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# MONITOR GROUP

## Market Based Solutions to Social Change in India

### Low-Cost Service Delivery in Health & Education

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A catalyst for global health

**Delhi, June 16, 2008**

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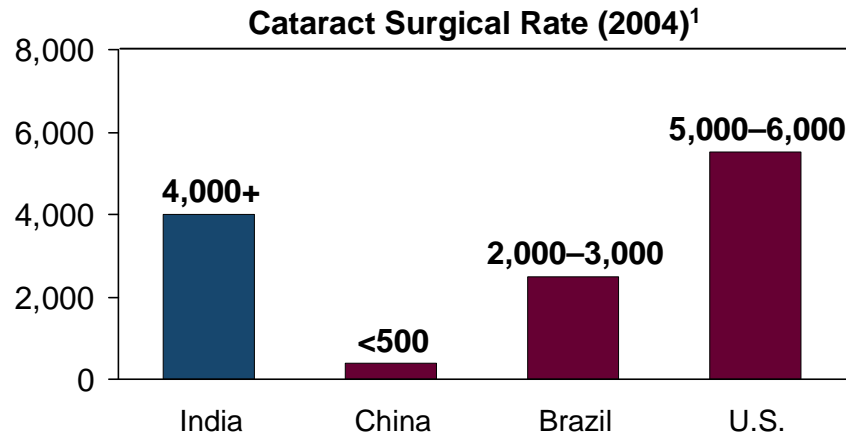
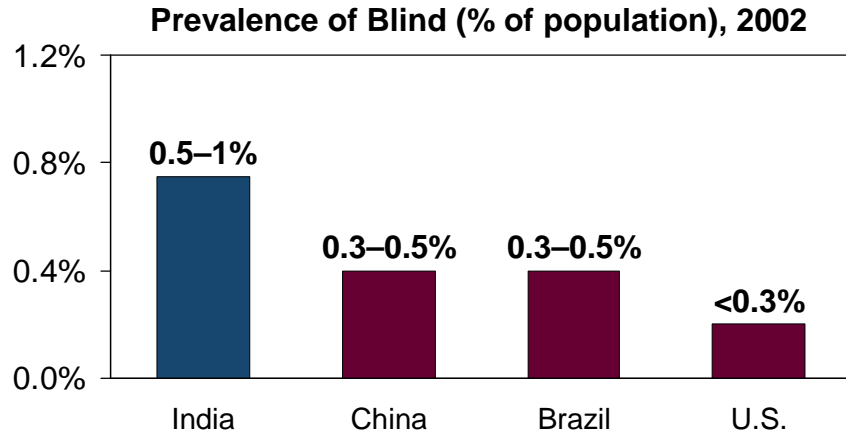
This document provides an outline of a presentation and is incomplete without the accompanying oral commentary and discussion.

# Case Study

## Aravind: Context



**India has the largest blind population in the world, 63% of which is cataract and easily curable. While surgical rates are high, much remains to be done**



- India has the **largest blind population in the world**
  - 15 million blind; another 210 million are visually impaired and at risk of going blind
    - 75% of the vision loss is preventable / treatable
- **Cataract accounts for 63% of the blind**
  - 3.8 million become blind due to cataract each year
- While India's cataract surgical rate (CSR) has improved, it needs to increase further
  - Number of operations is **far below** the level required to take care of **incidence** and clear the **backlog**
- Lack of doctors and **uneven distribution** limits access
  - There are 11k ophthalmologists for 1.1 bn population in India relative to 60k for 300 mn in U.S.
  - Most doctors are located in urban areas while a majority of the blind are in rural India

*“The distribution of ophthalmologists favors urban over rural setting by a factor of ten”*  
 – Kumar & Bachani, 1996

<sup>1</sup> CSR — Cataract Surgical Rate refers to number of cataract surgeries performed per million of population per year

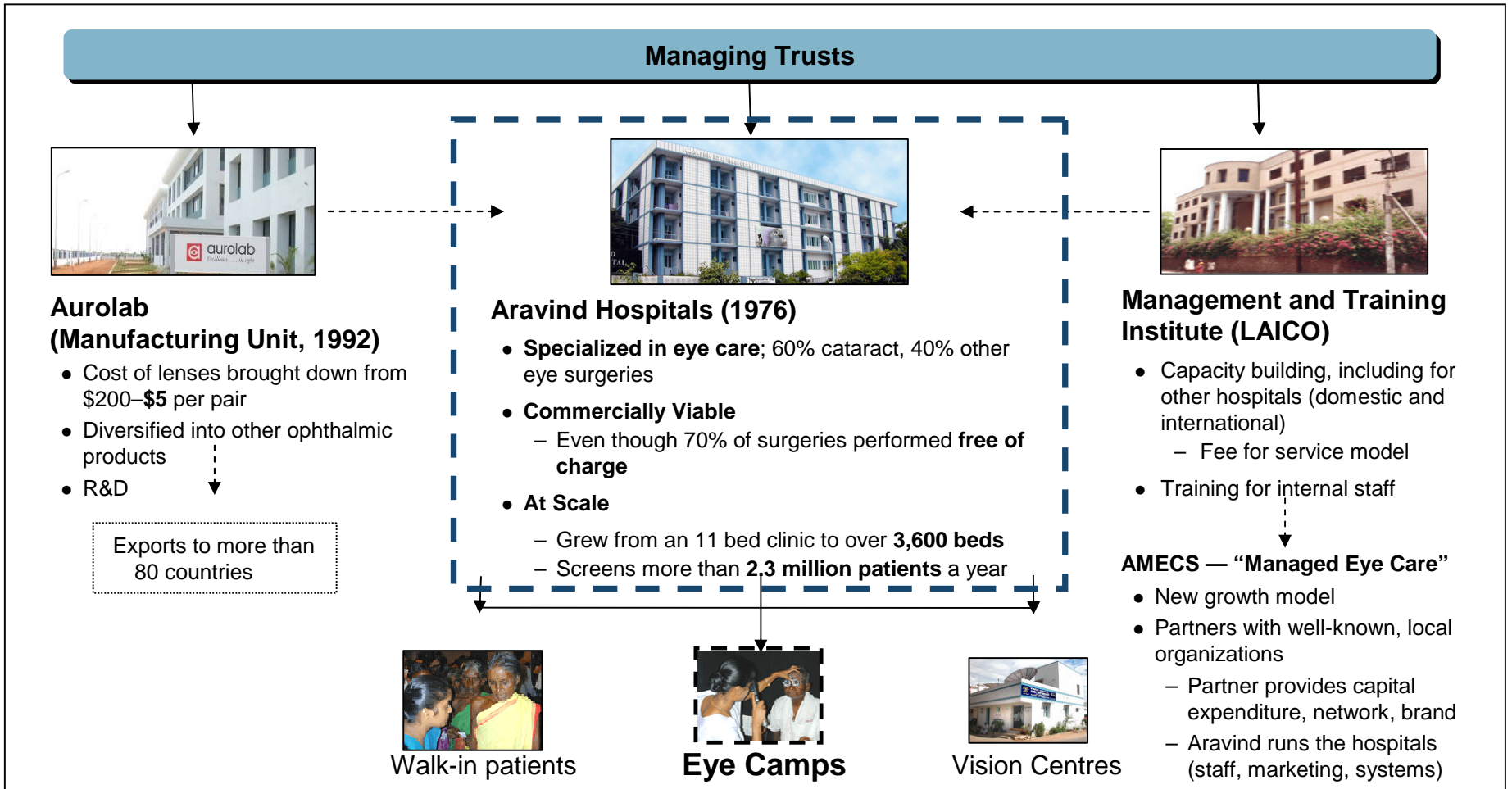
Source: WHO statistics, WHO – Cataract blindness: Challenges for 21st century (2001), Productivity: Getting Cataract Patients by Thulasiraj, Monitoring and evaluating cataract intervention by Kumar & Bachani, Disease Control Priorities in Developing Countries, NPCB Statistics, Secondary Research, Monitor Analysis

# Case Study

## Aravind: Overview



*The Aravind System provides end-to-end eye care services and does 285,000 surgeries per year, in a system that has been configured for the B60 customer*



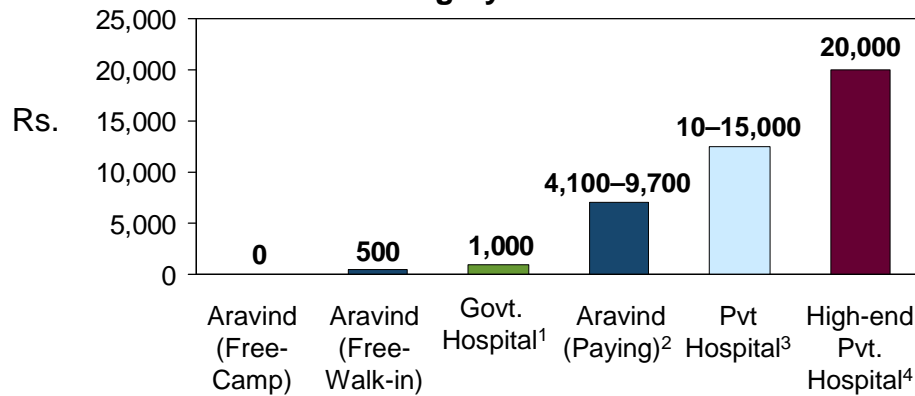
# Case Study

## Aravind: Pricing

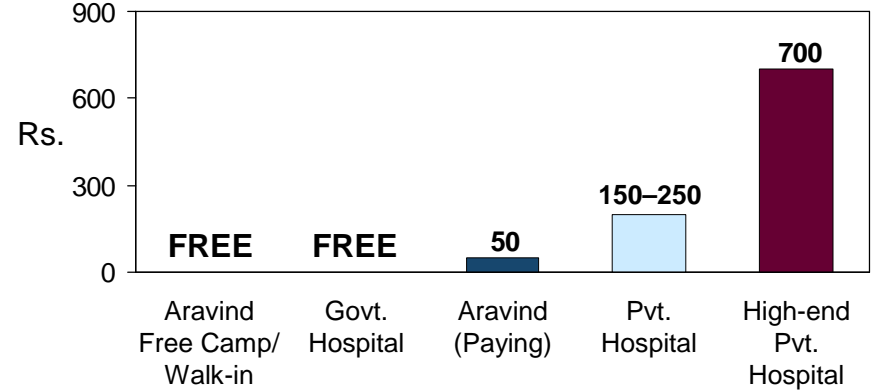


**Two-thirds of Aravind’s patients get treated for free or minimal price, the remaining that pay, do so at close to market rates**

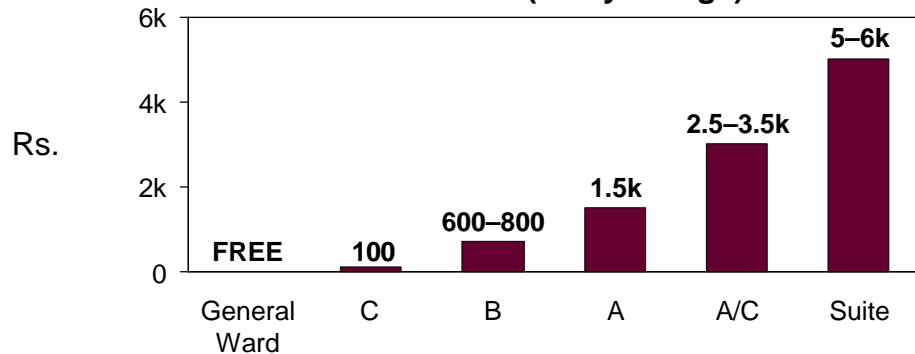
**Price Comparison — Cataract Surgery with Basic IOL**



**Out-Patient Charges per Patient (Rs.)**



**Payment choice by Room Type at Aravind (2-day charge)**



- Payment choice varies by **room type and IOL lens type** (Rs. 500–28,000)
  - Total price can range from Rs. 4k–46k
- Aravind hospital, Madurai operations has **gross margin of ~35-40%**, inspite of **free/minimal cost treatment of 2/3<sup>rd</sup> customers** (primarily cataract)

Note: IOL — Intra-Ocular Lens. Free patients at Aravind are either walk-in or brought via camps. Free walk-in patients pay Rs. 500 (for lens). Camp patients do not pay anything and are brought through outreach camps funded by NGOs.<sup>1</sup> Govt. Hospitals pricing includes drugs, lens and others (IOL lenses cost Rs. 300–750), <sup>2</sup> Aravind price for surgery ranges by room type and includes total cost of stay, IOL lens (Rs. 500) and medicines,<sup>3</sup> Private Hospital comparison for a clinic in a non-metro location,<sup>4</sup> High-end Pvt. Hospital refers to clinics like Shroff Eye Clinic (Bombay) with non-foldable IOL lens

Source: IIMA Case Study — AECS, Interview, Secondary Research, Monitor Analysis  
BZR-SAB-Phase 1b-Low-Cost\_Service\_Delivery\_Health\_Education-Final Presentation

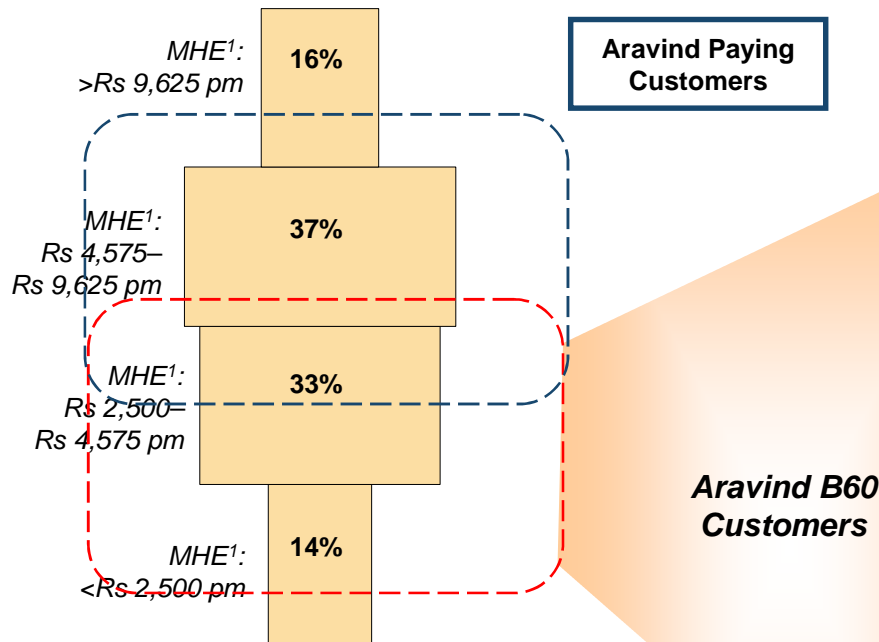
# Case Study

## Aravind: Customer Profile



*The majority of Aravind customers are B60 with household income of Rs. 2–3k a month*

Urban India Income Pyramid (2004–2005)



*“An individual who regained vision through cataract surgery generated 1,500% of the cost of surgery in **increased economic productivity** during the first year following surgery”*

– Survey amongst Aravind Eye Care patients

### Customer Details

- A typical Aravind B60 customer is an agricultural labourer, earning a daily wage
- He tends to be 50+ years of age
- He faces barriers of access, lack of knowledge, cost and loss of wages in his attempt to get medical care
- He along with a majority of Aravind’s B60 customers, gets free treatment at Aravind and comes to the Aravind hospital via the eye camps

### Customer Profile

- Example: Walk-in, Free patient — A couple from Andhra Pradesh

*“We had a bad experience at the government hospital close to us. So, came here because of the quality . . . The private clinic charges Rs. 2,000. Here, we pay Rs. 500 per eye and can stay in the hospital itself”*

– Customer

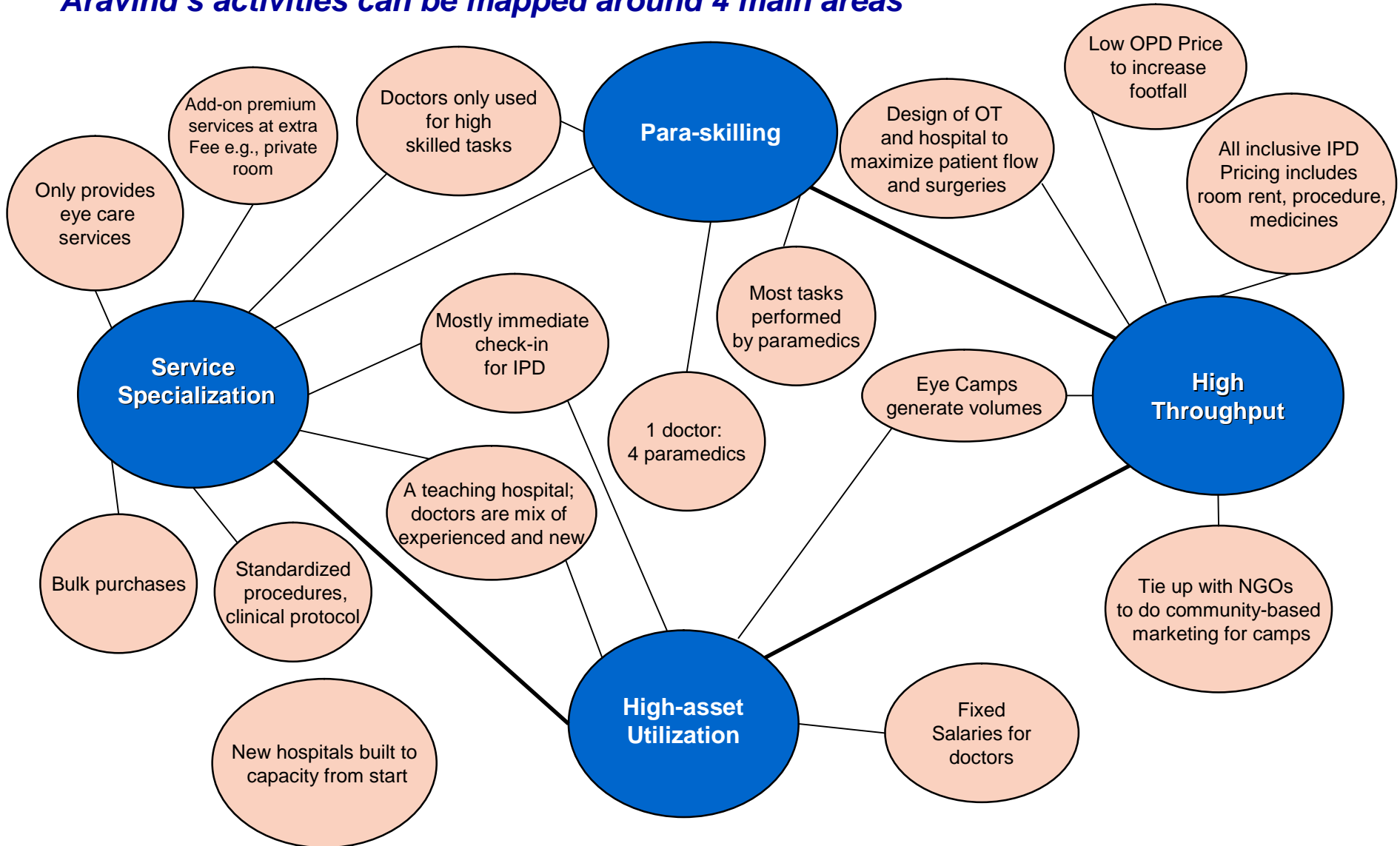
<sup>1</sup> Monthly Household Expenditure  
 Source: NCAER, Secondary Research, Interviews, Monitor Analysis  
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# Case Study

## Aravind: Activity System



Aravind's activities can be mapped around 4 main areas



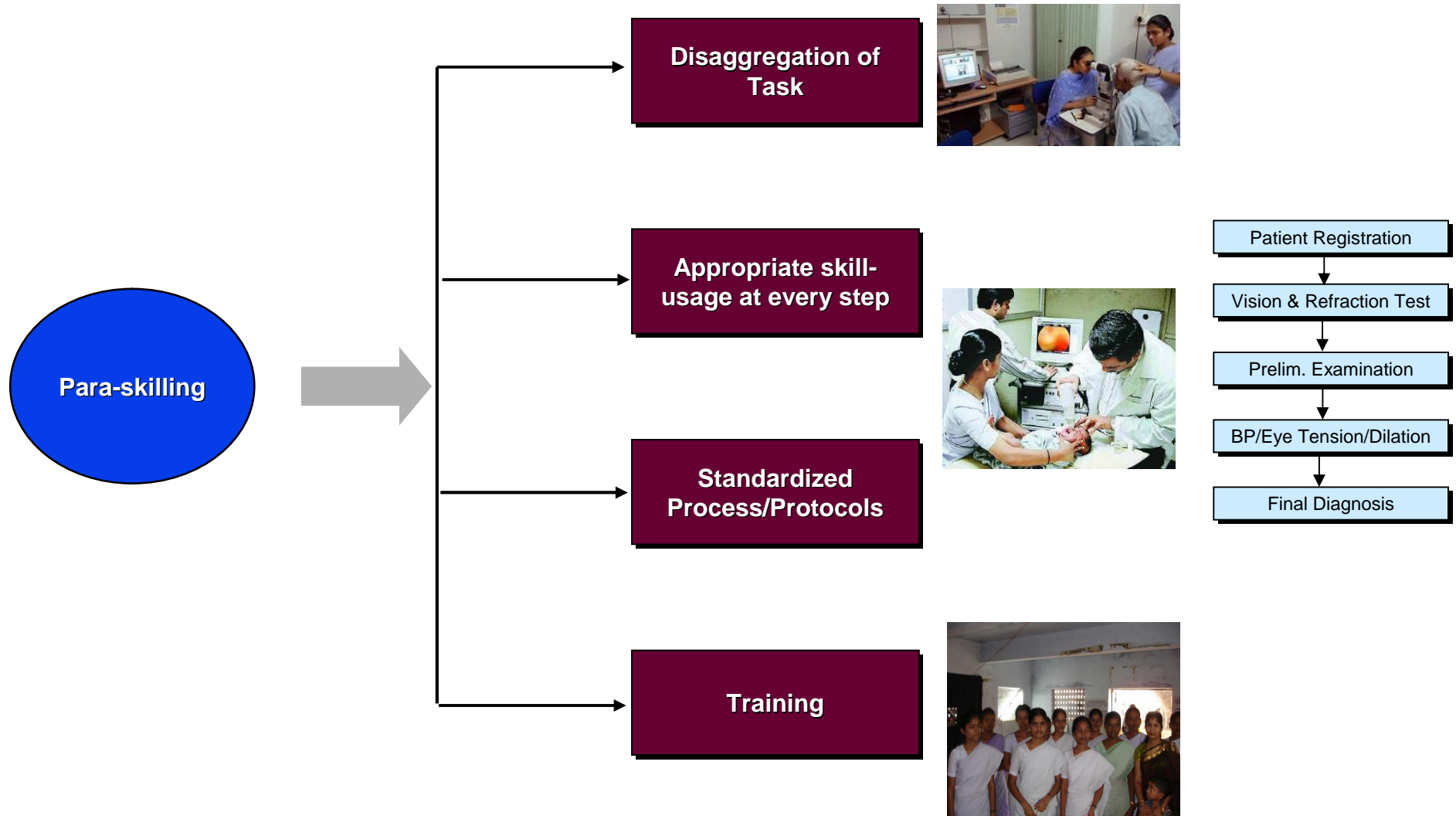


## Case Study

### Aravind: Para-skilling(1/3)



*There are four components to para-skilling that Aravind effectively employs*

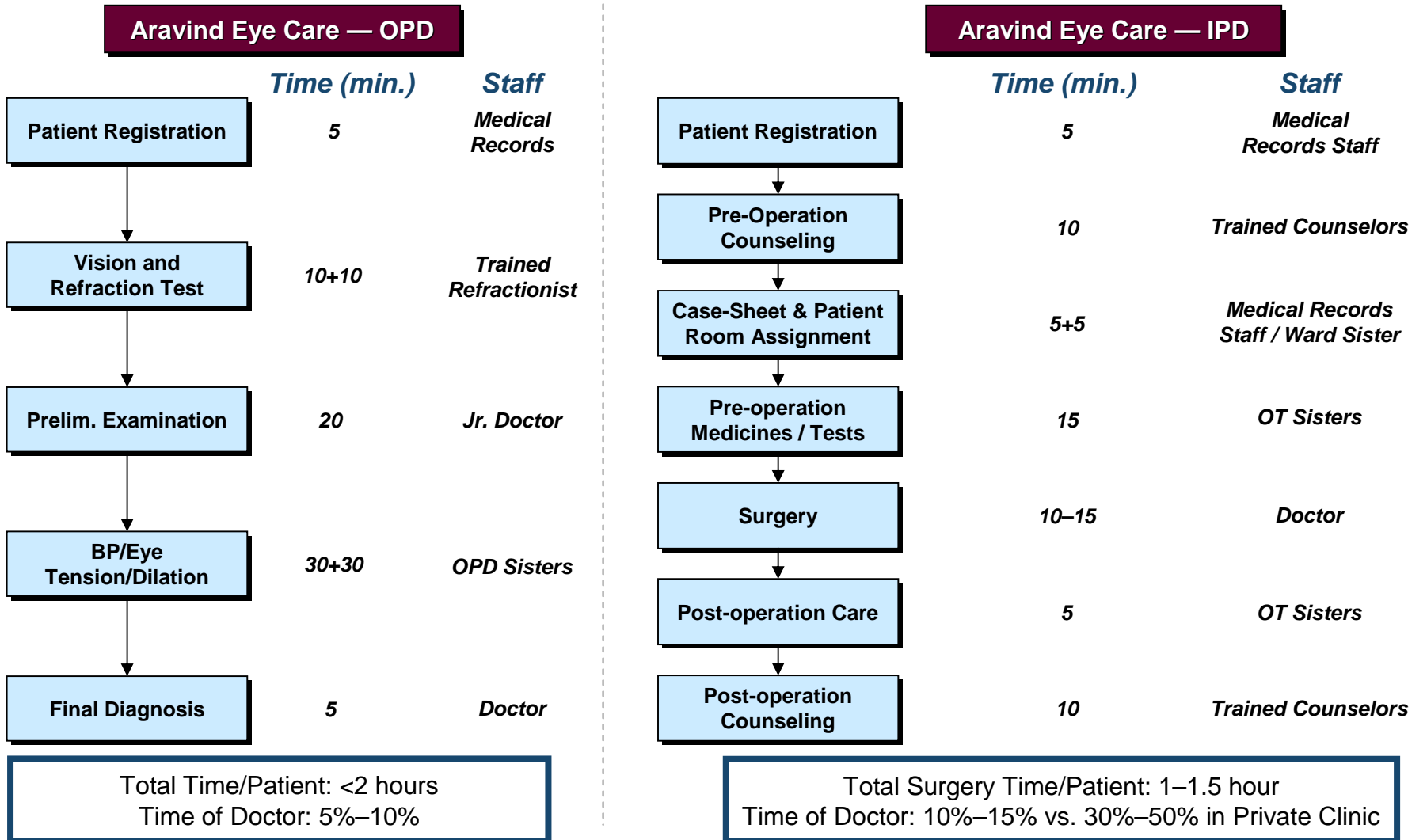


# Case Study

## Aravind: Para-skilling(2/3)



*Aravind has pioneered the disaggregation of its delivery mechanism by breaking up the process and using skill-appropriate labour at every step*



Source: AECS Case Study (Harvard, IIMA, IIMB), Secondary Research, Interviews, Monitor Analysis  
BZR-SAB-Phase 1b-Low-Cost\_Service\_Delivery\_Health\_Education-Final Presentation



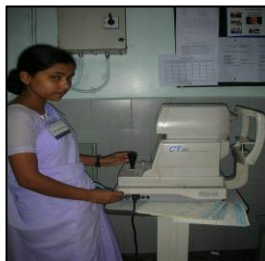
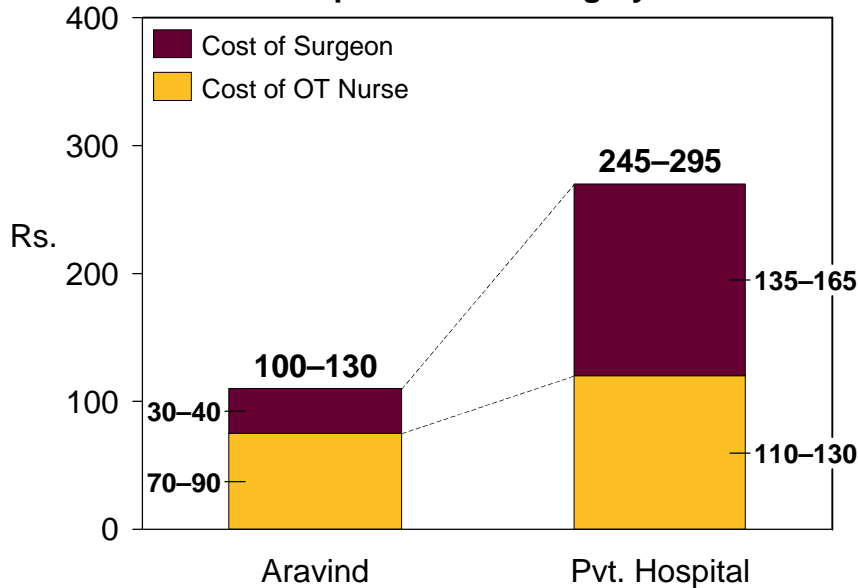
# Case Study

## Aravind: Para-skilling(3/3)



### Para-skilling helps Aravind lower cost and increase efficiency

Cost of Medical Staff (Doctor, OT Nurse) per Cataract Surgery<sup>1</sup>



### Advantages of Para-skilling at Aravind

- 1 • **Reduced the cost of medical staff** per cataract surgery to **45%** of a private hospital
  - Aravind: 1 surgeon, assisted by 4 in-house trained staff
  - Private: 1 surgeon, assisted by 1–2 qualified nurses
- 2 • **Increased utilization** of expensive resource (**doctors**) by using para-skilled staff for all tasks except final diagnosis and surgery
  - 45% of total staff are clinical paramedics
- 3 • Further **cost reduction amongst paramedics** by keeping the ratio of employee to trainees at 60:40
  - Employee wages start at Rs. 3,300/month vs. Trainee stipend of Rs. 500–700/month
- 4 • Increased productivity due to **specialization by activity** for a paramedic (MLOPs are trained in a particular category and further specialize in the same)
  - For example, OPD nurse may specialize in pediatric OPD

<sup>1</sup> Aravind: Doctor salary-Rs. 24,000/month,200 surgery/month, 26% of time on surgery; OT Nurse-Rs. 3,900 (4 nurses assist 1 operation), 220 cases assisted per month

Source: AECS Case Study (Harvard, IIMA, IIMB), Secondary Research, Interviews, Monitor Analysis

## Case Study

### Aravind: Paramedic Profile(1/2)



**Paramedics form the backbone of Aravind, running everything from outpatient care to operating theatres**



#### “Paramedic” / MLOP

- Paramedic refers to “Mid-level Ophthalmic Personnel” staff consisting of 10 categories
  - **Clinical staff:** Refractionist, Counselors, OPD, OT, Ward
  - **Non-clinical staff:** Medical Records, Catering, Optical Sales and Technician, Housekeeping, Instrument Technician and Stores
- **Typical Profile:** Girls from poor families in rural areas, Class XII (40%–50% marks)
  - Focus on girls who have no chance to go for further education and **low aspirations** (family background)

#### Recruitment and Training

- **Recruitment:** Aravind relies on 3 ways of recruiting — engages with School Principals, ‘word of mouth’, and notice at Aravind’s OPD waiting halls
  - Application consists of written essay, and in-person interview with girl and parents to test for the right ‘**attitude**’ and **common sense**
- **Training:** All paramedics undergo 2 year training; 6 months of basic course, rest on-the-job in different categories
  - *“Our job is to make an ordinary person, extraordinary”*
  - Dr. Natchiar, Director, HR

#### Salary

- All paramedic across categories are **paid equally**
  - During training period: Rs. 500 for 1st Year and Rs. 700 for 2nd Year; Free meals, accommodation and medical assistance
  - Starting Salary: Rs. 3300/month (increases to Rs. 5,000–15,000/month)
  - Short-term posting at non-base hospital paid an extra Rs. 3,000/month

#### Incentives

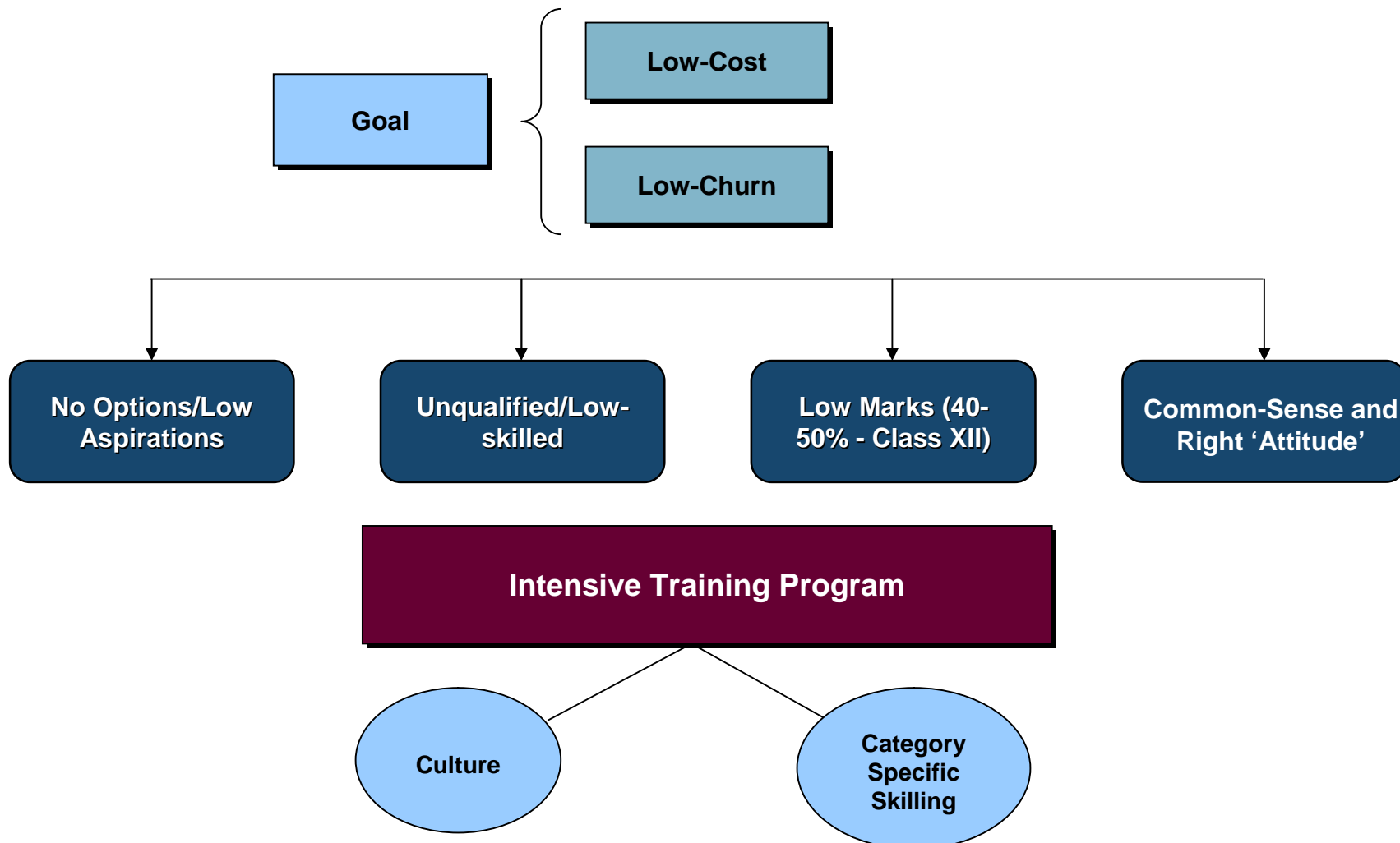
- **Responsibility:** MLOPs are given responsibility of running most Aravind systems, e.g., new hospital in Lucknow was started by them
  - *“At Aravind, MLOPs run everything from patient flow, to arranging the cases for operations”*
  - Dr. Haripriya, Head, Cataract
- Attrition of 7%–8% in initial years; most stay for long period of time
  - Average duration at Aravind is 10 yrs

## Case Study

### Aravind: Paramedic Profile(2/2)



*Aravind's recruitment criteria and training program has resulted in high retention rates for paramedics*



Source: Interviews, Monitor Analysis

## Case Study

# Aravind: HT-Patient Acquisition



**Aravind generates its throughput via camps (free end-to-end service), free walk-in service (minimal surgery charges) and low OPD fee**

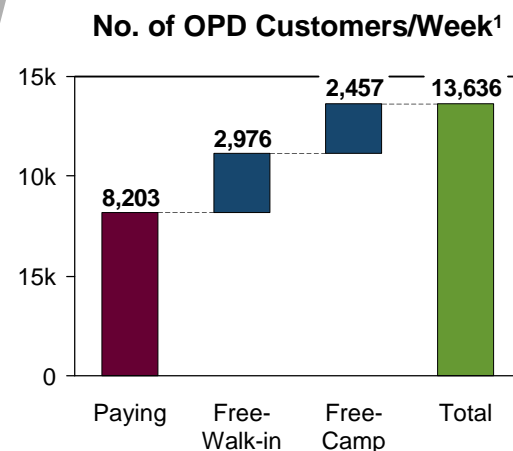
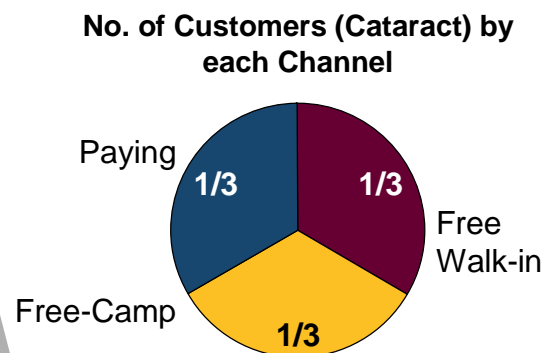
**Outreach Camps, Free end-to-end Service**

- Outreach camps provide eye care access in rural areas and improve Aravind’s asset utilization
  - Acceptance initially <50%; required strategies like free treatment, transportation, food, door-to-door follow-up
  - Cost of treatment borne by Aravind, grant-in-aid (by government for lens only)
  - **1/3rd of Aravind throughput comes from outreach camps**

- No. of camps/month (Madurai): 30–35 (320 OPD/camp)
- Patient acceptance rate: 88%
- Camps organized with prior publicity, sponsored by Trusts / NGOs (Rs. 10,500 per camp)
- No. of staff: 1 doctor, 3 paramedics, 1 counselor, 2 opticians can screen 200 patients

**Walk-in Patients**

- **Free Walk-in:** Free OPD, low-cost (Rs. 500 or more) of cataract surgery and Aravind’s reputation brings in patients
  - Free walk-in patients account for **1/3rd** of Aravind’s throughput
- **Paying Walk-in:** **Low OPD fee** (Rs. 50) increases hospital footfall
  - Aravind has **structured payment choices for paying patients**, starting at Rs. 4,100
    - Paying prices are **~20%–30% lower** than market prices
    - Patient acceptance rate are high due to systems in place
      - E.g., counselors engage with patient to help them decide the type of surgery, lens, rooms, etc.



<sup>1</sup> OPD occurs at the camp site and only those requiring surgery or further check ups are transported to the hospital

Note: Data for Surgery is for Aravind Hospital, Madurai for 2007–2008

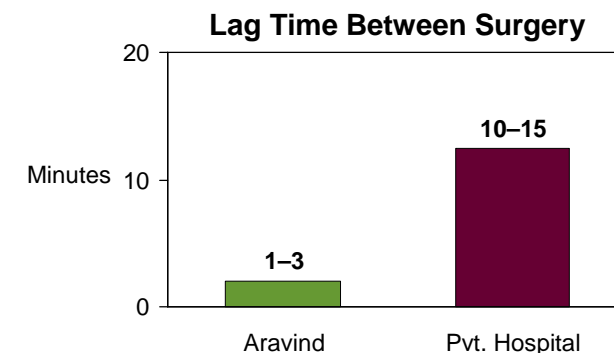
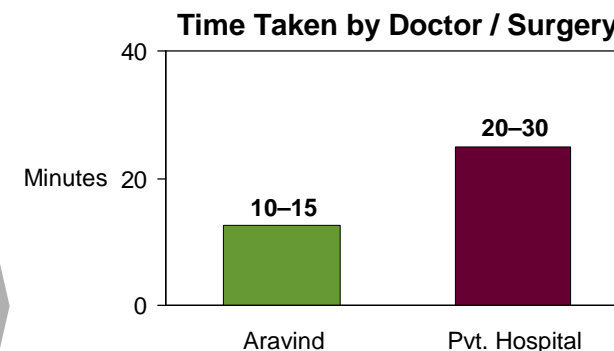
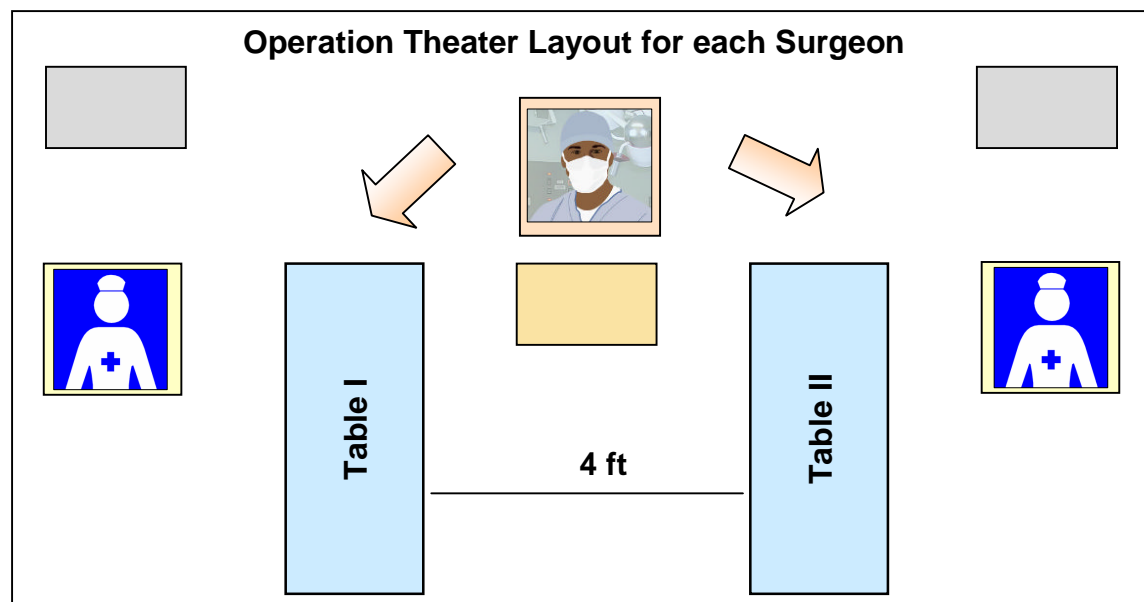
Source: WHO-Global initiative for eliminating world blindness (1997), Aravind Annual Report 2007-08, Secondary Research, Interviews, Monitor Analysis

## Case Study

### Aravind: High Asset Utilization



*Efficient process configuration and super specialization drive high levels of productivity, further increasing asset utilization*



- Operating Table
- Operating Microscope
- Instrument Trolley
- Surgeon
- Assisting Nurse

- **Operation Theater Layout:** OT layout has 2 tables with a floor model operating microscope between them, minimizing surgeon's waiting time between operations
- **Operation Theater Workflow:** While a surgeon is operating on Table I, the assisting nurse can prepare the patient on the Table II. The surgeon moves between the two tables, supported by paramedic staff
- **Division of Labour:** With proper training, paramedical staff can perform many of the routine and also some specialized tasks

# Case Study

## Aravind: Where it Did Not Work?



### *Aravind expansion into pediatrics and hearing aids failed due to reasons of commitment and lack of marketing channel*

Pediatric Hospital

- Entry: Aravind opened a pediatric care hospital in Madurai
    - A large number of children go blind due to malnutrition. Aravind started nutrition camps that eventually led to involvement in a pediatric hospital
  - Exit: As nutritional issues decreased, the hospital’s focus became more pediatric than blindness centred and so Aravind’s focus was not maintained
    - Aravind did not attempt para-skilling or any other innovation
- “Heart of the leadership was in eye care”*

- Mr. Thulasiraj, Senior Leadership Team

Hearing Aids

- Entry: Aravind started low-cost hearing aids manufacturing
    - Aimed at providing low-cost solution in a different field of healthcare
  - Exit: No captive demand; required tremendous effort in sales and marketing and would have diverted attention from eye care
- “Hearing aids was not like Aurolabs where Aravind’s consumption of the high quality, low cost product was enough to keep it profitable; in hearing aids we did not have the marketing strength or knowledge” – Dr. Aravind*

Transition from Consulting to ‘Managed Eye Care’

- Entry: Aravind systems & processes had proved to be scalable and replicable
    - Aimed at providing consulting support to eye hospitals across the world
    - Found ability to transmit lessons and processes depended on senior leadership of the hospitals they were consulting to
  - Focus on ‘Managed Eye Care’: Quick scale up for Aravind would be possible by the ‘Managed eye care’ hospital network
    - Consulting will continue but no control on the hospital limited impact
    - Going forward, Aravind plans to run the hospitals with full control on daily operations in association with partners
- “We believe ‘managed eye care’ approach will help us grow and scale up in various states in India in a short span of time”*

# Case Study

## Aravind: Barriers and Challenges



*While reaching scale, Aravind surmounted barriers at different stages of its growth . . . however, certain challenges remain . . .*

Barriers Surmounted	Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finding start-up <b>capital</b> for expansion — founders mortgaged houses, took no or low salaries</li> <li>• <b>Soft funding</b> for Aurolab (manufacturing unit) and LAICO (management institute)</li> </ul>
	Human Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficulty in finding talent at all levels — nurses, doctors, etc. Aravind started <b>in-house training</b> of paramedics, post graduate institute for doctors and fellowship training in hospital management</li> <li>• Designed the '<b>value-proposition</b>' for <b>doctors</b>, keeping in mind the different phases of doctor life-cycle             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Increasing salaries to market rates in initial phase, other incentives like research, conference participation later</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	Stakeholder Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased customer awareness by <b>pioneering eye camps</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Provided access, customer education and marketing on-site</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Building trust by being strongly oriented to the poor and their problems</li> </ul>
	Operational Redesign (Processes and Systems)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinical processes redesigned to ensure maximum efficiency, quality and affordability</li> <li>• Technology and MIS investments to allow growth</li> <li>• Moving from eye camps to telemedicine for more in-depth and regular eye care</li> <li>• Aurolab expanding production from lenses to sutures to "orphan" drugs spreads cost</li> </ul>
	Input Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expensive imports — lenses cost \$200. <b>In-house production</b> reduced cost to \$5 a pair and jump-started Indian lens production industry</li> </ul>
Challenges Ahead	Human Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Recruiting paramedics</b> challenging due to increase in job opportunities (BPO, airlines) and educational opportunities (financial loans and rural colleges)</li> <li>• Lack of talent at high-level (senior doctors) and alignment with <b>senior leadership</b>, especially in new locations</li> </ul>
	Organizational Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transmitting Aravind vision and culture of constant improvement in new hospitals</li> </ul>
	Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community acceptance in a new location can work in favour or against Aravind, depending on the partner</li> <li>• Fall out with partner could stop Aravind's involvement in the hospital</li> </ul>