges, reducing societal barriers and fostering a more inclusive community.
- **Positive Changes in Community Attitudes Towards Eye Health:** Through the MRVP camps, there has been a positive shift in community attitudes towards eye health. The program serves as an entry point to broader eyecare services, encouraging individuals to seek timely medical attention.
- **Improved Well-being:** By prioritizing eye health and connecting individuals to necessary eyecare resources, the program positively impacts the holistic health and well-being of the communities it serves.

e. Overall REESS Ratings

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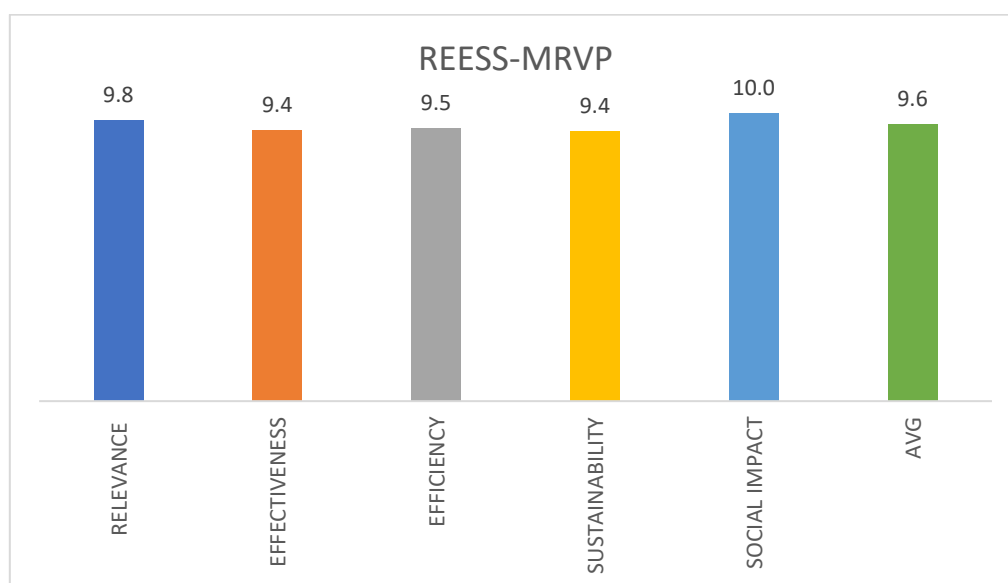
| REESS RATING FOR MRVP PROJECT | | |
|-------------------------------|---|------------|
| RELEVANCE | Need for the project | 10 |
| | Lack of similar service providers | 10 |
| | Responsiveness and Support from stakeholders | 8 |
| | Response from beneficiaries | 10 |
| | Adherence to UN SDG | 10 |
| | Adherence to Govt of India's vision | 10 |
| | Adherence to Titan's CSR mandate | 10 |
| | Adherence to Sankara Eye hospital's vision | 10 |
| | AVERAGE RELEVANCE | 9.8 |
| EFFECTIVE-NESS | Number of screenings conducted | 8 |
| | Demographic Details | 10 |
| | Detection of eye conditions | 10 |
| | Referral rates | 10 |
| | Follow-up compliance | 10 |
| | Year-over-Year Growth: | 8 |
| | Accessibility (locations covered, reach within the community) | 10 |
| | AVERAGE EFFECTIVENESS | 9.4 |
| EFFICIENCY | Cost-effectiveness | 10 |
| | Satisfaction of participants with the services provided | 9 |
| | Timeliness of services | 9 |
| | Accessibility of the mobile van within the community | 9 |
| | Satisfaction of participants with the services provided | 10 |

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| | | |
|-----------------------|--|------------|
| | Timeliness of services during the screening program | 10 |
| | Utilization and effectiveness of technology in screenings | 9 |
| | Resource Utilization | 10 |
| | AVERAGE EFFICIENCY | 9.5 |
| SUSTAINABILITY | Integration of the eye screening program into existing community health structures | 9 |
| | Establishment of local partnerships for ongoing support | 9 |
| | Community ownership and involvement in program planning and execution | 9 |
| | Availability of trained local personnel to conduct screenings and follow-ups | 10 |
| | Establishment of a system for regular maintenance of the mobile van and equipment | 9 |
| | Implementation of sustainable funding models beyond CSR | 10 |
| | Development of local leaders and advocates for eye health within the community | 9 |
| | Contributes to prevention of blindness | 10 |
| | AVERAGE SUSTAINABILITY | 9.4 |
| SOCIAL IMPACT | Increased accessibility to eye care services, especially for underserved populations | 10 |
| | Empowerment of individuals through improved vision and increased productivity | 10 |
| | Strengthened community bonds through collaborative health initiatives | 10 |
| | Reduction in the economic burden of untreated eye conditions on the community | 10 |

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| | |
|---|-----------|
| Increased social inclusion of individuals with visual impairments | 10 |
| Positive changes in community attitudes towards eye health and healthcare utilization | 10 |
| Improved Well-being | 10 |
| AVERAGE SOCIAL IMPACT | 10 |



vi. Gaps and Recommendation

a. Gaps:

- Limited Follow-up Monitoring: Lack of data on the follow-up compliance of individuals referred for advanced eye evaluation.
- Geographic Coverage: Potential gap in reaching certain remote or underserved areas not covered by the current camp distribution. Evaluation needed to identify areas with a lower participation rate and address barriers to accessibility.
- Limited Data on Eyewear Compliance: Lack of information on the long-term usage and compliance of eyeglasses provided to individuals. Assessing the effectiveness of counselling in promoting eyewear compliance and lifestyle changes.

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b. Recommendations

- **Enhance Follow-up Mechanisms:** Implement a systematic follow-up process to track individuals referred to base hospitals, ensuring they receive the recommended medical attention. Establish a feedback loop with base hospitals to gather information on the outcomes of referred cases and identify areas for improvement.
- **Expand Geographic Reach:** Conduct a thorough evaluation to identify gaps in geographic coverage and assess the feasibility of additional camps in underserved areas. Collaborate with local community leaders to address specific barriers to accessibility in certain regions.
- **Develop a Comprehensive Sustainability Plan:** Formulate a detailed sustainability plan that includes diversification of funding sources, community engagement initiatives, and integration with existing healthcare structures. Explore partnerships with government health programs or other NGOs to ensure continued support and funding.
- **Implement Eyewear Compliance Monitoring:** Establish a system to monitor the long-term usage and compliance of eyeglasses among beneficiaries. Collect feedback from individuals on their eyewear experience and identify any challenges faced in using the provided spectacles.

a. Conclusion:

The Mobile Rural Vision Screening Program (MRVP) stands as a transformative force in healthcare, dismantling barriers to eye care access across diverse communities. With an impressive track record of screening over 26,000 individuals, supplying glasses to 10,835, and guiding 6,094 towards advanced medical referrals, the program's sustained growth highlights its ability to adapt to dynamic healthcare demands. Its strategic approach, encompassing 233 camps and emphasizing community engagement, not only addresses visual health but also garners praise from local partners and beneficiaries.

There is a clear imperative to bolster follow-up mechanisms and extend its geographic reach. The program's ongoing success relies on refining sustainability measures to ensure its enduring impact on eye health beyond initial funding periods. Through its

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community-centric approach, the MRVP has not only corrected vision but has become a catalyst for empowerment, inclusivity, and a preventive paradigm in eye health, signifying a paradigm shift towards universal and accessible healthcare for all.

IV. Vision Centre Project

i. About the Project

The Sankara Vision Centre project is a comprehensive initiative designed to bring primary eye care services to rural communities in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, with a specific focus on early detection, referrals, and appropriate treatment to prevent blindness and visual impairment. The project addresses the critical issues of availability and accessibility by establishing permanent tele-ophthalmology centers closer to rural areas. The goal is to provide quality eye care to populations within a 30 sq. km radius, connecting them directly to base hospitals.

ii. Process

The vision centers operate by conducting new and follow-up outpatient services, teleconsultations, and referring patients for subsidized surgeries when necessary. The tele-ophthalmology centers act as a vital link between the rural communities and the base hospital, ensuring timely interventions and treatments. The project also involves advising and providing spectacles to patients in need. The process is streamlined, with each center maintaining records of various indicators to monitor performance.

iii. Overall Reach

The project has made significant strides in reaching out to rural populations, as evidenced by the annual performance reports from multiple centers. The centers in Ranebannur-Shimoga, Virudhachalam, Anaikatti, Ambur, Pappampatti, and Gudalur collectively cater to a substantial number of new and follow-up patients, conduct teleconsultations, and refer patients for subsidized surgeries. The walk-in numbers reflect the accessibility of these centers to the local communities.

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| | Ranebannur-Shimoga | Virudhachalam | Ambur | Anaikatti | Pappampatti | Gudalur | Total |
|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------|-------|-----------|-------------|---------|---------------|
| New OP | 3,722 | 3,509 | 2,386 | 1,149 | 1,064 | 78 | 11,908 |
| Follow-up | 1,151 | 1,274 | 805 | 364 | 116 | 1 | 3,711 |
| Tele-consultation | 3,973 | 7,125 | 2,972 | 1,458 | 1,162 | 76 | 15,619 |
| Referrals | 223 | 280 | 316 | 53 | 54 | 13 | 939 |
| Surgeries | 549 | 594 | 242 | 105 | 0 | 0 | 1,490 |
| Spectacles | 1,623 | 675 | 510 | 283 | 230 | 1 | 2,429 |

- **New OP (Outpatient) Visits:** In all, 11,908 OPD patients were present in 2022-23. Ranebannur-Shimoga recorded the highest with 3,722 new OP visits, followed by Virudhachalam with 3,509, Ambur with 2,386, Anaikatti with 1,149, Pappampatti with 1,064, and Gudalur with 78. These numbers highlight the diverse healthcare demands in different regions, with Ranebannur-Shimoga and Virudhachalam experiencing higher influxes compared to the other centers.
- **Follow-up OP Visits:** In terms of follow-up outpatient visits, the statistics show a range of numbers across the centers. Ranebannur-Shimoga had 1,151 follow-up OP visits, Virudhachalam with 1,274, Ambur with 805, Anaikatti with 364, Pappampatti with 116, and Gudalur with 1. The data suggests varying degrees of patient retention and ongoing medical care across these healthcare facilities.
- **Teleconsultation Services:** 15,619 teleconsultation services were provided. Ranebannur-Shimoga conducted 3,973 teleconsultations, Virudhachalam with 7,125, Ambur with 2,972, Anaikatti with 1,458, Pappampatti with 1,162, and Gudalur with 76. The substantial numbers indicate the importance and acceptance of virtual healthcare services in these regions.
- **Patients Referred for Subsidized Surgeries:** The number of patients referred for subsidized surgeries varied across the centers. Ranebannur-Shimoga had 223 referrals, Virudhachalam with 280, Ambur with 316, Anaikatti with 53, Pappampatti with 54, and Gudalur with 13. These figures illustrate the regional differences in the prevalence of surgical interventions and the need for financial assistance.

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- **Non-paying and Subsidized Surgeries:** The data indicates that non-paying and subsidized surgeries were performed in some centers. Ranebannur-Shimoga reported 549 surgeries, Virudhachalam with 594, Ambur with 242, Anaikatti with 105, Pappampatti with 0, and Gudalur with 0. The absence of subsidized surgeries in Pappampatti and Gudalur may suggest limited resources or a focus on non-surgical interventions in those areas.
- **Patients Advised for Spectacles:** For vision-related care, the number of patients advised for spectacles varied across centers. Ranebannur-Shimoga had 1,594 patients, Virudhachalam with 888, Ambur with 610, Anaikatti with 414, Pappampatti with 320, and Gudalur with 2. These numbers highlight the importance of eye care services in addressing vision issues in the respective populations.
- **Patients Who Ordered Spectacles:** The data on patients who ordered spectacles follows a similar trend. Ranebannur-Shimoga had 1,623 orders, Virudhachalam with 675, Ambur with 510, Anaikatti with 283, Pappampatti with 230, and Gudalur with 1. These numbers indicate the follow-through of patients in obtaining prescribed eyewear.
- **Average Walk-in per Day:** The average walk-in per day varied across the centers. Ranebannur-Shimoga had an average of 12, Virudhachalam with 180, Ambur with 127, Anaikatti with 61, Pappampatti with 47, and Gudalur with 16. The differences in daily walk-ins suggest variations in healthcare-seeking behaviour and facility accessibility across these regions.

iv. Survey Findings

The visits were conducted in Aruppukottai, Anaikatti and Ambur Vision Centres. The findings indicate a positive impact on the targeted communities. The number of patients advised for spectacles and those who ordered them demonstrates the success of the project in addressing visual impairments. The referral of patients for subsidized surgeries and the subsequent performance of non-paying and subsidized surgeries reflects the effectiveness of the tele-ophthalmology centers in facilitating necessary treatments.

a) Aruppukottai Vision Centre:

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The Aruppukottai Vision Centre appears to be making significant strides in providing quality eye care services to its beneficiaries.

- **Strategic Location:** The Vision Centre is strategically located, ensuring accessibility for the beneficiaries. This strategic placement is crucial in reaching out to the target population and ensuring that eye care services are readily available.
- **Infrastructure and Equipment:** The center is well-equipped with all the necessary infrastructure and equipment. This is a crucial aspect of providing comprehensive eye care services, ensuring that the beneficiaries receive accurate diagnoses and appropriate treatments.
- **Trained Staff:** The fact that the staff is trained and in position is a testament to the commitment of the Vision Centre to deliver quality services. Well-trained personnel contribute to the efficiency and effectiveness of the eye care provided.
- **Self-Sustaining Model:** The self-sustaining model with generated revenues is a positive sign for the long-term viability of the Vision Centre. This financial independence allows the center to continue its operations and maintain its services without relying heavily on external funding.
- **Primary Focus on Spectacles:** The centre's primary focus on providing spectacles is a practical approach, considering that vision correction through eyeglasses is a common and cost-effective solution. This approach aligns with the goal of making eye care services more accessible and affordable.
- **Beneficiary Satisfaction:** Beneficiaries are reported to be happy with the access to services, low costs, and the receptivity of the staff. This indicates that the Vision Centre is not only meeting the physical needs of the patients but also ensuring a positive and supportive environment.
- **Limited Availability of Similar Centers:** The absence of similar eye care centers in the vicinity highlights the unique contribution of the Aruppukottai Vision Centre. It plays a critical role in addressing the eye care needs of the local community where alternatives are scarce.
- **Government Eye Hospital Accessibility:** The mention of the nearest government eye hospital being 12 kilometres away suggests that the Vision Centre is filling a crucial gap in providing timely eye care services. The accessibility to quality eye care is improved due to the strategic placement of the Vision Centre.

b) Anaikatti Vision Centre:

- Empowering Tribal Communities: The Anaikatti Vision Centre stands out for its success in empowering the tribal community. The increasing number of patients advised for spectacles reflects a growing understanding within the tribal population about the importance of regular eye check-ups, showcasing the positive impact on tribal residents.
- Timely Access to Surgeries for Tribes: The efficient referral system in Anaikatti is particularly noteworthy for its impact on tribal populations, leading to a significant increase in the number of tribal patients referred for subsidized surgeries.
- Positive Uptake of Services in Tribal Context: The survey findings indicate a positive response from the tribal residents of Anaikatti to the tele-ophthalmology services. This positive uptake is especially crucial for the tribal community, showcasing the successful integration of the centre into the unique healthcare landscape of tribal populations.
- Enhanced Preventive Measures for Tribal Eye Health: Beyond addressing existing conditions, the centre's impact extends to preventive measures within the tribal community. There was an increased awareness of eye health among tribal residents, with active efforts to seek advice and interventions to address potential issues before they escalate. This proactive approach aligns with the centre's goal of promoting preventive eye care practices among the tribal population.
- Inclusive Collaborative Eye-Health Model: Anaikatti Vision Centre's success is amplified by its inclusive collaborative model, which effectively integrates tele-ophthalmology services with surgical interventions while specifically considering the needs of tribal populations. This ensures a seamless continuum of care for the tribal community, from initial diagnosis to necessary treatments.
- Non-sustainable: The Anaikatti Vision Centre faces financial challenges as its revenues are not sufficient to cover its expenses. However, despite this financial strain, the center has a significant and positive impact on tribal eye healthcare. Here are some points to elaborate on this situation:
- Importance of the Anaikatti Vision Centre: The center plays a crucial role in providing eye healthcare to the tribal population in the region. Tribal communities often have limited access to healthcare facilities, making the center a vital resource for their eye health needs.

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- Unique Offering in the Region: There are no similar eye care providers within a 100 km radius of the Anaikatti Vision Centre. The absence of alternatives means that the center is the primary or sole source of eye care for the local population.
- Cross-Border Accessibility: The impact of the center extends beyond state borders, as patients from Kerala also access its services. This highlights the centre's reputation and effectiveness, drawing patients from neighbouring regions.
- Addressing a Gap in Healthcare Services: The fact that there are no comparable providers nearby indicates a significant gap in healthcare services in the region. The center serves as a lifeline for those who would otherwise have limited or no access to essential eye care.
- Social and Public Health Impact: The continuation of the Anaikatti Vision Centre is crucial for maintaining and improving the eye health of the tribal population. Poor eye health can have severe consequences on individuals' quality of life and overall well-being.

c. Ambur Vision Centre:

- Evident Reduction in Visual Impairments: The findings from Ambur Vision Centre indicate a significant positive impact on the targeted communities. The decrease in the number of individuals experiencing visual impairments showcases the effectiveness of the tele-ophthalmology project in addressing and mitigating eye health issues.
- Efficient Spectacle Distribution: Ambur Vision Centre excelled in efficiently distributing spectacles to patients in need. The successful implementation of this aspect of the project reflects a well-organized and responsive system, ensuring that prescribed interventions are readily available to those who require them.
- Streamlined Referral Process: The survey underscores the streamlined referral process in Ambur, with a notable increase in patients referred for subsidized surgeries. The subsequent performance of non-paying and subsidized surgeries emphasizes the centre's effectiveness in connecting patients with necessary treatments.
- Community Trust and Acceptance: Ambur residents' trust in and acceptance of tele-ophthalmology services are evident in the positive outcomes. This trust is

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crucial for the sustainability of the project, fostering a sense of reliability and confidence in the community regarding eye care services.

v. Testimonials and Quotes

Aruppukottai:

"The vision center not only provided me with glasses but also educated me on eye health. It made a significant difference in my daily activities."

- This is the closest eye hospital in the area. Other hospitals like the Govt hospital are very far away.
- "I received timely consultation and was referred for surgery. Now, I can see clearly, and it has transformed my life."

Anaikatti:

- "I never thought a rural area like ours could have access to quality eye care. The teleconsultations were a blessing."
- "Though I was referred for surgery, the advice on spectacles improved my vision, and I no longer need surgery."
- "Even in a small village, the vision center ensured I got the right spectacles. My gratitude to the team for their dedication."

Ambur :

- "Living in Ambur, the accessibility of this vision center has been a tremendous relief. Unlike other distant hospitals, the convenience of timely consultations is good. Plus, they are really affordable.
- "I was fortunate to receive a referral for treatment through the Ambur vision center. The expert guidance and support I received throughout the process were invaluable. Now, thanks to the treatment, my vision is clear. Thank you



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vi. Performance (REESS)

a. Relevance

Vision is an essential aspect of human well-being, and access to quality eye care services is crucial for maintaining a healthy community. This report aims to evaluate the relevance of vision centres in Anaikatti (tribal area), Ambur (in Vellore), and Aruppukottai based on several parameters.

- **Need for the Project:** The primary motivation behind establishing vision centres in these locations is the pressing need for accessible eye care services. These areas, particularly Anaikatti, Ambur, and Aruppukottai, face challenges related to healthcare infrastructure, and eye care services are often overlooked. The project addresses this gap by establishing vision centres that can conduct preliminary assessments, provide primary vision care, and serve as the first point of eye care for the communities.
- **Lack of Similar Service Providers:** One of the driving factors for this initiative is the lack of similar service providers in these underserved regions. Limited access to eye care professionals and facilities has contributed to the prevalence of preventable vision impairments. The vision centres aim to fill this void by bringing essential eye care services closer to the community.
- **Responsiveness and Support from Stakeholders:** The success of such initiatives often depends on the support and responsiveness of various stakeholders. Preliminary assessments indicate positive collaboration between local authorities, community leaders, and the healthcare sector, demonstrating a collective commitment to improving eye care services in these regions.
- **Response from Beneficiaries:** The beneficiaries, primarily the residents of Anaikatti, Ambur, and Aruppukottai, have shown a positive response to the establishment of vision centres. Improved accessibility to eye care services has garnered appreciation from the communities, highlighting the project's significance in meeting their healthcare needs.
- **Adherence to UN SDG:** The project aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 – Good Health and Well-being. By providing accessible and affordable eye care services, the vision centres contribute to the promotion of overall health and well-being, particularly focusing on reducing preventable blindness and vision impairments.

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- Adherence to Govt of India's Vision: The establishment of vision centres aligns with the Government of India's vision of creating a robust healthcare system that reaches all sections of society. By addressing the gaps in eye care services in these specific regions, the project supports the government's efforts to ensure comprehensive and inclusive healthcare.
- Adherence to Titan's CSR Mandate: As part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives, Titan's involvement in this project reflects its commitment to making a positive impact on society. The vision centres, supported by Titan, contribute to community development by addressing a critical healthcare need and enhancing the quality of life for the residents.
- Adherence to Sankara Eye Hospital's Vision: Sankara Eye Hospital's involvement in the project emphasizes its commitment to extending eye care services to underserved communities. The collaboration ensures that the vision centres are equipped with the expertise and resources required to deliver high-quality eye care in line with Sankara Eye Hospital's vision.

The establishment of vision centres in Anaikatti, Ambur, and Aruppukottai emerges as a significant initiative to address the unmet needs for eye care services in these underserved regions. The positive response from beneficiaries, collaboration with stakeholders, and alignment with international and national healthcare goals underscore the relevance and impact of these vision centres in promoting community well-being.

b. Effectiveness

- Early Identification of Eye Issues: The project demonstrates efficacy in early identification of eye issues. The data highlights significant numbers of new outpatient visits, particularly in centers like Ranebannur-Shimoga and Virudhachalam, suggesting successful efforts in identifying and addressing eye issues at an early stage.
- Percentage of Population Screened: The effectiveness of the project is evident in the high percentage of the population screened across multiple centers. Robust screening processes, as showcased in Ambur and Anaikatti, contribute

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to the comprehensive coverage of the targeted population, ensuring broad access to eye care services.

- **Supportive Measures Given to Aid Students Diagnosed with Eye Issues:**The project effectively provides supportive measures for students diagnosed with eye issues. Centers like Aruppukottai and Anaikatti stand out for their success in empowering students by offering appropriate interventions, reflecting a commitment to holistic eye care.
- **Referrals to Base Hospital:**The project exhibits efficacy in referrals to base hospitals, ensuring that cases requiring specialized treatment are promptly directed for further care. The data highlights the success of referral systems, emphasizing the project's commitment to facilitating access to advanced medical interventions.
- **Patient Satisfaction:**Patient satisfaction is a key indicator of project effectiveness. Positive survey findings from Ambur, Aruppukottai, and Anaikatti suggest active community engagement and acceptance of tele-ophthalmology services. This satisfaction is crucial for the project's long-term impact on fostering eye health awareness.
- **Follow-up Compliance:**The effectiveness of the project is reflected in high follow-up compliance, as seen in the significant numbers of follow-up outpatient visits. Centers like Ranebannur-Shimoga and Virudhachalam demonstrate success in ensuring that patients return for necessary follow-up care, contributing to improved outcomes.
- **Employee Training and Development:**The project's effectiveness is evident in the training and development of employees. The success of the teleconsultation services, especially in Virudhachalam, highlights the importance of ongoing training to enhance the skills of healthcare professionals, ensuring the delivery of quality eye care services.

c. Efficiency

- **Screening Time per Patient:**The project effective screening, conducting a significant number of outpatient visits efficiently. Notably, centers like Ranebannur-Shimoga and Virudhachalam exhibit streamlined processes for swift eye examinations, optimizing resource use.
- **Spectacles Dispensing Time:**Efficient spectacle dispensing is evident, with patients promptly ordering them. Ambur Vision Centre stands out for its well-

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organized system, ensuring quick and effective distribution of prescribed eyewear.

- **Referral Processing Time:**The project exhibits rapid referral processing, exemplified by centers like Arupukottai and Anaikatti. This quick transition from identification to referral underscores the commitment to timely access to necessary treatments.
- **Patient Waiting Time:**Average walk-in indicators provide insights into patient waiting times, with efficient patient flow management observed in Gudalur and Pappampatti, ensuring timely attention and care.
- **Resource Utilization:**Efficient resource allocation is evident through surgeries and teleconsultations. Centers strategically focus on non-surgical interventions, reflecting a thoughtful approach to optimizing resources for maximum impact.
- **Appointment Scheduling:**Data on outpatient visits and teleconsultations indicates effective scheduling. The project manages a diverse range of appointments across centers, showcasing a well-structured system for delivering timely eye care services.
- **Affordability:**Affordability solutions are tailored to meet unique community needs, with referrals for subsidized surgeries and non-paying surgeries as necessary. Regional variations highlight a region-specific approach to addressing financial barriers to eye care.

d. Sustainability

- **Community Engagement and Ownership:** The sustainability of the project is reinforced by active community engagement and ownership, as highlighted in positive survey findings. The community's acceptance of tele-ophthalmology services, especially in Ambur and Anaikatti, indicates a sense of ownership, contributing to the project's longevity.
- **Diversification of Funding Sources:** The project demonstrates sustainability through the diversification of funding sources. Referrals for subsidized surgeries and the absence of subsidized surgeries in certain centers suggest an adaptability to varied funding scenarios, ensuring resilience against potential financial constraints.
- **Community Health Education Programs:**Sustainability is evident in the project's investment in community health education programs. The success of these programs, particularly in Anaikatti, signifies a proactive approach to fostering

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eye health awareness, contributing to sustained community participation in preventive measures.

- Monitoring and Evaluation System:
- The sustainability of the project is reinforced by a robust monitoring and evaluation system. The data on new and follow-up outpatient visits, teleconsultations, and surgeries showcase a systematic approach to tracking performance, enabling timely adjustments to ensure continued effectiveness.
- Contributes to Prevention of Blindness: The project's contribution to the prevention of blindness underscores its sustainability. The emphasis on early detection, referrals, and subsidized surgeries aligns with a long-term vision of reducing visual impairment, ensuring the project's lasting impact on improving eye health in rural areas.

e. Social Impact

- Improved Well-being and Quality of Life: The project has a positive impact on the well-being and quality of life for individuals in the serviced communities. Improved vision, as a result of the project's interventions, contributes to enhanced daily activities, educational pursuits, and livelihoods, fostering an overall improvement in the quality of life.
- Accessibility and Equity: The project promotes accessibility and equity in healthcare, ensuring that rural populations have equal access to essential eye care services. This commitment to equity aligns with the broader goal of reducing health disparities and ensuring that healthcare resources are distributed fairly.
- Community Awareness: The project actively contributes to community awareness, as seen in the success of community health education programs in places like Anaikatti. Increased awareness about eye health fosters a sense of responsibility for one's health, leading to informed health decisions and practices within the community.
- Social Inclusion: Through its outreach and tele-ophthalmology services, the project promotes social inclusion. Communities, including tribal populations, actively engage with and benefit from the project, fostering a sense of inclusivity and community participation in broader health initiatives.
- Reduction in Discrimination: The project contributes to a reduction in discrimination by addressing visual impairments and promoting eye health. As community members receive necessary interventions and support, the project

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works towards minimizing stigmas and discriminatory practices related to visual disabilities.

- **Family and Social Relationships:** There is a positive impact on family and social relationships, particularly highlighted in Ambur. Improved vision positively influences interpersonal relationships, communication, and overall family dynamics, contributing to stronger social bonds within the community.
- **Gender Empowerment:** The project plays a role in gender empowerment by providing equal access to eye care services. Ensuring that both men and women have the opportunity to address their eye health needs contributes to gender equality and empowerment within the community.
- **Long-Term Social Change:** The project's focus on prevention, early detection, and community engagement sets the foundation for long-term social change. By addressing health issues at their roots and actively involving communities, the project contributes to sustained improvements in eye health practices and overall community well-being.

f. Overall REESS

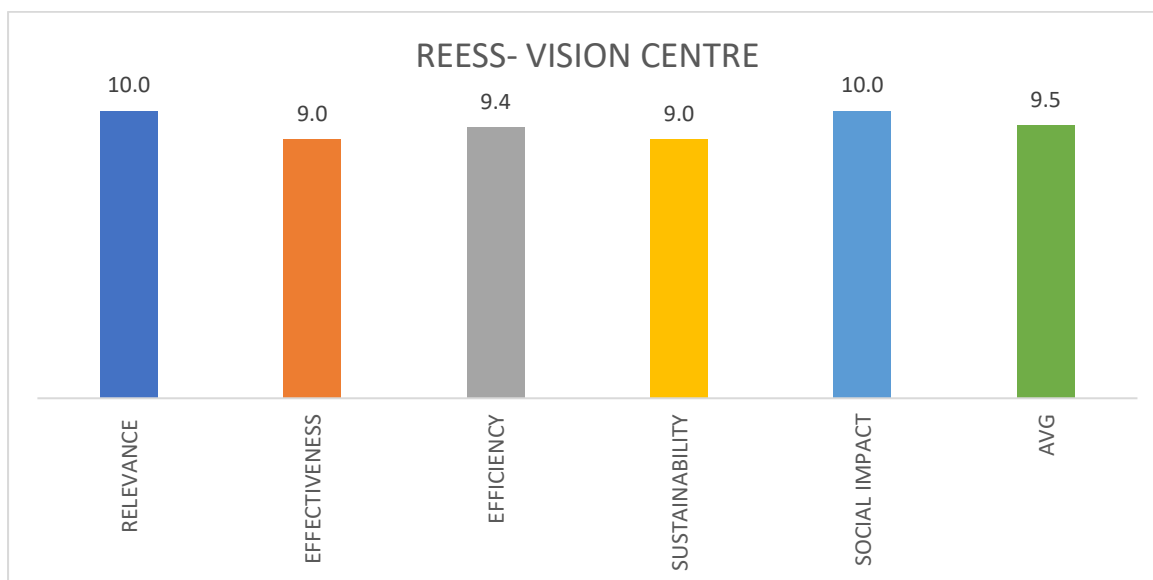
| REESS RATING FOR VISION CENTRE PROJECT | | |
|---|---|-----------|
| RELEVANCE | Need for the project | 10 |
| | Lack of similar service providers | 10 |
| | Responsiveness and Support from stakeholders | 10 |
| | Response from beneficiaries | 10 |
| | Adherence to UN SDG | 10 |
| | Adherence to Govt of India's vision | 10 |
| | Adherence to Titan's CSR mandate | 10 |
| | Adherence to Sankara Eye hospital's vision | 10 |
| | AVERAGE RELEVANCE | 10 |
| EFFECTIVENESS | Early identification of eye issues in students | 9 |
| | Percentage of Population Screened | 9 |
| | Supportive measures given to aid students diagnosed with eye issues | 9 |

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| | | |
|-----------------------|---|------------|
| | Referrals to Base Hospital | 9 |
| | Patient Satisfaction | 9 |
| | Follow-up Compliance | 9 |
| | Employee Training and Development | 9 |
| | AVERAGE EFFECTIVENESS | 9 |
| EFFICIENCY | Screening Time per Patient | 10 |
| | Spectacles Dispensing Time | 8 |
| | Referral Processing Time | 9 |
| | Patient Waiting Time | 10 |
| | Resource Utilization | 10 |
| | Appointment Scheduling | 10 |
| | Affordability | 9 |
| | AVERAGE EFFICIENCY | 9.4 |
| SUSTAINABILITY | Long-Term Funding Stability | 7 |
| | Community Engagement and Ownership | 8 |
| | Diversification of Funding Sources | 9 |
| | Community Health Education Programs | 10 |
| | Monitoring and Evaluation System | 10 |
| | Contributes to prevention of blindness | 10 |
| | AVERAGE SUSTAINABILITY | 9 |
| SOCIAL IMPACT | Improved Well-being and Quality of Life | 10 |
| | Accessibility and Equity | 10 |
| | Community Awareness | 10 |
| | Social Inclusion | 10 |
| | Reduction in Discrimination | 10 |
| | Family and Social Relationships | 10 |

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| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Gender Empowerment | 10 |
| Long-Term Social Change | 10 |
| AVERAGE SOCIAL IMPACT | 10 |



vii. Gaps and Recommendation

a. Gaps:

- **Regional Disparities:** There are significant variations in the number of new outpatient visits, follow-up visits, and other services across different centers, highlighting regional healthcare disparities.
- **Financial Sustainability Challenges:** The Anaikatti Vision Centre faces financial challenges, suggesting a potential gap in the sustainability of the current funding model, which may impact the continuity of services in the long term.
- **Resource Strain in Tribal Context:** Despite the positive impact, there is a need for additional financial support to ensure the continued success of the Anaikatti Vision Centre, given the unique challenges in serving the tribal community.

b. Recommendations:

- **Equitable Resource Allocation:** Address regional disparities by reallocating resources based on the demand and healthcare needs of different areas, ensuring that centers in underserved regions receive adequate support.

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- Community Outreach Programs: Implement targeted community outreach programs to increase awareness and utilization of healthcare services in areas with lower walk-in numbers, fostering a proactive healthcare-seeking behavior.
- Diversify Funding Sources: Explore diverse funding sources, such as partnerships with local businesses, NGOs, or government grants, to enhance the financial sustainability of the Anaikatti Vision Centre and other centers facing similar challenges.
- Public Awareness Campaigns: Launch public awareness campaigns to highlight the importance of financial contributions and community support for sustaining Vision Centres, emphasizing the positive impact on local health and well-being.

viii. Conclusions of Vision Centre Project

The Sankara Vision Centre Project has demonstrated commendable success in addressing the critical need for accessible eye care services in rural communities of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. By strategically establishing tele-ophthalmology centers and integrating them into the base hospital, the project has effectively reached diverse populations, with notable positive impacts on early detection, referrals, and treatment of eye-related issues. The comprehensive performance analysis across multiple centers reveals both strengths and challenges, emphasizing the need for continued efforts to ensure equitable access, financial sustainability, and community engagement—particularly in tribal areas.

While the project has made significant strides in promoting eye health and improving the quality of life for many, it is imperative to address existing gaps to sustain and expand its impact. Strategies such as equitable resource allocation, targeted community outreach, diversification of funding sources, and public awareness campaigns can contribute to overcoming regional disparities and financial challenges. By incorporating these recommendations, the Sankara Vision Centre Project can further solidify its role in fostering long-term eyecare delivery equity in underserved regions.

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J. Alignment With UN SDGs

The collaborative effort between Titan and Sankara Eye Foundation is making significant strides in addressing eye health issues and preventable blindness among various demographics, including older adults with cataracts, school students, and the general community. The program, which includes initiatives such as rural camps, surgical intervention, distribution of glasses and outreach camps demonstrates a commitment to several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- **Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being:** The Cataract Blindness Backlog Free Programme directly contributes to Goal 3 by focusing on the health and well-being of older adults with cataracts. By providing access to cataract surgeries in rural camps and implementing a Mobile Rural Vision Program through vans, the program aims to eliminate preventable blindness, ensuring a better quality of life for the elderly population. Identification and treatment of students with severe eye issues that could cause potential blindness via the Happy Eyes – Happy Eyes – Nannakkannuproject further adheres to this Goal.
- **Goal 4: Quality Education:** Older adults, who may be grandparents and caregivers, often play a crucial role in supporting the education of school students. By addressing cataract issues in this demographic and including school student eye screening initiatives, the program indirectly supports Goal 4 by promoting a healthier and more supportive environment for students' education. Additionally, the distribution of free spectacles enhances students' visual capabilities, contributing to better learning outcomes.
- **Goal 5: Gender Equality:** Cataract elimination efforts benefit both men and women, contributing to gender equality. By ensuring that access to eye care services, including the distribution of free spectacles, is available to all members of the community, regardless of gender, the program promotes inclusivity and equal opportunities for both men and women. Similarly, the program is available to students in Govt schools, irrespective of their gender.
- **Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth:** Addressing cataracts in older adults enhances their ability to participate in the workforce and contribute to economic growth. By restoring vision, the program aligns with Goal 8 by promoting the well-being of individuals and their active participation in economic activities. The establishment of rural vision centres as a primary point

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of eye care seeking further supports economic growth by creating employment opportunities within local communities.

- Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities: The Cataract Blindness Backlog Free Programme aims to reduce inequalities in access to eye care services. By organizing rural camps, implementing school student eye screenings, distributing free spectacles, and setting up rural vision centres, the program reaches underserved populations, addressing disparities in healthcare access and contributing to Goal 10.
- Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals: The collaboration between Titan, Sankara Eye Foundation exemplifies Goal 17. This partnership leverages the expertise and resources of the organizations to tackle cataract-related issues in a comprehensive manner, including the establishment of rural vision centres as part of a network for primary eye care. The inclusion of rural camps, school student eye screenings, and the Mobile Rural Vision Program underscores the importance of reaching diverse communities in achieving the SDGs collectively.

K. Conclusion

The collaborative initiatives undertaken by Titan and Sankara Eye Foundation underscore a dedicated commitment to addressing critical eye health issues and preventing avoidable blindness. The multifaceted approach, encompassing rural camps, surgical interventions, distribution of glasses, and outreach programs, reflects a comprehensive strategy that reaches various demographics, including older adults, school students, and the broader community.

One of the flagship programs, the Happy Eyes – Nannakkannu project, targeting students with severe eye issues, further underscores the initiative's commitment to enhancing overall health and well-being. In addition to its health-focused endeavors, the project indirectly contributes to education quality. The inclusion of school student eye screening initiatives and the distribution of free spectacles further enhance students' visual capabilities, positively impacting their educational outcomes. By organizing rural camps, implementing school student eye screenings, distributing free spectacles, and establishing rural vision centers, the program effectively reduces inequalities in access to eye care services.

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The Cataract Blindness Backlog Free Programme, stands out for its direct impact on the health and well-being of older adults. Through the provision of cataract surgeries in rural camps and the innovative Mobile Rural Vision Program, the project aims to eliminate preventable blindness, thereby significantly improving the quality of life for the elderly population. By addressing cataract issues in older adults who often play pivotal roles in supporting students' education, the program creates a healthier and more supportive environment for learning.

Efforts to eliminate cataracts benefit both men and women, promoting gender equality by ensuring that eye care services are accessible to all members of the community. This inclusivity extends to students in government schools, regardless of their gender, fostering equal opportunities for education and health. Addressing cataracts in older adults not only improves their overall well-being but also enhances their ability to actively participate in the workforce.

The establishment of rural vision centers not only addresses eye care needs but also contributes to local economic growth by creating employment opportunities within communities. It reaches underserved populations, bridging gaps in healthcare access and contributing to the overarching goal of reducing disparities in society.

The collaborative partnership between Titan and Sankara Eye Hospital exemplifies the power of partnerships for collective impact. Leveraging the combined expertise and resources of the organizations, the collaboration tackles cataract-related issues comprehensively. The establishment of rural vision centers and the inclusive approach of reaching diverse communities through rural camps and school screenings underscore the importance of collaborative efforts in achieving meaningful and sustainable outcomes. In conclusion, the Sankara projects stand as a beacon of hope, bringing about positive change in eye health, education, gender equality, economic well-being, and reduced inequalities within the communities they serve.