



OUTREACH ACTIVITIES OF SSM EYE RESEARCH FOUNDATION – 2020

SSM Eye Research Foundation is stepping into a year of real challenges and changes. Last year we were well prepared to reach a large community with a main focus on children and elderly. The screening for differently abled children, monthly screening for elderly in association with Vayojanamithram - a Kerala government undertaking project and ROP screening project were few of them, among our 2020 plan. Due to Covid-19 pandemic, we were forced to halt our outreach initiatives by the mid of March. Even then we could extend helping hands to more than 30 needy people by offering free or subsidized ophthalmic care during this Covid-19 pandemic.

An overview of the outreach programs from 2020 January to March is given below.

Month	No of Camps held	No of patients screened	No of patients referred for treatment	No of Awareness Sessions held	No of free surgeries done
January	8	1122	288	3	166
February	8	1030	277	2	129
March	4	615	117	2	132
Total	20	2767	682	7	427



Project Nethra

Project Nethra Report 2020 (ROTARY)					
MONTH	NO. of CAMPS	PATIENTS SCREENED	PATIENTS REFERRED	FREE SURGERIES	Glaucoma Awareness Session
January	8	916	105	90	3
February	4	455	49	81	2
March	3	515	77	97	2
Grand Total	30	3132	807	268	7



Screening at Rotary Club of Cochin, North Paravur



Glaucoma Awareness Session for Teachers & Parents.
Veliyanad. LP School, Ernakulam



School Screening, LP School Ernakulam.



Project Kiran

SSMERF and GEI jointly submitted a project Proposal to Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) in 2019 for a Mobile Unit with Imaging Devices for Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) screening in premature infants under CSL's CSR initiative. The proposal was favourably considered by the CSL and they have granted Rs. 21.00 Lakhs to the SSMERF for purchase of a mobile unit equipped with handheld fundus camera and other accessories. This project was titled as "Project Kiran" by the CSL and the RoP on wheels started moving from April 2020.

This project presents the attributes on which an effective program for detecting and treating ROP could be based, including the timing of initial examination and subsequent re-examination intervals. The main aim of screening for ROP is to detect infants needing treatment for ROP.



We visit Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs) of various multi-specialty hospitals in Ernakulam and Kottayam districts regularly / weekly for periodic screening, where with the Neonatologists we keep a check on scheduled ROP screening visits for all premature infants. We have been successful in establishing procedures and systems that significantly reduce our exposure to risk. We have developed multiple layers to check and confirm that patients receive examinations and follow-up treatment when required. We follow a protocol of notifying parents, guardians, hospitals, paediatricians, and if needed, when a patient fails to show for an appointment. At present we are screening 17 different NICUs in various districts of Kerala every week, and with the help of Neonatologists we are treating all affected neonates in the NICUs itself, that too within 48 hours of diagnosis. This immediate step can savour vision of a neonate with maximum results noted and documented in studies till now. These steps not only ensure the continuity of care but also can be provided as evidence in the case of legal investigation.
