

Internship
at
LV Prasad Eye Institute in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh

By
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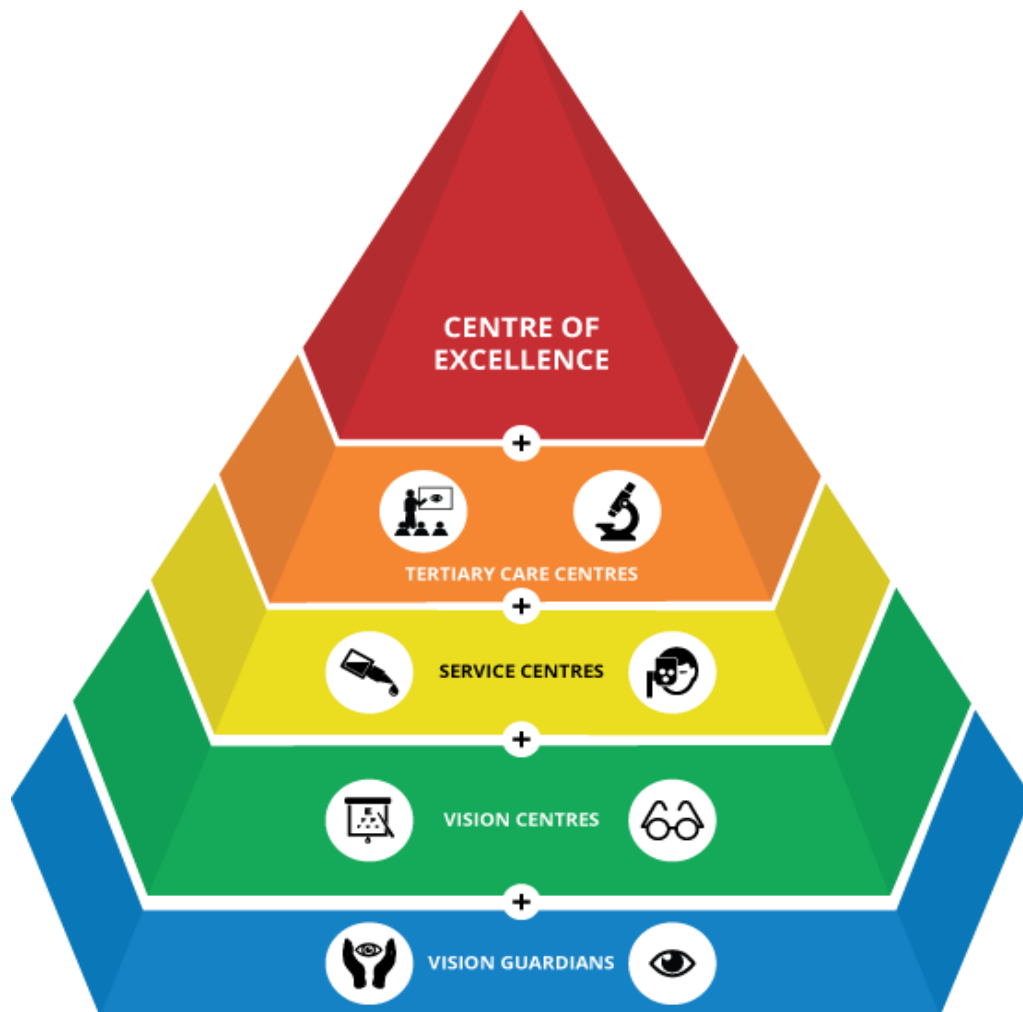
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Organization Introduction – LVPEI:

Established in 1987, L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI), a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Prevention of Blindness, is a comprehensive eye health facility. The Institute has ten active arms to its areas of operations: Clinical Services, Education, Research, Vision Rehabilitation, Rural and Community Eye Health, Eye Banking, Advocacy and Policy Planning, Capacity Building, Innovation and Product Development.

Fig 1: L. V. Prasad Eye Institute Pyramidal Model of Eye Care Service Delivery



- At the base of the pyramid are **VISION GUARDIANS** that represent community involvement. Vision guardians comprise trained young people who keep a close vigil on the eye health of about 5,000 persons within communities, through door-to-door surveys and other informal means.
- **VISION CENTRES** form the next level and serve the primary eye health needs of the community. Drawing upon local talent and staffed by persons from the local community, each Vision Centre caters to a cluster of villages, individually servicing a target of around 50,000 people.
- **SECONDARY EYE CARE CENTRES** are networked to the Vision Centers and each serves a population of 500,000 persons. These centers provide care that can diagnose the complete range of ophthalmological diseases and offer high quality surgical care for cataract - the most common cause of blindness. These centers draw upon local talent too, with team members recruited from the local community and trained at LVPEI's advanced tertiary centers.
- **TERTIARY CARE HOSPITALS / TRAINING CENTRES** are linked to Secondary Centers and each serves a population of 5 million persons. These centers provide a comprehensive range of services and also serve as training centers to the secondary centers.
- **CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE** are linked to tertiary centers and each serves a population of 50 million persons. These centers treat complex diseases, train the trainers in subspecialties & rehabilitation and engage in advocacy.

Vision centre is an innovative concept of L V Prasad Eye Institute for provision of primary eye care in remote rural areas. Each vision centre is intended for serving a population of 50,000-1,00,000. Each vision centre is staffed by 1 year trained Vision Technician recruited from the local community. The centre is free-walk in clinic, well equipped to provide basic eye screening (without pupillary dilatation) & refraction. A small optical outlet is an integral part of a vision centre, which is equipped with a good stock of frames. Each Vision Centre is attached to one Secondary level eye centre. Ten such vision centers are attached to one secondary centre. The secondary centre acts as a nodal point for fitting & distribution of spectacles for all the vision centers and also provides administrative and logistics support.

Objectives:

- To increase access to systematic eye screening through the permanent committed facility
- To increase awareness about refractive error related Visual Impairment and blindness to all those screened at Vision Centre
- To improve access to affordable spectacles for all those in need
- To identify people with blinding conditions and refer to the next level for further management
- To link the activities of Vision Centre with school health/primary health/panchayat/NGO activity

Apart from the objectives, also provide Information, Education and Communication on issues related to eye care in the community, other core activities of the vision centre can be summarized by “**3R’s**”

- ✓ ***Recognition of common blinding conditions***
- ✓ ***Refraction and dispensing of spectacles***
- ✓ ***Referral to higher levels of care, as per the need.***

Major functions of this vision centre:

- This Vision centre will run its day – day operations by a “Vision Technician “trained at L V Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad
- This Vision Centre will provide ongoing quality eye care at door steps of the entire population
- This Vision Centre while focusing on correcting refractive errors also identifies and educates people with other blinding conditions to go to attach secondary centre for further medical and surgical interventions.
- The strategy of Vision Centre is to provide screening facility at NO cost while sustaining through small profits generated from the sale of spectacles that help to meet the recurrent costs of the Vision Centre