



Shrimati Tarabai Desai Charitable Ophthalmic Trust

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Annual Report 2020 – 21



The Smt. Tarabai Desai Charitable Ophthalmic Trust was founded in 1980 by Dr. N.C. Desai, FRCS to provide affordable eye care to the indigent. Founded with private funds of Dr. Desai, our vision is to eradicate avoidable blindness from Rajasthan, especially the western Thar Desert region. Our mission is to provide affordable eye care services to all and free to those who cannot afford it. Since its inception in 1980, the Tarabai Trust has helped serve the very poorest. Under the stewardship of its trustees the activities of the trust have grown from strength to strength and we take pride in presenting the achievements of the trust in this annual report. The Trust's charitable work relies much on the support from our benefactors to whom we want to express our sincere thanks. Their continued support is of vital importance to us [more on page 4].

Mobile Eye Camp Unit

The past year has truly been an annus horribilis for the world, with the Wuhan SARS-CoV2 virus wreaking havoc globally. The pandemic has still not abated it will be perhaps another year before it ends. The pandemic has taken a heavy toll in terms of human mortality and morbidity as well as having a negative impact on economic growth worldwide. A nationwide lockdown was imposed on March 22, 2020 and eye camps were banned by the Govt. Therefore, sadly, in this year we could not organize any free outreach camps.

Tarabai Desai Eye Hospital

The base eye hospital is a modern institution equipped with the latest diagnostic and therapeutic equipment. Its non-profit services are available to a wide cross section of the population. A token registration fee is charged to all the walk-in patients examined at the hospital, which remains valid for a

period of a month. Surgical patients have to pay a fee determined by a sliding scale : the normal fee is half the prevalent charges in for-profit hospitals, full fee for premium lenses is charged to patients on health insurance or those who can afford it. The indigents are not charged at all.

In this year due to the lockdown, travel restrictions and other pandemic imposed hardships, the productivity at the hospital has taken a hard hit, with only those patients in dire need of eye care visiting the hospital. In this financial year a total of 16,358 new patients were examined and treated at the hospital at subsidized charges. From these new outpatients cases 21 patients were examined and treated without charging registration fees. In addition, 596 old cases coming for follow-up were also examined and treated. All follow-up cases are examined free of charge. Thus a total of **16,954 new and follow-up cases** were treated at the hospital in this financial year.



In this financial year 394 eye operations were performed at the hospital [including 346 Cataract and 5 Glaucoma surgeries]. We also undertook emergency operation for eye injuries and phacogenic glaucoma during the pandemic, when other hospitals were turning away patients. Details of OPD and surgery statistics can be found in Table 2, which is appended at the end of this report. Because of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions the physical targets achieved this year have dropped and are one third of the previous years.

| FY 2015-16 | Outpatient Treatment (New + Old) | Cataract Surgery | Glaucoma Surgery | Extra-ocular & Others | Total |
|------------|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| Total | 16,358 + 596 = 16,954 | 346 | 5 | 43 | 394 |

Our COVID-19 related emergencies included cases of work place injury, UV-C exposure keratitis, cavernous sinus thrombosis, artery obstruction and black fungus. Our success stories during the lockdown include a one and a half year old boy on whom emergency surgery was performed cut on the brow which was bone deep so that the skull was exposed. Another young boy was treated in the emergency for a joss stick [Agarbatti] burn with complete visual recovery.

WhatsApp consultations at no charge had been opened since the beginning of the Lockdown and countless patients were given phone based free consultations by our staff over the extended lockdown. The consultations were for ocular emergencies and post-op follow-up. We do not have a record of all these patients but we are thankful to our patients for their faith in us and to our staff for their dedication to help.



This year we acquired a new Fundus fluorescein angiography unit and 5 surgical instrument sets for the hospital. These valuable additions will improve our diagnostic and surgical skills

Laser Treatment Facility

Two of the most advanced laser systems for the treatment of Retinal diseases, After-cataract and Refractory glaucoma are installed at the hospital. The laser treatment is available to all at a nominal non-profit charge only and free to the indigent. In this financial year we performed 27 laser treatments out of which 1 (4.0 %) were free of cost.

| FY 2018-19 | Non-profit | Free | Total |
|-------------|------------|------|-------|
| Diode Laser | - | - | - |
| Yag Laser | 27 | 1 | 28 |
| | 27 | 1 | 28 |

Dr. Narendra Bhandari Orthoptics Clinic

The Dr. Bhandari Orthoptic clinic was started in 1999 with a generous donation from Dr. Narendra C. Bhandari of the USA. It offers orthoptic treatment at token charge by trained staff. A total of 32 children were given orthoptic exercises in the clinic in this financial year. Each child received 10 days or more of treatment at the clinic.

| FY 2018-19 | Convergence | Amblyopia Rx | Token Charge | Free |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|------|
| April - March 2019 | 17 | 15 | 32 | - |

World Sight Day 2020

We celebrated the WSD amidst the pandemic by organizing a free treatment camp at the hospital. It was attended by 133 patients and six free cataract surgeries were performed. The most tragic and poignant story is of a little boy whose grandfather brought him to us for the WSD camp. He had Retinoblastoma, an eye cancer that had spread to other parts of the body too. Sadly they had taken him to shamans and traditional healers for several months and by this time it had



spread. It only shows that public awareness about the importance of timely and proper eye care is still lacking and needs to be highlighted in all public fora.

Academics & Scientific Research

Our staff members were panelists or moderators in several webinars including one on Managing Expenses Post COVID for Doctors and Hospital [May 22,2020]. This year we undertook a study to find out the impact of online studies on graduate and postgraduate medical students. It was published in the prestigious Indian Journal of Ophthalmology [Assessment of online teaching as an adjunct to medical education in the backdrop of COVID-19 lockdown in a developing country–An online survey. Ind J Ophthal: November 2020 - Volume 68 - Issue 11 - p 2399-2403. DOI :10.4103/ijo.IJO_2049_20].

International Award

The Surgical Eye Expeditions International is a US based INGO that supports volunteer work around the world. We have been associated with them our sight saving mission in the Thar Desert region of India since 1994. This year Dr Sanjiv Desai, Medical Director of our hospital was honored by SEEI with the Humanitarian of the Year Award. It's a great honour for our Trust as well as the people of Jodhpur to be recognized by SEEI for our humanitarian work.



Int'l award for Jodhpur ophthalmologist

Jodhpur: SEE International, a US-based global organisation to provide essential and transformative eye care and surgery around the world has chosen Sanjiv Desai from India for its Humanitarian of the Year 2020 award. Jodhpur-based Desai is one of the three ophthalmologists from across the globe chosen for their outstanding dedication and achievement as volunteer ophthalmologists committed to ending preventable blindness.

Other two ophthalmologists for the award include Debra Messina, a traveling US ophthalmologist and Steven Zelko, a Santa Barbara vision care physician. Volunteering as an international host ophthalmologist for SEE International in Jodhpur since 2007, Desai invites doctors to India to train local staff and create a more sustainable eye care system in the area. TNN

Our Benefactors

The current COVID-19 pandemic has devastated the globe and has had a negative impact on economic growth worldwide. One of the ways it hit our hospital hard was by loss of revenue by considerably reducing the flow of walk-in patients and bringing free eyecamps to a standstill. On top of this there were increased expenses to cover the cost of PPE kits and other anti-COVID measures. Fortunately many donors helped us in our work during these trying times and I specially wish to thank them for their support in our times of need. The first to respond was **Shri SN Moondra** and the Jodhpur Manav Sewa Trust who donated scores of PPE kits to the hospital so that we could continue eye

operations. Numerous medical companies donated masks, oximeters, thermal guns and other paraphernalia and to them we express our gratitude. **Shri Om Prakash Soni** of Shree Ram Industries was so gracious as to donate four oxygen cylinders to not only keep the Operation Room running but also in anticipation that we could convert to a COVID management hospital in case of emergency. Generous cash donations were made by **Shri Jayesh Kumar, Smt Vidhya Bhandari, Shri Amit Mangaldas Shah, Shri Rajan Gandhi, Mr. Gunter Heyden** and the UK Friends of the Tarabai Desai Eye Hospital and the **Epson College** and to all of them we offer our profound and profuse thanks.

Trustees of the Tarabai Trust

1. Mrs. Kalyani Desai, BSc., Chief Trustee.
2. Mr. Mahaveer Kanstia, FCA, Proprietor, Kanstia & Co.
3. Mr. M.C. Singhvi, BSc, Managing Director, Ases Chemicals.
4. Mr. Avirat Majmudar, BE [Mech], Director, Supra Engineering.

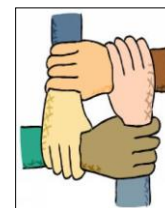
Our Vision : To eradicate Avoidable Blindness from Western Rajasthan.

Our Mission : To provide affordable eye care services to all and free to those who cannot afford it.

Donate to the Tarabai Trust

Help give the gift of sight to the underprivileged – together, we can make a big difference. Here are some possible ways in which you could help. Dedications and named donations are also possible as are endowments are larger gifts to ensure a continuum of services. All donations from Indian tax payers are **exempted from taxation under section 80G** and will help us buy equipment for the new wing or perform free cataract surgery on the aged and the indigent.

HELPING HANDS



DONATION SCHEME

| S No | Category | Rupees | [USD] |
|------|--|--------------------|-----------|
| 1. | Sponsorship for one cataract operation | Donate Rs. 2000 | [\$ 30] |
| 2. | Sponsorship for one major operation [eg, Glaucoma, Retina etc.]. | Donate Rs. 10,000 | [\$ 150] |
| 3. | Sponsorship of one Eye Camp up to 20 patients | Donate Rs. 40,000 | [\$ 600] |
| 4. | Sponsorship of one Eye Camp over 20 patients | Donate Rs. 100,000 | [\$ 1400] |

DEDICATION SCHEME

We are currently finishing the work on the new extension to the hospital and in recognition of a donation towards new equipment, instruments and furnishings we will give lasting recognition.

| S No | Category | Rupees | [USD] |
|------|--|--------------------|-------------|
| 1. | Have your name added to the List of Friends displayed in our reception area. | Donate Rs. 101,000 | [\$ 1450] |
| 2. | Have a room named after you or a loved one. | Donate Rs. 15 Lakh | [\$ 21,000] |

| | | |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 3. | Have an operating theatre named by you [3 available]. | Inquire for details |
| 4. | Have a floor named by you [3 available] | Inquire for details |

For named donations, a permanent plaque will be affixed outside the room, operation theatre or floor.

Gifts-in-Kind : Equipment, Instruments and medical supplies are always welcome.

Table 1

Hospital Statistics 2020-21

| Month | New + Old Outpatient Cases | Free Out-Patient cases | Cataract Surgery | Glaucoma Surgery | Extra-ocular + Other | Total Operation |
|--------------|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| April | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| May | 111 + 0 | - | - | - | - | - |
| June | 1322 + 0 | - | - | - | - | - |
| July | 1476 + 0 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| August | 1164 + 0 | 11 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 12 |
| September | 1394 + 0 | - | 12 | - | 1 | 13 |
| October | 1452 + 0 | 21 | 19 | - | - | 19 |
| November | 1289 + 0 | 18 | 27 | - | 2 | 29 |
| December | 1629 + 0 | 12 | 53 | - | 7 | 60 |
| January | 1870 + 178 | 16 | 82 | - | 8 | 90 |
| February | 2147 + 256 | 11 | 74 | 1 | 10 | 85 |
| March | 2483 + 164 | 20 | 69 | 2 | 14 | 85 |
| Total | 16,337 + 596 | 110 | 346 | 5 | 43 | 394 |