Aravind has been working with five partners from Sub-Saharan Africa since 2012 through the ACCESS Initiative (African Centres of Excellence in Cataract Services). This project was supported by the Hilton Foundation through a two-year grant securing a total of 28 million dollars. The purpose of the ACCESS initiative is to improve the capacity of African centres of excellence in cataract care to expand and improve their services and train the next generation of eye health leaders.

As part of Leap NABH collaborative, LAICO teams visited various hospitals to do a gap analysis and suggest recommendations for improving compliance with NABH standards. B. Ganesh Babu, Senior Manager, Operations, Aravind helped in guiding the team in this project. The first programme was held between March 10 and 16, with a total of 30 persons taking part. The second programme was held between March 17 and 23. A total of 47 persons took part.

Participation in CME programmes was actively encouraged as part of the training initiatives. Aravind continued its initiatives in collaboration with Aurolab, a leader in eye-care instruments, making surgical training a seamless process for the surgeons. A total of 190 staff from across 105 Vision Centres participated in the event and demonstrated a high level of energy and enthusiasm. The vision centre staff were recognised with the best performance awards. Also, prizes were given to the winners of an essay competition at the event held at Aurofarm.

Aravind-Madurai / Kumbakonam, March 16
An eye donation awareness programme was organised in partnership with the NSS Unit of Arasu Engineering College, Kumbakonam. D. Saravanan, Manager, Rotary Aravind International Eye Bank, Aravind-Madurai handled the session. A total of 106 participants attended the programme. The awareness programme was appreciated by the audience.

World Glaucoma Week is a joint initiative of the World Glaucoma Association (WGA) and the World Glaucoma Patient Committee (WGPC). This global initiative aims to raise awareness on glaucoma. Aravind Eye Hospitals engaged in a week-long programme to raise awareness among people about this debilitating disease. The programme included a variety of initiatives such as free screening camps, provision of free spectacles, distribution of pamphlets, and awareness talks.

At this event, she delivered a keynote address – Tackling optic nerve damage in glaucoma: Pathways to preventative intervention. She shared insights on the latest research and developments in glaucoma treatment, emphasizing the importance of early detection and timely intervention to prevent vision loss. The session was well-received, with participants expressing their gratitude for the comprehensive insights shared.

Aravind’s mission extends beyond providing eye care to those in need. Significant work goes into creating awareness about various eye diseases, such as glaucoma, which is a leading cause of preventable, irreversible blindness. This initiative aims to raise public awareness about the importance of regular eye check-ups, early detection, and timely intervention to prevent vision loss.

Aravind’s initiatives are not limited to eye care. The hospital is actively involved in training and development programmes, including Management Training and Systems Development for Vision Centre Managers, Instrument Maintenance – For Technicians, and Fellowship in Paediatric Ophthalmology. These programmes are designed to equip the staff with the necessary skills and knowledge to deliver high-quality care and enhance patient outcomes.

In summary, Aravind Eye Hospitals has been proactive in its commitment to providing eye care, promoting awareness, and training for the next generation of eye health leaders. The hospital’s initiatives reflect its dedication to improving the standard of eye care in the region, ensuring that people have access to quality services and the latest treatments available.