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Dear Readers,

Following the wide response from the public and student community to the Kannae Nalamaa, 2011 held at Madurai, A similar one was conducted at Aravind, Pondicherry from February 17 – 20.

It was a matter of joy for the staff of the Aravind for the Chairman, Dr.R.D.Ravindran to receive the Heroes of Humanity award from the Art of Living Foundation of Sri Sri Ravi Shankar. Aravind doctors made a mark at the AIOS conference held at Ahmedabad by presenting a total of around 50 papers.

LAICO's flagship course, Management Training for Eye Care Programme Managers was held for a fortnight from February 7 with participants from India and abroad. The consultancy division of LAICO carried out the needs assessment visits to different hospitals.

Immediately after the Programme Managers Course, LAICO team again became busy with the arrangements of the 6th annual conference, PRISM 2011.

News about these and many more feature in this issue.

Aravind News Team

Aravind News Team
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Quote

"The life which is unexamined is not worth living". - Socrates

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Heroes of Humanity Award for Dr. R.D. Ravindran

Chennai, January 30



Dr.R.D. Ravindran, Chairman, Aravind Eye Care System was conferred the Heroes of Humanity Award by the Art of Living Foundation on the occasion of its 30th anniversary celebrations. The award was presented during the World Culture Festival in recognition of his selfless service to the society.

Sujatha Savitri Award for Dr. Parag K. Shah

Ahmedabad, February 3 – 6





Dr. Parag K. Shah was presented the Sujatha Savithri Rao Award for his paper on *Ophthalmic Brachytherapy using Indigenous BARC Ocu-Prosta Iodine 125 seeds for Choroidal Melanomas* at the All India Ophthalmological Society conference.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Grand Eye Care Exhibition at Aravind – Pondicherry

February 17 – 20



Similar to the one that was conducted at Madurai, a grand exhibition on eye care was arranged at Aravind – Pondicherry with a view to create awareness among the public about the common eye diseases and treatments. District Collector, R. Chandramohan, IAS, while inaugurating the exhibition appreciated Aravind's services to the society. Dr. V. Vasudevaya inaugurated the audio visual unit in the exhibition.

Various posters describing the common eye diseases and treatment were displayed. The highlight of the whole exhibition was a mock surgery performed by the staff. This is the first time that such a grand exhibition on eye care is conducted at Pondicherry. More than 6000 people visited the exhibition the whole event was organized under the able guidance of Dr. R. Venkatesh, Chief Medical Officer.



Congrats for Honesty

Aravind - Madurai



J. Murugan, cleaner, Aravind - Madurai set an excellent example for others when he returned a lost money purse to the owner. Murugan who joined Aravind two years back was busy with his work at the registration area when he found a purse on the floor. He returned the purse to the housekeeping staff Ms.Sankareswari, Ms.Subbulakshmi which was later handed over to Mr. P. Ramanathan, Public Relations Officer. The purse contained Rs.2000. The purse was handed over to the owner who was found to be a native of Ramnad and had come to Aravind for treatment. Dr. S.Aravind, Administrator rewarded the employee in recognition of his honesty.



CME HELD AT ARAVIND EYE HOSPITAL

CME on Molecular Diagnosis - Polymerase chain reaction

Aravind – Tirunelveli, February 12 – 13

The inaugural function of the CME commenced with a prayer song and lighting of Kuthuvilakku by Dr. Palaniappan, Dr. R.D.Ravindran, Dr. R. Ramakrishnan, Dr. Lalitha Prajna and Dr. Viswanathan. Later Dr.R.Ramakrishnan, Chief Medical Officer welcomed the faculty members and all the delegates. Experts from various states of the country, postgraduates and students from various colleges attended the CME.

The field of Molecular biology and Microbiology has undergone revolutionary changes and the main purpose of the CME was to familiarize the participants with the changes and update their knowledge. Experts who are richly experienced in the field of Molecular biology and Microbiology were invited as faculty to discuss the recent advances



and developments at a great length. The CME paved way for better understanding of the changes in the field of Glaucoma and also immensely benefited and enriched the delegates.



NEWS AND EVENTS

Housekeeping Staff Taken for an Exposure Visit

Aravind – Coimbatore, January 25 and February 3



To provide better insights into the art of housekeeping and hospitality, the staff of housekeeping department were taken to "Jenney Residency" – a three star Hotel in Coimbatore. Mr.Baskaran Housekeeping manager of the hotel gave a brief introduction about their work. He demonstrated the different methods of bed making, room arrangements and curtain styles. The housekeeping staff were impressed by the way files are documented and various checklists maintained.



Annual Parameter Audit

Aravind – Pondicherry, January 27-30



Dr. S.R Krishnadas, Director-HR, Dr.Maneksha, Chief-Orbit Clinic, Aravind - Tirunelveli and Sr. Vimala Medical Records staff of Theni was the external auditors. The clinical and non-clinical departments presented their performance report and achievements in2010 and also the future plans. At the end of the meeting, greeting cards and a plant was presented to each department staff by the auditors. At the final day of the Dr. R. Venkatesh, CMO, Aravind - Pondicherry presented mementoes to the external auditors as a token of gratitude. The HR department of Pondicherry facilitated the entire audit meeting.



Hospital Day Celebrations

Aravind – Coimbatore, January 29



Aravind Eye Hospital, Coimbatore celebrated its 14th Hospital day with a variety of programmes. Dr. P.Sathyan, Chief – Glaucoma Services delivered the welcome address followed by the presentation of annual report by Dr. V.Narendran, Chief Medical Officer. The function was presided by Chairman Dr. R.D.Ravindran. In his address he focused on patient care, employee welfare, new innovations and services rendered by our hospital.

The function was felicitated by Ln. Dr. R. Balasubramaniam – Lions Club of Valavadi. He was introduced by Dr. R. Revathi, Chief - Cornea Services and in appreciation of his contribution in enhancing eye donation a memento was presented by Dr. Kalpana Narendran, Senior Medical Officer. In his special address Dr.R.Balasubramaniam spoke about the hospital services. He and Dr. R.D.Ravindran distributed cash awards to the staff members, as a mark of honor and recognition for the invaluable

services they have rendered. Dr.Viji Rangarajan Chief – Orbit and Oculoplasty Services proposed a vote of thanks followed by cultural Programmes.



Aravind – Tirunelveli

February 12



Dr. R. D. Ravindran, Chairman and Dr. Krishnadas, Director – HR, Aravind Eye Care System were invited as guests of honor for the gala hospital day celebrations. Mr. Athilingam, Founder - Annai Velankanni Hospitals, Dr. Natarajan, Dr. Lalitha Prajna and other well wishers of AECS were the special guests. The hospital has completed 23 years of its glorious service The function started with prayer song followed by the Chief Medical Officer, Dr.R.Ramakrishnan welcoming the gathering. Dr.Shivakumar presented the activities report for the year 2010. Dr. R. D. Ravindran and Dr. Krishnadas gave an inspiring speech. As a mark of respect and recognition for the efforts, cash awards and certificates were distributed by Mr. Athilingam, Dr. Natarajn, Dr. Lalitha Prajna to the staff members. Following this a few cultural programs were also staged. Dr.Mohideen proposed a vote of thanks.



Ms. Preethi Pradhan as Guest Speaker at LIBA Beacon '11

Chennai, February 5



Ms. Preethi Pradhan, Senior faculty, LAICO was invited to deliver a special address on the importance of social innovation and the contributions of Aravind Eye Care System. At LIBA Beacon'11, a symposium dedicated to Social Innovation organized by Loyola Institute of Business Administration (LIBA), Loyola College, Chennai.



CONFERENCES ATTENDED ELSEWHERE

Roundtable on AMD

Hotel Novotel, Hyderabad, January 26

Conducted by Novartis
 Dr. V. R. Saravanan
 - *Management of difficult case situations in AMD*



All India Ophthalmological Society Conference

Ahmedabad, February 3- 6

Dr. R.D. Ravindran
 -As Chairman of the symposium on ocular biometry
 - Intraocular power calculation formula
 - As chairman of the free paper session on *Cataract*
 - As co-chairman for the national symposium *Infection Control in Ophthalmic surgeries* and spoke on *Epidemiology of post cataract endophthalmitis*.
 - Participated in the alumnae dinner and gave a brief talk touching upon *the recent developments in Aravind*.
 Dr. V. Narendran
 - *Ultrasonography in retinal vascular disorders*
 - *Newer medical agents in paedatric retinal management*
 - *Clinical picture, differential diagnosis, classification of ROP*

Dr. V.R. Saravanan

- *Relative merits and indications for FFA, ICG and OCT in ARMD.*
- *Management of arterial occlusions*
- *Imaging in retinal vascular disorders.*

Dr. Rodney J. Morris

- *Electroretinography in retinal vascular disorders*
- *Management of BRVO*

Dr. Abhishek Kothari

- *Optical coherence tomography in retinal vascular disorders*
- *Management of CRVO*
- *Intravitreal therapy in macular edema*
- *DNA macrochip – a new tool to diagnose the etiology in infective endophthalmitis*

Dr. Jayshree

- *Macular hole surgery – ILM peeling with and without brilliant blue stain*
- *Use of OCT in assessing macular thickness in young myopic adults*

Dr. Gana Din

- *Outcome or removal of silicon oil*

Dr. Abhishek Kumar

- *To combine or not to combine cataract surgery and pars plana vitrectomy in children*
- *Combined intravitreal bevacizumab and triamcinolone in macular edema due to vascular retinopathies*

Dr. Aravind Pal Singh

- *Prevalence of diabetic retinopathy in Type 2 diabetics in rural vs urban population of Punjab.*

Dr. Neeraj Kumar Agrawal

- *Virtual reality Vs Donor eye training for learning capsulorhexis – A clinical trial*

Dr.Tamilarasi

- *Role of optic design and material on posterior capsular opacification*
- *Iris sutured PC IOLs – visual and surgical outcomes*

Dr.P.M. Aravind

- *Achieving high retention rate of clinical trial subjects in a long term study among rural population*

Dr. N. Venkatesh Prajna

- *Future of ophthalmology*
- *Management of pterygium*

Dr. Haripriya

- *Hard cataract management*
- *Panel discussion: Curbside consultation on cataract surgery*
- *Posterior capsule rupture and zonular dialysis management (Chief instructor)Dr.R.Ramakrishnan*
- *How to use commonly available instruments to diagnose glaucoma chart progression*
- *Management of ocular surface disease in glaucoma*
- *Goldman applanation tonometer - Getting it right*

Dr. Usha Kim

- *As Chairman for the session pearl orbit and oculoplasty*
- *Surgical decompression of orbit*

Dr. Lalitha Prajna

- *As convenor for the national symposium infection control in Ophthalmic surgeries and spoke on toxic anterior segment syndrome (TASS)*
- *Real time PCR in the diagnosis of Ocular TB*

Dr.Mohideen A K

- *Tonometers : How close are we to the true IOP*

Dr. P.Vijayalakshmi

- *Setting up of a Paediatric ophthalmology Unit*

Dr. Muralidhar

- *Taking Paediatric ophthalmology to the doorsteps*

Free Paper Presentations

Dr.Arijit Mitra, Dr.Ramakrishnan, Dr.Mohideen Abdul Kadar, Dr.Devendra Maheswari, Dr.Anup Das

- *Angle recession glaucoma - A challenging treatment proposition outcome of trabeculectomy with MMC*

Dr.Arijit Mitra, Dr.Ramakrishnan, Dr.Mohideen Abdul Kadar, Dr.Dr.Anup Das, Dr.Ashish Kumar

- *AGV in refractory glaucoma - outcome, complications & management of complications - a surgeons experience*
Dr.Ashish Bacchav, Dr.Sandhya Reddy Kovvuri, Dr.Venkat Rami reddy Tetali, Dr.Yashodhan Satalkar, Dr.R.Ramakrishnan
- *Corneal endothelial damage after manual small incision cataract surgery of very hard cataracts*
Dr.Devendra Maheswari, Dr.Neelam Pawar, Dr.Ramakrishnan, Dr.Mohideen Abdul Kadar, Dr.Ankit Gupta
- *Family screening of POAG and PACG patients : the help of family glaucoma screening project*
- *Assessing quality of life in patients with glaucoma using the glaucoma quality of life -15 (QOL -15)questionnaire*
Dr.Devendra Maheswari, Dr.Neelam Pawar, Dr.Ramakrishnan, Dr.Sanjeev Kumar, Dr.Ashish Kumar
- *Comparision of RNFL thickness in patients with unilateral hypertensive Pxf syndrome and normal subject*
Dr.Praneeth Vaddadi, Dr.Ashish Bacchav, Dr.Sandhya Reddy, Dr.Rajagopal Kunnatur, Dr.R.Ramakrishnan
- *Role of community outreach program in analysing prevalence of glaucoma in rural population of Tamilnadu.*
Dr.Sanjeev Kumar, Dr.Devendra Maheswari, Dr.Ramakrishnan, Dr.Shivakumar, Dr.Neelam Pawar
- *Telemedicine enters eye care: Multidisciplinary approach and practical experience*
Dr. Urvashi Solanki, Co- Author – Dr. Usha Kim, Dr. Akash Shah, Dr., Kamal Preet Likhari – Dhrangadhra
- *Lid closure abnormalities following external dacryocystorhinostomy (free paper)*
Dr. Aravind P. Murugesan, Co- Author : Dr. Usha Kim, Dr. Ravichandar A., Dr. Herber Anandan
- *Oral clonidine premedication in patients undergoing dacryocystorhinostomy (DCR) : A pioneer study (free paper)*
Dr. Kamal Preet Likhari, Dr. Subhashis Mukherjee, Co – Author : Dr. Sri Devi Gunda, Dr. Usha Kim
- *Ultrasonographic evaluation of extraculor muscle thickness in various states of dysthyroidism (free paper)*
Dr. Kamal Preet Likhari, Dr. Sri Devi Gunda, Dr. Subhashis Mukherjee, Dr. Usha Kim
- *Outcome of dacryocystorhinostomy in paediatric population in a tertiary eye care centre (e – poster)*

Scientific E-Posters

- Dr.Sandhya Reddy, Dr.Shivkumar, Dr.Venata Rami Reddy, Dr.Ashish Bacchav, Dr.Praneeth, Dr.Ramakrishnan
- *Comparision of visual outcome in hospital based community cataract program: ECCE Vs manual SICS.*
Dr.Ashish Bacchav, Dr.Sandhya Reddy Kovvuri, Dr.Venkat Rami reddy Tetali, Dr.Praneeth Vaddadi, Dr.R.Ramakrishnan
- *Awareness of eye donation in a rural adult population of southern india*
Dr.Kunal Kishore, Dr.Vishal Kishore, Dr.Meenakshi Ravindran
- *Prevalence of causes of visual impairment in mentally challenged children in special school*
Dr.Sandeep Bachu, Dr.Pandurang Nikkam B, Dr.Meenakshi, Dr.Praneeth, Dr.Anoop
- *Correlation between corneal flap stability, CCT, Curvatural changes and IOP following lasik*
Dr.Arijit Mitra, Dr.Aditya Vikram Sharma, Dr.Ramakrishnan, Dr.Mohideen, Dr.Devendra Maheswari, Dr.Ashish Kumar
- *Angle recession glaucoma following trauma to the globe - incidence type of injury, management and outcome*
Dr. Arijit Mitra, Dr. Rajagopal Kunnatur, Dr. Ramakrishnan, Dr. Mohideen
- Dr. Anup Das, Dr. Ashish Kumar
- *Traumatic glaucoma - clinical profile, risk factors for development, management and outcome.*
Dr. Kunal Rana, Dr.Ankur Gupta, Dr. Ramakrishnan, Dr. Naveen Narendranath, Dr. Aaditya Bajaj, Dr.Nidhi Mittal
- *Quality of life after low visual AIDS*
Dr. Kunal Kishore, Dr. Vishal Kishore, Dr. Yashodhan Satalkar, Dr. Rajagopal Kunnatur, Dr. Meenakshi Ravindran, Dr. Ramakrishnan
- *Post operative myopic shift in infants with congenital cataact operated in a tertiary eye center*
Dr.Sandeep Bachu, Dr.Ramakrishnan, Dr.Shivkumar, Dr.Praneeth
- *A study on quality of life and contrast sensitivity pre and post lasik*
Dr. Rajagopal Kunnathur, Dr. Praneeth, Dr. Ashish Bacchav, Dr. Sandhya Reddy, Dr. Meenakshi, Dr. Yashodhan Satalkar
- *Etology and management of comitant esotropia in pediatric age group in south india*



Dr. R.D. Ravindran at the VISION 2020 Board Meeting

New Delhi, February 4

Dr. R.D. Ravindran, Chairman, Aravind Eye Care System attended the VISION 2020 India board meeting and presented the update on the benchmarking software for the cataract surgery.



Solappur Uveitis Conference

Solappur, January 22 - 23

Dr. S.R. Rathinam
 - *Systemic Workup*
 - *Investigation in Uveitis and Medical Management.*



LAICO HAPPENINGS

Needs Assessment Visits

JMJ Grace Vision Netralaya, Sambalpur, January 24 – 26



Aravind team consisting of MS. Preethi Pradhan, Senior faculty, Ms. Sashipriya K.M, Faculty, LAICO and Dr. Meenakshi, Aravind – Tirunelveli made a Needs Assessment visit to JMJ Grace Vision Netralaya during the last week of January. The key issues regarding demand generation, quality, finance, leadership and governance were identified and the necessary interventions were suggested by the team.



Bhoomika Hospital and Research Centre, Jaipur

January 27 – 30

As part of the needs assessment visit to Bhoomika Hospital and Research Centre, Aravind team consisting of Ms. Preethi and Dr. Meenakshi visited an outreach camp. They held discussions with the MLOPs to better understand their working schedule. The key issues identified were regarding the patient load, standardising protocols and streamlining outreach systems and necessary recommendations were made.



Management Training for Eye Care Programme Managers

February 7 – 19



The inaugural ceremony of the course was held on February 7 at LAICO auditorium. Dr.P.Namperumalsamy, Chairman Emeritus welcomed the participants. Dr Hans Limburg, Consultant, Community Eye Health, Health Information Services, Netherlands delivered the special address which was followed by the key note address by Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj, Executive Director, LAICO. Ms. Sashipriya K.M. provided the course overview.

A total of 30 participants from 15 different countries and 6 WHO regions attended the course. A cultural exchange programme was organized on February 12 for the participants to showcase the culture

and tradition of their respective country.



PRISM 2011

Aravind - Madurai, February 19 - 20



PRISM-2011, the annual national conference on hospital and healthcare management was organized by the fellows of Eye Hospital Management at LAICO Auditorium. Dr. P. Namperumalsamy, Chairman Emeritus, Aravind Eye Care System welcomed the participants and the key note address was given by Mr. R. D. Thulasiraj. The conference was headed by various eminent speakers from different parts of the country sharing their experience through examples. Around 90 participants including 58 students and 32 delegates participated in the conference. The deliberations were organized in 4 modules focusing the recent aspects in the field of Healthcare and Hospital

Management. Paper and poster presentation contests were held on specified themes and the winners were give cash awards.

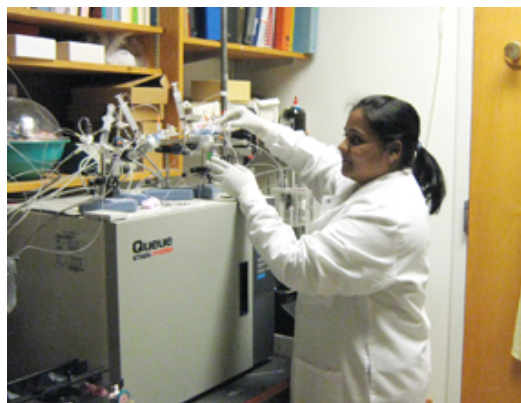
[Click here to view Consultancy statistical report](#)



INTERNAL CAPACITY BUILDING

Hands-on-Training Programme at University of Wisconsin, USA

November 1, 2010 - January 31, 2011



Dr. S. Senthilkumari, Scientist, Dept. of Ocular Pharmacology, Aravind Medical Research Foundation (AMRF), Dr. G. Venkataswamy Eye Research Institute spent 3 months (November 1, 2010 to January 31, 2011) at Dr. Paul Kaufman's Laboratory in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual sciences, University of Wisconsin, Madison to receive hands on-training on "Anterior segment organ culture techniques". She has received extensive training on dissection method, equipment set up, culture technique and data analysis using monkey eyes and pig eyes.

In addition, Dr. Kumari has learned to isolate pure population of TM cells from monkey TM explants in the laboratory of Dr. Donna Peters, Dept. of Pathology, University of Wisconsin, Madison. She has gained experience on culturing TM cells from explants, sub culturing and freezing techniques. She could successfully establish the primary culture of pure monkey TM cells for further characterization.

The experience gained in 3 months on various aspects of organ culture will be sufficient enough to establish such technique in AMRF. Such establishment will be a boon for scientists and provide a world-wide service to the ocular research community that would like to investigate the effect of agents on trabecular outflow, and contribute toward fulfilling the goals of the Indo-U.S. Collaboration on Expansion of Vision Research to identify training opportunities for researchers and to exchange scientific information.



TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Course title	Training Centre	Total Number Trained as on December 2010	Enrollments for January 2011
Long Term Fellowship Courses			
Fellowship in Anterior Segment / Intraocular Lens Surgery	Madurai	98	1
	Tirunelveli	12	0
	Coimbatore	20	0
	Pondicherry	11	0
Fellowship in Cornea	Madurai	39	2
	Coimbatore	20	0
	Pondicherry	2	0
Fellowship in Glaucoma	Madurai	25	1
	Tirunelveli	9	0
	Coimbatore	13	0
	Pondicherry	3	0
Fellowship in Paediatric Ophthalmology &	Madurai	52	1

Strabismus	Tirunelveli	2	0
	Coimbatore	16	0
	Pondicherry	1	0
Fellowship in Retina Vitreous	Madurai	91	2
	Tirunelveli	2	0
	Coimbatore	23	0
	Pondicherry	5	0
Short Term Fellowship Courses			
Short Term Fellowship in Orbit & Oculoplasty	Madurai	6	1
Short Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists			
Diagnosis and Management of Glaucoma	Madurai	94	2
	Tirunelveli	120	0
	Coimbatore	87	1
	Pondicherry	1	0
Phacoemulsification	Madurai	124	1
	Tirunelveli	68	1
	Coimbatore	84	1
	Pondicherry	17	0
Small Incision Cataract Surgery	Madurai	153	1
	Tirunelveli	105	2
	Coimbatore	122	0
	Pondicherry	18	0
	Theni	1	0
Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy	Madurai	241	0
	Coimbatore	231	2
	Pondicherry	2	0
Ocularist	Madurai	17	2
Optical Dispensing	Madurai	150	4
Management Courses			
Management Priorities in Eye Care Delivery	LAICO	238	20

[Click here to view Training Programme full statistics](#)



PUBLICATIONS

- **Int Ophthalmol. 2011 Jan 26. [Epub]**
Sainani, MP; Muralidhar, R; Parthiban, K; Vijayalakshmi, P
- *Lipoid proteinosis of Urbach and Weithe: case report and a brief review of the literature.*
[View article](#)
- **Eye (Lond). 2011 Jan 21. [Epub]**
Shukla, Dhananjay
- *Evolution and management of macular hole secondary to type 2 idiopathic macular telangiectasia.*
[View article](#)



MONTHLY PATIENT STATISTICS

January - 2011

Hospitals	Madurai	Theni	Tirunelveli	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Dindigul	Thirupur	Total
HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS								
Paying (New & Review)	34,743	5,338	18,046	24,926	14,503	3,784	2,424	103,764
Free (Direct walk-in)	9,438	1,268	4,129	7,563	4,698	-	-	27,096
OUTREACH OUT PATIENTS								
Regular Eye Camps	7,254	2,208	3,104	9,380	3,273	-	-	25,219
Diabetic Retinopathy camps	783	101	-	1,304	794	-	-	2,982
Refraction Camps	2,392	937	647	1,520	1,479	-	2	6,977
Mobile Refraction Unit	-	137	-	-	-	-	-	137
School Screening	22,347	-	3,303	2,984	-	-	-	28,634
Paediatric Camps	195	-	-	99	987	-	-	1,281
Vision Centres	5,963	3,362	2,676	1,780	1,534	-	-	15,315
Community Eye Clinics	3,073	1,392	3,384	-	-	-	-	7,849
Total Examinations OP	86,188	14,743	35,289	49,556	27,268	3,784	2,426	219,254
SURGERIES								
Paying	1,718	268	731	974	476	118	54	4,339
Free (including the subsidized camp surgeries)	1,500	152	504	1,017	291	-	9	3,473
Camp	1,689	287	636	1,541	641	-	-	4,794
Total Surgeries	4,907	707	1,871	3,532	1,408	118	63	12,606



CASE STUDY

A mother who tried to kill her blind daughter

We have heard about a number of people who suffer a lot and face so many problems due to vision loss or visual impairment. Probably for the first time, we have come across a blind girl whom her mother tried to kill. Providentially she was rescued and now she has regained vision with Aravind help. The patient's name was Gomathi (real name shielded), aged 30. She was living with her mother, with no other relatives to support. As the daughter had diminished vision due to cataract in both the eyes, the mother was working as a coolie to earn livelihood. As days passed by, Gomathi became totally blind.

Since no one came forward to marry the poor girl, and it was a risk to leave her at home while she was away at the work place, her mother took a reluctant decision to kill her. She mixed some poisonous fluid with the food and gave it to Gomathi. Sensing something was wrong, she shouted and called out people for help. The neighbours rushed to that place and prevented the murder attempt.

When asked by them the reason for taking the extreme step, Gomathi's mother explained the problem of safeguarding a visionless girl.

The neighbours chided the mother for not making any effort to cure Gomathi's eye ailment. They advised her to take the girl to Aravind's eye camp to be held in the town after two days. The mother agreed and took her daughter to the camp. Doctors who examined her eyes, found matured cataract in both the eyes and recommended surgery.

During the counselling, the patient- counsellor explained Gomathi 's eye condition to her mother and informed that surgery would be done free of cost and all other expenses will be met by Aravind Eye Hospital. The mother readily consented for the operation and accompanied her daughter to the hospital .

At first, the patient's right eye was operated upon and after 3 days the left eye also underwent surgery successfully. After removal of the bandage, Gomathi could see the world again clearly and she was very happy.

The daughter and mother left hospital after profusely thanking the doctors and Aravind Hospital for lighting their life.

Source:V.V.Arunothayam

Aravind - Madurai

Script - K.V.S.Lakshmanan.

