

Sankara Eye Foundation, **India**

Internship Report Submitted To



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For the partial fulfilment for the award of the degree of

Master of Business Administration (MBA)

in

Rural Management (RM)

Academic Year: 2020-2022

By

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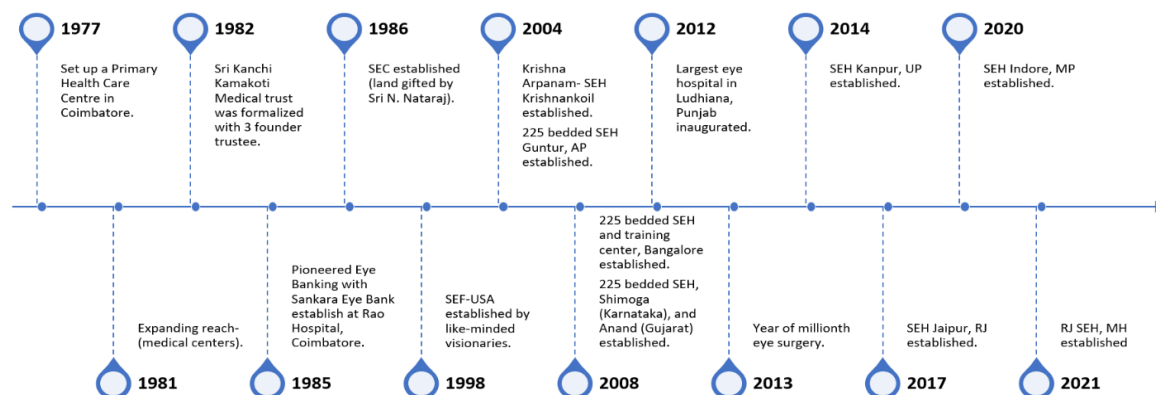
2022

Sankara Eye Foundation

Since last 45 years, Sankara Eye Foundation India (SEFI) has been committed to providing quality eye care services to the poor and marginalized sections of society. In 1977, Dr. R.V. Ramani and Dr. Radha Ramani established a small primary health care center, today Sankara is one of the largest and most rapidly growing social enterprises with 12 hospitals equipped with world class facilities and robust infrastructure and providing services to rural and urban populations in India. Sankara has received tremendous encouragement from the medical community and donors since its inception in the mid-80s.

- **Vision** – High quality, cost effective, readily available eye care at the doorsteps of Rural India
- **Mission** – To eradicate needless blindness.
- **Gift of Vision** is a flagship initiative of Sankara Eye Foundation India to provide free eye care at the doorsteps of rural India.

Milestone:



Working Model

- It created the unique 80:20 - Free Paying model. About 80% of the beneficiaries of the program are rural poor who receive free eye care, while the remaining 20% come from rich and affluent segments of society who pay for their treatment, thus providing a cross subsidy to the free services. Gift of Vision's rural outreach program benefits 80% of Sankara's beneficiaries.
- An eye camp is conducted in a hub and spoke model, where the eye camps are conducted in a large village or town and prospective patients from surrounding villages are invited to attend the camps. To begin with, a free eye examination is provided to patients selected for surgery at the Base Hospital. Bringing patients to the camp is a collaborative effort between local panchayats, zilla parishads, Rotary clubs, Lions clubs, and respected community members.

Over ten million lives have been transformed by Sankara's Community Outreach Model since its inception and continues to do so. Sankara's Pan India footprint continues to grow, serving more states and districts, but it is aware that Primary Eye Care is important, especially at the village level, so the concept of Vision Centers is being introduced across Sankara's network.

Technology is also fully used by the organization for targeted interventions. "As a result, all hospitals are now linked together, and data is transmitted instantly.". Sankara has developed its own app, SERVIS - Sankara Electronic Remote Vision Information System." "The app allows hospitals to map diseases, determine where diabetes, cataracts, and hypertension are prevalent, and decide where to set up camps."

Specialties:

- Cataract & IOL Clinics
- Glaucoma Services
- Cornea & Refractive surgery
- Vitreo-Retinal Surgery
- Oculoplasty and Aesthetic Services
- Ocular Oncology
- Pediatric Ophthalmology

- General Ophthalmology
- Ocularistry
- Vision Therapy
- Assistive Vision and Rehabilitation
- Eye Banking and Cornea Transplantation

Programs

1.1. Sankara Eye Bank

In 1985, when eye banking had not yet taken off in our nation and India was reliant on Sri Lanka for donor eyes, the Sankara Eye Bank was established against all odds and great criticism. Thousands of awareness campaigns were conducted as a result of the necessity of eye donation and the need to make it a People's Movement in order to succeed. Gujaratis and Jains in Coimbatore established the precedent by donating the eyeballs of their loved ones, inspiring and motivating every other group to embrace Eye Donation as the greatest humanitarian cause. A pair of eyeballs is being donated every day on average.

1.2. Gift of Vision

Identifying patients in need, Sankara's Field Workers, or Vision Health Visitors (VHV) undertake a preliminary survey encompassing a 40–50 km radius surrounding the camp community. Demographic, socioeconomic, general health, eye health, referral, and follow-up information are gathered. Those who have an eye condition are directed to a centralised camp on a fixed day.

▪ Rural Eye Camps

On the specified day, Sankara's Team of Eye Surgeons and Staff travel from the local Sankara Eye Hospital to the camp location. Patients are subjected to treatment at the camp location.

- Registration
- Vision Screening by the Staff
- Examination by Eye Surgeon

- Lab Investigations
- Fitness Evaluation for patients selected for surgery
- Counselling
- Eye Care with compassion
- Patients who have been identified for surgery are transferred to the Base Hospital, where they are accommodated, inspected, and treated appropriately with IOL implants, medications, and food, all at no cost. All the operated patients are examined one month later at the camp site as part of a Medical Audit and Qualitative Analysis.

Till now, a total of 31,141 had been conducted, out of which 56,21,347 individuals had been screened and 21,76,746 surgeries had been done by Sankara Eye Hospitals.

Process flow: -

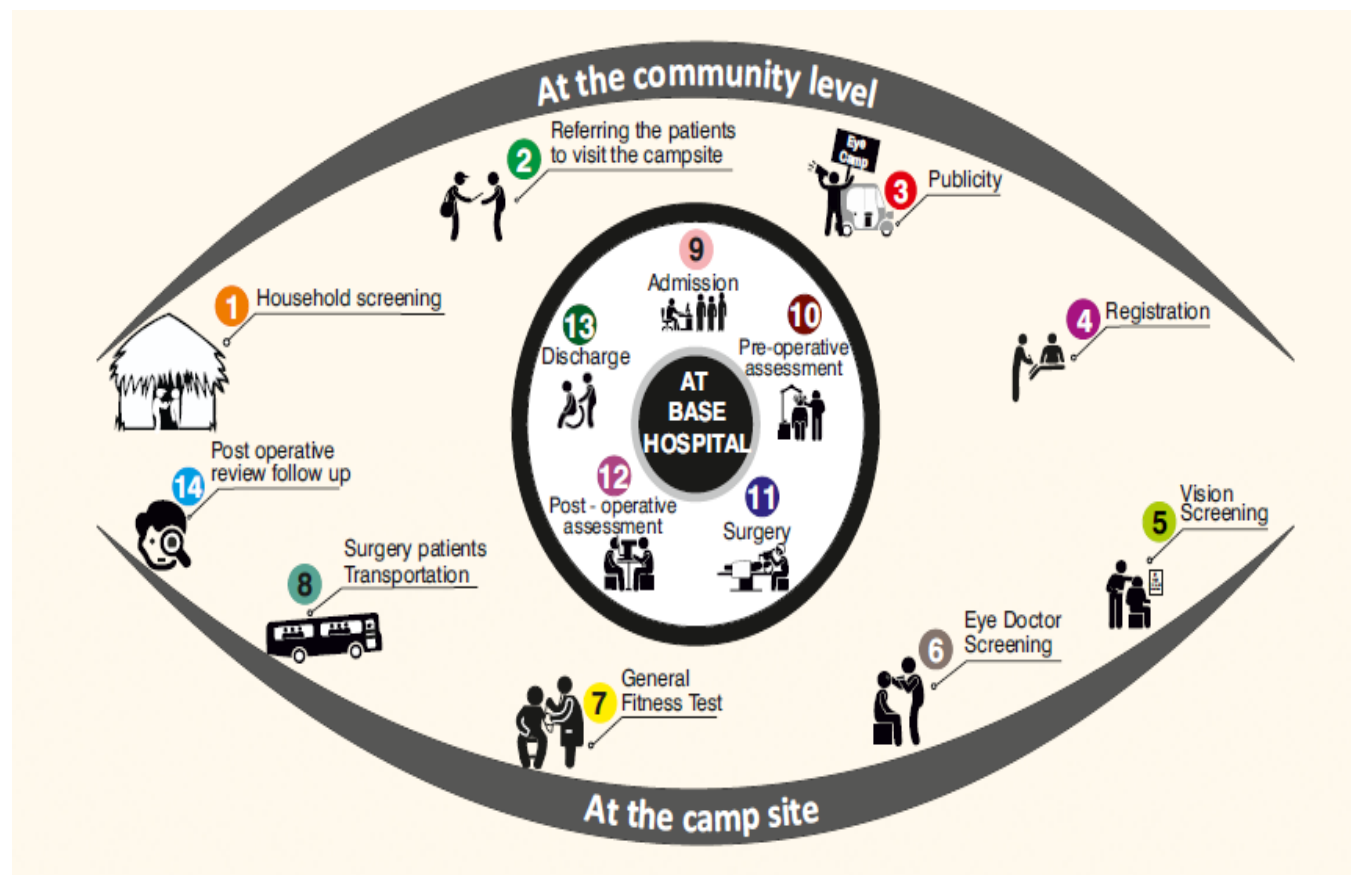


Fig: Process flow of Community Outreach

- **At the Community Level**

- Household Screening
- Referring the patient to visit the Campsite
- Publicity

- **At the Camp site**

- Registration
- Vision Screening
- Eye Doctor Screening
- General Fitness Test
- Surgery Patient Transportation

- **At the Base Hospital**

- Admission
- Pre-operative Assessment
- Surgery
- Post-operative Assessment
- Discharge

- **Review Camp**

1.3. Diabetic Retinopathy

Compounding the global challenge of detecting and treating DR in people with diabetes is the fact that an estimated 175 million people with diabetes are undiagnosed and thus unaware of their health condition, including getting eye examinations to rule out the presence of its most serious complication, DR. Diabetic Retinopathy (DR) is a leading cause of visual impairment worldwide, and its prevalence is increasing at an alarming rate, with working-age adults being the most affected. Globally, the prevalence of any DR among diabetics was estimated to be 34.6 percent, with proliferative DR being 6.9 percent and diabetic macular edema being 6.81 percent. The

estimated prevalence of vision-threatening DR (VTDR) is 10.2 percent. In a global context, these figures translate to 93 million people with DR and 28 million with VTDR.

Objective:

Sankara established the Diabetic Retinopathy Program (DRP) with the following goals to address and control blindness caused by diabetic retinopathy:

- Sankara Eye Foundation India will establish a comprehensive diabetic care network.
- Diabetic eye disease screening and treatment should be extended to the rural population.
- Staff should be trained to screen and raise awareness.
- To identify patients, use existing outreach screening clinics.
- To set up a mobile screening camp.
- Connect with rural development NGOs and primary care clinics to monitor and assist diabetic patients.

Approach:

- Field workers conduct door-to-door screening.
- Urine sugar testing is available at outreach screening clinics.
- Diabetes patients are referred to a local satellite centre.
- Blood sugar levels are checked at a satellite facility, followed by additional confirmatory tests.
- Ophthalmoscopy, both direct and indirect Photography of the fundus.
- Diabetic Retinopathy cases that have been confirmed are referred to the base hospital.
- Base Hospital provides free treatment.

1.3. RAINBOW

"Poor eyesight in childhood impairs performance in school, at job, or in a social circle, and has a detrimental impact on the child's future." This initiative provides preventative eye care by evaluating children in schools on a regular basis for previously undiagnosed visual abnormalities. It is heartening to note that Sankara's Rainbow Programme has so far examined over 6 million

children in India, with a focus on children aged 4 to 16 who attend Elementary, Middle, and High Schools. The Mission Headquarters is Sankara Eye Hospital in Coimbatore, a legacy of a 45-year-old eye care campaign. Sankara Coimbatore has developed in terms of membership, impact, reputation, and relevance during the last 45 years, helping to convert Sankara into a thriving pan-India community eye care organisation. Sankara Coimbatore, a centre for innovation, reaches out to communities through one of the most organised outreach initiatives, Vision Centres, and the Electronic Remote Visual Information System. Our local community helped Sankara Eye Hospital expand through all stages of growth.

1.4. MAITRI

Every year, thousands of patients are left in a lifetime of despair due to a variety of incurable eye diseases. Vision rehabilitation can help visually impaired people cope with vision loss, continue their education, travel safely, manage household chores, achieve career goals, and enjoy leisure activities. Vision rehabilitation is a treatment and education process that assists visually impaired people in achieving maximum function, a sense of well-being, a personally satisfying level of independence, and the highest possible quality of life. The amount of vision lost is not the focus of vision rehabilitation. It is a methodical procedure that utilises the residual functional vision. Although vision rehabilitation cannot restore lost vision, it can teach you how to live a more independent life.

This project aims to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to people who are blind or visually impaired at their home. It enables them to improve their quality of life and maximise their functional, social, psychological, and economic independence. As a result, visually impaired people can live an independent and productive life.

Sankara Eye Hospital in Bangalore established the Vision Rehabilitation Center in 2013 with some basic facilities. with assistance from ARM Embedded Technologies Private later. Ltd. was transformed into a distinctive, all-inclusive ARM Vision Rehabilitation Center in Bangalore. The fully functional centre. was formally opened on December 9th, 2014, at Bangalore's Sankara Eye Hospital.

Objective:

- To provide comprehensive vision rehabilitation services to the community.
- Ensure that those who have been diagnosed with low vision and irreversible blindness receive timely rehabilitation services at their homes.
- To increase public awareness of services for vision rehabilitation.
- To provide people with vision impairments with appropriate assistive vision devices.

Sankara Eye Hospital Bangalore launched a Mobile Vision Rehabilitation Vehicle called " MAITRI " on January 18, 2017, with the goal of providing comprehensive vision rehabilitation services to people with visual impairment at their doorstep. By donating a fully functional vision rehabilitation vehicle to the hospital, Microsoft India agreed to work with Sankara to make mobile vision rehabilitation a reality. The vehicle is outfitted with the most up-to-date infrastructure to give visually impaired people thorough vision rehabilitation training.

1.5. Vision Centres

Sankara Eye Hospital, Coimbatore, has 37 Vision Centres across many districts.

- In Tamil Nadu, these are in Mannargudi, Krishnagiri, Perur, Annur, Sathya Mangalam, Aruppukottai, Rajapalayam, Kulithalai, Kallakurichi, Polur, Anaikatti, Cuddalore, Ambur, Papampatti, Karamadai, and Sivakasi.
- In Karnataka, these are in Shikaripura, Channagiri, Ranebennur, Hosudurga, Honnali and Chalakere.
- In Gujarat, these are in Kapadvanj, and Balasinore.
- In Rajasthan, which is in Neem Ka Thana.
- In Uttar Pradesh, these are in Kannauj, Jhinja, Chhibramau, and Safipur.
- In Madhya Pradesh, which is in Dewas.
- In Andhra Pradesh these are in Krosuru, Darsi, and Gurazala.
- In Karnataka, which is in Sira.
- In Ludhiana, these are in Millerganj, and Samrala.
- In Maharastra, that is in Uran.

Upcoming Vision Centres

- Kanchikachrela (Under Guntur Unit), Andhra Pradesh
- Jandrapeta (Under Guntur Unit), Andhra Pradesh

Existing Hospitals

- Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu),
- Coimbatore City (Tamil Nadu),
- Krishnankoil (Tamil Nadu),
- Shimoga (Karnataka),
- Bangalore (Karnataka),
- Guntur (Andhra Pradesh),
- Ludhiana (Punjab),
- Anand (Gujarat),
- Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh),
- Jaipur (Rajasthan),
- Panvel (Maharashtra),
- Indore (Madhya Pradesh),

Upcoming Hospitals

- Hyderabad (Telangana)

1.6. Sankara Academy of Vision

The Sankara Academy of Vision (SAV) was legally formed in 2013 in response to the need for improved monitoring of various training programmes. Sankara Academy of Vision seeks to provide value-based eye care education by leveraging research and technology to create capacity for long-term and repeatable eye care delivery. Beginning with the Post-Graduation in Ophthalmology (DNB), University-recognized Fellowship programmes in a variety of Ophthalmology subspecialties, Undergraduate and Post-Graduate Optometry, the Vision Care Technician course for 10+2 pass female students, the Post-Graduate Diploma in Hospital

Management, and various hospital management and soft skill development programmes come under the purview of SAV. Presently, SAV provides ophthalmology educators, practitioners, and fellow students with research opportunities.

Key Activities/ Projects Undertaken Other than Dissertation

- Induction and Observation of all departments process in hospital.
- Handling down to Mr. Lakshmi Narayanan (Outreach Head) and Mr. Vishnu Babu (Manager).
- Observation of Day camp in Bharathi Women's College, Kallakurichi.
- Household survey in Thotiyam (Chinnasalem), and Othakkalmandapam.
- Observation in camp of Chinnasalem, and Sankarapuram.
- Feedback survey from Chinnasalem Patients.
- Visited Kallakurichi Vision Center.
- Outreach Data Analysis and validation of all 12 units.
- Data quality and consistency of all Units.
- Time and process flow observation in Community OT and Ward.
- Analysis of SERVIS data for-Field performance of VHV (Vision Health Visitors) & events of 6 Units- Jaipur, Indore, Bangalore, Coimbatore, Kanpur, and Ludhiana).
- Coordination and observation in Community OT and Ward.
- One day process flow observation in Eye Foundation-Coimbatore.
- Monitored Outreach Dashboard.

Key Learnings from Internship

- Hospital Flow and process interactions of patient's communication and satisfaction.
- Quality care in Outreach activity and camp performance of patients.
- Outreach progression and Data Analysis.
- Household and Feedback Survey Process in Outreach.
- Camp Process and Management.
- Outreach MIS process and dashboard monitoring.