

Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh
Eastern Regional Eye Care Programme
Sagarmatha Choudhary Eye Hospital, Lahan
Biratnagar Eye Hospital, Biratnagar

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



EREC- P at a glance



HIGHLIGHTS

889,335 examination & 102,186 surgeries



REACH: 3,09,036 Children screened & 8,844 treated

To reduce visual impairment due to uncorrected refractive error among school-going children of Sunsari District and Biratnagar Metropolitan City of Morang District, Refractive Error Among Children (REACH) project was implemented in partnership with Orbis from 2018-2021. REACH program is comprised of 5 key steps: vision screening in schools, detailed eye examination for the needy students, glasses prescription as per the necessity, referral to specialist if further treatment is required and follow-up checks & visits to make sure children are wearing their glasses. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and prolonged school closure, 2,53,917 children received eye screening among them 7,104 received spectacles, 105 different eye surgeries were conducted & 775 received medical treatments. Likewise, over 4,322 teachers and community workers were oriented on ocular diseases occurring in children. **It was found that prevalence of refractive error in school going children was 4%.** During the project, BEH introduced 'Vision Bus', a service where children with eye defects are examined and treated inside the Vision Bus which is equipped with eye examination equipment and spectacle fitting at their schools. The impact of school eye health is not only limited to good vision, but it encompasses education, social development, and economic productivity.



Similarly, under REACH project at Sagarmatha Choudhary Eye Hospital (SCEH), 55,119 children were examined at schools and their doorsteps. Spectacles were provided to 827 children diagnosed with refractive error. 33 children underwent surgery at base hospital and 1,467 children were referred to the base hospital for further management. The project continues in Siraha district of Province No 2 (Madhesh Pradesh).

Nagarik Nayak Samman & XOVA Award

For the contribution in blindness reduction & continuous support, Mr. Rabindra Lal Chaudhary, Chairman of the hospital management committee, Sagarmatha Choudhary Eye Hospital Lahan has been awarded as "Nagarik Nayak 2021" on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of Nepal Republic Media (NRM) at a special event organized at Yak and Yeti Hotel, Kathmandu on 24th April 2021.



"EREC-P: the extraordinary eye care program in Nepal" has been selected for an eXcellence in Ophthalmology Vision Award (XOVA) 2021 by Novartis Global. XOVA is an award program that aims to support initiatives that help deliver sustainable, improved eye care to reduce the burden of blindness around the world.

Strengthening & Upgradation of Ear Service

To reduce the prevalence of deafness in Nepal, specifically in the eastern region, EREC-P has successfully integrated Ear Care Services at Eye Hospitals, Eye Care Centers, School Screening Camps, Screening Camps, and house-to-house visit programs.

BEH has strengthened and upgraded its existing ear department. The small unit has now been expanded to accommodate up to 400 ear patients. The newly developed department includes examination rooms with ear examination unit (with features like a touch panel control system, X-Ray view box, different instruments), a counseling room, two audiometry rooms, and a medicine counter with a hearing aid display unit. Besides Fiber Optics Flexible Naso-Pharyngology Scope, highly sophisticated ear medical equipment like **Ear Endoscope Camera, Otoendoscope and Sinuscope** were also added for providing better diagnostic and treatment facilities. The newly renovated department is comprehensive and patient-oriented which is aimed to help in improving the quality of ear care services.

Similarly, SCEH has added an ENT examination unit equipped with an **Endoscope, Otoscope, Suction machine** and others. A total of 143,588 patients with various ear problems were examined out of which 50,673 were examined at the hospitals and 92,915 in outreach activities (ECCs, School Screening, Screening camps, and household visits). 12,321 Pure Tone Audiometry (PTA) examination and 1,801 surgeries (Cortical Mastoidectomy with Tympanoplasty: 11, MRM: 33, Myringoplasty: 676 and Minor: 1081) were performed; and 432 patients with hearing loss received hearing aids and 751 patients received nasal evaluation service for their DCR and DCT surgeries.



Launching PEEK Vision Program

To achieve vision and health for everybody, Sagarmatha Choudhary Eye Hospital (SCEH), Lahan in association with Portable Eye Examination Kit (PEEK) Vision Limited, UK has launched PEEK program at all Government Health Posts of Rajbiraj Municipality of Saptari district as a pilot project. The program uses the 'PEEK Capture App' which incorporates a clinically-validated vision test App within a wider data capture system. The App enables users to screen eye conditions in the community and refer people for treatment. Through the system, patients referred for follow-up appointments receive automated personalized SMS reminders to encourage hospital visit.



SURGERIES

Cataract:	73,591
Sutureless ECCE/IOL (SICS):	44,216
On children:	1,323
Phaco with IOL:	26,781
Other lens removal procedures:	1,271
Glaucoma:	2,538
Trabeculectomy:	375
Combined (Cat&Trabeculectomy):	454
Trans scleral cyclo photocoagulation:	110
Nd. YAG iridotomy:	1,534
Surgical PI & other:	65
Corneo-Scleral Surgical Procedures:	5,023
Keratoplasty:	133
Amniotic Membrane Graft (AMG):	105
Corneo Scleral Repair:	599
Pterygium:	3,261
Corneal Cross Linking:	94
LASIK:	21
Other Corneal Procedures:	810
Vitreo-Retinal Surgery:	7,916
Pars plana Vitrectomy:	1,228
Scleral Buckling:	245
Intravitreal Injections:	388
Inj. Avastin:	5,302
Others:	753
Oculoplasty Procedures:	3,143
Dacryocystorhinostomy:	1,360
Dacryocystectomy:	280
Entropion / Ectropion:	289
Evisceration / Enucleation:	316
Ptoisis:	43
Other oculoplasty procedures:	855
Laser procedures:	6,229
Retinal Laser:	2,098
Nd. YAG capsulotomy:	4,131
Squint:	137
Others:	1,808
SUB TOTAL:	100,385
Ear Surgeries:	1,801
C.M.-Tplasty:	11
MRM:	33
Myringoplasty:	676
Others:	1081
TOTAL:	102,186

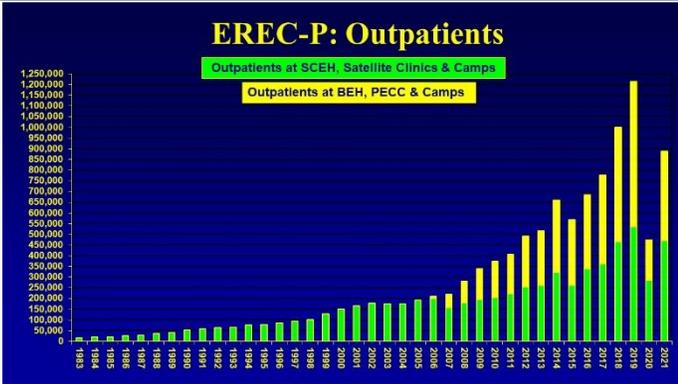
Surgeries:

SCEH, Lahan & its Surgical Centers:	48,871
Biratnagar Eye Hospital:	51,008
6 Cat.Surg.Camps:	506
SUB TOTAL:	100,385
Ear Department, BEH:	828
Ear Department, SCEH:	973
GRAND TOTAL:	102,186



OUTPATIENTS

SCEH, Lahan:	159,346
Biratnagar Eye Hospital:	200,589
28 ECCs:	156,897
Screening Camps' Patients:	48,447
COR Household:	48,595
School Screening (REACH):	129,087
Surg. Camps' Outpatients:	2,786
EYE SUB TOTAL	745,747
Ear Department, Base:	50,673
Ear OPD in ECCs:	17,064
Ear Screening Camp Patients:	42,815
COR Household:	33,036
EAR SUB TOTAL	143,588
GRAND TOTAL:	889,335



EREC-P since 1983

11,217,141 Examinations | 1,962,169 Surgeries

SPECIAL SERVICES at EREC-P

Cataract Services

Cataract is a leading cause of blindness globally and also in this region. People from every socio-economic group suffer from this blinding disease. Since the very beginning, EREC-P hospitals provide high-quality cataract surgeries at an affordable price to every socio-economic group to reduce the burden of blindness. A total of 73,591 patients underwent cataract surgery out of which 26,781 (36%) surgeries were performed through modern cataract surgery method Phacoemulsification, which is increasing over the years. Cataract surgery was 73% out of total eye surgeries. Phacoemulsification with Mono-Focal, Multi-Focal and Toric IOLs are available and regular procedures at both hospitals.



Cornea Department

Both hospitals have highly qualified, specialized teams with the latest advanced equipment to treat the entire range of corneal disorders and infections. A total of 26,762 patients were examined as outpatient and 5,023 Corneal surgeries were performed, including 133 Corneal transplantation surgeries (DALK-1, DSEK-6, PK/TPK-126), 105 Amniotic Membrane transplantation, 3,261 Pterygium surgeries along with 967 modified PERFECT technique. Dr. Manish Pandey has completed his 1-year cornea fellowship and joined BEH as a cornea consultant.

Recently IDRA, a complete ocular surface analyzer for dry eye was installed at BEH. This instrument can measure all components of dry eye and is helpful in effective treatment. Similarly, latest collagen cross-linking machine were installed at SCEH for treating Keratoconus and other corneal disorders.



Contact lens units of both eye hospitals are referral units in eastern Nepal. A total of 187 contact lens patients (99 males, 88 females) with different eye disorders mostly Keratoconus and Myopia received services from the contact lens units. 67 Spherical Soft contact lens, 37 Prosthetic contact lens, 64 RGP (Rigid Gas Permeable), 13 Rose K2, and 2 scleral contact lens trials were done and lens was dispensed to 113 patients among them.



Paediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Department



EREC-P is working towards eliminating childhood blindness by enhancing its Paediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus services. Both hospitals have highly qualified, specialized teams to treat children for their various eye-related problems. The team is well-equipped to manage simple as well as complicated cases of eye problems in children. A child-friendly environment with a child play area is available at both hospitals which directly and indirectly enhances the development and growth of the children by providing a multifunctional and comfortable space for children.

In the Paediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Department of both eye hospitals, 38,451 children were examined. 3,700 children underwent surgery at both eye

hospitals including 1,323 paediatric cataracts, 137 squint surgeries out of which 57 were children. 3,485 children underwent orthoptics evaluation.

Myopia is the leading cause of visual impairment and childhood blindness. Taking this into consideration, BEH has started a myopia clinic in September 2021 and examined 372 patients up to 20-years of age. Similarly, 709 patients who had neuro-ophthalmology problems were examined and treated.



Vitreo-Retinal Department

Vitreo-retina units of EREC-P hospitals are high-volume units catering to a large number of patients daily. The departments are equipped with the latest diagnostic technologies and provide minimally invasive treatment by a specialized team. In the Vitreo-Retinal Department of both eye hospitals, 25,193 patients were examined, 10,014 patients underwent VR procedures out of which 2,110 were Vitreo-Retinal surgeries, 5,302 Inj. Avastin, 388 other Intravitreal Injections, and 116 other surgeries. 2,098 received retinal laser, 24,192 received B-scan services, 499 received FFA services and 9,003 received OCT services. Dr. Anamika Kuswaha and Dr. Kabina Shrestha have completed their VR-Fellowship from BEH and working as VR consultants at SCEH and BEH respectively.



ROP- Retinopathy of Prematurity



Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) is a potentially blinding eye disorder that primarily affects premature infants born before 34 weeks of gestation and/or weighing 1750 grams or less. If diagnosed on time and treated early, it can prevent vision loss in infants and can save them from the pain of lifelong blindness. To improve neonatal care by providing timely ROP screening and treatment services in neonatal intensive care units (NICU) of Province No 1, BEH has started ROP screening in Nov 2020 which is the first of its kind in the region. In 2021, 304 (192 boys, 112 girls) babies were screened in NICU. ROP was detected in 51 (17%) babies. In the majority of them, ROP regressed spontaneously. 7 babies were treated with laser therapy and 2 babies with Inj. Avastin to achieve favorable outcome.

To create awareness about ROP among health workers, audio-visual awareness material was developed and distributed, ROP awareness posters were placed at 36 birthing centers and 196 health workers of different birthing centers received training on ROP. Similarly, radio-jingles were developed and aired to aware community people on ROP.

Glaucoma Department

Glaucoma departments of both hospitals of EREC-P have highly qualified, specialized teams with the latest advanced equipment to diagnose and treat glaucoma diseases. BEH is the only referral center for congenital glaucoma in the eastern region. In the glaucoma department of both eye hospitals, 16,594 glaucoma patients were examined and 2,538 glaucoma surgeries were performed. 3,475 patients underwent computerized Visual Field Testing and 4,131 received Nd. YAG iridotomy service. 50 children underwent glaucoma surgery. Dr. Anil Parajuli joined BEH as a glaucoma consultant.



Orbit, Plastic and Lacrimal (OPAL) Department

OPAL Departments of both hospitals of EREC-P have highly qualified, specialized team with latest advanced equipment to treat orbit, plastic & lacrimal diseases. OPAL department provided a wide variety of services including Endonasal DCR, Botox injection, various therapeutic and cosmetic eyelid surgeries, and orbital tumors. In the OPAL Department of both eye hospitals, 18,468 patients were examined and 3,143 surgeries were performed. Among them, 1,360 DCR (63 Endoscopic DCR), 43 Ptosis, and other different types of Orbitotomy. In the Ocular Prosthesis Unit, 339 patients received artificial eyes and among them, 17 were custom made.



Low Vision, Hearing, Language & Speech Rehabilitation Unit

The newly strengthened and upgraded Low Vision, Hearing & Speech Rehabilitation Unit of BEH provided comprehensive low vision and rehabilitation services. A variety of Low vision examination tools and devices (optical, non-optical and electronic) are available at the unit. In the Low Vision Department of both eye hospitals, 446 patients including 108 children with Low-Vision were assessed. Special Low-Vision devices were dispensed to 70 visually impaired patients for improving their vision. 104 incurable blind patients underwent counseling as well as orientation and mobility training, and 217 low vision patients were oriented on environmental modification to kitchen, toilet, and different lighting conditions to make their basic living activities easy.



Physician Consultation Services

This service has recently been started at BEH as a large number of patients with systemic disorder such as diabetes and hypertension need consultation to undergo ophthalmic treatment and surgery. This service has been started with the purpose of reducing the waiting time of patients for physician consultation and initiating faster ophthalmic treatment. Dr. Pradeep Panthee joined BEH as a part-time consultant physician.



Optical Unit

The optical unit of both hospitals is well furnished with the latest and high-tech optical devices & equipment like I-terminal, semi-automatic edger that guarantees spectacles with pinpoint measurement, fine lens finishing that helps to deliver superior, high quality, affordable spectacles. BEH Optical department also has a separate counseling unit equipped with different counseling tools and demo lenses for proper description regarding lens design and adaptability. CR lens processing unit established in 2018 has been producing high-quality complex power and progressive addition lens (PAL) on time. This year 74,362 patients received spectacles from SCEH and BEH optical dispensing units.



Ophthalmic Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at BEH

Ophthalmic Pathology and Laboratory Medicine department provides Biochemistry, Serology, Haematology, Microbiology and Histopathology services. Two new investigations such as Fluorescence microscope with calcofluor white stain to diagnose infective keratitis rapidly with increased sensitivity & specificity, and COVID-19 antigen test have been started. 59,834 patients received laboratory services from the department.



Ocular Microbiology Laboratory at SCEH



Ocular Microbiology Laboratory was established in collaboration with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 2019 at SCEH, Lahan. The laboratory is well equipped with a Fluorescent Microscope, Bacteriology (aerobic and non-aerobic) and mycology incubator, -78⁰c ultra-low temperature Freezer, Biological Safety Cabinet II and a digital benchtop Autoclave and others. Recently a clinical trial titled “Topical Chlorhexidine 0.2% versus topical Natamycin 5% for the treatment of fungal keratitis in Nepal: a randomized controlled non-inferiority trial” has been completed. A total of 890 patients with suspected microbial keratitis were assessed for the study, out of which 354 patients were enrolled in the clinical trial. Similarly, “Microbiological and Epidemiological study of corneal ulcer patients at SCEH, Lahan among Nepalese patients” is ongoing. 53,135 patients received laboratory services from the department.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES:

Community Outreach and Rehabilitation Program (COR):

To enhance the access of eye and ear care along with rehabilitation services at the grassroots level, EREC-P has been continuously running the COR program in Morang, Ilam, Bhojpur, Terhathum, Udaipur, Mahottari, and Sindhuli districts by conducting door-to-door screening of households and schools. Despite the adverse conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic, 48,595 people received eye and ear screening in their community. Among them, 3,573 people with eye problems and 600 people with ear problems were referred to nearby eye and ear care centers for further treatment. 1,744 people received medicine and 481 people received spectacles free of cost. 12 persons with disability (PwD) received vocational training on Incense-Stick manufacturing for income generation.



Expanding and Strengthening Eye and Ear Care Centers:

Establishment of New Eye and Ear Care Center:

For early detection and prevention of blindness and deafness, EREC-P Hospitals establish Primary Eye & Ear Care Center every year at different municipalities & rural municipalities in partnership with local government. Besides running 27 Eye and Ear Care Centers (Malangwa, Rajbiraj, Siraha, Gaighat, Diktel, Bhojpur, Terhathum, Rangeli, Inaruwa, Mirchaiya, Katari, Haleshi, Ilam, Uralabari, Fikkal, Jaleshwar, Bardibas, Haripur, Letang, Arjundhara, Kanchanpur, Duhabi, Khalte, Dhanushadham, Mangalbare, Biratchowk and Lalbandi), 1 new Eye Care Center was established at Ratuwamai Municipality Hospital premises in Partnership with the Municipality and financial support from CBM. These centers ensure care for the poorest and most unreachable patients. A Full-Time Ophthalmic Assistant/Optomtrist provides basic eye care treatment as well as referrals for patients who need specialized care. From 28 Eye & Ear Care Centers, 156,897 patients received eye treatment, and 17,064 received ear care service.



Surgical Eye Camps conducted in hilly areas of Mechi, Koshi and Sagarmatha zone:

EREC-P Hospitals have conducted 6 surgical camps in hilly and mountain areas (Khotang-2, Sindhuli-1, Bhojpur-1, and Terhathum-2). Patients identified in surgical eye camps for surgery were operated in a well-setup operation theater prepared inside the premises of government hospitals taking all aseptic precautions. 2,786 patients were screened and 506 underwent surgery with the majority being cataract surgery (471). Follow-up eye examination of operated patients was done at the campsite and eye care centers. Patients were happy as their vision was restored, and they were able to see this beautiful world again even during the COVID-19 pandemic. *“Now I can see everything around me very clearly, enjoy rest of my life, I can see the lines on my face and the wrinkles under my eyes which was not possible for many years due to cataract!!”* said a happy & satisfied patient from surgical eye camp at Bhojpur.



Cataract Screening Camp:

Conducting eye camps provides effective and accessible eye care by restoring vision to the residents of remote areas and reducing the burden of blindness due to cataract and refractive error. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, EREC-P hospitals conducted 110 Cataract Screening Camps in rural areas, maintaining necessary safety measures, 24,858 patients received eye examinations & treatment at the community level. 5,587 patients were brought to SCEH and BEH for surgery and were operated free of cost.



Covid-19 Impact & Response

Nepal launched its COVID-19 vaccination drive starting with frontline and healthcare workers from 27 January 2021 and since then most of our staff are fully vaccinated. The second wave of COVID-19 cases in Nepal began to impact the country in April 2021 and was more widespread and severe than the first wave in 2020. Total 5,67,838 people got infected & 9,738 died in 2021 due to COVID-19 in Nepal. Our 37 staff were also infected by COVID-19 with mild symptoms.

The countrywide lockdown worsened the lives of vulnerable groups who were dependent upon daily wages for their livelihood. Food scarcity was commonly reported among persons with disability. To address this need, EREC-P distributed food relief packages to 911 (42% physical disability, 14% blind, 18% deaf, and others) persons with disability of 4 municipalities & rural municipalities of Mahottary & Morang district with approval & involvement of local authorities and in coordination with the organization of the person with disabilities. The relief package included food items (Rice, Daal, Salt, Oil, Soya bean, Sugar), facemask, and soap.



EYE/EAR HEALTH EDUCATION:

Community awareness programs on Eye and Ear health:

Along with curative services, the hospitals were also created awareness through print and digital media. Jingles were being broadcast on various local radio FM's about eye problems including cataract, glaucoma, corneal ulcers, retinal detachment, and childhood blindness in local languages. Meanwhile, public awareness was also created through distributing posters, pamphlets, handbills, etc. Similarly, different awareness messages were painted on walls at the school and health institutions level to create awareness among the community people. To create awareness and strengthen the referral mechanism, hospitals provided primary eye and ear care training to 633 FCHVs, 156 school-teachers, 52 drug-retailers, and 247 traditional healers.



FREE and Subsidised SERVICES TO PATIENTS:

Several screening and surgical camps at Province 1 and Province 2 were conducted and identified 5,587 Cataract patients who underwent free surgery at the base hospitals. Patients from eye camps and poor economic backgrounds arriving directly at SCEH and BEH received support with the worth of NPR 27,755,935 (USD 232,169) in their examination, surgery, spectacles, medicine, transportation & food cost. Out of 73,591 cataract surgeries, 22% were done on a subsidized package of NPR 1200 (approx. USD 10).

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING:

Postgraduate MD Ophthalmology with National Academy of Medical Science (NAMS):

Post Graduate MD Ophthalmology was started at EREC-P in affiliation with NAMS in 2015. Till 2021, 8 MD Ophthalmologists have completed their study and presently 7 are enrolled. Last year, Dr. Bikky Prasad Gupta completed his Postgraduate MD Ophthalmology. Dr. Purna Arjyal, BEH has been appointed as Assistant Professor.



Bachelor in Optometry and Vision Science:

Bachelor in optometry and vision science (BOVS) was started at BEH in affiliation with NAMS in 2018. Currently, 14 students have been enrolled in BOVS. Mr. Pankaj Ray Adhikari and Mr. Amit Mehta have been appointed as Lecturer (Optometry and Vision Science).

Diploma in Ophthalmic Science Course at SCEH, Lahan:

DOS course was started in 2015 in collaboration with CTEVT at Lahan Technical School. Currently, 76 students are undergoing 2nd and 3rd years of DOS training at SCEH.

FELLOWSHIP:

Fellowship in Affiliation with NAMS

Long-term fellowship in Cornea, Glaucoma, Orbit Plastic & Lacrimal System (OPAL), and Vitreo-Retina have been started in affiliation with NAMS at BEH. This year, 3 fellows - Dr. Manish Pandey in Cornea, Dr. Pramod Gautam in Glaucoma, and Dr. Gaurav Dhungana in OPAL have completed their 1-year fellowship successfully and 1 fellow is undergoing VR fellowship.

Anterior Segment Fellowship:

Two Ophthalmologists (Dr. Vivek Jha and Dr. Krishna Kumar Thakur) have completed their 2-year anterior segment fellowship from BEH. Presently 14 ophthalmologists are undergoing two years Anterior Segment Fellowship at SCEH and BEH.

Vitreo-Retinal Fellowship:

1 Ophthalmologist is undergoing a two-year Vitreo-Retinal Fellowship at BEH.

Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Fellowship:

1 Ophthalmologist is undergoing 1-year Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Fellowship at SCEH.



TRAINING:

Primary Eye Health Worker training:

In 2021, 94 AHW & ANM received 6 months of Primary Eye Health Worker training. Currently, 48 AHW & ANM are undergoing 6 months of Primary Eye Health Worker training.

Optical Dispensing Training:

7 students completed 1-year Optical Fitting and Dispensing Training.

WORKSHOP AND CONFERENCES AT EREC-P

Webinar:

Fungal infections, including mucormycosis, aspergillosis and invasive candidiasis have been reported in patients with severe COVID-19 or those recovering from the disease. Mucormycosis is a threat to sight and life. To impart knowledge and increase awareness on screening and diagnosis of Covid-19 & Mucormycosis, a one-day webinar on COVID-19 and Mucormycosis and its emerging issues was organized by EREC-P. More than 300 participants such as Ophthalmologists, Ophthalmic paramedical staff attended the webinar.

BEH organized a webinar on "The Highway of Tears" in collaboration with the Nepalese Society for Oculoplasty Surgeons (NESOS). More than 215 participants attended the webinar via Zoom and more than 200 via YouTube live streaming in the webinar. Speakers and panellists from Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Thailand, and the Philippines covered nearly all aspects of lacrimal drainage disorders from external DCR to endoscopic endonasal, non-endoscopic endonasal DCR, failed DCR, and canalicular trauma.

MISCELLANEOUS

Sensitization Training on Disability Inclusive Eye & Ear Health

To improve disability-inclusive practices for strengthening comprehensive eye care, one-day disability-inclusive eye and ear health sensitization training were provided to 80 staff of SCEH & BEH. It will help to initiate for positive environment and accessible eye and ear care centers so that person with disabilities feel comfortable receiving eye and ear care services.



Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR) Training:

Disaster preparedness refers to measures taken to prepare for and reduce the effects of disasters. When major incidents and disasters occur, people with disabilities face hardship. To sensitize staff on the concepts and principles of disability-inclusive DRR, equip them with skills to face emergency consequences and DRR planning process at hospital, one-day training on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction provided to 99 staffs of Disaster Response Team and other staffs of both hospitals.



Child Safeguarding Sensitization Training:

Safeguarding training is important to ensure that all staff at every level feel empowered to protect children and report violations. To orient staff on child safeguarding to enhance a child-friendly environment, a one-day sensitization program was conducted for 80 staffs of SCEH & BEH.



Apart from these, various types of training programs were conducted at SCEH and BEH for the capacity building of staff.

HUMAN RESOURCE AT EREC-P

The 905-member employees include 30 Ophthalmologists, 2 ENT Specialists, 3 Anaesthesiologists, 2 Pathologists, 2 Microbiologists, 7 MD Residents, 38 administrative staff, 1 Research Officer, 2 Health Educators, 94 Ophthalmic Assistants (OA), 3 Anaesthetic Assistants, 36 Optometrists, 14 Staff Nurses, 13 Pharmacy Assistants, 106 Eye Health Workers and other Supporting Staffs.

PUBLICATIONS

In the year 2021, the following publications were done:

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<https://doi.org/10.3126/jbпкиhs.v4i1.37071>
11. Jeremy J Hoffman, Reena Yadav, Sandip D Sanyam, Pankaj Chaudhary, Abhishek Roshan, Sanjay K Singh, Sanjay K Singh, Sailesh K Mishra, Simon Arunga, Victor H Hu, David Macleod, Astrid Leck, Matthew J Burton
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2021 Dec 9;S0161-6420(21)00921-0. doi: 10.1016/j.ophtha.2021.12.004.
12. Malla T and Sahu S, Firework-related Ocular Injuries During Festival Season: A Hospital-based Study in a Tertiary Eye Care Center of Nepal, Nepal J Ophthalmol 2021; Vol 13 (25): 31-39,
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3126/nepjoph.v13i1.31246>
13. Bhadra Priya, Vinitkumar Kamble, Sabin Sahu, Sharad Hemant Mishra
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History

Under leadership of Secretary General Dr. Ram Prasad Pokhrel and Chairmanship of General Ravi Shamsher Ja. Ba. Ra; Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh (NNJS) was established in late 1978 for hassle-free and facilitative eye treatment of patients. Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh appealed to different international unions and organizations to support them to eliminate blindness in Nepal. Christoffel Blinden Mission, CBM started collaboration with Social Welfare Council and Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh after an agreement in December 1982. Dr. Albrecht Hennig from CBM started 12 bedded Eye Care Center from Ram Kumar Sarda Uma Prasad Murarka's Public District Hospital at Lahan in 1983.

As the number of eye patients was increasing day by day, Dr. Hennig realized the need for a separate building for an eye hospital. For this, he began contacting and appealing through the Principal of Pashupati High School Mr. Kameshwor Chaudhary to various social workers of Lahan. As the appeal was for a humanitarian cause, the Chaudhary family at Lahan showed interest and assigned responsibility to Mr. Padma N. Choudhary for discussion and finalization of land donation. Finally, a bilateral agreement was signed by NNJS General Secretary, Dr. Ram Prasad Pokhrel and Mr. P. N. Choudhary on behalf of the donor Chaudhary family. As per the agreement, social workers of Lahan Shree Chhabi Lal Chaudhary, Shree Sarowar Lal Chaudhary and Shree Rabindra Lal Chaudhary have donated land in Lahan and Hardiya for the noble cause.

CBM extended its financial support by constructing 50 beds Eye Hospital on this donated land. The dedication and unselfishness as motivated with social service, Dr. Hennig and his team served the neediest populations through Sagarmatha Choudhary Eye Hospital. The growing trust in services and increased demand in eye care helped establish a 450-bed hospital with highly sound technologies in a short period. This newly constructed building was inaugurated by the then King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah in 1986.



To balance the workload of Sagarmatha Choudhary Eye Hospital and to increase the scope of long-term human resource sustainability, Biratnagar Eye Hospital was established on 13th September 2006 under the leadership of Dr. Sanjay Kumar Singh in a rented building as a branch of SCEH, Lahan. The hospital started from 80 beds expanded to become 300 beds by 2009 to meet the demand of an increasing number of patients. The management of the Hospital and supporting the organization's far-sighted vision, skilled doctors, enthusiastic manpower, and high-tech technology have contributed to its immense success in a short duration of time.

With the help of Sagarmatha Choudhary Eye Hospital and supporting organizations like CBM, European Union, Standard Chartered Bank and Internal source, 500 bed high-tech building was constructed in Biratnagar. This new building was inaugurated on 15th November 2011 by the first president of the democratic republic of Nepal, Hon. Dr. Ram Baran Yadav.



Nepal Netra Jyoti Sang, Eastern Regional Eye Care Programme (EREC-P) is a non-profit organization providing high-quality eye care services along with comprehensive approach in the eye and ear care. The services are very much accessible and affordable for people of all socioeconomic backgrounds. EREC-P is an umbrella of 2 tertiary level hospitals (Sagarmatha Choudhary Eye Hospital and Biratnagar Eye Hospital) and 28 Eye and Ear Care Centres. The program is providing services to a large number of populations of Province No 1, Madhesh Pradesh, and Bagmati Pradesh of Nepal and neighbouring countries.

Acknowledgments

On behalf of EREC-P, we would like to thank CBM and their donors for constant support and guidance, SEE international for their support with the Intra Ocular Lenses, Orbis International for their support in REACH Program, PEEK Vision Limited, UK for PEEK program, DAK foundation for their support in surgeries and Vision for the World for their support in strengthening Myopia Clinic.

We are thankful to Ministry of Health & Population, Social Welfare Council, Ministry of Social Development, Local Governments, Karuna Foundation, Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology, Nepal Eye Bank for their continuous feedback and support.

We also express our sincere thanks to Childrens Eye Ear and Rehabilitation Services (CHEERS), Dr. Shroff Charitable Eye Hospital for providing training to ophthalmologists and paramedical staff and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine for its support in research activities.

All these accomplishments were possible due to strong commitment and support from EREC-P Board, Hospital Mangement Committee of SCEH and BEH, all clinical, administrative and support staffs of hospitals and eye care centers.

We take this opportunity to thank many unnamed people and organization for their constant support to make Eastern Regional Eye Care Programme a success.

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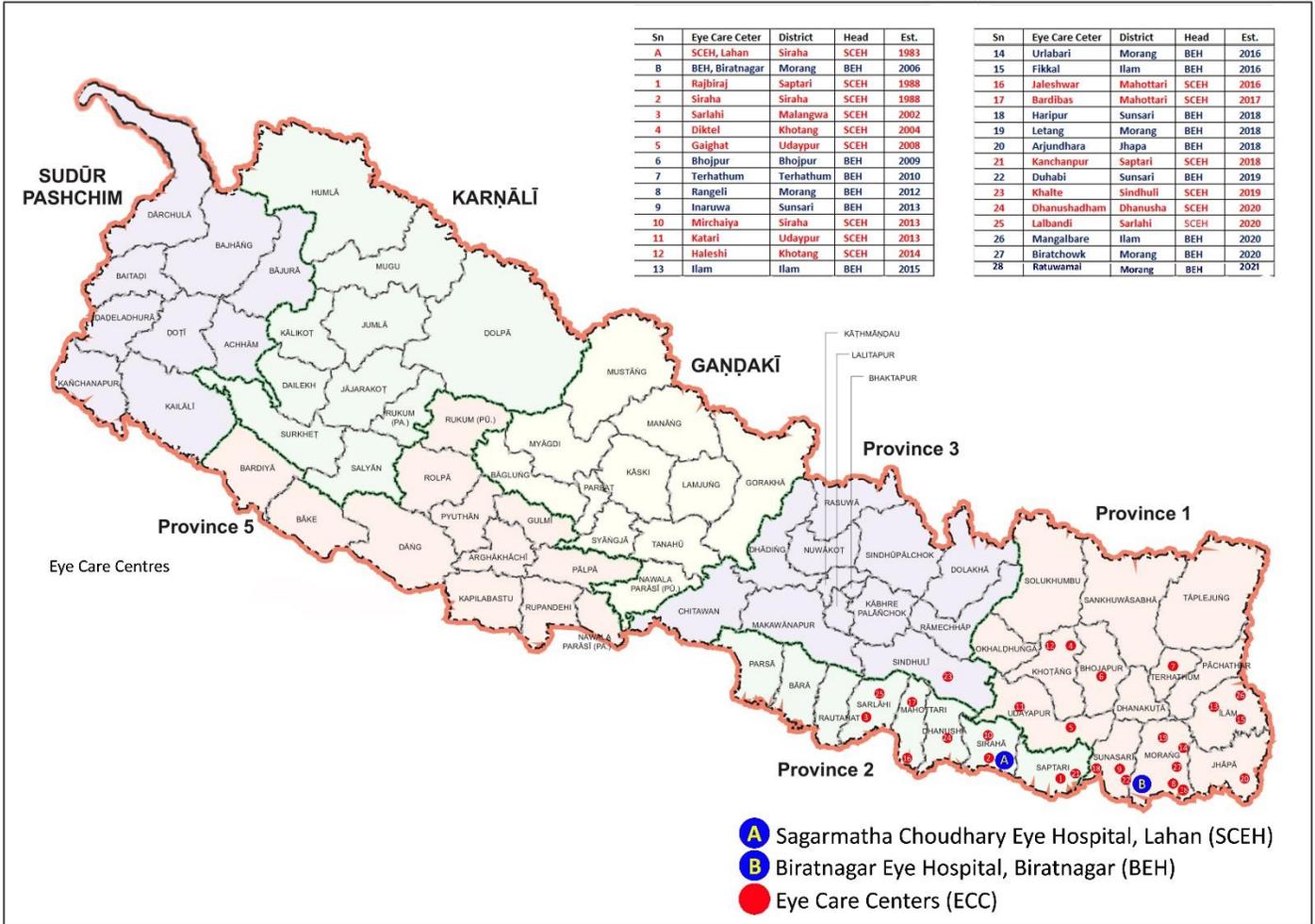
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