

***Sandhani International Eye Bank Project***  
**4th Quarter**  
**(1<sup>st</sup> December 04- 28th February, 2005)**

Project Profile for Strengthening Eye Banking Capacity of SNEDS

**Partner Names:**

- Sandhani National Eye Donation Society and
- ORBIS International

**Project Name:**

Strengthening Eye Banking Capacity of SNEDS

**Project Duration:**

March 2004 to February 2008

**Project Goal:**

Reduce avoidable corneal blindness in Bangladesh

**Project Objectives (Outcome):**

By the end of the project, restore or improve sight of at least one thousand individuals

## INTRODUCTION:

In this quarter, we continued some of our activities of the preceding quarter. In this quarter we mainly tried to improve upon the technical side of eye banking which included cornea evaluation, preservation with our trained staff from LVPEI, Hyderabad. We got twenty five MK. Medium from LVPEI with the help of ORBIS International Bangladesh country office. It is a remarkable achievement of the eye bank. Previously we used to extract whole eye ball from the donors and did not maintain standard eye banking procedure due to unavailability of MK medium. It is worth mentioning here that we have already started cornea excision and preservation through MK medium.

## OUR ACTIVITIES:

The experience that the Consultant Ophthalmologist and Eye bank technician gained from the training program helped us immensely to implement the international standard for modern eye bank. We believe that the continuous support from the partners along with the technical proficiencies of our staffs would soon enable us to fulfill the core goal of the eye banking i.e. put into service the international standards for cornea retrieval, assessment and preservation. The quarter was very significant for the project as most of the eye bank equipment were purchased in this quarter.

Like our previous quarters activities, we worked in DMCH (Dhaka Medical College Hospital) in three shifts round the clock. We regularly made follow up of our activities at DMCH. We tried our best to fulfill the target of Eye Ball Collection in this quarter. The collected Eye balls were immediately distributed to the renowned surgeons at Dhaka of Bangladesh for the grafting. Please refer to the tables and appendixes below for further details.

## QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT:

THE REPORTING PEPORT							
YEAR	Quarter (TICK AS INDICATOR)				DATE		
1 <sup>st</sup> year	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	DAY	MONTH	YEAR
				√	10	04	2005

**Appendix-1 (Table) (Quarterly summarized of Sandhani International Eye Bank's Activities)**

**Appendix- 2 (Scenario of Eye Ball Collection)**

**Appendix- 3 (Scenario of Eye Collection and Grafting)**

### **Administrative Activities:**

Eye Bank Project Director Dr. Md. Moshir Rahman had resigned from his post on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2005. Now we do not have any project Director till date. Project Director will be appointed soon.

### **Educational Materials Development:**

According to the project proposal emphasis was given for the awareness of the mass people for the eye donation in the quarter. Bearing the project goal we arranged a meeting with the country's prominent organizations involved in developing educational materials. The meeting was held on project office on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2004. SNEDS project committee's members and ORBIS's representatives were also present in the meeting. The educational material developers opined that it would not be an easy task to convince people for eye donation under the present socio-economic condition of Bangladesh. In this regard they put forward their advice as regards to the collection of corneas. They also gave us some suggestions which would be helpful for us in developing education materials. It may be noted that we have already published touchy advertisement about eye donation in country's most popular newspapers on different dates. Our next step in this regard would be to publish poster and develop different manuals within short time for awareness program of eye donation counseling.

### **Staff Training:**

Consultant Ophthalmologist completed two weeks observership training program (6<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> December-2004) course from LV Prashad Eye Institute at Hyderabad, India.

He learned many technical ins and outs in that training program at LVPEI, Hyderabad, India.



**Consultant Ophthalmologist is doing work during his training session at LVPEI, Hyderabad.**

Another Eye Bank Technician Mr. Monjur Qaidir Akhund has just started his three months long Eye Bank technician training program at LVPEI from 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2005.

### **Excision of Cornea:**

Sandhani International Eye Bank has stated cornea excision from eye in the Laminar Air flow hood. We are doing cornea excision as well as enucleation depending on the situation.



**Mr. Jasimuddin, Eye Bank Technician is doing excision of cornea from whole eye ball into laminar Air flow hood.**

### **Availability of MK medium:**

International federation of Eye and tissue bank institute of the USA advised us to contact Ramayamma International Eye bank at LVPEI, India for MK medium. We contacted with LVPEI and they agreed to give us MK. Medium with certain amount of money. This is our remarkable achievement in our eye banking activities because we have already stepped ahead in the international standard eye banking.



**Preserving Cornea to MK Medium**

## EYE DONATION COUNSELING AT DMCH:

Our Eye Donation Counselors have approached a number of family members of the deceased personal for donating eye from the beginning. The counselors are trying their best, but did not achieve considerable success due to various reasons. The task is not easy in the environment where people know a little about it. Religious barrier is one of the main barriers for collecting eye or cornea from the dead patient. At the DMCH, our counselors get different people from different classes of the society. The counselors minutely observed the reasons which generally come forward as obstacles in the mind of the deceased's attendance in donating the eyes of their beloved. Our Eye donation counselors work in DMCH, especially at critical ward i,e 30, 31. They covered up those wards in rotation. The key responsibility of them is to motivate the relatives of critical patients for eye donation. Except this, they provide necessary help to patients by buying medicine for them from shop and give different advices as well as the moral support to them. Our counselors always remain active whenever any critical patient is admitted to the DMCH. Though they could not collect any cornea from eye donation counseling in the past one year they are still trying their best. You are probably aware that DMCH is a government hospital where people of middle or lower income get admission for treatment. As most of the patients come from the needy classes of the society they do not have the capability to bear the medical expenses. In addition they cannot have the opportunity to think about eye donation while they are struggling for the basic needs. We observed that this is one of the barriers to get eyes from eye donation counseling.

In this regard we would like to inform you that people in our country still believe that the religion of Islam does not permit eye donation, this is one of the major barriers in our field. But Islam supports the service to humanity strongly. We believe it will take time to chance the attitude of the mass regarding eye donation. For your kind information last year we got 154 eyes from unclaimed dead bodies.

## CASE HISTORY:

### Case: 1



**Swapna gets new life**

Swapna a teenage girl of fourteen-years had been suffering from blindness for more than six years. Her parents live at the area of Demra, just outside the main city of Dhaka. With Swapna and other four children, Md. Siddique and Hasina Begum, the parents of Swapna lived happily until Swapna had just entered into her age of nine. The happiness of Swapna's parents had disappeared when Swapna was badly affected by diarrhoea. After that disease, for the deficiency of vitamin A, Swapna was slowly losing her vision day by day. As Swapna hails from a very ordinary and poor family, it was not possible for the parents of Swapna to arrange better medical treatment. Without the proper medical follow up and necessary medicine the life of Swapna became completely unbearable for her as everything appeared in her eyes as vague. The poor mother of Swapna at that time came to Dhaka along with Swapna for working as maid servant in the residential house. She got the work at the house of a lady name Mrs. Rahman. The sorrows of Swapna moved the heart of Mrs. Rahman with a jerk. As an educated person, Mrs. Rahman realized that it would be possible to bring back the precious light of the eye of poor Swapna. She at once contacted NIO (**National Institute of Ophthalmology**) with the case of Swapna. Doctor advised that Swapna would see again if it will be possible to transplant cornea to her eyes. In search of the cornea, Mrs. Rahman contacted **Sandhani International Eye Bank**, the only International eye bank of country. Mrs. Rahman made the pledge for a cornea to Sandhani International Eye Bank on December 27, 2004. In reply SIEB arranged a cornea for the transplantation in the eye of Swapna. The patient, Swapna got excited when she heard that only a cornea could change her life. On February 20, 2005 a successful operation was done in the left eye of Swapna. The operation was conducted by **Dr. Sarwar Hossain**, one of the good eye surgeons of country. After the operation Swapna regained her vision. The pale world of Swapna has again become colourful. Now she is dreaming of a future where the poverty cannot touch her life and will not snatch a single beautiful moment neither from her life nor from the life of her closed ones, she desires for a future where her parents would be able to fulfill all of their dreams.

## Case- 2



**Shewly is entering into the beautiful world.**

Shewly, a young lady of twenty six years, lived with her parents at village Oai of Netrokona district, a place of about 200 kilometers from the capital Dhaka. Shewly had completed her Secondary school certificate with poor vision. But Abul Kalek Bhuiyan and Sufia Akter Chowdhury, the parents of Shewly did not give importance to the matter. But when Shewly entered into the age of eighteen a sorrow incident took place in her life. At that time suddenly she got that her eyes got red and she felt itching in her eyes and her vision getting deteriorated day by day. With the itching Shewly went to the doctor of her locality. Doctor gave her some eye drops. But the irritation of her eyes did not recover because local doctor did not identify the disease. Then Shewly along with her parents came to Islamia Eye Hospital of Dhaka for better medical management. Dr. Shahriyar, a cornea specialist of Islamia Eye Hospital examined Shewly and recognized the disease as **Corneal Dystrophy**. He told that it is bilateral heritage condition affecting both corneas and this disease usually breaks out in childhood with characteristic of destroying transparency of Corneas. Doctor gave advice to Shewly's parent to manage cornea for the transplantation as the cornea transplantation is the only remedy to regain her vision. The parents of Shewly contacted country's only and one modern eye bank named Sandhani International Eye Bank for cornea.

After name enlistment to the Sandhani International Eye Bank, Sandhani gave her a cornea and Dr. Syed A. Hasan grafted cornea her left eye. Now nightmare for Shewly was over as a successfully cornea grafting was done in her left eye. She expressed her gratitude to Sandhani International Eye bank. Now she is seeing better with her left eye. She hopes to continue her studies and will earn money to eliminate poverty from her family.

## At a Glance

### **Project Profile for Strengthening Eye Banking Capacity of SNEDS**

#### **A. PROJECT ADMINISTRATION WORKS HAVE DONE IN THE 4th QUARTER**

##### **1.0 OFFICE EQUIPMENT**

###### 1.1 Current Status

- Specular Microscope - One
- Laminar Air flow hood- One
- Slit Lamp - One

###### 1.2 Objectives for the Next Quarter

Most of the furniture and medical equipment to be purchased.

##### **2.0 RECRUITMENT OF STAFF**

###### 2.1 Current Status

Eye Bank Staff- Nine

###### 2.2 Objectives for the Next Quarter

None

#### **B. STAFF TRAINING**

##### 3.1 Current Status

- Trained Eye Bank Staff- Four

(Project Director, Consultant Ophthalmologist, Eye Bank Technician, Eye Donation Counselor)

##### 3.2 Objectives for the Next Quarter

- Eye Bank Technician will do three months long training program at LVPEI, Hyderabad, India. (Starting from 1<sup>st</sup> March to 30<sup>th</sup> May- 2005). Rest of the staffs will receive necessary training subject to availability of training slot at LVPEI.

#### **4.0 EYE COLLECTION**

##### **4.1 Current Status for the reporting Quarter**

Eye ball collection -51

##### **4.2 Objectives for the Next Quarter**

Eye ball or cornea-75

#### **5.0 EYE DISTRIBUTION AND GRAFTING**

##### **5.1 Current Status for the reporting Quarter**

- Eye ball distribution – 51
- Rejection of Eye ball - 4
- Cornea Grafting - 47

##### **5.2 Objectives for the Next Quarter**

Distribute good quality eye balls on the basis of eye ball collection

**The End**

