

**Internship
At
Sankara Eye Hospital, Coimbatore**

**By
Aditya Saha**

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The IIHMR University, Jaipur

1, Prabhu Dayal Marg, Sanganer, Airport

Jaipur-302029, Rajasthan

Ph.: 0141 3924700, Fax: 3924738

Website: www.iihmr.edu.in

INTRODUCTION:

Our vision is one of our most essential senses, since it accounts for 80 percent of what we experience. We will reduce our chances of blindness and vision loss by shielding our eyes. The eyes are the body's windows. They are the only place where blood vessels can be viewed in their natural state without a surgical procedure. With this visual inspection of the blood supply, Doctors/Optometrists can spot many health conditions and vision problems just by taking a glance into your eyes.

It is a proven fact that more than 80% of the Blindness is preventable and curable and to achieve this, **Sankara Eye Foundation, India (SEFI)** started with the mission to eradicate the needless blindness.

Sankara Eye Foundation, India (SEFI) is a Not-for-profit Healthcare Organization, started 44 years ago which is one of the largest Community Eye Care networks globally with a pan India presence in 11 states.

In **May 1977, Dr. R.V. Ramani** and his wife, **Dr. Radha Ramani** set up a Primary Health Care Centre for the needy with the mission to serve poor people which later blossomed as **Sankara Eye Foundation - India**, under **Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Medical Trust**.

Gift of Vision is a flagship initiative of Sankara Eye Foundation India which aims to provide high quality, cost effective and readily available community eye care at the doorsteps of Rural India.

I am grateful to be a part of this esteemed organization and daily I am learning something new in my internship period here at Sankara Eye Hospital, Coimbatore which is helping me in lot many ways to learn and explore on how to cater better eye care services to the common people.

OBJECTIVES OF INTERNSHIP:

The main objective of my internship is to

- Explore the learning opportunities.
- Understand the process flow and how the hospital works.
- Enhance my patient care skills through observation as well as through direct patient management and interaction.
- Get an exposure to various optometric and primary eye care practices.
- Observing and handling different patient populations.
- Exploring opportunities for enhancing interpersonal skills, attitudes and values to establish a successful career path.
- Develop ability to critically analyze and apply solutions for smooth functioning of hospital/vision centers.

ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE:

Sankara Eye Foundation India (SEFI) is a Not-for-Profit organization committed to provide quality eye care services to the poor and marginalized sections of the society since last 43 Years. Started as a small primary health care center in the year 1977 by Dr R.V. Ramani and

Dr Radha Ramani, today Sankara is one among the largest and fastest growing social enterprise managing 11 super specialty eye care hospitals located across Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Their Network of Hospitals is equipped with state-of-the-art technology to perform advance eye surgeries. Sankara Eye Foundation India is a protagonist of National Eye Health Care Movement in India, continuously transforming the eye care delivery structure through various Eye Care Initiatives across age groups, cutting edge technology, scientific approach, innovation, research & training. The origins of Sankara Eye Foundation can be traced back to the Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Medical Trust.

The Model of Sankara Eye Foundation, India is an 80-20 model. This unique 80:20 model has found itself as a case point in the Harvard Business School. The model aims to provide best in class eye care treatment to everyone where 80 % of the beneficiaries are the underprivileged who receive treatment for free, while remaining 20% are the affluent sections of the society, cross subsidizing the total cost of treatment for poor population. The hybrid revenue model ensures that each of the Sankara hospitals is financially self-sufficient in five years. Apart from the 12 Sankara Hospitals spread across the country, Sankara Eye Foundation India has 36 vision centers also spread across 9 states of the country and is planning to setup at least 50 more VCs across different states of the country in upcoming years. Vision Centre is basically a permanent eye care facility in the community which acts as the first point of interface of the population with comprehensive eye care services provided by an exclusive skilled eye care worker.

Under the Umbrella of Sankara Eye Foundation India, there are various Programs running to provide best in class eye care services to all sections of the Society especially to poor and needy people. Gift of Vision is a flagship initiative of Sankara Eye Foundation India which aims to provide high quality, cost effective and readily available community eye care at the doorsteps of Rural India.

Under this Program

- Vision Health Visitors (VHV) or Sankara's Field Workers conduct a preliminary survey covering a region of 40–50 km around the camp village.
- They collect demographic, socio economic, general health, eye health, referral, and follow-up details.
- Those identified with an eye problem are referred to a centralized camp scheduled on a predetermined date.
- Rural Eye Camps conducted on the designated day.
- Sankara's Team of Eye Surgeons and Staff travel to the camp site from the local Sankara Eye Hospital.

- At the camp site, patients undergo.
 - ✓ Registration
 - ✓ Vision Screening by the Staff
 - ✓ Examination by Eye Surgeon
 - ✓ Lab Investigations
 - ✓ Fitness Evaluation for patients selected for surgery
 - ✓ Counselling Eye Care with compassion

- Identified patients for surgery are transported to the Base Hospital, provided with accommodation, investigated, treated accordingly with IOL implants, medicines and food, all free of cost.
- One month later, all the operated patients are reviewed at the camp site as a Medical Audit and Qualitative Analysis.

In 1996, SEFI initiated a new programme for school children named "**Rainbow**" with the aim of providing a promising future for visually disabled children. **Maitri, Diabetic Retinopathy, Nanna Kannu, and Women Empowerment Programs** are among the SEFI Umbrella's programmes.

- In **March 2019, Dr. R.V. Ramani** was awarded **Padma Shri** (a highest civilian award) by Govt. of India for his magnanimous and generous efforts for the betterment and social upliftment of the society by providing free, affordable and quality eye care treatment to all sections of the society and especially to the poor and needy.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY ORGANIZATION:

Sankara Eye Hospital, Coimbatore is a 500 bedded hospital having 50 beds for paying patients and 450 beds reserved exclusively for non-paying patients and total of 5 fully functional OTs. Sankara Eye Foundation is committed to clinical excellence and provides best in class eye care treatment to all sections of the society especially to the poor and needy people.

The Organisation provides various Super Speciality Services to provide best in class eye care services to all sections of the society. These services include -

- Cataract
- Glaucoma
- Cornea
- Lasik
- Orbit and Occuloplasty
- Paediatric Ophthalmology
- Ocular Oncology
- Vitreo Retina
- UVEA
- Vision Therapy

The hospitals are equipped with the most modern facilities with highly skilled and dedicated specialists and highly motivated staff. It provides variety of services under one roof from a routine vision examination to LASIK eye surgery and other complex eye care surgeries.

The Hospital also provides range of Eye Care Diagnostic Services also to its patients that primarily includes –

- A-Scan
- Ultrasonography
- FFA
- HFA
- Pachymetry
- Corneal Topography

- OCT
- Green Laser
- YAG Laser

Apart from super speciality Services, the hospital also provides services such as:

- Eye Bank
- Cafeteria
- Transport
- Medical Insurance Facilities (Both Govt and Private Insurance Schemes)
- Contact Lens Services
- Computer Vision Clinics
- Opticals
- Pharmacy
- Counselling
- Housekeeping
- Inpatient Rooms and Day care Lounge.

SUPPORT SERVICES:

Medical Insurance (Private Insurance & Govt. Insurance Scheme)

Sankara Eye Foundation, India is committed to provide quality ophthalmic treatment and care with the highest levels of skill, competence and concern, by adopting the latest technologies, techniques and practices in prevention, diagnosis and treatment in all ophthalmological specialties.

KEY ACTIVITIES/ PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN OTHER THAN DISSERTATION:

Schedule of Activity:

- Lab Normal Range as per NABL standards.
- Patient relation vertical to effectively communicate with patients.
- Analysis of IP targets as per medics.
- Eye Camp.
- Eye Bank SOP.
- SMS Validation.

KEY LEARNINGS FROM INTERNSHIP:

During my Internship at Sankara Eye Hospital, Coimbatore, I have learnt a lot as –

- It has helped me to get trained in execution of a spread of administrative tasks and enhance my decision-making and problem-solving skills.
- It has provided me an exposure to a broad range of association management issues and given me an opportunity for one-on-one interaction with senior-level executives which has boosted my self-confidence.
- It helped me improve my Communication Skills and given me chance to take up tasks independently and execute it thus building my leadership qualities.
- It has also helped me to do time management and finish tasks under given timelines.
- This internship has given me chance to work with people of different cultures and states which helped in observing the cultural diversity of the organization more closely.

- Since this Organization is Primarily a Charity Organization, it has brought a tremendous change in my behavior during the internship and has made me develop more sense of empathy, compassion, care and love for the poor and needy which I am sure will definitely help me in being a better person in future.
