



EYE-SCREENING CAMP FOR TRIBAL COMMUNITY

17th MARCH, SUNDAY

AN SSM EYE RESEARCH FOUNDATION OUTREACH PROGRAMME





A DETAILED EYE-SCREENING CAMP FOR THE ENTIRE TRIBAL COMMUNITY OF KUTTAMPUZHA



OUTREACH PROGRAMME

As part of WORLD GLAUCOMA WEEK AND WORLD OPTOMETRY DAY - 2019, SSM Foundation, in association with Giridhar Eye Institute, is planning to conduct a unique outreach initiative.

Kuttampuzha is a large village located in Kothamangalam Taluk of Ernakulam District, Kerala, with an estimated number of 6,487 families in residence. With the help of Kuttampuzha Gramapanchayath authorities, Kuttampuzha PHC and Tribal Extension Office, we have identified 7 locations to conduct the eye-screening programmes simultaneously.

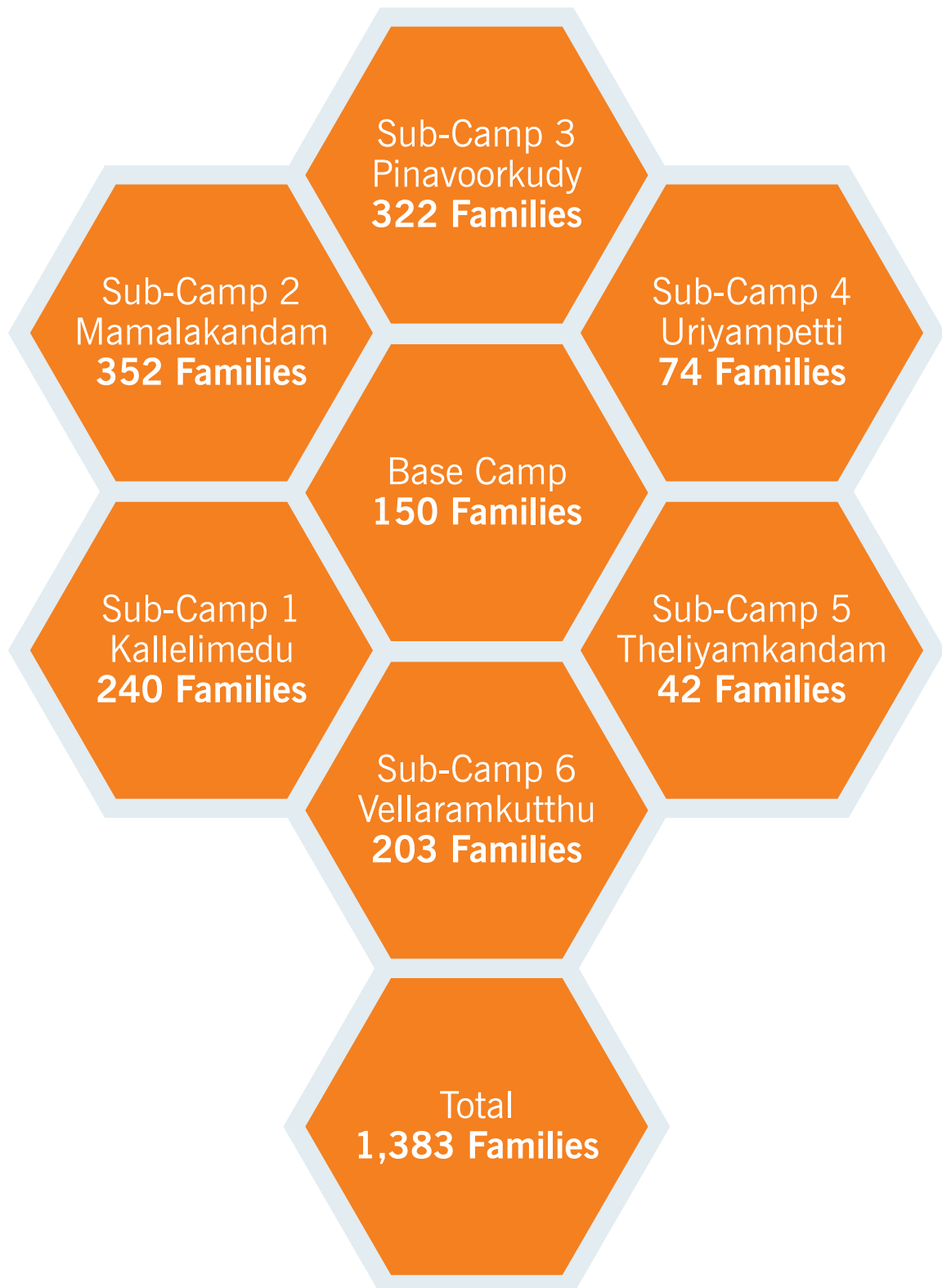


THE PLAN

The Kuttampuzha tribal shelter will be utilised as the base camp where the Mobile Ophthalmic Unit of GEI will be parked. This mobile unit is equipped with the most modern diagnostic facilities.

The tribals who live close to Kuttampuzha and Vadattupara (approximately 150 families) will be guided to the base camp.

The medical team will be divided into 7 units and screenings will be conducted accordingly at:



THE TEAM





FROM SCREENING TO SURGERY

Approximately 2,500 people from 1,383 families will attend the various screening sub-camps. The medical team will refer the patients who require surgery to the base camp site and provide a medical check-up to assess their basic fitness for surgery. By the end of the day, the GEI team will return to the hospital with those patients who have been selected for surgery along with their respective companions or caretakers.

The very next day, surgeries will be scheduled for these patients and they will be admitted in the hospital for one day after the surgery. After the post-operative examination, the patients will be sent back to the tribal shelter at Kuttampuzha and they will be advised rest until the following Sunday. ASHA workers and tribal promoters will look after the patients at the shelter and ensure the usage of post-operative eye drops. On the following Sunday, the GEI Medical Team will visit the shelter and complete the post-operative check up with the help of the Mobile Ophthalmic Unit.



THE BUDGET

No	Particulars	Rate (Rupees)	Qty.	Amount (Rupees)
1	Travel expense for medical team 18-seated traveller	6,000	3	18,000
2	Food expense	400	54	21,600
3	Local travel expense (jeep)	2,000	12	24,000
4	Travel expense for patients	10,000	01	10,000
5	Food expense for patients	300	175	52,500
6	Surgery expense	8,000	20	1,60,000
7	Medicine expense at camp site	110	800	88,000
8	Fuel expense for mobile ophthalmic clinic	3,000	1	3,000
		Total		3,77,100



Giridhar Eye Institute
Lighting up Lives

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Eye screening Camp for Tribal Community in Kuttampuzha



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649 People Screened	305 Spectacles Issued	06 Cataract Surgeries Scheduled
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As part of the SSM Foundation Outreach Programme, Giridhar Eye Institute decided to conduct an Eye-Screening Camp for the tribals at KuttampuzhaGramapanchayath on Sunday, 17 March 2019.

After coordinating and planning in conjunction with KuttampuzhaGramapanchayathmembers and the Primary Health Center for about a month, the GEI team was ready to get going. Two team members reached Kuttampuzhathe previous day to meet with Panchayath members and monitor the arrangements.

Project Nethra, the GEI mobile clinic, left at 4.00 am on March 17, to ensure timely arrival. The rest of the team departed at 5.15 am in three travellers. The teamassigned to visit the camp site Thalumkandam travelled in one vehicle as they scheduled to disembark at Bhoothatahnettu, 12 kilometers before base camp. The others, on arrival at the base camp, split into six teams and journeyed through the forest by jeep to visit the other camps.



Screening at Thalumkudam Camp

The Thalumkandamteam of 6, including one doctor and two optometrists, journeyed by jeep to Theliyankandam. Though the destination was only 15 kilometers from the junction, it took 1.5 hours to reach the place as the roadswere really bad. All 90 tribal people who came were screened and 35 spectacles were issued. The team also completed eye-screening for the tribal hostel situated at this settlement and referred four students to the hospital for a detailed evaluation by apaediatric ophthalmologist.



Screening at Kuttiyachal Base Camp

The screening programme was officially inaugurated by Mr. K J Jose, Vice President KuttampuzhaGramapanchayathat 9:00am at the Base Camp in KuttiyachalLP school.

A team of 12 members were allotted for this camp as a lot of people were expected to show up because the camp had reasonably good accessibility. This team utilised the Mobile Ophthalmic Clinic not only for the tribes at the base camp, but also for the patients referred for detailed checkup and evaluation from other camp sites. 108 people were screened at the base camp and 69 spectacles were issued.

Health inspectors and other medical staff from the Kuttampuzha PHC actively participated in this camp.

Screening at Vellaramkuthu Camp

The third team comprising 8 members, including 1 doctor, reached Vellaramkuthu by 9.45am, which is about 10 kilometers inside the forest from the base camp. 85 people were screened and 48 spectacles were distributed. From Vellaramkuthu, one patient was advised surgery and was taken to the base camp to complete a detailed evaluation.



Screening at Uriyampetti Camp

Getting to Uriyampettiwasa big challenge as the roads were terrible and the team took over 3 hours by jeep to get there. 33 patients underwent screening here and 15 spectacles were distributed. The medical team consisted of 5 members, including one doctor, and they identified one case from this tribal settlement and allocated the patient for surgery. By 1.30pm the medical team returned from camp site with the patient who was advised surgery and a bystander.

Screening at Pinavoorkudy Camp

The medical team for Pinavoorkudyconsisted of 10 members as it was reported to be one of the biggest tribal settlements in this area. The team reachedthe camp site by traveller, as the roadswere comparatively better. They travelled 15 kilometers into the forest and reached the site at 9.30am.

One health inspector from Kuttampuzha PHC actively participated at this site. 164 patients were screened and free eye drops were issued for those who needed it. 60 spectacles were distributed and 2 people were advised surgical intervention. The team travelled back with these patients and completed a detailed evaluation and check-up at the base camp, before starting pre-operative medication.



Screening at Elamplassery Camp

Elamplasserywas around 20kms away from base camp. The medical team reached at the camp site by 10.00am, after an hour's journey through forest. Totally 95 people were screened at this site and 40 spectacles were issued. Tribal promoters arranged the eye-screening facility in a bamboo collection unit at Elamplassery, which was considered a get-together point by the locals.

Screening at Kallerimedu Camp

Kallerimedu is a remote area about 12 kilometers from Kuttampuzha. The approach was only by jeep as the roadswere very bad, with many hairpin bends. The medical team reached the camp at 10.30am and screened 74 people. 43 spectacles were issued and 2 people were shortlisted for cataract surgery. The tribal promoters engaged one ASHA worker from that area to accompany these patients to the base hospital for the surgery.



Back to Giridhar Eye Institute

After the detailed checkupand evaluation at the base camp, pre-operative medication was given to all 6 patients who were taken for surgery. By 4.30pm the team started the return journey and reached at hospital at 8.00pm. The patients were shifted to the pre-operative care area and all the scans and documentationrelated to surgery were completed. Nurses allocated separate facilities for male and female patients at the pre-operative care ward.

The very next day, our surgeons finished the cases in two sessions, and patients were taken to the post-operative unit. The next morning, doctors completed the first post-operative checkup; after breakfast patients were sent back to Kuttampuzha, with the

bystanders and the Outreach co-coordinator.

With the help of KuttampuzhaGramapanchayath and the PHC, accommodation for 5 days at a tribal settlement home near Kuttampuzha PHC was arranged to ensure proper medication care till the next proposed post-operative checkup.

On fifth day, a doctor visited the tribal settlement with one optometrist, checked the patients and found everything intact. The doctor issued additional post-operative medicine for the next three weeks and gave instructions to patients and the ASHA workers about the medicationand special care to be taken for coming weeks.