

L V Prasad Eye Institute

Gullapalli Pratibha Rao International Centre for Advancement of Rural Eye Care

Community Linked Initiative Project (CLIP), Jainath Mandal Telangana District, Andhra Pradesh

LVPEI-Gullapalli Pratibha Rao International Centre for Advancement of Rural Eye Care in collaboration with Operation EyeSight India, carried-out CLIP at Jainath Mandal (Sub-district) in Adilabad District, Telangana during 2011 to 2014.

With the aid of 23 Vision Health Guardians, the project covered a population of 44,800 through door to door survey.

A VHG of the CLIP Project is a volunteer from the local community who will be actively serving as a liaison between health care service providers (Vision Centres / Primary Health Centres / Service centre / all other Health Care Service Providers) and the community. Her primary mission is to “keep an eye on the eye & overall health of the people” and offer guidance to all perpetually.

The role of Vision Guardian is to:

- Create awareness in the community about eye care and general health
- Identify individuals for vision defects, common eye conditions, other health problems
- Promote usage of spectacles for those with near vision problems and regular health checkups
- Refer patients to the Vision Centres / PHC / all other appropriate service providers
- Follow-up patients referred to CEC / Vision Centre / Service Centre in his / her area
- Provide assistance in organizing awareness programs and school screening in his / her area

In the span of 3 years, the CLIP project carried out:

- 162 Community Screening programs were organized in which 5,200 people were screened
- 8,916 children were screened through School Screening Programs
- 2,420 Pre Primary school children (Anganwadi centres) were screened.
- 5,410 were provided referral services at Sheshanna Chennavar Eye Centre at Adilabad-Secondary Eye Care Centre.
- 2,470 persons were dispensed spectacles
- 1,233 persons underwent sight restoration surgeries
- 30 persons with permanent visual impairment were rehabilitated through Community Based Rehabilitation Program.

Today, in Jainath Mandal, the awareness levels on eye health and care and services to persons with visual disabilities have substantially improved. The villagers, especially women have come forward to get their eyes examined and avail treatment from primary level to tertiary level. Moreover, the Village leaders, Primary health care workers, teachers and self-

help group members and community groups are proactive for elimination of avoidable blindness.