

**Sandhani International Eye Bank Project
1st Quarter (March-May, 2004)**

Project Profile for Strengthening Eye Banking Capacity of SNEDS

Partner Names:

- Sandhani National Eye Donation Society
- 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 at least one thousand individuals.

INAUGURATION:

Kathy Spahn, the Executive Director and the president of ORBIS International inaugurated the office of the project on April 1, 2004. She was welcomed in the project office by the president and the staffs of Sandhani. Ms. Kathy Spahn was formally introduced with all the staffs of the project. At the end of the self-introduction Prof. Abul Kalam Azad informed the President of ORBIS International about the activities, origination and organogram of SNEDS through a power point presentation. He presented different programs and achievements of SNEDS.

In his presentation he focused on the reasons behind taking the project with some supporting statistical data. At last he paid gratitude to ORBIS International for collaborating SNEDS in taking such project. In this inauguration ceremony the country Director and the program officer of ORBIS International were presented. At the end of the ceremony, Kathy Spahn declared the opening of the project by unveiling the curtain of the nameplate of the project.



Inauguration Program

MEETING:

During this project period we organized several meetings. In those meetings we discussed various administrative issues of the project with both ORBIS International's project officer and the members of SNEDS. A table of the meetings is given below:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Participants</u>	<u>Issues of Discussion</u>
5-04-2004	Project Office	ORBIS's Program officer and Project staffs	General Discussion on Project
11-04-2004	Project Office	Dr. Hasan and his wife and project staffs	Dr. Hasan sharing technical points of eye ball and cornea collection Mrs. Hasan sharing her grief counseling training at LV Prasad

25-04-2004	Project Office	SNEDS Management and project staffs	General Discussion on project and SNEDS's staffs sharing experience of their recent visit to L.V.Prasad eye bank.
27-04-2004	Project Office	ORBIS's Program officer and Project staffs	Providing general information about ORBIS, project report and sharing views on arranging the project workshop.

What is gained?

These meetings helped us in determining our roles and also helped us to make an analysis of the progress of our activities.

STAFF TRAINING AND OBSERVATION:

In the first quarter of the project, Dr. Md. Moshiur Rahman, Project Director went to L.V.Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) on May 16, 2004 and returned on May 31, 2004 to do a course on Eye Bank Overseership program for two weeks. On 31 May, one grief counselor Mrs. Shameema Rahman went to L. V Prasad eye institute for one month grief counseling training course. Dr. Rahman's visit to LVPEI was a remarkable achievement of the project. During his observation program in Hyderabad he observed various activities of Ramayamma eye bank and LVPEI. Each day he passed 12 hours in the hospital and community to observe their activities. His observations and experiences are summarized briefly in following points:

- Campaigning Program: During his stay at Hyderabad, he closely observed various campaigning programs aimed at motivating and counseling people.
- Collection of Various Campaigning Kits: He collected various materials including CD, leaflets, brochures and posters of the TV and superstars of India which aimed at motivating people for eye donation. The same can be followed for the motivation program in Bangladesh.
- Grief Counseling Process: He closely observed the grief counseling procedure in the perspective of Indian culture and also had drawn valuable lessons for the implementation in Bangladesh.
- Corneo scleral rim excision: He observed the corneo scleral rim excision process from eye donor that is presently being followed by the hospital and he also performed laboratory corneal excision.

- Knowledge about their work and activities: In the process he gained a thorough understanding of the work and responsibilities of the Ramayamma Eye Bank staffs.
- Donor cornea recovery/ Action for Collecting cornea: He very closely observed the action and drills involved in the cornea collection process after the information/ consent from the donor or the relatives is received.
- Donor cornea evaluation (Slit lamp & Specular): He learnt about the grading procedure of the collected cornea and the category system of the cornea grading.
- Serological screening of donor blood: He also observed the screening procedure of donor blood for HIV, HBs Ag and VDRL.
- Eye Distribution Policy: He also learnt about the eye distribution policy of the L.V.Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI).
- Feed Back from the Cornea Recipients: He also observed the procedure of after action feed back from the cornea recipients for the purpose of maintaining the vision rates.

- Hospital Cornea Retrieval Program: The visitor also has observed the system involved in the wide coverage of the hospitals for cornea collection.
- Medical standards in Eye Banking/ Maintaining good Eye Bank environment: He also learnt about the medical standards and the procedure of the maintaining good eye bank environment.



Project Director with Ramayamma Eye Bank Staffs

- Achieving membership of International eye bank association: The trainee learnt about the process and required criteria for achieving the membership of the International Eye Bank.
- Procedure for obtaining MK media: He learnt about the process for obtaining the MK media facilities for preservation of cornea.
- Instrument & Equipment maintenance: He also observed and performed instruments & linen washing, packing and sterilization and equipment maintenance procedure.

- Documentation in eye bank registers/ system/ donor database: He observed all the recording procedure for the collection of eye and how this could be made distinct from the eye distribution.
- Setting up of an eye bank: He also learnt about the setting up of an ideal eye bank.

During his observation all staffs of Ramayamma eye bank cordially supported him. The contribution of Dr. Usha Gopinathan, Director of Eye bank, can be mentioned here. She also offered the continued support for the Project Director.

PROJECT ORIENTATION WORKSHOP:

One project orientation workshop organized by ORBIS International dated: 10-12, May, 2004. The Three-day workshop was conducted for the project staffs of Sandhani International Eye Bank with a view to orienting newly recruited project staffs with the eye bank project objectives and its activities. The workshop aimed at enabling the project staffs to

understand the goal, multi-year objectives, activities of project, their roles and responsibilities to achieve project objectives and enhance their ability in managing the project efficiently. The facilitators of the workshops are : Dr. Abu Raihan of ORBIS International, Mrs. Tahamin Banu of ORBIS International, Mr. A.R. Md. Tariq of ORBIS International, Prof. C.H. Kabir Of SNEDS, Prof. Abul Kalam Azad Of SNEDS



Project Orientation Workshop

VISIT OF RICHARD MILLER :

He visited Sandhani International Eye Bank on May 31, 2004. BRAC's Munir Ahmed was with him at that time. Richard Miller was welcomed by Sandhani's President, Prof. C.H. Kabir and also by the General Secretary and members of SNEDS Project Committee. At first he was informed about the activities of Sandhani. He was also informed about the reasons of blindness and the present scenario of blindness condition of Bangladesh. He listened everything carefully and wanted to know about our project plan, that is to increase the number of cornea collection. He also wanted to know about the present status of Bangladesh in eye grafting. His every query was answered by the President of Sandhani and by the members of the project committee. By this discussion

Miller came to know about the blindness condition of Bangladesh. He found a clear idea about the activities of both SNEDS and the Project. In the discussion, Program Officer of ORBIS International Mrs. Tahamin banu was presented. At last Richard Miller hoped all the success of the project.

OUR ACTIVITIES:

We started our project activities from April 2, 2004. Our first activity was to establish friendly relationship with the staffs and nurses of DMCH. Because we found that without the collaboration of the staffs of DMCH, it will not be possible to get success in cornea collection. Bearing this in mind we visited different wards of DMCH regularly and as a result we became successful in bridging the gap between the staffs of DMCH and of us. We worked in two shifts where two staffs wrap each shift. These two shifts cover the time period from 8.00 A.M to 9.30 P.M. It was found from our observation that death rate in the wards # 30, 31 and 32 is greater than any other wards. So, we gave emphasis on developing good relationship with all the doctors, nurses and ward boys of these wards. Besides that we maintained good relationship with the staffs of the morgue department. We became successful in establishing excellent relationship with the staffs of DMC hospitals especially with the doctors, nurses and ward boys of the wards # 30, 31 and 32.

Except all these we evaluated our activities every week through group meetings and in those meetings we prepared work plan on weekly basis. This activity helped us to be habituated with the nature of our job. We firmly believe that our entire first quarter works will help us to be successful in collecting expected corneas in the second and other quarters. In this quarter we also encouraged the patient for eye donation.

OBSERVATION:

During the two months of our activity period we get tremendous help from the staffs, nurses of DMCH especially from the nurses, ward boys of wards # 30, 31 and 32. From our viewpoint this is our greatest achievement in this quarter.

CASE STUDY OF GRIEF COUNSELING AT DMCH:

In this quarter, our counselor did some grief counseling. But their duties were not easy at first. They faced difficulty in performing their jobs. Because in the context of Bangladesh, eye donation is not a very popular practice as people know a little about eye donation. In this quarter we got some cases where we would not get eye from grief counseling because of the non cooperation of patient's attendances. Here are two such cases described below:

Case: 1

Our counselor found a patient named Mr. Nurul Islam age: 42 at DMCH. The patient had serious injuries over head and in both hands. The patient's history showed that he got the injury in cyclone at Tangail. He had taken the treatment at Tangail Sadar Hospital for three days before he was moved to DMCH. He was in critical condition when he was moved to DMCH. He died a day after getting the admission. The patient had two brothers with him. One of whom is a farmer while the other brother is a primary school teacher. Our counselors went to the brothers of the patient for motivating them for eye donation, the younger brother who is a primary school teacher was totally convinced and was ready to donate the eyes of his dead brother for bringing back the light of the eye of a blind person. But the elder brother was not convinced and not allows the counselor to collect the eye of his dead brother. As a result, the counselor did not get the eye ball.

Comments: The case shows that the literacy makes a big difference between the mentality of two brothers of the patient. We found that because of being literate the younger brother realized the importance of eye donation which the eldest brother did not understand as he is an illiterate person and is totally biased by traditional values.

So, we feel that awareness of people is the must for being successful in this field.

Case: 2

We got another case on April 25,2004 at DMCH. There the patient was a woman named: Momena Islam, C/O Mr. Siddique, age: 21, who was suffering from Per Vaginal bleeding. The doctors did not get the reason of bleeding. In this critical condition, the patient breathed her last on the following day on 26th April, 2004 at 9.30 a.m. At the time of death the patient was attended by one of her male neighbors. Our counselor approached the attendance for the eye ball of the patient. Although the attendance was convinced, he could not take the decision as he felt that he had no right to take the decision.



Grief Counseling

According to him the patients' closed ones could take the decision. As no close relative of the patient was present there, the counselor failed to collect the eye ball.

Observation: Here we found that the attendance could not take the decision because of the social constraints.

Project Profile for Strengthening Eye Banking Capacity of SNEDS

A. PROJECT ADMINISTRATION WORKS HAVE DONE:

1.0 OFFICE EQUIPMENT

1.1 Current Status

- Air-condition- five
- Conference Table – one
- Conference chair- sixteen
- Executive with side table - two
- Executive chair- two
- Computer –two
- Printer- one
- Telephone connection – one, 22nd May,2004
- VIPP with white board –one
- Some cookery, toiletries and stationery

Most of the furniture and office equipment were purchased, medical equipments are exploring. We will purchase slit lamp, laminar Air flow hood and all necessary instruments and liner within 2nd quarter.

1.2 Objectives for the Next Quarter

Purchase necessary office and medical equipments to give a perfect shape to the eye bank.

2.0 RECRUITMENT OF STAFF

2.1 Current Status

Eye Bank Staff- Nine

2.2 Objectives for the Next Quarter

Consultant Ophthalmologist- one

B. STAFF TRAINING

3.1 Current Status

- SNEDS Senior Management Visited LV Prasad
- Project Director has done Eye Bank observership course for 2 weeks (17-29 May,2004) at LVEI, Hyderabad, India.

- Grief Counselor doing Grief counseling training for 1 month (01-30 June, 2004) at LVEI, Hyderabad, India.

3.2 Objectives for the Next Quarter

- One Technician will do Eye Bank Technician course for 3 months (from September 01 to November 30, 2004). Rest of the staffs will receive necessary training accordingly.

4.0 EYE COLLECTION

4.1 Current Status

Eye ball collection -22, 14 short of the total quarter target of 36.

4.2 Objectives for the Next Quarter

Eye ball-36

5.0 EYE DISTRIBUTION

5.1 Current Status

- Eye ball distribution -20
- Damage of Eye ball- 2

5.2 Objectives for the Next Quarter

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

