

Annual Report 1984

Aravind Eye Hospital in Madurai, South India is an inspiring testimony to the dedication of Dr. G. Venkataswamy and his team. They have dedicated their lives to reducing avoidable blindness. Aravind provides perhaps the finest ophthalmic care in India today. Started in 1976, under the auspices of the then formed Govel Trust, the hospital has now grown from a 20 bed facility to a 600 bed teaching hospital.

To provide high quality ophthalmic care and to strengthen the teaching programme, Aravind has established collaborations with the Ophthalmic Departments of University of Illinois, Chicago and St. Vincent's Hospital, New York. Aravind is also affiliated to the Madurai Kamaraj University, and its teaching programmes are approved by the Medical Council of India, and the National Academy of Medical Sciences.

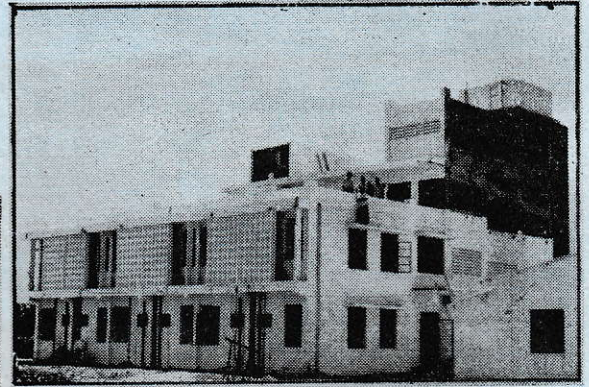
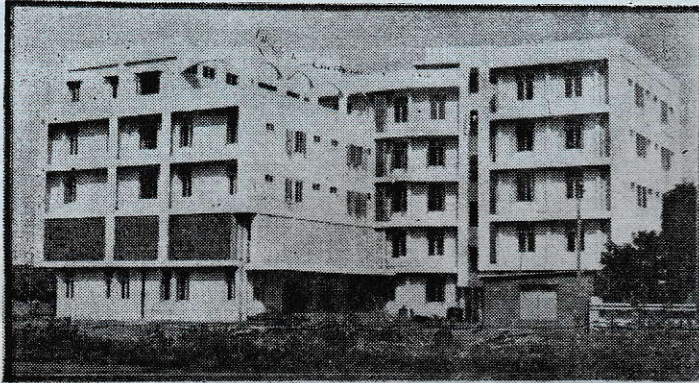
Over the years, Aravind has continued to provide free service to 70% of its patients. This free work is done through Aravind's 350 bed free hospital and the rural eye camps. Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, SEVA Foundation, voluntary agencies and religious organisations provide continued support and inspiration to carry out this high volume of free work.

Aravind Eye Hospital

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Dr. G. Venkataswamy, M.S., D.O., F.A.M.S.
Mr. G. Srinivasan, B.E.; M.S. Dr. G. Nallakrishnan, M.Sc., Ph.D.
Mr. S. Ramaswamy, B.A. Dr. P. Namperumalsamy, M.S., D.O.
Mrs. Meenakshi Nallakrishnan Mrs. Janaki Ramaswamy
Mrs. Lalitha Srinivasan Dr. Mrs. Natchiar Namperumalsamy, M.S., D.O.
Dr. Rajendra T. Vyas, M.A., L.L.B., Ph.D.
President, Rotary Club, Main Branch, Madurai (Ex-officio Trustee)

Expansion

Currently, Aravind is in the midst of tremendous expansion of its work. A network of satellite Eye hospitals is also being set up and many more thousands will have the gift of sight.



On the 9th of February 1984, the free section of the satellite hospital at Theni was inaugurated. The main building with a floor area of 10,000 sq.ft. is nearing completion and will be inaugurated shortly.

Now the free section is housed in a new 5 storeyed building situated adjacent to the main building. Built at a cost of Rs. 3.5 million, it has a floor area of 36,000 sq. ft. This new facility accommodates 350 in-patients, has two airconditioned operating rooms, out-patient clinic and all other support services. This is exclusively for treating free patients and was inaugurated on 7th August 1984 by Dr. Rajendra T. Vyas of (Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind.) The top floor accommodates the nurses' quarters with all amenities and a modern kitchen with steam cooking facilities.

New Directions



On 11th June 1984, the Govel Trust started Aravind Childrens Hospital in the old free hospital building. Though it provides hospital based paediatric care, the main emphasis is on training mothers and volunteers in child care with a special focus on management of malnutrition and its causes. This is a major preventive step against the incidence of blinding malnutrition. The hospital has in-patient and out patient facilities. In addition the hospital with its medical team conducts frequent paediatric camps to promote immunization and bring the benefit of modern medicine to the poor.

Training Programmes

Post-Graduate Training

During the year 1984, the second batch of 4 students from our hospital passed Diploma in Ophthalmology (D. O.) course, of Madurai Kamaraj University. Out of the present batch of 9 students, 7 are due to appear for the exams to be conducted in April 1985.

Training Programme for foreign nationals

Maldives: Two ophthalmic assistants, Miss. Arifa Yousuf and Miss. Fawzia Mohamed from Maldives had successfully undergone ophthalmic nursing course from April 1984 to Nov. 1984.

Africa: Mr. H. K. Godia, and Mr. H. D. Mkandawire from Malawi and Mr. John Macharia from Kenya were sent by Dr. Barrie Jones of Institute of the Ophthalmology, University of London for field training in Primary Eye Care from 3rd Dec. 84 to 30th January 85. Their trip was sponsored by Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind.

Continuing Education

The following courses were conducted with senior specialists and visiting foreign faculties for the benefit of ophthalmologists.

29th & 30th Sept. '84 Seminar on Contact Lenses and Squint Dr. Peter Halberg, MD., FACS Prof. of ophthalmology New York Medical College, U.S.A.

Dr. Merylin Miller MD
Illinois Eye & Ear Infirmary
Chicago, U. S. A.

Ms. Joyce Mein
Orthoptist (Retd.), U. K.

12th - 16th Nov. '84 Workshop on ophthalmic Plastic Surgery Dr. Med. Gollfried Lemperle MD and his team from Inter Plast, Frankfurt, W. Germany



Visits Abroad

Dr. G. Venkataswamy, MS, FAMS, proceeded to European countries and U.S.A. in April 1984. He attended IAPB meeting at Helsinki (Finland) and took part in W.H.O. Collaborating Centre Workshop on "Community involvement in prevention of Blindness" held at International Centre for Eye Health, Department of Preventive Ophthalmology, University of London. He also attended the annual meeting of the Board of Directors, SEVA Foundation at U.S.A.

Dr. P. Namperumalsamy, MS, D. O., proceeded to U.S.A. in July 1984 to attend a meeting in connection with the project "Laboratory and Clinical Studies of Eale's Disease" under Indo-US Science and Technology Initiative.

Dr. G. Venkataswamy, MS, FAMS, proceeded to Rome (Italy) in December 1984 to attend the "International meeting of the Experts on Protocols in Epidemiology and Evaluation of Drugs intended for the treatment of Cataract" organised by the International Association for Cataract Related Researches (IACRR) in cooperation with World Health Organisation.

Projects

Training Child Care Workers :

A project for training a cadre of non-medical auxiliary workers for child care service is on with the help of Ford Foundation.

Eradication of Blinding Malnutrition in Madurai District :

The object of the project is to control xerophthalmia in the District of Madurai to the extent that malnutrition resulting in blindness will be eliminated, i. e. to achieve zero incidence of malnutritional blindness. This project comes under IMPACT INDIA SOUTH with the financial assistance of RCSB, U.K.

Clinical Trials to reduce Hospital Stay of Patients Operated for Cataract :

A two year study of the safety and efficacy of using (Vanadium Stainless Steel) VSS-50 micron sutures for cataract surgery. In addition to drastically reducing the cost of sutures, the procedure has the potential of decreasing hospitalization stay from 5-7 days to 2-3 days.



Laboratory and Clinical Studies of Eale's Disease:

This project has been launched under the Indo-US Science and Technology Initiative, sponsored by Indian Council of Medical Research in collaboration with the Madurai Kamaraj University.

Operations Research:

To optimise the use of available ophthalmic resources by finding methods to overcome the social and economic barriers to cataract surgery in particular and eye care in general.



Rapid Survey Techniques for Ophthalmic Health Planning and Monitoring :

The object is to develop and test a method for diagnosing cataract blindness using para-professional health workers and analyzing the data on stand alone microcomputers.

Management of Diabetic Retinopathy and Blindness Due to Diabetes :

Over a period of 5 years detailed follow up will be made on patients with diabetes in relation to the duration of diabetes, treatment, presence of other systemic illnesses such as hypertension, condition of the eye, response to the eye treatment given, etc.

Management of Post-Operative Endophthalmitis :

The study proposes to document and analyse the surgical management of cases with post-operative complications, especially endophthalmitis by using vitrectomy and other procedures.

Aravind in Neighbouring Countries



MALDIVES: At the request of World Health Organisation, Aravind Eye Hospital conducted the second eye camp at Maldives in January 1984. In this camp 1622 patients were screened and out of them 158 were operated. A total of 2326 school children were examined on various days.



NEPAL: On the request of SEVA Foundation, USA, Aravind Eye Hospital sent 3 doctors to Nepal to help them in their prevention of blindness programme.

Visitors

Our visitors during 1984 :

January :

Dr. Bruce Karmel, New York
Mr. Nihal Edisinghe, Oman
Br. Peter William, U.K.
Br. Devid Hornet, U.K.
Dr. A. C. Kapoor, RCSB
Mr. O. V. Thomas, RCSB, Malaysia
Dr. Steve Bonn, U.K.
Dr. B. L. Halliday, London
Dr. R. R. Desai, Gujarat

February :

Dr. Deborah Ruiz, New York
Dr. Sussan Pettiss, New York

March :

Dr. Connie Dimari, New York
Dr. E. Wagner, West Germany

April :

Dr. N. D. Abdulla, Maldives

July :

Miss Liz Taylor, U.K.
Miss Kathie Shaw, U.K.
Dr. Mrs. Gulshan Malhotra,
U.S.A.

August :

Dr. H. V. Hande,
Hon'ble Minister for Health,
Tamilnadu
Dr. Rajendra T. Vyas,
Asia Director, RCSB
Mrs. Zelma Lazarus,
Regional Consultant,
IMPACT India
Prof. I. S. Shanmugam,
Chief Co-ordinator,
IMPACT India South
Dr. Ms. Hamida Saiduzzafar,
AMU institute of ophthalmology,
Aligarh

September :

Dr. Grisolono, Chicago
Miss Helen Burges, U.K.
Dr. Peter Halberg, New York
Dr. Merylin Miller, Chicago
Miss Joyce Mein, U.K.

November :

Prof. Dr. Med. Gollfried Lemperle,
West Germany
Dr. Nirvergelt, West Germany
Dr. Martin, West Germany

December :

Mr. Godia, Malawi
Mr. Mkwandawire, Malawi
Mr. Macharia, Kenya
Dr. Eberhard Rostosky

Summary of Work Done

	Out Patient		Visits	Operations			%	No. of	
	Free	Paying	Total	Cat	Others	Total	Free	Camps	
1978	18251	15781	34032	1610	755	2365	1045	44.2	118
1979	47351	19687	67038	2853	1189	4042	2430	60.1	215
1980	65344	31334	96678	6068	1870	7938	5427	68.4	208
1981	75727	39470	115197	9122	2189	11311	8172	72.2	153
1982	79367	46435	125802	10282	2681	12963	8747	67.5	214
1983	101469	56540	158009	12954	2910	15864	10975	69.2	213
1984	103177	69418	172595	14123	3469	17592	11796	67.1	268
Total	490686	278665	769351	57012	15063	72075	48592	67.4	1389

Statistics For 1984

Paying Section :

New visits : 33,158
 Review visits : 36,260
 Operations : 5,796

Free Section :

New visits : 18,695
 Review visits : 21,988
 Operations : 9,654

Free Eye Camps :

Out-patients : 62,494
 Operations : 2,142
 Screening camps : 247
 Operation Camps : 21

Our Director Padmashree Dr. G. Venkataswamy was awarded the prestigious "For the sake of Honour" award by the Rotary Club of Madurai West on the 19th of October 1984.



- Countless eyes with light and gratitude bless him to serve more

- an excerpt from the citation

ARAVIND EYE HOSPITAL

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 MADURAI - 625 020 Tamil Nadu India