



SSM EYE RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Outreach Annual Report – 2025

Restoring Vision | Empowering Lives | Advancing Community Eye Care

1. Introduction

The year 2025 marked a significant phase of growth, outreach, and impact for SSM Eye Research Foundation. Anchored in its mission of providing affordable, accessible, and quality eye care, the Foundation continued to serve marginalized and underserved populations through comprehensive eye screening camps, surgical interventions, awareness programs, academic initiatives, and partnerships with government bodies, NGOs, and corporate CSR programs.

Through collaboration with Giridhar Eye Institute (GEI) and multiple community organizations, SSM Eye Research Foundation expanded its footprint across urban, rural, coastal, tribal, and differently-abled communities, ensuring that preventable blindness and visual impairment are addressed with compassion and excellence.

2. Major Objectives (2025)

- To prevent avoidable blindness through early detection and treatment
- To deliver free and subsidized eye care to economically disadvantaged populations
- To strengthen community-based cataract and diabetic retinopathy programs
- To promote eye donation and vision awareness
- To support academic excellence and capacity building in ophthalmology
- To foster inclusivity through disability-friendly initiatives and sports

3. Key Programs & Activities

Community Eye Screening & Treatment Camps

During 2025, SSM Eye Research Foundation supported and participated in multiple large-scale free eye screening camps, benefiting thousands across Middle Kerala. Highlights include:

- **Prof. Vyrelil Karunakara Menon Memorial Free Eye Camp** (January)

The camp was jointly organized by the Giridhar Eye Institute, Tripunithura; Abhayam; SSM Eye Research Foundation; and Kudumbi Mahila Seva Sangham, Unit-18, Paavamkullangara. The key highlight of the event was the free eye camp and diabetic retinopathy screening conducted for the

public, which benefited over 200 individuals, with 64 referrals for detailed examinations and potential surgery at the Giridhar Eye Institute, Tripunithura.



- **World Optometry day & Glaucoma Week (March)**

On the occasion of **World Optometry Day, observed on March 23, and Glaucoma week**, SSM Eye Research Foundation and GEI organized a special eye camp at Assisi Sneha Veedu Old Age Home, Vazhakulam, to raise awareness about the importance of eye care. A total of 110 individuals were screened during the camp. The screening identified 20 cataract cases, 5 retinal disorders, 4 glaucoma suspects, 2 squint cases, 1 corneal condition, and 44 individuals with refractive errors and presbyopia, while 39 people had normal ocular findings. As part of the initiative, 33 free spectacles were distributed, along with eye drops, and some individuals were referred for further evaluation. The camp emphasized early glaucoma detection and reflected the institute's commitment to community service, awareness, and compassionate eye care.



- **Perumbalam Island Outreach Camp (April)**

In a heart-warming initiative, an eye screening camp was conducted at Perumbalam Island on 27th April 2025, in collaboration with SSM Eye Research Foundation, GEI, and the Rotary Inner Wheel Club of Kochi. The event was blessed with the presence of Inner Wheel President Renu Chakola, Dr. Kanchana Giridhar, Swetha Vasudevan, Santha Mathew, and Rajan Perumbalam, whose dedication made the camp truly special. Over 110 members of the community were screened, and 54

individuals were identified for further expert care at the base hospital. Together, we took a step closer to a clearer, brighter future for many!



- **Urban Community Free Eye Camp (June)**

SSM Eye Research Foundation, in association with Abhayam Tripunithura, Giridhar Eye Institute and Friends Group Gandhinagar, organized a free eye screening camp for the economically weaker sections of the city. The event was inaugurated by Hon'ble MLA Shri T. J. Vinod, who appreciated the initiative and emphasized the importance of accessible healthcare for all. Highlights of the screening: 180+ individuals screened, 68 individuals referred to the base hospital for further examination and Free spectacles were distributed to those in need.



- **KVNS Hall, Eroor Camp (July)**

On Sunday, July 20, 2025, a Free Eye Screening Camp was successfully organized at KVNS Hall, Eroor, from 9:00 AM, as a joint initiative of Giridhar Eye Institute, SSM Eye Research Foundation, Abhayam Thrippunithura, and Kanivu Palliative Care, Eroor. The camp was inaugurated by Dr. Giridhar, highlighting Giridhar Eye Institute's continued commitment to community outreach and the prevention of avoidable blindness.

- 159 patients underwent comprehensive eye examinations
- 25 patients were prescribed spectacles
- 59 patients were referred to the hospital for further expert care, completely free of cost



As part of a holistic approach to healthcare, free blood sugar and blood pressure screenings were also conducted at the venue, with generous support from Blue Cross Life Sciences.

- **World Sight Day – Tribal Outreach (Sholayar) (October)**

World Sight Day Screening held at Unnathi Tribal Colony, Sholayar. On the occasion of World Sight Day, SSM Eye Research Foundation conducted a comprehensive eye screening camp at the Unnathi Tribal Community, Sholayar, in collaboration with Giridhar Eye Institute (GEI), the Vazhachal Forest Range Department and the Rotary Club of Chalakudy Town. A total of 73 individuals from the tribal community were screened for refractive errors, cataracts and other eye problems. Those requiring further medical attention were identified and guided for appropriate treatment and spectacle correction. This initiative reflects our continued commitment to reaching underserved communities and promoting the importance of eye health for all.



- **Myopia Screening (November)**

As part of **Myopia Awareness Week**, an awareness and screening program was conducted at Avittathur Higher Secondary School, during which over 334 students were screened. The program emphasized the importance of early detection of myopia, regular eye check-ups, and adopting healthy visual habits to prevent the progression of myopia.

- **Mulamthuruthy 'Tejas' CSR Eye Camp**

As part of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative of Aptiv Connection Systems India Private Limited, *Tejas – A Free Eye Care Camp* was organized through Abhayam, with the support of SSM Eye Research Foundation, Giridhar Eye Institute, and Kanivu Pain & Palliative Care. The camp was held at Mulamthuruthy Government Higher Secondary School and witnessed the participation of **217 patients**.

- **54 patients** were provided with free spectacles
- **31 patients** were diagnosed with cataract and scheduled for surgery
- **17 patients** were identified with diabetic retinopathy

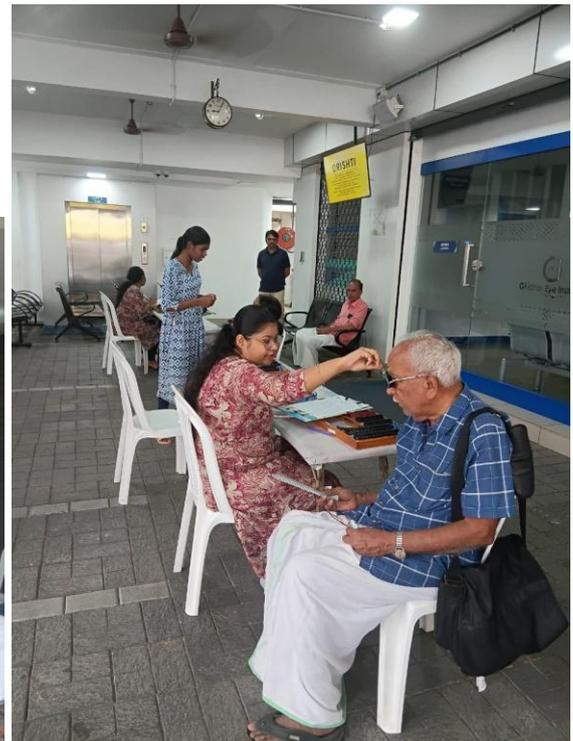


Cataract surgeries and spectacles for the selected underprivileged patients will be provided **free of cost**, with support from Giridhar Eye Institute, Tripunithura; Aptiv Connection Systems India Pvt. Ltd.; and Abhayam. Diagnostic tests and treatment for diabetic retinopathy will also be offered **free of charge** in collaboration with Giridhar Eye Institute and Aptiv.

4. Diabetic Retinopathy Care

- **World Diabetes Day – Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Camp**

As part of World Diabetes Day, SSM Eye Research Foundation organized a Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Camp 'Thejas' at our Tripunithura branch, in association with Aptiv Connection Systems India, Abhayam Charitable Trust, Kannankulangara West Residents Association and Giridhar Eye Institute. The occasion was graced by the presence of Dr. Giridhar and other dignitaries from Abhayam. The camp focused on raising awareness about diabetic retinopathy and the importance of regular eye check-ups for people living with diabetes. Over 50 diabetic individuals were screened during the program, and 17 were identified for further evaluation and treatment.



As part of the Diabetic Week Awareness Campaign, SSM Eye Research Foundation & Giridhar Eye Institute (GEI) conducted a free Diabetic Retinopathy screening drive at Indira Gandhi Cooperative Hospital over a period of three days. In association with the Rotary Club of Cochin, GEI also covered residential areas including the Recca Club, surrounding apartment complexes, and the Vypin area. A total of 375 patients were screened during this initiative. The program also focused on creating awareness about Diabetic Retinopathy, highlighting the importance of early detection and regular eye examinations.

5. Eye Donation & Vision Awareness Initiatives



SSM Eye Research Foundation actively supported eye donation awareness through:

- **National Eye Donation Fortnight 2025**

As part of National Eye Donation Fortnight 2025, SSM Eye Research Foundation's Swarnam Eye Bank, in collaboration with the Susruta School of Optometry and Giridhar Eye Institute, organized an awareness rally on 30th August at Kadavanthra. The rally, flagged off by Dr. Vinay Pillai, Head of Cornea & Refractive Surgery, highlighted the need and relevance of eye donation in restoring vision and transforming lives. We were honored by the presence of Dr. A. Giridhar (Medical Director), Dr. Kanchana (Assistant Medical Director), Dr. Mahesh G, Dr. Marian Pauly, Dr. Divya Giridhar, our dedicated doctors, staff, and dignitaries. The event spread the powerful message that pledging eyes can bring the gift of sight and light up lives even beyond our lifetime.



- **Volunteer Appreciation & Training Meet**

As part of the National Eye Donation Fortnight, the Swarnam Eye Bank of SSM Eye Research Foundation organized a special Volunteer Meet-up on Tuesday, 2nd September 2025. The event brought together dedicated volunteers from across Ernakulam, celebrating their invaluable role in spreading awareness about eye donation. Dr. A. Giridhar, Medical Director, felicitated the volunteers with mementos as a token of appreciation and highlighted the crucial role of volunteers and grief counsellors in sustaining this noble, non-profit initiative. Dr. S. J. Saikumar, Medical Superintendent, delivered the welcome address, emphasizing the urgent need for more cornea donations, as countless individuals continue to live in blindness due to corneal diseases. Dr. Divya Giridhar, along with the dedicated staff of Giridhar Eye Institute and the Susruta School of Optometry, were also present, adding to the significance of the occasion; heartfelt thanks you to our volunteers for their tireless commitment to restoring vision and transforming lives.



These programs strengthened corneal donation awareness and volunteer engagement across Ernakulam.

6. Special Focus Programs

- **Inclusive & Disability-Focused Initiatives**

The State Motor Vehicle Department, in collaboration with the Chalakudy Town Rotary Club, SSM Eye Research Foundation and Giridhar Eye Institute, Edappally, launched the "Vibhinnam 2025" initiative on January 9, 2025. This program aims to provide driving licenses to differently-abled individuals. The eye screenings aimed to identify vision issues, recommend corrective measures, and emphasize the importance of eye health. This initiative reinforces the program's objective of empowering the differently-abled community with safe and independent mobility.



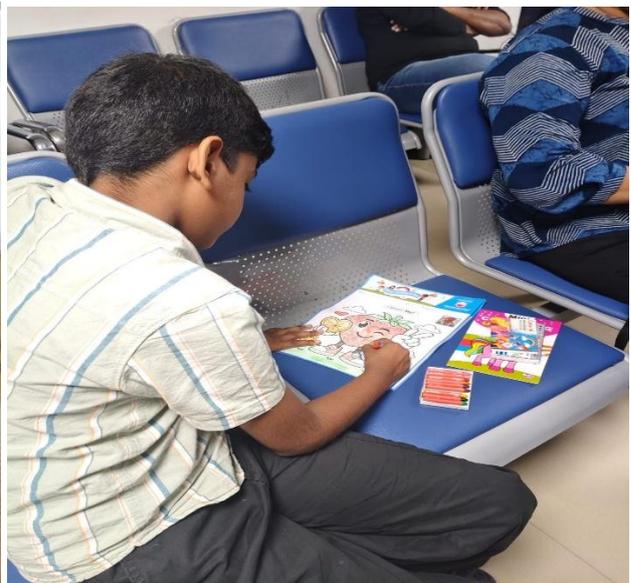
As part of this initiative, Giridhar Eye Institute conducted free eye screenings to ensure that participants met the required vision standards for safe driving. Approximately 30 differently-abled applicants were issued learner's licenses after undergoing physical examinations. Additionally, free spectacles were distributed to KSRTC depot drivers following eye examinations.

- **Children & Myopia Awareness**

National Children's Day & National Myopia Week

At Giridhar Eye Institute, we believe that protecting children's vision is a responsibility we proudly uphold. Last week, our Paediatric Ophthalmology Department came together to organize a series of engaging and insightful activities across our base hospital and branch centres in association with SSM Eye Research Foundation.

Fun & Creative Activities for Kids: Our exclusive paediatric wing hosted coloring and painting sessions, giving children a joyful space to express themselves while learning about eye health.



Expert Sessions on Children’s Eye Health: Dr. Neena Pillai, Head of Paediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus, along with her dedicated team of doctors led informative sessions on Myopia and other common eye conditions in children—empowering parents with knowledge to safeguard their child’s vision.

Our dedicated Optometry team conducted awareness programs for the entire OPD and organized interactive Myopia Quiz sessions for patients and bystanders, making learning both fun and impactful.

7. Academic, Research & Professional Engagement

SSM Eye Research Foundation supported academic excellence through:

- Participation in **VISION 2020 – India Conference (Ahmedabad)**

SSM Eye Research Foundation represented at the 19th Annual Conference of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – INDIA, held at the Blind People’s Association (India), Ahmedabad, from 11th to 13th July. The conference, themed “Breaking Barriers: Inclusion and Accessibility in Eye Care – A Step Towards Viksit Bharat 2047”, emphasized the critical role of inclusive and accessible eye health in achieving India’s long-term development goals.

The three-day conference brought together experts, institutions, and policymakers from across the country to deliberate on strategies for eliminating avoidable blindness and advancing equitable eye care, particularly for marginalized and underserved populations. The program featured a rich mix of scientific sessions, hands-on workshops, paper presentations, and strategic discussions focusing on innovation, policy, and collaborative action in eye health.



Mr. Pradeep and Mr. Manoj represented SSM Eye Research Foundation at the conference, with Mr. Manoj presenting a well-received paper titled “*Clear Sight for Coastal Communities: A Comprehensive Ocular Screening Initiative among Kerala’s Coastal Population.*”

- **GEI Academia Trends 2025 CME**

Giridhar Eye Institute successfully conducted its Annual CME – GEI Academia Trends 2025: Subspecialty Updates for Comprehensive Ophthalmologists on October 11–12, 2025.

The **8th SSM Oration** was awarded to Dr. Lingam Vijaya, Distinguished Senior Consultant – Glaucoma Services, Sankara Nethralaya, for her remarkable contributions to the field. Her oration on “In Current Glaucoma Practice, Where Does TRAB Fit In?” was well received.



GEI Academia Trends 2025 stood out for its well-curated scientific content, dynamic discussions, and interactive learning format — offering a perfect blend of knowledge sharing and practical insights.

8. Sports & Inclusivity

SSM Eye Research Foundation/Giridhar Eye Institute supported **Blind Football** as an official partner:

- **IBSA Men’s Blind Football Nations Cup 2025**

The Indian Blind Football Federation (IBFF) hosted the 2025 IBSA Men’s Blind Football Nations Cup from 25th September to 1st October 2025 at the United Sports Centre, Kakkannad. This prestigious international tournament, organized under the aegis of the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA), brought together top blind football teams from across the world, including England, India, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Italy, and Iran.

Giridhar Eye Institute/SSM Eye Research Foundation was proud to serve as the Official Partner for the event, supporting the spirit of inclusivity, empowerment, and excellence through sports.

- **IBSA Women’s Blind Football World Championship 2025**

This prestigious event, organized by the Indian Blind Football Federation (IBFF) in association with the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA), brought together some of the world’s top women blind football athletes from Argentina, Turkey, Brazil, Canada, England, Japan, Poland, and India. Team India Women competed at the highest level, showcasing remarkable resilience, skill, and determination on the global stage.

Giridhar Eye Institute /SSM Eye Research Foundation was proud to serve as the Official Partner for this inspiring initiative, supporting inclusivity, empowerment, and the shared vision of lighting up lives through sports and comprehensive vision care.

These initiatives emphasized empowerment, confidence, and inclusion beyond healthcare.

9. Inauguration of a Major Milestone

▪ Anup V Krishnan SSM Community Operation Theater Complex

'Anup V. Krishnan SSM Community Operation Theater Complex', a dedicated community operation theatre facility committed to providing free cataract surgeries for financially disadvantaged patients identified through outreach camps, referrals, and walk-in services, was inaugurated on 20-November 2025. This landmark initiative significantly strengthens the outreach mission of SSM Eye Research Foundation by addressing the surgical needs of underserved communities and ensuring that high-quality eye care reaches those who need it most.



In addition to serving the community, the facility will function as an important training and learning hub, offering hands-on experience in advanced surgical techniques for evolving surgeons. The inauguration was led by Sri. Venugopal C. Govind, Senior Trustee, SSM Eye Research Foundation, and the event was graced by the Trust members Mr. Sushil Aswani, Mrs. Sangeetha Mathew, Dr. A. Giridhar (Managing Trustee), and Dr. Kanchana Giridhar, along with the senior consultants, students, and staff of Giridhar Eye Institute. Their collective presence made the occasion truly meaningful and inspiring.

With this milestone, we take another significant step toward restoring vision, empowering lives, and building a healthier, more equitable future.

10. Impact Summary – 2025

- **11998 individuals** screened through camps
- **2944 patients** referred for advanced eye care
- **Hundreds of spectacles** distributed free
- **hundreds of cataract & DR patients** identified and treated
- **1061 cataract surgeries done free of cost**
- **37 speciality surgeries were funded**
- Strong community, academic, CSR, and government partnerships

Month	No. Camp	No. of Patients Screened	No. of Patients Referred	Free Surgeries
January	9	970	262	92
February	12	1218	311	101
March	9	648	239	112
April	7	574	288	20
May	9	809	194	61
June	10	839	213	104
July	9	857	197	125
August	10	999	195	95
September	9	954	176	95
October	12	1353	261	81
November	18	1650	357	65
December	11	1127	251	110
Grand Total	125	11998	2944	1061

11. Collaborations and Acknowledgements

SSM Eye Research Foundation conducted numerous community-based initiatives, including comprehensive eye screening camps, surgical interventions, vision awareness programs, and other outreach activities across diverse sectors. These initiatives covered schools, hospitals, workplaces, factories, old age homes, special schools, palliative care centres, as well as rural, urban, and tribal communities. The Foundation also partnered with various associations, clubs, corporate organizations, institutions, and dedicated volunteers to successfully implement these programs.

SSM Eye Research Foundation expresses heartfelt gratitude to:

- Giridhar Eye Institute
- Abhayam Charitable Trust
- Rotary & Inner Wheel Clubs
- Indira Gandhi hospital
- Snehatheeraam old age home
- Bethlehem abhaya bhavan
- Aptiv Connection Systems India Pvt. Ltd.
- Adarsh special school
- Mrudula sparsham special school
- Assissi orphanage
- Smrithi orphanage
- Edayar toy making factory
- Infopark
- Government Departments & Local Bodies
- Volunteers, donors, and medical teams

12. Looking Ahead

In the coming year, the Foundation aims to:

- Expand rural and tribal outreach

- Increase cataract surgical capacity
- Strengthen diabetic eye disease programs
- Enhance training and research initiatives
- Deepen partnerships for sustainable impact

Conclusion

The year 2025 reaffirmed SSM Eye Research Foundation's commitment to restoring sight, dignity, and hope. With collaboration, compassion, and clinical excellence, the Foundation continues its journey toward a future where no one is needlessly blind.



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