

THE ISSUES

1. Over **1 million people are blind** in Bihar, less than half of them have access to sight restoring surgery and every year 100,000 people add to the blind tally in the state.
2. Bihar has the **lowest literacy rates for girls**, half the population live below the poverty line and the **girl child is the most marginalised section** in a patriarchal society and faces gender based inequalities, economic exploitation, malnutrition and child marriage.

THE SOLUTION – MISSION OF AKHAND JYOTI EYE HOSPITAL (AJEH)

To eradicate curable blindness in Bihar by 2022 and empower women to achieve this.

HOW IS IT TAKING PLACE?

AJEH is the most effective eye hospital in Bihar working to eradicate blindness from the state and as a result reduce poverty and achieves the same by empowering girls from rural Bihar. The approach to specifically target and reach out to the poor, blind patient from rural areas has made us the 3rd largest eye hospital in India, and in just a few years, we have shown that by sticking to our **primary aim of eradicating blindness**, we can also:

1. Educate and train girls from rural Bihar to become highly skilled optometrists / ophthalmic personnel at the hospital.
2. Offer comprehensive, high quality eye care with specialized services for cataract, retina, children's eye care, glaucoma & cornea.
3. Build up a successful teaching eye hospital in the rural heartland.
4. Improve the socio-economic level of entire communities across Bihar by:
 - Giving sight
 - Enabling people to regain their earning capacity
 - Working actively to provide equal opportunities to girls
 - Identifying and grooming girl talent at the village level
 - Creating and providing jobs to girls
 - Developing girl role models at the local level to become change agents.

THE UNDERLYING CONCEPT

Manpower, which for us is **WOMANPOWER**, is crucial to ensure that the primary aim of eradicating blindness is met. AJEH has a principled stand of deploying girls to take up at least two thirds of its workforce and become future leaders and role models in the Bihari society. Initially using football as an icebreaker in a male dominated society, the **Education through Football** programme morphed into a major initiative to create girl role models at the local level. A role model rich in thoughts and developed on the physical, emotional and economic levels – becomes a change agent in her local community and leads the hospital's vision to eradicate blindness in Bihar. AJEH provides **sight-restoring surgery to over 65,000 patients, 80% free**, and treats more than **300,000** people **every year** and sponsoring more than 140 girls from rural Bihar drives this work. And all this while working in only 14 of the 35 districts of Bihar.

Over the **next 5 years** AJEH plans to go pan Bihar by commencing 4 new surgical centres, 30 new vision centres driven by women, achieve surgical output to 100,000 per annum, and build the world's first Centre of Excellence in eyecare in a rural area. AJEH seeks finite support, and aims to be self-sustainable gradually post 2022 while still doing 50% surgeries free thereafter.

Know more about us at www.akhandjyoti.in or from our **Facebook page**.

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Hospitals at : **MASTICHAK - PATNA - SIWAN - BALLIA**

Registered Office : **16C Seal Lane, Kolkata – 700 015**

A Unit of : **YUGRISHI SHRIRAM SHARMA ACHARYA CHARITABLE TRUST**

SOCIAL IMPACT OF OUR WORK ON BLINDNESS ERADICATION**Annual Impact – Actuals as of 2016-17 (average of last 5 years)**

Annual Social impact (each year over five years to 2016/17)	Number achieved , each year (average over five years to 2016/17)	Comments
Outreach eye camps held:	1,725	Covering 15 of the 37 districts of Bihar
People examined in Outreach eye camps:	414,745	Includes primary eye care treatment
Total sight restoring surgeries performed:	65,226	80% of these surgeries were done free of cost for the poorest sections
Population affected (This includes the blind patients operated plus say two people on average caring for each of the blind person)	1,244,235	Children are commonly withdrawn from school to care for their elderly blind grand/parents

Total Impact – Estimated over the next 5 years (2017-2022)

Total Social impact (2017-2022)	Numbers achieved (2017-2022)	Comments
Outreach eye camps held:	14,500	Covering 30 of the 37 districts of Bihar – 7 districts are catered by other service providers
People examined in Outreach eye camps:	3,480,000	Includes primary eye care treatment
Total sight restoring surgeries performed:	435,000	80% of these surgeries were done free of cost for the poorest sections
Population affected (This includes the blind patients operated plus say two people on average caring for each of the blind person)	8,700,000	Children are commonly withdrawn from school to care for their elderly blind grand/parents



FUNDING / SUPPORT NEEDED - 2017 TO 2022

It would be a pleasure for us to submit a Detailed Proposal if you choose to extend support to any of the projects given below

SL	COST HEAD	PURPOSE	COST TYPE	COST (\$)
1	Free Surgeries (70,000 yearly @ \$40 per surgery)	To achieve the primary aim of eradicating blindness and restoring earning capacity	Annual recurring (for the next 5 years)	2.80 mn (30,000 surgeries / 1.20 mn secured)
2	Sponsorship of a girl student (200 girls for 6 years @ \$1200 per year per girl)	To achieve the aim of empowering women and creating role models who will lead the blindness program as well as act as change agents in the society	Annual Recurring (for 6 years for 200 girls)	1.44 mn (cost of 30 girls / \$ 216,000 secured)
3	Doctors & staff quarters (at Mastichak) 2018 - 2020	To develop the centre as a HR and teaching hub as well as retain all our key people. This hub will feed all staffing needs of new centres	One time (to be built over 2 years)	1.50 mn
4	Girls Hostel (at Mastichak for 100 girls) 2018-2020	To intake more sponsored girls who would be the key feeder people to help in eradicating blindness but importantly develop as role models for girls in the Bihari community	One time (to be built over 2 years)	\$500,000
4	80 bed Centre of Excellence (CoE) at Mastichak 2018-20	To free up space for 200 new FREE beds (taking free bed capacity at Mastichak to 500) and at the same time steadily increase revenue per paying patient so that we can be sustainable post 2022 and still do 50% of the surgeries free after that	One time (to be built over 2 years)	1.80 mn
5	Three 40 bed surgical centres (at Siwan - 2019, Ballia - 2018, Samastipur 2018)	To increase surgical capacity and reach out to unreached districts and pushing up the yearly surgical output to 100,000. Land is available free of cost at Ballia, rest places needs to purchased.	One time (\$1.20 mn per centre including equipments)	3.60 mn
6	30 vision centres (rented premises) One centre every quarter starting Dec 2017	To act as patient feeder to surgical centres, screen for refractive errors and dispense low cost glasses on a mass level	One time (\$23,000 per centre including all equipments)	1 mn (\$100,000 will be financed from internal accruals over 4 years)

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