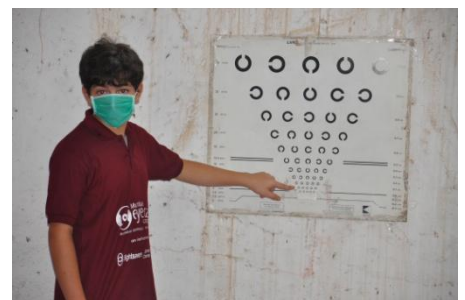


DAISight

Eye Camp: 13th October, 2011



Eyes are the windows to the world and to the soul – they are the medium to experience and express emotion, danger, pain and empathy. Nurturing the eyes means nurturing the perception of reality; protecting, examining and treating eyes are integral to a happy, healthy life. This is a belief shared by the students of the Dhirubhai Ambani International School, and



this led to the conception of DAISight and our consequent participation in a collaborative effort with the doctors of Lotus Eye Hospital Juhu and the World Health Organization. It was an endeavour to bring to completion the Mumbai Eye-Care Campaign on 13th October, 2011, through which a thorough, expert medical examination of the eyes was conducted **completely free of cost** in Bandra-Kurla Complex, Mumbai.

13th October is celebrated as World Sight Day by Vision2020 - Right to Sight Program of the World Health Organization making this the best tribute we could offer to the treasured medium of sight – eyes.



The DAISight team began its groundwork with lengthy sessions hammering out the details of location and logistics, including several meetings with authorities at the Hospital, meetings of the Core team and site inspections. And then it was time for action. For several weeks, we carried out promotion and awareness programmes to encourage participation in the camp in the localities of Bharat Nagar and Motilal Nagar in

Bandra-Kurla Complex: door-to-door screenings and briefings, pamphlets in Hindi and Urdu and announcements in even the most crowded of areas in these communities. We overcame the hesitance and mistrust of the residents by leaving no stone unturned and taking care of all concerns, queries and objections. This helped us build a foundation of trust over time which was reciprocated by some of the community members who took it upon themselves to spread our message. Their selfless efforts in conjunction with ours showed us the trust and generosity of the people who went to great lengths to support a good cause.



It was therefore not a surprise when the first DAISight eye-camp was conducted and completed as an enormous success. From our modest beginnings 5 years ago, DAISight has now evolved into an independent project which has executed a large-scale campaign and it's the success is evident in the numbers: 354 patients were screened within a span of 7 hours by doctors of Lotus Hospital. Out of these, 80 patients were diagnosed with presbyopia and reading glasses were dispensed

on the spot; 64 of them required custom-made glasses and hence measurements for the same were taken, while those detected with other ocular morbidity were referred to the Lotus Eye Hospital. On 24th October, the custom-made spectacles were distributed amongst the patients in the community hall. The remaining 20 patients needed cataract surgery.

In addition to this, the true success of our efforts came in the form of further invitations offered by neighbouring communities for a similar eye-camp in their area. This made apparent the trust and respect we had gained and has given us an opportunity to not only continue our association but also establish our long-term commitment towards our neighbouring communities. The members of the Sastri Nagar in Kalina have approached DAISight and have pledged full cooperation with our efforts. This truly makes us proud of our long standing relationship with the local communities. We intend to build upon this foundation to ensure that we progress with each successive camp and that our continuous efforts to spread the benefit of our CAS initiative are stretched to the farthest outreach possible.





This experience was truly enriching for every single member of DAISight, and the credit goes to everyone - the core team, the year 11 and 12 volunteers, and DAIS teachers who assisted in making each camp possible and successful. However, we are greatly indebted to our CAS Coordinator and project Supervisor, Ms. Swarnalatha Potukuchi who supported us endlessly with her guidance, advice and enthusiasm. After exhaustively checking the vision of 350 people in the Motilal Nehru Nagar community, we had the opportunity to gauge the outcome of our work and truly realized the impact of contributing some of our time to a programme that has led to improved vision among people. This is the true feeling of 'CAS'.



It is also important to mention that this event would not have been possible without the participation of Lotus Eye Hospital, whose doctors and trainees not only provided the actual medical expertise that was required to diagnose eye diseases/defects but also recommended treatments and referrals. They worked tirelessly through the day to make this event a success.

It is heartening to see that our extensive hard work in the promotion, organization and execution of the DAISight eye camp came to fruition and become such a success. Our work for the next eye-camp has already begun and we sincerely hope that the milestones set by this event are surpassed with every consecutive campaign conducted by DAISight in the years to come.

Submitted by:

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