



Sightsavers

# Insight

How your contribution is building lives | May 2023

## Sightsavers' supports Government of Bihar to fulfil 1 Lakh Cataract Surgeries

Sightsavers India supported the State Blindness Control Cell, State Health Society Bihar (SHSB), Government of Bihar's momentum of 1 lakh cataract surgeries to be conducted for the rural masses.

Sightsavers state team has been actively supporting the SPO- Blindness Control Cell with clinical protocols, document preparation, and protocol documents to be adhered to for strengthening the secondary eye health services across 38 districts of Bihar.



## Eye Health (January - March 2023)



18,50,387

Number of Eye Screenings



8,17,142

Number of People Refracted



2,72,757

Spectacles Distributed



94,074

Sight Restoration Surgeries



## Getting the right vision in school

The district administration of Pratapgarh, Rajasthan adopted best practices from Sightsavers Vidyajyoti School Eye Health Programme.

It adapted its **Mission Drishti** in campaign mode to reach out to school-going children of the district extending eye health services to those needing them. There were 146,038 children screened in Pratapgarh with the support from community health officers (CHOs), Teachers, ASHAs and Anganwadi workers.

## Inclusive education triumphs: visually impaired students achieve 1<sup>st</sup> Division in Board Exams

Under the guidance of the Sightsavers Inclusive Education Programme team, 9 children with visual impairment (CVIs) appeared in class 10th and 12th Board Examination under the Bihar board, and all of them secured first division.

This success is a testament that empowering and equipping children with visual impairment or blind with the necessary skills and resources enables them to achieve academic excellence and beyond.



## Gomti Bai's story

The world of 70-year-old Gomti is really small. A resident of Katni, in Madhya Pradesh, Gomti Bai's husband passed away a few years ago. Having no children, she adopted her sister's son who helps her with household chores and works as a labourer. To sustain herself, she is completely dependent upon ration from the government scheme and old-age pension.

It had been a couple of years since she was able to see clearly. She had completely gone blind from one eye owing to cataract. It was an ASHA worker who told her about Sightsavers Netra Vasant camps for eye health check-up.

On being checked at the eye health camp, she was referred to Sightsavers hospital partner for a cataract surgery. She got her sight restoration surgery done free of cost with the support of Sightsavers. Gomti Bai can see again and feels a zest of living and doing her daily chores after having her sight back.



## Did you know?

Glaucoma is the second leading cause of blindness in the world accounting for upto **8% of total blindness.**

### Enabling learning for children with visual impairment

Sightsavers facilitated 3-day State level Master Trainers refresher training on '**Braille and Sign Language**' jointly with Rajya Shiksha Kendra in Bhopal. They will reach out to 5,200 teachers who will get trained to teach children with visual impairment (CVIs) & hearing impaired (HI) students across the state.



### World Glaucoma Week observed to raise awareness, early diagnosis and treatment (12<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> March)

- ▶ Multiple awareness programmes were carried out across the country to have regular eye (and optic nerve) checks to detect glaucoma as early as possible.
- ▶ In Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh a weeklong screening camp was organised. A rally was also organized through which awareness was spread about glaucoma and its symptoms.
- ▶ In Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, five community awareness sessions on symptoms and treatment of Glaucoma covering 78 women were organised.
- ▶ Health talks were conducted in Kanpur and Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh on 'Glaucoma, its causes and prevention.'
- ▶ Glaucoma Week was celebrated at partner hospitals in Odisha through various activities like free screening camps and community walks.

In India since 1966, Sightsavers works to eliminate avoidable blindness and promote equal opportunities for disabled people.

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Donation cheques should be in favour of **SIGHTSAVERS.**

All donations to Sightsavers are eligible for 50% tax exemption with qualifying limit under Sec 80G of the Income Tax Act

Approval Number: AAATRO444HF20214