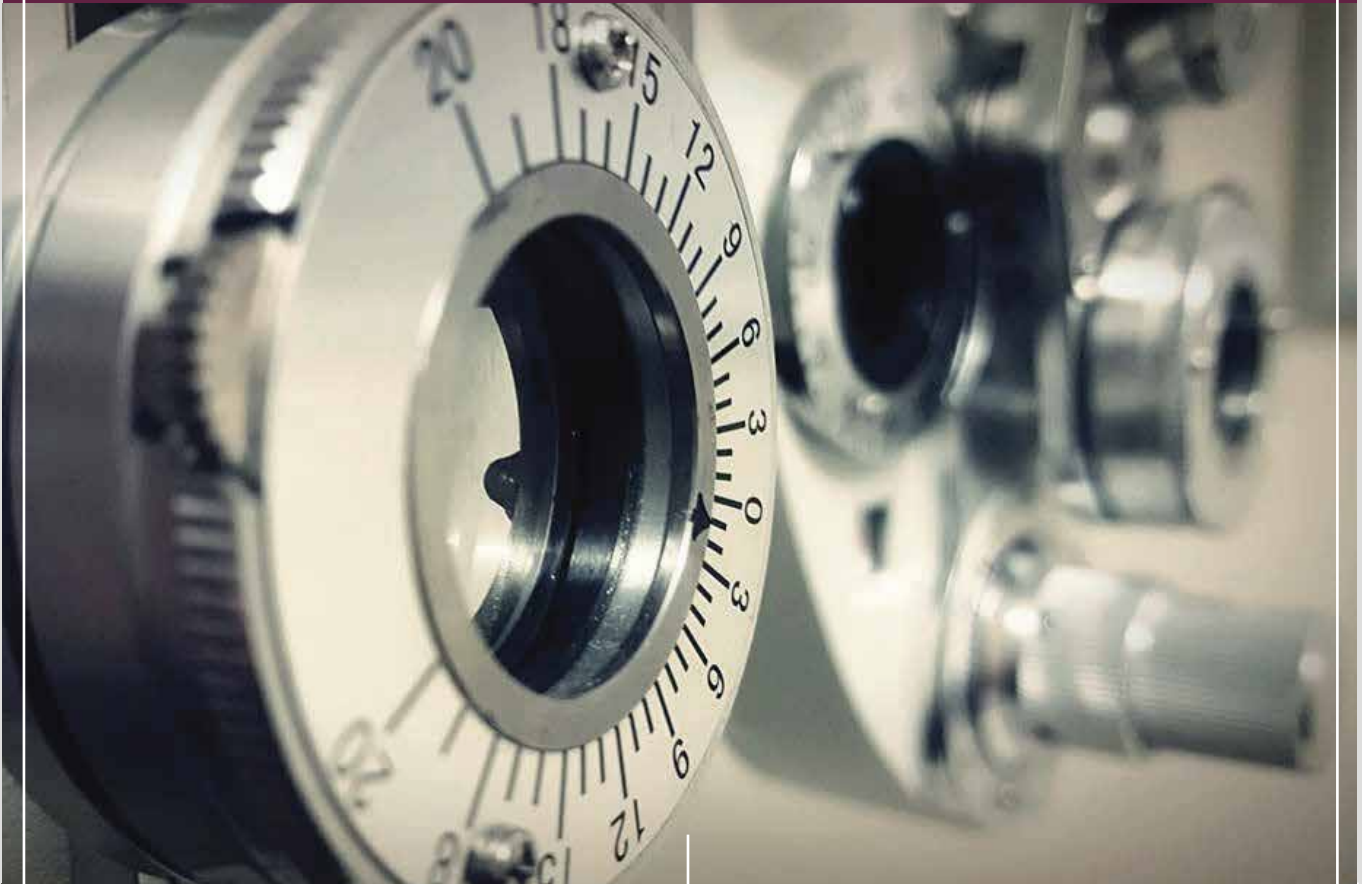


## Incubating the Future Ophthalmologists



## ABOUT US

Sightsavers is a development organisation working in India since 1966 to eliminate avoidable blindness and to ensure that people who are irreversibly blind are supported adequately to lead lives of independence and dignity. For over five decades, with presence in 100 least-served districts of 8 priority states Sightsavers has worked with 50 partners to reach out to over 55 million people with potential eye problems and carried out more than a million sight-restoring cataract operations.

Through our work we constantly strive towards bringing eye healthcare, educational support, counselling, training, and leadership development to people in some of the least served areas of the country. Under the theme eye health, we are implementing programmes for rural and urban (slum) communities, school children and truckers by ensuring equitable eye healthcare services. One of the key element to achieve this is impacting Human resource availability, building up of capacities of different cadres and strengthening the skill building efforts.

We focus on Primary Eye Care (PEC); Disease Specific Interventions with primary focus on Cataract; Human Resource Development; and Eye Health Advocacy. The aim is to “improve vision-related quality of life through strengthened eye health systems”. Our approach helps us to ensure a greater proportion of the population has access to sustainable and good quality eye health services.

All our programmes are aligned with the global strategy for Eye Health. Being a founding member of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight and member of Global Health Workforce Alliance, much of our work in eye health is done in coalition and puts us in a strong position to influence the development and implementation of eye health policies and programmes in furtherance of the goals under Vision 2020 and WHO Global Action Plan on Universal Eye Health for eliminating avoidable blindness.

## MISSION

We are a development organisation working with partners to eliminate avoidable blindness and promote equality of opportunity for disabled people.

## VISION

Sightsavers’ vision is of a world where no one is blind from avoidable causes and where visually impaired people participate equally in society.

# Message from the CEO




Sightsavers in India launched a first-of-its-kind India Fellowship Program in 2019 for ophthalmologists. Every year, since then, the initiative has given us an opportunity to groom bright and competent young ophthalmologists into skilled professionals.

The program envisions to cultivate a capable and motivated workforce in the eye care field for rural India. Currently, there are nearly 18,000 Ophthalmologists present in the country, which is nowhere near enough with respect to the ratio of the population in India. We need more ophthalmologists. With this program we hope to bring about positive substantial impact in the society.

The Sightsavers India Fellowship Program is a promising career opportunity for ophthalmologists and takes selected fellows through an exciting journey of 24 months. With an attractive package to offer, the fellowship is designed in a way that will give you an opportunity to master the craft as a clinician and a surgeon.

Here is your chance to work with and learn from the best in the business and be an exceptionally skilled ophthalmologists early on in your professional career. An education in ophthalmology with the mettle of being a team player and attributes of empathy and passion to explore rural India are adequate for the India Fellowship Program.

I will be eagerly waiting to welcome you on this exciting journey.



RN Mohanty,  
CEO, Sightsavers India



## Context

Despite major advances in affordable technology and innovative models of eye health care delivery, blindness due to avoidable causes such as cataract and uncorrected refractive error is still a major public health issue in India. On one hand there are high volume centers of excellence located in select few locations that can provide state of the art care to all (that can reach these centers). On the other, vast majority of rural and semi urban districts starve of any health care at all. There is a huge gap in the availability and distribution of skilled ophthalmologists if we are to respond to this challenge of blindness.

**As per official statistics there are about 18,000 ophthalmologists in the country.**

Although the WHO recommends a population to ophthalmologist ratio of 1:100,000, in India the distribution varies from 1:25,000 in some urban pockets to 1: 250,000 and below in others.

# Sightsavers








## India Fellowship Program

Sightsavers India Fellowship is an opportunity for promising and passionate young ophthalmologists to get trained at some of the leading eye health institutes in India. Alongside, the fellows will get a chance to apply these skills and knowledge in a real-world scenario while being placed under Sightsavers India Eye Health Programme.

The program identifies promising young ophthalmologists from India and groom them through an innovative course to enhance their perspectives on rural eye health.

Over the period of 24 months, the fellows experience a structured skill enhancement and mentoring process covering not only clinical and surgical ophthalmology but also managerial and holistic life skills. The process involves skills upgradation components and personal interactions with eminent leaders in eye care and development sector. Every stage of the fellowship program optimizes learning that helps the fellows transform into all-rounder seasoned professionals.

## Salient Features

							
24 months journey	Hands-on training at leading institutions*	Exciting district postings	One-on-one clinical/surgical mentorship	Life-skills guidance	Attractive stipend and residential facility	International exposure	Enrolment in Alcon PD Program

\*Cataract surgeries and exposure to commonly encountered anterior segment procedures such as DCT, Pterygium, Corneal Ulcer management, Intravitreal antibiotic, Anterior vitrectomy and lid surgeries

## Training Institutions

Leading eye health institutes of India will impart clinical and surgical trainings to the fellows. They will also provide remote and onsite mentoring to the fellows during their placement with host hospitals in districts.



New Delhi



Chitrakoot, MP



VIVEKANANDA MISSION ASRAM

Kolkata, WB

## Strategic Partner

Fellows will be enrolled in Alcon Phaco Development (PD) Program to build their surgical capabilities and get trained in latest techniques for advanced cataract procedure.



## Fellows Speak



“Initial four months of training is packed with wet labs, surgical/ clinical postings and lecture classes along with routine departmental presentations and CMEs. It provides the necessary exposure under excellent mentorship and guidance which would have needed more time investment outside the fellowship. After the training, placement at the host hospital gives the real sense of working. Engagement in OPD helped me a lot in terms of decision-making and management of patients of different subspecialties. Performing OT under supervision and independently, helped me grow and build much needed confidence within myself.

Sightsavers India Fellowship Program, however, doesn't just hone your clinical and surgical skills. There are multiple things a fellow learns during this fellowship. This includes hospital management and personality building as a professional doctor. I always found overwhelming and constant support from Sightsavers team while moving out of my comfort zone. This kind of support is incomparable and rare to find”.

**Dr Anoop Kumar Singh, Sightsavers Fellow**



Sightsavers India Fellowship has a holistic approach which helped in the development of my personality. It made me stronger as well as resilient and taught me how to face challenges of various kinds. I was given the opportunity to see and treat patients independently in the OPD (Outpatient Department) and perform small incision cataract surgeries (SICS) and Phacoemulsification surgeries, alongside one senior surgeon. Other than surgical exposure, I learnt to interact with different people. The people I worked with were very loving and helpful and some of them made living here much easier for which I will be forever grateful to them.

The support from Sightsavers is exhilarating. They take care of everything right from the start including travel, logistics and make sure that we were comfortable and get everything we need. To all the future aspirants for Sightsavers India Fellowship Program, the journey is not easy, especially living in the rural setting for the first time. But I guarantee you that you will not regret the choice you made. Just be focussed and patient during the learning curve, one step at a time and everything will come to you.

**Dr Vanlalmuanpuui Ralte, Sightsavers Fellow**



“It's a great honour and opportunity for me to get trained at such a renowned institute in India using state of art technology in all aspects. The training is highly structured with well-planned schedules for OPD, OT and wet lab. I am being provided good clinical and surgical exposure under the able and timely guidance of experts and consultants. This is surely helping develop my much-needed skills as an Ophthalmologist.

I feel very proud and wish to render my best possible service to the community under Sightsavers Fellowship Program. Thankful to Sightsavers for giving me this opportunity to learn and serve.”

**Dr Farnaz Kauser, Sightsavers Fellow**



“Structured way of learning about clinical and surgical aspects of ophthalmology with postings into each subspecialties and everyday seeing variety of cases at the outpatient department (OPD) is helping me enhance my skills as an Ophthalmologist. There is lot of exposure to the latest version of treatment under excellent mentorship. The day starts with morning classes, OT observations, hands on diagnostic procedures at OPD and wet labs.

Thank you Sightsavers for this opportunity and support which is rare to find with other fellowship programs.”

**Dr Asmita Kamble, Sightsavers Fellow**





# 24 Months Journey

Mentoring on clinical/surgical and life-skills enhancement



# Eligibility

Postgraduate or a diploma holder in ophthalmology (MS/DN-B/DO) from any recognized institute/ university in India, having sound knowledge on clinical ophthalmology (current year pass outs are eligible to apply).

**Desired attributes:** high learning orientation, adaptability, professional ethics, emotional resilience

## Selection process

### Preliminary Selection

- Application submission
- 1st round of screening
- 2nd round of shortlisting
- Call for final interview

### Final Selection

- Panel interview
- Final list endorsed by the committee
- Reference/Background check
- Formal induction and orientation

The decision of Sightsavers India management will be final.



### Fellowship Stipend

- ₹ 35,000 per month - initial four months training period;
- ₹ 65,000 per month - 1st year of field posting;
- ₹ 75,000 per month - 2nd year of field posting;

#### Additional benefits

- ▶ Lump-sum payment upon successful completion of year 1 and 2.
- ▶ Medclaim, accident, term and professional indemnity insurance.



## Placement

At host hospitals in district(s) of one of these States for hands-on learning experience

## Post Fellowship

- Sightsavers recommendation for other sub/super - speciality fellowship at one of the training partners based on feedback of clinical mentors.
- Continue with Sightsavers hospital partners as their staff, if agreed mutually;
- Completely depart from the program as per their personal aspirations;

Alumni fellows are encouraged to stay connected with the program as visiting faculty, interact with future candidates and share their achievements.



Last date of application 30th June 2022 | Fellowship begins from August 2022

To apply visit: <https://indiafellowshipprogram.sightsaversindia.in/> or call: +91 9818157997

Email ID: [indiafellowship@sightsaversindia.in](mailto:indiafellowship@sightsaversindia.in)

# Guiding Voices

**Dr Manoj V. Parulekar,**  
Consultant Ophthalmologist,  
NHS UK

“Sightsavers India Fellowship Program is a unique initiative to develop a cadre of young ophthalmologists who would work within wide network of ophthalmologists across the world.”

## Unique Initiative

**Dr Umang Mathur,**  
Executive Director & HOD  
Ophthalmology, Dr Shroff's Charity  
Eye Hospital, Delhi

“The Program is well designed to nurture and give supervised surgical skills to handle any kind of cataract surgery and manage the practice properly.”

## Nurtures Best Ophthalmology Talent

**Dr Asim Sil,**  
Medical Director Chandi Campus,  
Vivekananda Mission Asram (VMA)  
Netra Niramay Niket

“This fellowship has included one-to-one mentorship. It is going to be very much helpful for the candidates.”

## One-to-one Mentorship

**Thulasiraj RD,**  
Executive Director,  
LAICO – Aravind Eye Hospital

“Sightsavers India Fellowship Program in some ways could be beginning of building eye care leadership in India.”

## Builds Eye Care Leadership





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Sightsavers is an equal opportunity organisation and candidates irrespective of their caste, creed, gender, religion and disability are encouraged to apply.

Visit [www.sightsaversindia.in](http://www.sightsaversindia.in) to know more