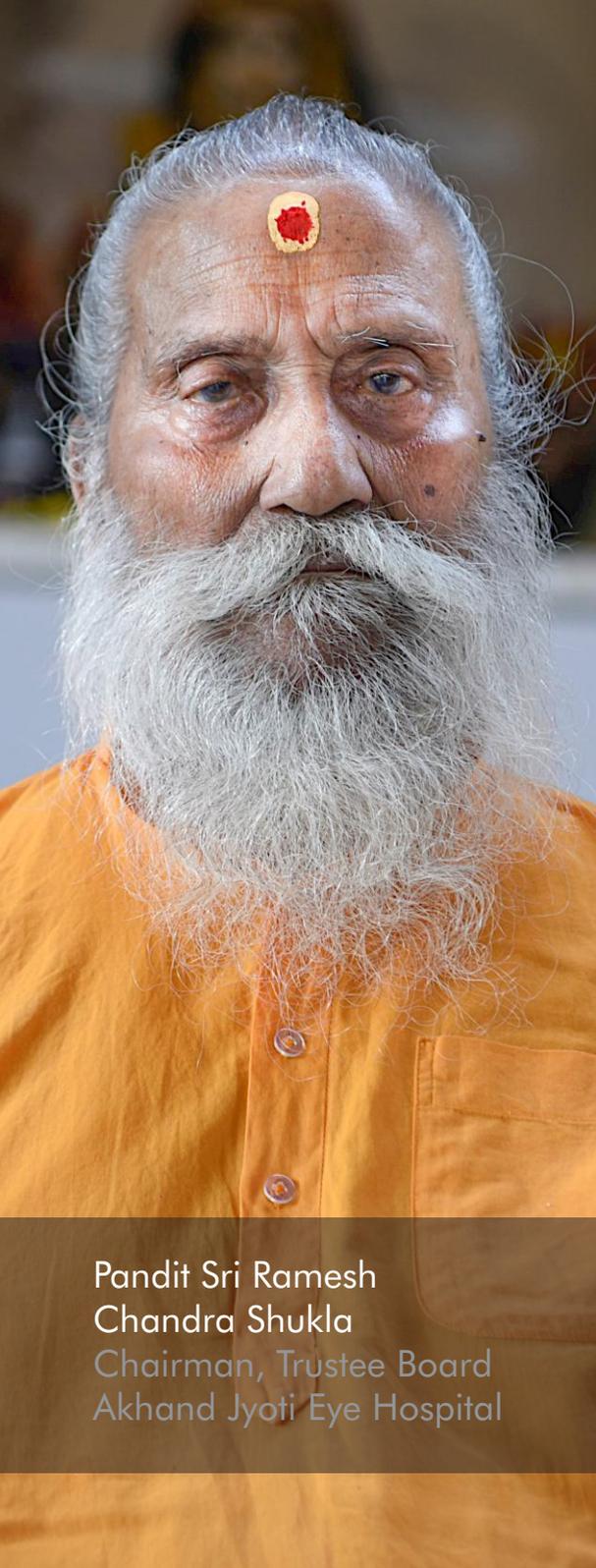




AKHAND JYOTI  
Sight. Life. Hope.

# EN::: VISIONED

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020



## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE (BOARD OF TRUSTEES)

Every now and then humanity faces a grave challenge. Every generation goes through its share of suffering and perhaps for the first time in recorded human history man is faced with a difficulty that has reached nearly every corner of our inhabited mother Earth. A mighty adversary challenging the very existence of humanity – the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Mankind, however, has always triumphed and will emerge victorious this time too.

I strongly believe that the eternal flame and unflinching spirit of Akhand Jyoti will overcome this trying time also. Akhand Jyoti, which started as a seed of a dream to restore sight to the poor and blind in Bihar, today after nearly one and a half decades of its existence has emerged

into 3 hospitals and 8 vision centres gifting back vision to nearly 75,000 individuals every year. Our dream of social change and women empowerment will continue.

So, at this critical juncture of human tribulation right when the work of Akhand Jyoti is at its pinnacle, we will not be disheartened or demotivated by this global setback. On the other hand, the pandemic gives us a chance to rethink our ways and come up with better options to operate more effectively in the future.

It gives me much joy to share with you this report and talk a bit about our work in 2019-2020 and our future initiatives. ■

Pandit Sri Ramesh  
Chandra Shukla  
Chairman, Trustee Board  
Akhand Jyoti Eye Hospital



Mritunjay Kumar Tiwary  
Founder, Project Head &  
Executive Trustee

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE TRUSTEE AND FOUNDER'S DESK

Hope that you are keeping safe and healthy during this unprecedented epoch scarred by the COVID-19 global pandemic, which has brought all of humanity to its knees.

I write to let you know that amidst all the gloom, we are dedicated to work on our mission, for which you have been an ardent supporter.

Since the last 14 years with patronage from partners like you, our work has touched the lives of over 12 million indigent people. FY 2019-20, just before this crisis, has been one of our finest hours, when we provided sight to nearly 75,000 people and primary eye care to nearly a million more.

Like the rest of the world, we too are being coerced by the tentacles of this crisis. For the past few months, we got embroidered in a difficult struggle and had to take a pause in our work. Only open for emergency services, we

had to close our hospitals and clinics and await the passage of the COVID-19 storm. These measures were necessary to make sure that our patients, employees, and families stay safe in these uncertain and trying times.

The old-normal ways of doing our work may not ever come back. This pause, however, is not defeating for us. It is an opportunity for us to be resilient and pivot our workflows to emerge stronger than ever.

We are taking this time to completely rework our workflows maintaining new protocols and rethinking the future. Rest assure that Akhand Jyoti, which literally means the "eternal flame" will shine brighter with each passing day.

More than ever we would want you to stand by us and say a prayer in your heart for the people who need us. This crisis would not defeat us, and this too shall pass. ■



Dr. Ajit Kumar Poddar  
Medical Director

## FROM THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S DESK

Based on recently conducted Surveys, in India around 9.2million people are blind [Presenting Visual Acuity (PVA) < 3/60] and about 270 million people with vision < 6/60 need urgent eye care. Bihar is one of the worst affected states that need to ramp up the quality community eye care services to eliminate needless blindness.

For the past 14 years Akhand Jyoti Eye Hospitals is committed to providing comprehensive quality eye care to the rural people who are socially and economically marginalised and worst sufferers of not only eye problem but a gamut of other issues as well.

Community eye care is a much broader concept than organising a mere outreach camp. It has a qualitative impact on education and awareness about the eye's health, conducting various epidemiological and community-based research and survey, social marketing, better planning, and managing the sustainability of eye care.

Reaching the unreached through outreach camps is Akhand Jyoti's core strength. Presently though limited to the screening of visually blinding cataract, and eye screening programme for children at schools, we soon plan to incorporate

Diabetic Retinopathy (DR), Glaucoma and Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) screening as well.

For the broader coverage among the remote areas where there is a severe lack of accessibility, we shall soon be deploying trained optometrist manned and fully equipped Vision Vans.

A 350 Bedded Centre of Excellence (CoE) for eye care will soon be taking shape to further strengthen our high volume, high-quality, cost-effective eye care programme, in addition to our ongoing expansion of Primary Vision Centres (PVC) and secondary centres.

We are rigorously working on our hospital-based data and switching on to Electronic Medical Records (EMR) now, which will help in a productive output of research, and continuous training and education programmes.

I am thankful to our entire team, hospital management, trust board, advisory board and respected donors for their tireless spirit and encouragement and timely support. I wish and pray for the health and spirit of the entire pre, present, and future human generations! ■



# THE BLINDNESS PROBLEM



Everyone on the planet has the right to see and should not suffer due to unnecessary blindness, which is treatable, and the sight can be restored.

Yet it is estimated 15 million people in India are blind and live without sight.

That's nearly 1 out of 3 blind people in the world that live in India. Bihar – the most densely populated and the poorest state in India with the lowest GDP per capita is most affected. It is the worst hit with a backlog of 700,000 blind and 4.3 million visually impaired people. 100,000 additional people become blind every year due to ageing. Cataract is the primary cause of blindness which is easily treatable by a simple surgery, but more than half of the population does not have access to cataract surgery.

We're on a mission to change that.

With all our supporters by our side we believe we can eliminate this curable blindness from Bihar by 2026.

The rural girls we empower and train as professionally qualified optometrists under our "Football to Eyeball" programme help us achieve this.



# THE ISSUE OF GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT



Every person on Earth irrespective of gender deserves the right to equal opportunities in life.

Yet a forceful patriarchal society in Bihar discriminates women and throws open gaping issues in gender inequalities, shunting the growth of young women and girls.

Female literacy of Bihar is the lowest in India. The state of Bihar is in the bottom rungs both regarding Gender Related Development Index (GDI) and the Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM). The marginalised girl child often falls victim to early marriage, dowry, domestic violence, and rampant abuse.

But we're determined to change that.

With all our supporters by our side, we aspire to improve the life of underprivileged girls by negotiating opportunities for them.

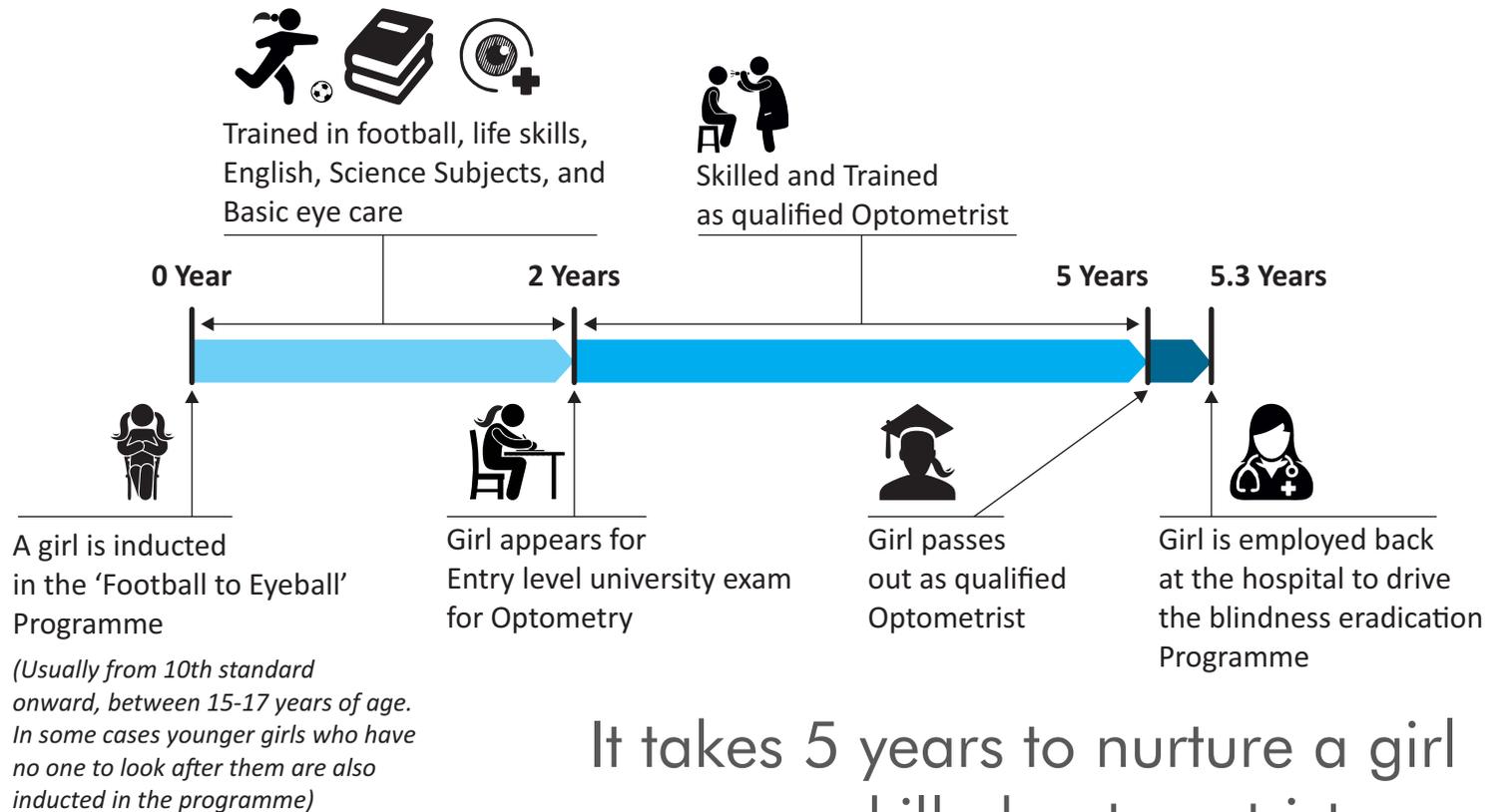


# THE “FOOTBALL TO EYEBALL” PROGRAMME

This is the signature programme of Akhand Jyoti where rural girls are encouraged to play football to break patriarchal stereotypes.

Football is used as an ‘ice-breaker’ to draw rural underprivileged girls out of their homes.

These girls are then trained for life skills, education, and finally as skilled optometrists. They form the core of Akhand Jyoti driving its eye care and blindness elimination initiatives.



## It takes 5 years to nurture a girl as a skilled optometrist



## OUR VISION

To help eliminate curable blindness by providing in low-income geographies affordable, accessible, sustainable, quality curative and preventive eye care services and empower women to achieve this.

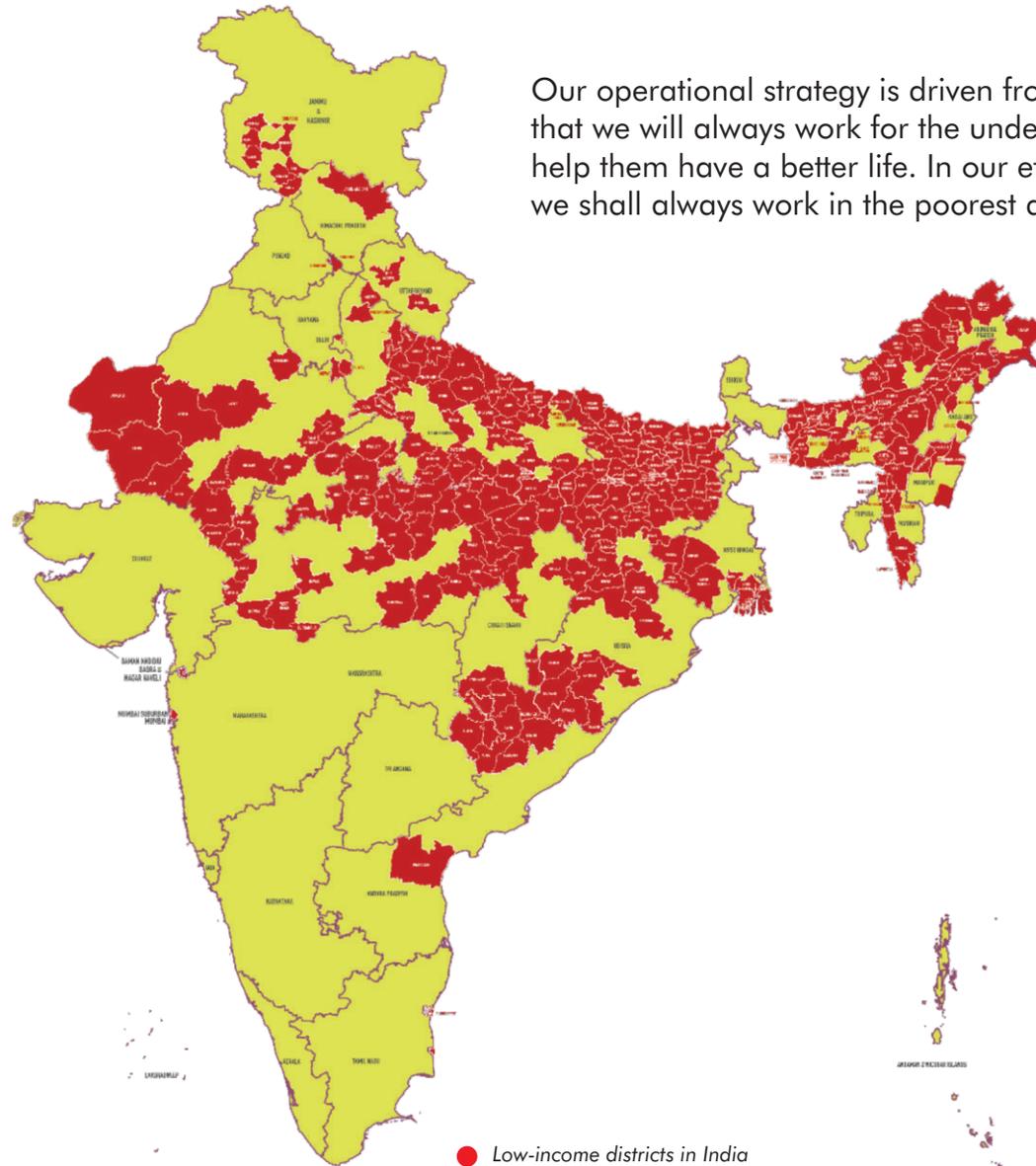
## MISSION

To spearhead in Bihar the elimination of curable blindness by 2026, build up an internationally recognised Centre of Excellence in eye care – probably the world's first in a rural area – which is accessible and affordable, and lay the foundations to make AJEH economically sustainable so that it is less reliant on donations post 2026 in meeting its vision. Throughout, we will be relentless and empower women to achieve our objectives and to make a broader societal impact by training girls from rural areas.



# ASPIRE TO WORK IN THE MOST CHALLENGING GEOGRAPHIES

Our operational strategy is driven from our values and ethics that we will always work for the underprivileged people and help them have a better life. In our efforts to help the poor, we shall always work in the poorest districts of India.



# WORKING WHERE IT REALLY MATTERS

Presently we are working exclusively in 16 districts in Bihar and 4 districts in Eastern Uttar Pradesh.

UTTAR PRADESH

BIHAR



Covered by Akhand Jyoti
  Underserved

Served by others  
 Will be covered by Akhand Jyoti's upcoming Hospitals

At Purnea  
 At Samastipur



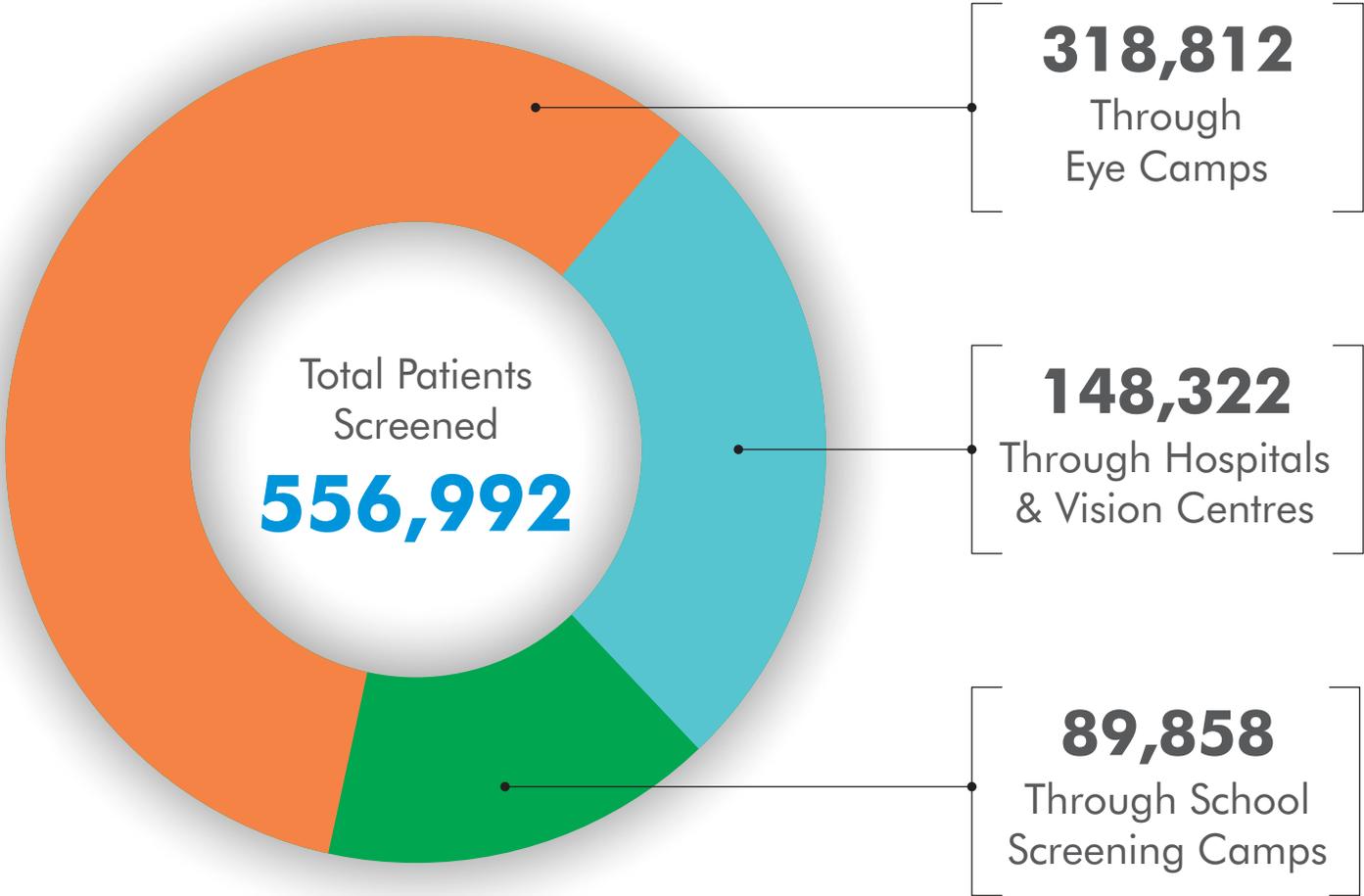


OUR WORK AND IMPACT  
IN 2019-2020



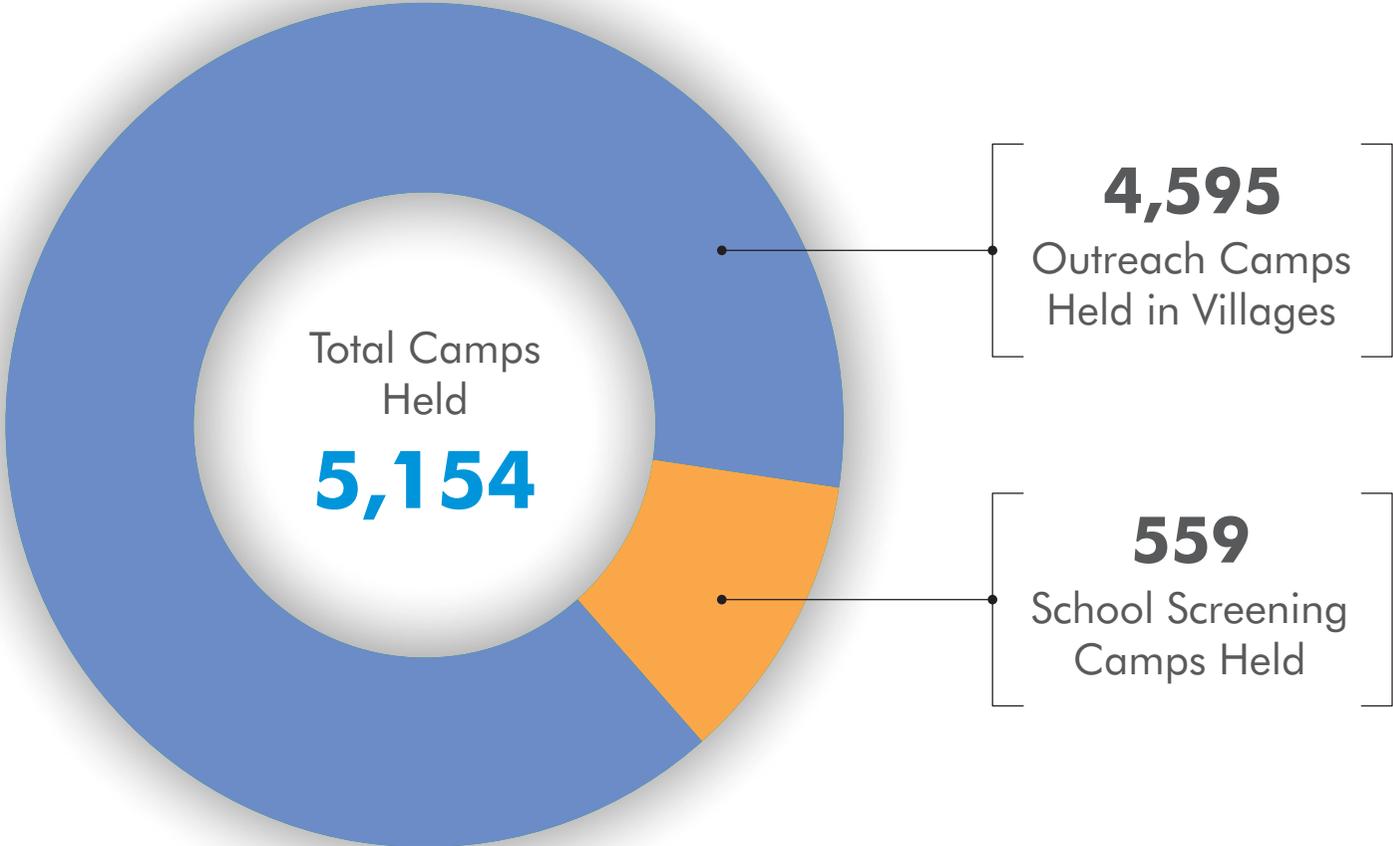


# NUMBER OF PATIENTS SCREENED



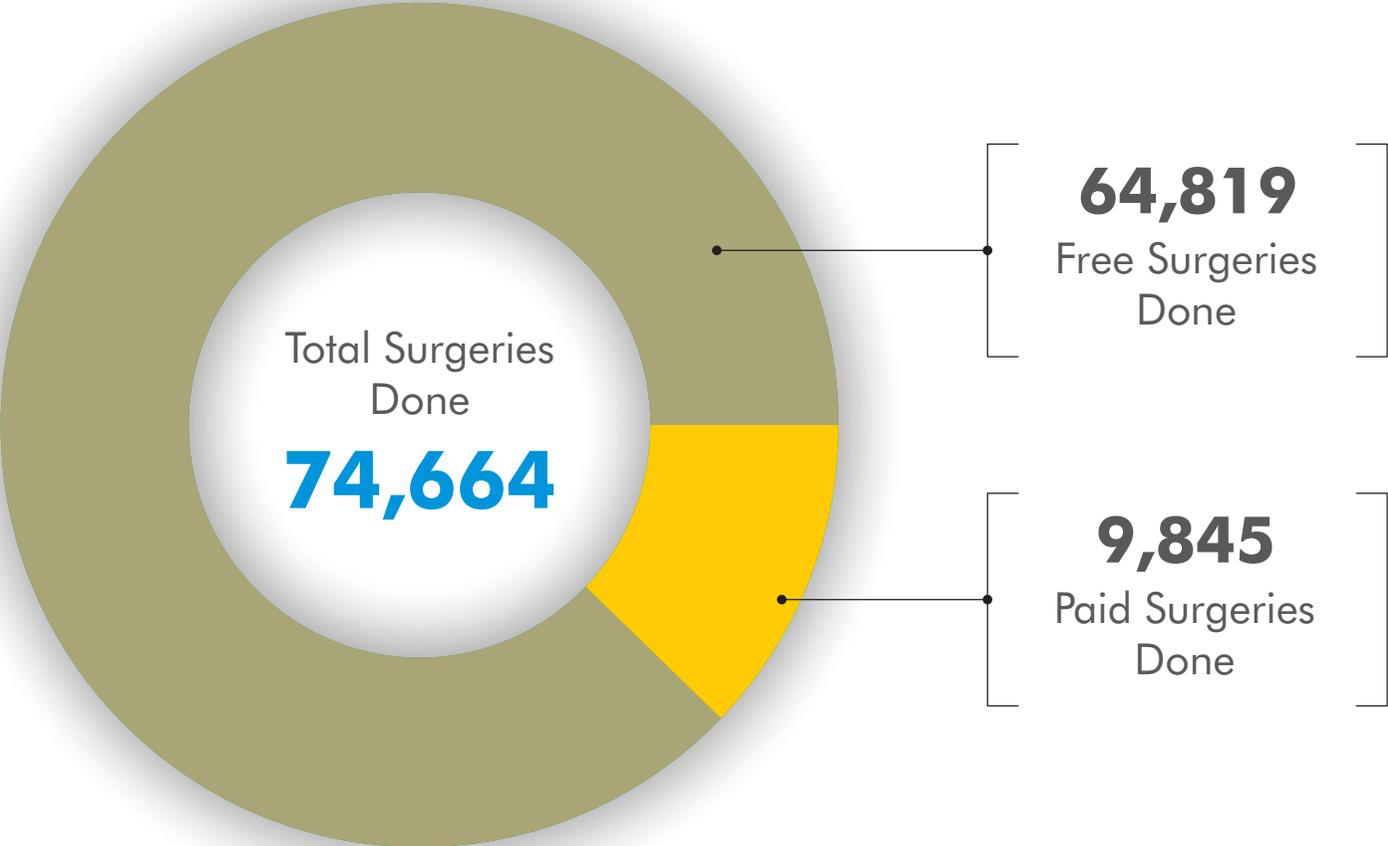


# NUMBER OF EYE CAMPS HELD



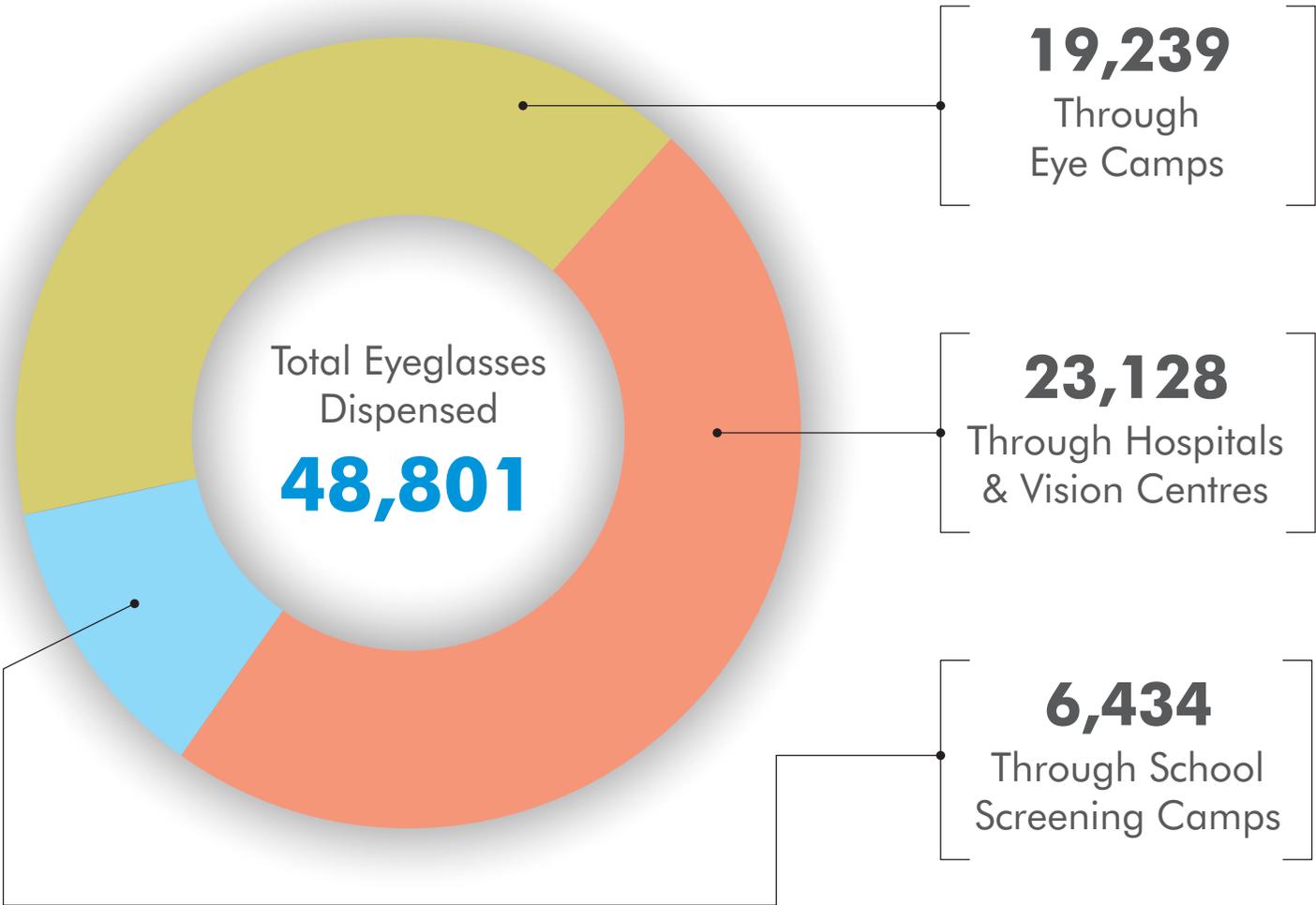


# NUMBER OF EYE SURGERIES PERFORMED



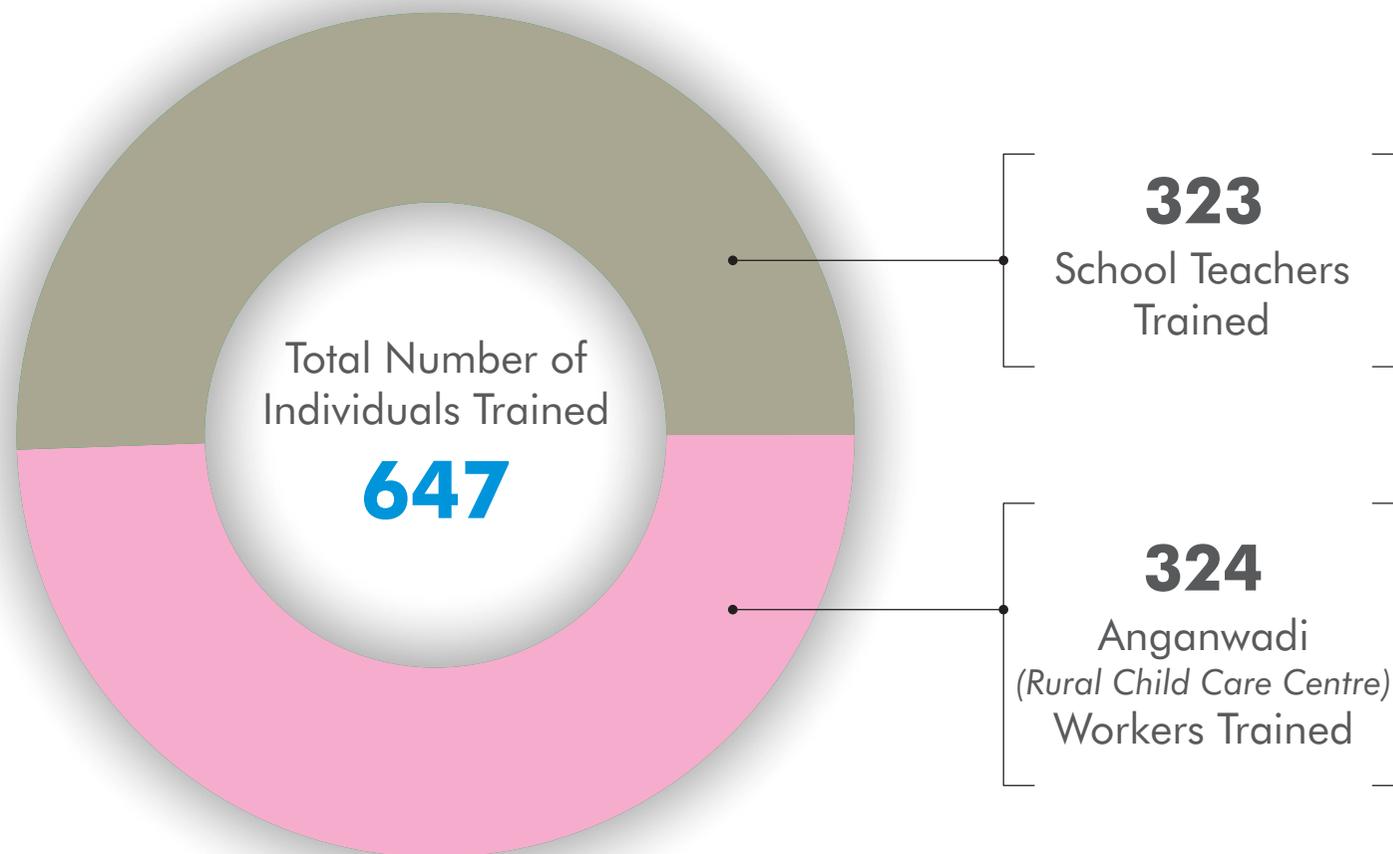


# NUMBER OF EYEGASSES DISPENSED



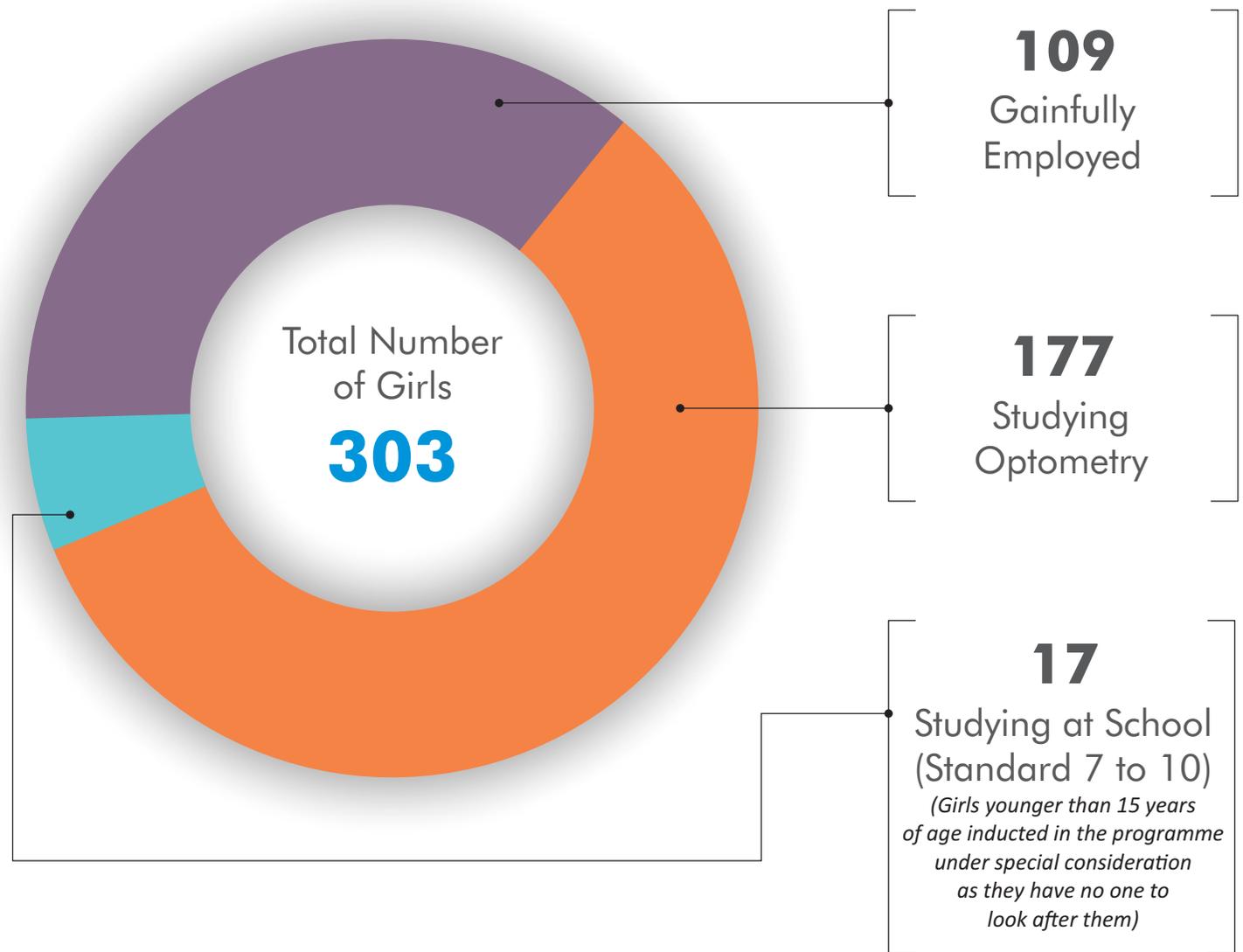


## NUMBER OF COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS TRAINED TO SCREEN EYES OF CHILDREN





## NUMBER OF GIRLS IN THE "FOOTBALL TO EYEBALL" PROGRAMME



# STORIES THAT INSPIRE

## BLINDNESS ELIMINATION



### **Restored Vision Thaws Frozen Dreams**

The heart touching story of a jolly ice cream street vendor; the sole bread earner of a family of 10 members. Find out, how he lost the means to earn his livelihood and all hope until Akhand Jyoti intervened to restore his vision, thereby restoring his earning capacity.

[Read More](#)



### **My Children A Curse Or Blessing**

A mother of 11 children, 5 of them blind. A paralytic husband and the desperate fight of a woman losing sight. An inspiring story of finding sight, life, and hope.

[Read More](#)



### **Guddu Gets Over His Grief**

An 8 year old child fumbles due to blindness. He has no friends and does not go to school. He is unable to play with his own siblings. He lived a life of isolation, while his parents shed helpless tears, until Akhand Jyoti intervened.

[Read More](#)

# STORIES THAT INSPIRE

## GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT



### **The Girl With Dream Becomes The Woman With Vision**

The life's struggle of a nearly blind from birth girl child born in a rural village soaked in generations of male dominance and rampant social evil.

[Read More](#)



### **The Abandoned Daughter Becomes The Caregiver**

Abandoned at the age of three along with her younger sister and mother, Priya's life changing story with a major twist is bound to touch your heart. The true saga of a humble village girl who championed hatred with love and compassion. A proud prodigy of Akhand Jyoti strong value system.

[Read More](#)



### **A Shattered Dream Restored**

The Story of Ranee Singh - The saga of Ranee, traces the aspirations and tribulations of a girl who found back her dreams after losing it all. It is a testament to the strong will power which flickers inside every woman. A powerful story of how Akhand Jyoti is bridging the gender divides in the hinterlands of patriarchal rural Bihar.

[Read More](#)



# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019-2020

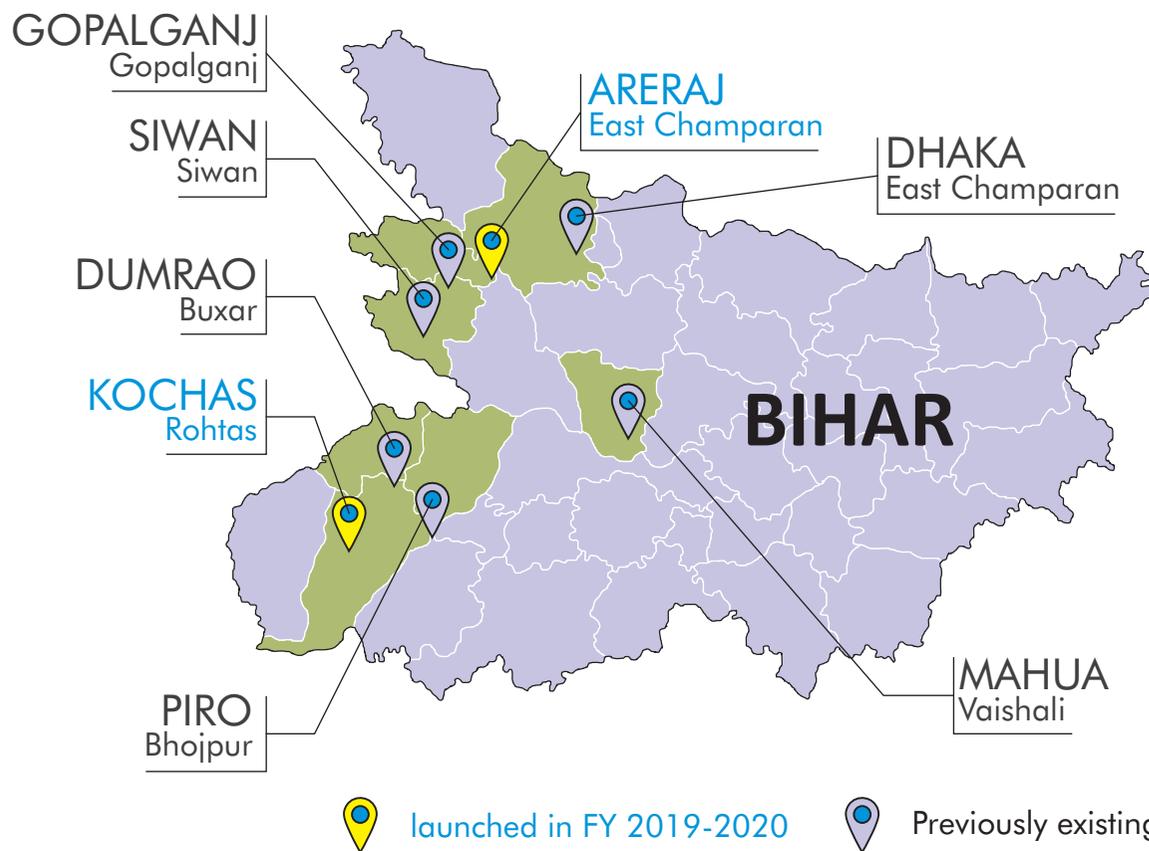
IN CASE YOU MISSED OUT



## 2 NEW VISION CENTRES LAUNCHED

The first of the 2 new vision centres was launched in **Kochas, in the Rohtas district of Bihar on the 20th of October 2019**. The vision centre was launched at **Areraj in East Champaran district of Bihar on the 15th of December 2019**.

Our two new vision centres are strategically placed to widen our reach into the rural hinterlands of Bihar, thereby enabling us to pursue our mission of eliminating curable blindness from Bihar by 2026.





# RECOGNITIONS RECEIVED

Recognition for Outstanding  
High Quality, High Volume  
Comprehensive  
Eye Care Service Delivery



8th June 2019

Conferred by  
IAPB & Vision 2020



Dr. Ajit Kumar Poddar, Medical Director, Akhand Jyoti, receives the award from His Excellency, The Honourable Governor of Tamil Nadu, Shree Banwarilal Purohit.

Recognised for our contribution  
to rural healthcare and  
improving access to the  
poorest sections



Curated by Organisation of  
Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI)



Mritunjay Tiwary, Founder and Executive Trustee, Akhand Jyoti, was conferred with the prestigious award in presence of Hon'ble Minister, Shree Mansukh Mandaviya.



# LIVE WEBINAR

A live webinar was organised at Akhand Jyoti Eye Hospital in association with our longstanding partner Orbis India on **6th November 2019, as part of Continuing Medical Education (CME).**

The webinar was part of 5 day, **“Multi-Disciplinary Hospital Based Training” (MD-HBT)** organised in partnership with Orbis from 4th to 8th November 2019.

**Lectured by: Dr. Donny Suh, M.D., FAAP, MBA,** Chief of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Adult Strabismus, Director of Fellowship, Children’s Hospital and Medical Center, Omaha, Nebraska, US.

**Chaired by: Dr. Ajit Kumar Poddar,** Medical Director, Akhand Jyoti Eye Hospital.






**Welcome**  
All Delegates To The

**Multi-Disciplinary  
Hospital Based Training  
(MD-HBT)**

4 - 8 November 2019  
Mastichak, Saran, Bihar

[www.akhandjyoti.org](http://www.akhandjyoti.org)





**Welcome**  
All Delegates To The

**Continuing Medical  
Education (CME) on  
Paediatric Cataract and  
Strabismus**

6 November 2019  
Venue: Auditorium, Akhand Jyoti  
Mastichak, Saran, Bihar

[www.akhandjyoti.org](http://www.akhandjyoti.org)



## SWITCHING TO SOLAR

In its commitment towards reducing pollution and positive contribution to the environment, **solar panels generating 50 KW capacity of electricity** were installed at **Akhand Jyoti's base hospital at Mastichak** on the occasion of World Environment Day **on 5th June 2019**.

The system has been **installed with support from TATA Cleantech Capital Limited**.



# FITNESS TRAINING OF GIRLS AT AKHAND JYOTI

All our girls enrolled in 'Football to Eyeball' Programme went through **basic self-defense training under the coaching of qualified martial arts instructors from Singapore.** The goal is to further develop their self-

confidence and increase their physical fitness. Many thanks to Jag Sekhon and Subhash Arora for their generous support for the self-defense programme of the girls.





## PAPER PRESENTATION AT VISION 2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Akhand Jyoti Eye Hospital conducted a KAP (Knowledge Attitude Practice) **study on Eye care supported by Orbis India in 2018.**

Based on the findings, a paper presentation was done on "**Children's eye health – a comparative study among household, medical/ para-medical and non-medical group in rural districts of Bihar**" at Vision2020 Annual Conference held on June 8th and 9th 2019.



## RAAB STUDY RAPID ASSESSMENT OF AVOIDABLE BLINDNESS

A Research paper titled - Prevalence and causes of avoidable blindness and visual impairment, including the prevalence of diabetic retinopathy in Siwan district of Bihar, India: **A population-based survey was (RAAB Study) was published in Indian Journal of Ophthalmology - Jan 2020 edition.**

The Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness (RAAB) is a simple and rapid survey methodology that helps in generation of evidence on the magnitude and causes of visual impairment as well as on eye care services to plan towards universal eye health.



# COMMUNITY EFFORTS

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# 323

**Teachers trained** to screen the eyes of school going children in Bihar



# 324

**Anganwadi (rural child care centre) workers trained** to screen the eyes of kids going to Anganwadi centres

As in previous years, **as part of our community efforts, we reached out during Diwali (festival of light) to neighbourhood villages** and distributed sweets and chocolates to underprivileged families, and notebooks, pen, and pencils to the children to spread love and joy.



During the initial days of the COVID-19 pandemic many poor people including migrant labourers struggled for two square meals a day. A complete nationwide lockdown resulted in many poor people and daily wage earners losing their livelihood. At this crucial time Akhand Jyoti initiated

**"The Food Express - 2 Meals for a Family of 4" campaign distributing**

# 28,912 food parcels to 4,880 underprivileged families,

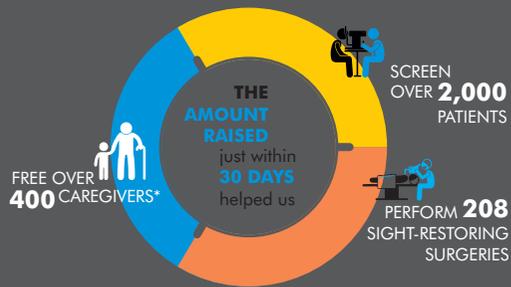
containing - rice, wheat flour, flattened rice, jaggery, etc.





# FUNDRAISING BY INDIVIDUALS





**Ramya Nageswaran** from Singapore, on the eve of 'World Sight Day 2019', started the 'Light A Life' online campaign and raised a whopping amount of USD 10,400 involving 72 kind hearted donors to help restore the sight of 208 poor people.



**Sanjukta and Richard** pledged their wedding in February 2019 to raise funds from wedding gifts to support cataract surgeries of underprivileged blind patients in Bihar. They have raised USD 5,946 to support 120 sight-restoring surgeries.



**Jasleen Dhingra** pledged her daughter's birthday and raised funds of USD 789 and gifted sight to 16 poor blind patients.

**Sahir**, our little friend from Singapore celebrated his 6th birthday as a 'No Gift' birthday and instead raised USD 1,250 to restore the sight of 25 poor patients who couldn't afford a treatment.



**Antara**, our 17-years-old friend from Singapore raised USD 714 by selling beautiful greetings cards with inspiring messages in her efforts to support surgeries of 14 poor people.



PARTNERS AND  
SUPPORTERS

Major partners



Partners who came on board this year



Influencer



The names of the partners are not given in any particular order

## Other supporters

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- Aadarsh Baijal
- Advanced Enzyme Technology
- Agrocorp India Trade Services Pvt. Ltd.
- Amita Mehta Trust
- Amrit Vasudeva Trust
- Anand Satyamurthy
- Ananth and Ramya Nageswaran
- Asha and Anil Dixit
- Ashoka Pte. Ltd.
- Bakul and Swati Parikh
- Bansidhar Baijnath Jalan Seva Trust
- Bharat Shah
- Bhaskar Jayaraman and Archana Bhaskar
- Borun Ghorai
- Dalmia Cement Bharat Ltd.
- Devika Misra
- Divya Verma Patel
- Dorai Foundation
- Gopal Rai Mandhanian
- Jag and Subhash Arora
- Kanchana Gupta
- Kaushik and Harsha Shaparia
- Kavitha Iyer and Irvin Sequeira
- Kumar and Krithika Radhakrishnan
- Mandeep Nalwa
- Mona J. Parekh
- Mousumi Bhat
- Naveen Bhat
- NE Technologies India Pvt. Ltd.
- Nilesh Arvind Parekh
- Nilesh Shah
- Paromita and Samir Mehta
- Parul Singhai
- Parul Thakker
- Pratul Shroff
- Raj and Gayatri Sriram
- Ramesh Shah
- Ranodeb Roy
- Rohit Arora
- Saahil Vasant Patel
- Sagarika and Sandeep Sen
- Sandhya and Sanjay Kothary
- Sangini Shroff
- Sanjukta and Richard
- Shalini and Alok Sinha
- Shameeli Sinha
- Shirdi Sai Worship Centre Ltd.
- Shital Raiyani and Nilesh Jassani
- Smt. & Late Shree Hiranand Vishindas Farswani
- Suketu Shah
- Sunder Sham Chanrai
- Sunil, Sushmitha and Hridaan Popuri
- Tarun and Priti Kataria
- Veenapani Sekseria
- Venky Krishnakumar
- Vikas and Manisha Gattani



# LEADERSHIP BOARD



**Mritunjay Tiwary**

Founder and Executive Trustee, Akhand Jyoti



**Snehanand (Ravi) Sinha**

Trustee & Strategic Advisor, Akhand Jyoti  
(Management Consultant with 33 years of corporate experience)



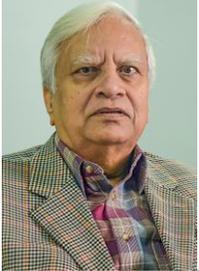
**Dr. AjitKumar Poddar**

Medical Director, Akhand Jyoti



**Prof. Mala Sinha**

Member, Advisory Board, Akhand Jyoti  
(Ph. D., Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi)



**Ravi Kant**

Chairman, Advisory Board, Akhand Jyoti  
(Former Vice Chairman and Managing Director of TATA Motors)



**Ramesh Jude Thomas**

Member, Advisory Board, Akhand Jyoti  
(Founder and Chief Knowledge Officer of EQUITOR Value Advisory Pvt. Ltd)



**Jayesh Parekh**

Member, Advisory Board, Akhand Jyoti  
(Co-founder of Sony Entertainment Television and venture capitalist)



**R. Sridhar**

Member, Advisory Board, Akhand Jyoti  
(Former Director of Ogilvy & Mather India, innovation facilitator, consultant, coach/partner, IDEAS-RS, TEDx speaker, author)



**Amish Nathwani**

Member, Advisory Board, Akhand Jyoti  
(Former Director/ MD at PwC and Deutsche bank, HoD at Bank of England, operational and IT risks & controls)



**Shashi Sinha**

Member, Advisory Board, Akhand Jyoti  
(CEO, IPG Mediabrands India)



# FINANCIALS

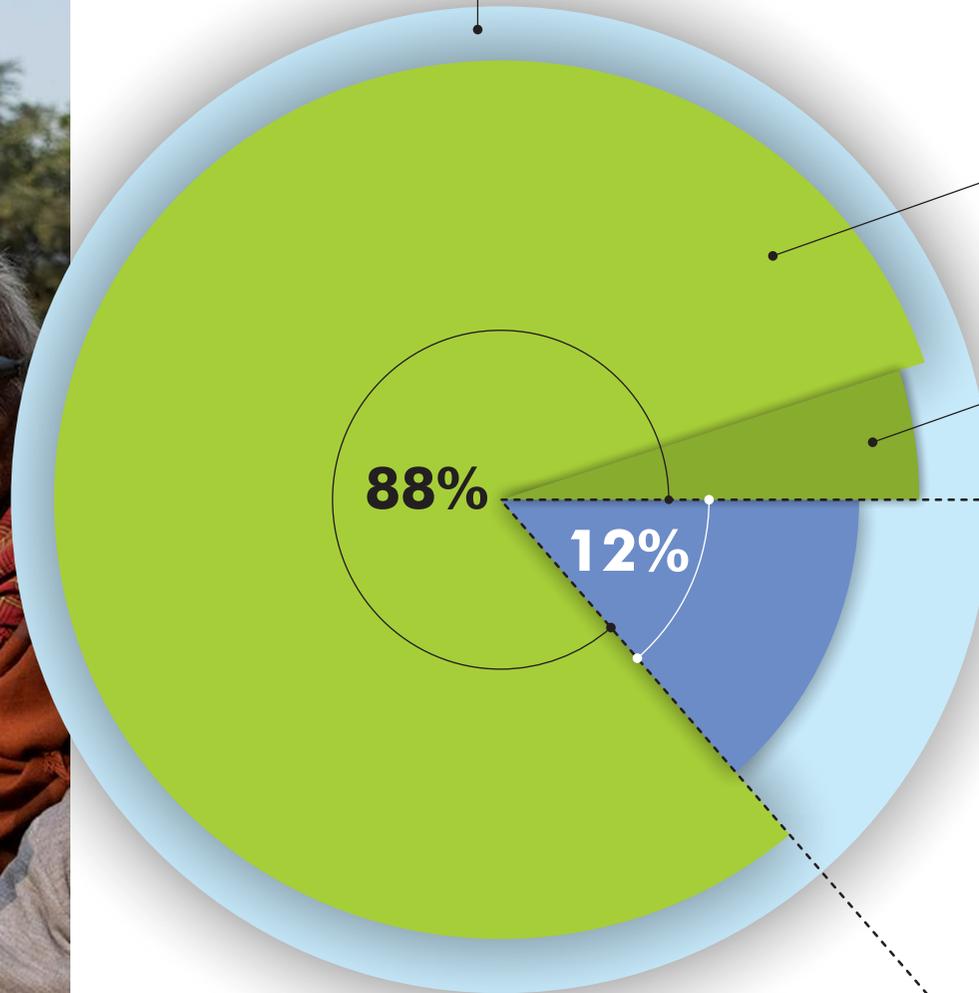
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**Total Cost**  
**\$ 4,404,158**

**Programme Cost**  
**\$ 3,884,307**



Blindness Programme  
**\$ 3,696,896**

Girls Development Programme  
**\$ 187,411**

**Shared Programme Cost**  
**\$ 519,851**

*\* INR figures are converted to USD, considering 71 as the forex rate.*



AKHAND JYOTI

Sight. Life. Hope.

## Akhand Jyoti Eye Hospital

A Unit of YUGRISHI SHRIRAM SHARMA  
ACHARYA CHARITABLE TRUST

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[www.akhandjyoti.org](http://www.akhandjyoti.org)



Akhand Jyoti has GuideStar  
India's Advanced Level -  
Gold Certification for  
maintaining high level of  
accountability and adopting

