Stress on prevention of eye ailments, treatment

Exhibition throws light on common and rare eye diseases

Special Correspondent

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A visit to the eye care awareness exhibition at Aravind Eye Hospital will answer the question whether your eyes are in good condition or not.

It is imperative to keep an eye on your eyes — with this message, an awareness exhibition is open in the hospital's Dr. G. Venkatraman Eye Research Institute for the benefit of students and the public, and in remembrance of the World Sight Day on October 11. The exhibition, "Kawan Nahar," 2017, inaugurated by Collector Asadul Mishra, gives a deep insight into prevention and treatment of eye diseases. From cataract to glaucoma, it is all about eyes. "Let us feel and understand how life will be without vision." These are the words that take you into the exhibition hall and one has to visit in complete darkness for a few seconds to understand the difficulty faced when one is blind.

To create awareness of the importance of eye care, a pledge to fulfill elimination of needless blindness, there are models to explain how one can avoid vision loss. "Soak and feel" and "count and feel" are among the stalls that make you think about the life of visually challenged persons. The Collector was taken around the exhibition by senior ophthalmologists of Aravind Eye Hospital — P. V. Ramachandran, Chairman; Santhosh, Aravind Eye Care Systems, Ahmedabad; and Binu, Chief Medical Officer.

Of the estimated 50 crore people who are blind in the world, 29 per cent live in India. Nearly 70 per cent of this blindness is avoidable. The exhibition explains in detail common eye diseases, juvenile diabetes, diabetic retinopathy, cataract, keratoconus, and others, among premature babies, refractive errors, squint eye, and cataract transplantsing. "Early detection is the best way out," parents, and school children need awareness. After the age of 40, everyone should start going for periodic eye check-up and this is all the more important for diabetes," says Dr. Naopakshi Malhotra, "Diabetes due to diabetes is due to ignorance and let not diabetes lead you in darkness. Cataract occurs in children too; babies with birth weight of less than two kilograms are prone to nephropathy and they need urgent screening," these are some of the messages put up prominently in the expo.

Latest procedures available for correcting vision and treatment of diabetic retinopathy are also explained. There is also an online portal www.acs-leaflet.org which teaches about vision rehabilitation to eye care professionals.

The free eye care awareness exhibition is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. for students 9.30 a.m. to 9.4 p.m. for public 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. till November 11.