

Incubating the Future Ophthalmologists



Sightsavers
India Fellowship Program
2023



ABOUT US

Sightsavers is a development organisation that has been 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. Over the past five decades, Sightsavers has reached out to over 55 million people with potential eye problems till date.

As of now, we work in 100 districts across 8 states of India bringing eye healthcare, educational support, counselling, training and leadership development to visually impaired people in some of the least served areas of the country.

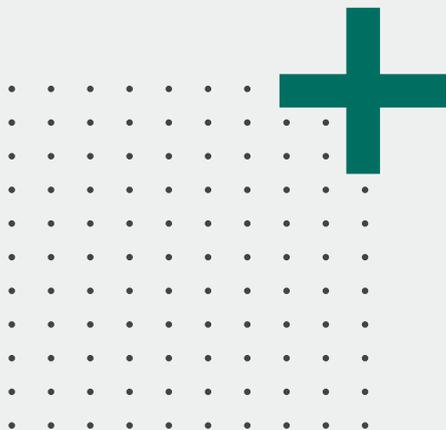
We work in a sustainable way to promote lasting change by strengthening existing health systems, seeking to advocate with and influence governments and by demonstrating best practices. We network with like-minded organisations to enable an exchange of ideas and to advocate for the rights of the disabled. Sightsavers believes in promoting technologies in eye healthcare enabling a wider reach of health services in India.

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

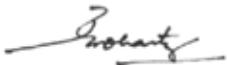
Sightsavers India Fellowship is a program our organization is very proud of. It is an opportunity for us to cultivate next generation of capable and motivated workforce for eye care. These individuals are passionate about the health of their community and are committed to transforming the eye health care system from generating volume to assuring quality care.

Currently, the number of Ophthalmologists present in the country is nowhere near enough with respect to the ratio of the population in India. We need more ophthalmologists.

With passing years, the popularity of the program is increasing among the young and aspiring ophthalmologists. As a promising career opportunity, it is designed in such a way that fresh post-graduates with very little experience get transformed into well rounded surgeons. During the journey of 24 months, our Fellows get trained and are mentored by the best in the business. They get a chance to master the craft as a clinician and a surgeon and gain exposure to managing community-based hospital, participate in community-based surveys, develop skills, interests and goals while working with senior leadership. These experiences contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the entire eye-health landscape.

Here is your chance to 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 program.

I sincerely hope you consider joining the Sightsavers India Fellowship Program and I look forward to building a lasting relationship with you.



RN Mohanty,
CEO, Sightsavers India



The Context

Blindness due to cataract and refractive errors is still a major public health concern in India despite major advances in affordable technology and innovative models of eye health care delivery.

High volume centers of excellence are available in few locations to provide state of the art care to all, whereas majority of rural and semi-urban areas remain deprived of basic health care. The surgical treatment is relatively safe and very effective in restoring the vision loss due to the disease, but it requires a well-equipped facility and a trained and motivated team to provide it.

Shortage of trained eye care professionals, particularly in rural areas results in delay in diagnosis and treatment, which can lead to further vision loss. Training of eye care professionals and encouraging them to work in rural areas can help to ensure equitable and impactful eye healthcare services across the most underserved parts of the country.

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	Participation in community-based survey	Self-transformation mentoring	Attractive stipend and residential facility	International exposure

*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.



Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital

Caring for the community since 1914...

Delhi



SUSRUT

THE EDUCATIONAL & RESEARCH CENTRE

Kolkata



Noida

Strategic Partner

Enrollment in Alcon Phaco Development (PD) Program for getting trained in latest techniques on advanced cataract procedure.

Alcon



PHACO DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Self-Transformation Mentoring Partner



Mantra
management training
research associates

Attitude is Everything!

Fellows Speak



“ I am a part of Sightsavers fellowship and am deeply grateful to have got this opportunity. It has been an amazing experience in terms of growth, learning and over all self-development. From the outstanding training to RAAB survey to host placement, I have gained a lot of experience in terms of surgeries and academic skills. Constant support via regular reviews, mental resilience workshop and the most co-operative environment has made this journey so smooth and cherish able. I would recommend my co-ophthalmologists to join this fellowship to enhance their surgical learning and enrich themselves with ground level experience of the ophthalmology practice in India. ”

Dr Aniza Nagpal, Sightsavers Fellow

“ As a Sightsavers Fellow after getting trained in one of the finest training institutes in the country, I could perform good number of small incision cataract surgeries (SICS) and Phacoemulsification surgeries alongside one senior surgeon and independently. This program gave me the opportunity to work at a high-volume center where I could do large number of surgeries and contribute towards reduction of blindness prevalence among the rural communities. Apart from clinical and surgical exposure, I was also involved in the decision making for the growth of the hospital. I am thankful to Sightsavers for the opportunity to be part of the program and learn and serve. ”

Dr Farnaz Kauser, Sightsavers Fellow



“ Sightsavers India Fellowship Program provides a real sense of working. It 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. 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



“ I joined in 2022 batch. Sightsavers India Fellowship is unique program and exactly what I needed. It started with a basic training period of four months which includes OPD exposure, outreach camps and mostly basic SICS training. I also had an opportunity to take part in RAAB survey during the course which was a learning experience. Right now, I am posted in the host hospital where I am doing small incision cataract surgeries (SICS) and improving my clinical skills. I am very thankful for this program for giving me dynamic opportunity for learning and growing as a clinician and surgeon. ”

Dr Reshma Sonowal, Sightsavers Fellow





24 Months Journey

Mentoring on clinical/surgical and life-skills enhancement

0-4 MONTHS

Foundation - Stage 1

Improved comprehensive clinical skills

Building diagnostic and case management skills in OPD

Structured surgical training process

Live surgical observation and wet labs

Supervised hands on cataract surgical exposure

One on one mentoring

Exposure to best practices in eye care

Life skills and work ethics orientation

Exposure to hospital management processes

5-12 MONTHS

Growth - Stage 2

District posting at Sightsavers India partner hospital

OPD management

High volume cataract surgeries (SICS) with onsite guidance

Introduction to Phaco

Exposure to common anterior segment procedures

Interaction with prominent professional personalities

Sessions on values, ethical standards, empathy

Counsel and training on patient and peer interaction

Basics of managerial and practice development skills

13-24 MONTHS

Excellence - Stage 3

Independent OPD management

Independent cataract surgeries

Skill upgradation training (introduction to basic subspeciality)

Thematic paper presentation in conferences

Higher degree of human empathy and self confidence

Rise in performance of independent cataract surgeries

Emergence as a role model of professional expertise

International exposure

Eligibility

Postgraduate or a diploma holder in ophthalmology (MS/DNB/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 shortlisting
- Call for panel interview

Final Selection

- 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.

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.

Placement

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



Last date of application 30th June 2023 | Fellowship begins from August 2023

To apply visit: <https://indiafellowshipprogram.sightsaversindia.in/> or scan QR code:

For more information call: +91 9818157997

Email ID: indiafellowship@sightsaversindia.org



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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