



## Shrimati Tarabai Desai Charitable Ophthalmic Trust

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### Final Report for Grant No....



*"They alone live who live for others, the rest are more dead than alive. "*

**- Swami Vivaekananda**

### Introduction

The Smt. Tarabai Desai Charitable Ophthalmic Trust was founded in 1980 by Dr. N.C. Desai to provide affordable eye care to the indigent. Founded with private funds of Dr. Desai, our vision is to eradicate avoidable blindness from Rajasthan, especially the western Thar Desert region. Our mission is to provide affordable eye care services to all and free to those who cannot afford it. Since its inception in 1980, the Tarabai Trust has helped serve the very poorest. Under the stewardship of its founder and the generous support of the Eagle Foundation, the activities of the trust have grown from strength to strength in the last few years. The Trust's charitable work relies much on the support from our benefactors and in this report we would like to express our gratitude and profound thanks to Mrs Bhavna Dziurzynsk and the Eagle Foundation and showcase the support they have given us.



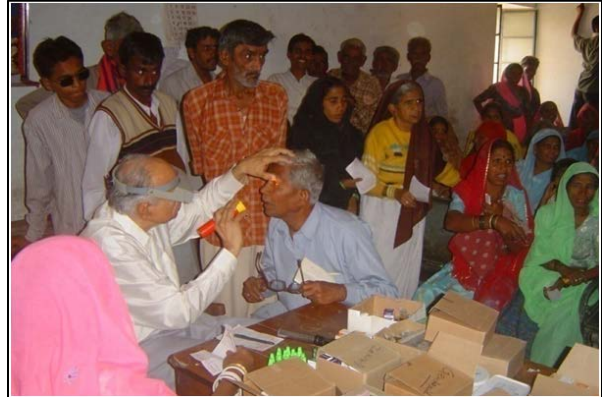
## The Grant

A current grant of GBP 31,020 was for the following items was given on 27-2-17 for accomplishing the following four agenda :

S.No.	Grant Approved for	Qty	Amount in GBP	Amount in INR
1.	Free cataract surgeries	1000	20,000	16,44,700
2.	ETO Gas Steraliser	1	8500	6,98,997
3.	Fogging Machines	2	1350	1,11,016
4.	Cataract Instrument Sets	3	1170	96,214
	<b>Total</b>		<b>31,020</b>	<b>25,50,957</b>

## Report on Work Accomplished

**1. Free Eye Surgery :** We organized Medical Eye care Missions, called Eye Camps in India, at seventy-one rural and urban locations. In these Eye Camps 11,785 patients were examined and treated free of charge. Those who required medical treatment were dispensed free medicines on-site and those patients who needed eye glasses were also given spectacles at the camp site by a refractionist. In these camps patients with cataract were selected for surgery and bused back to Jodhpur. Their cataract surgery was performed free of charge by the state of the art technique of phacoemulsification and an intra-ocular lens implanted also gratis. One thousand cataract surgeries were performed between February 2017 through January 2018. A detailed list of the patients operated is appended as [Annexure 1](#).



Pictures above, on left, show patients gathered outside a makeshift clinic in a school room, awaiting their turn for the doctor to examine them for their eye ailment. The picture on the right shows the detection event taking place. One can see medicine boxes on the table. They are handed out free to those who need them, right there and then, which saves time and makes the clinic efficient. Cases detected for cataract [and sometimes other sight threatening conditions] are marked with an adhesive tape on the eye that requires operation and admitted to be bussed to the base hospital at Jodhpur.



The pictures below show patients waiting for their turn outside the operation theatre. Picture on right shows a make shift ward where operated patients have been admitted, in case an Outreach camp with onsite surgery.



In every detection event we examine and treat cases that come from a very poor background and over 90 % of these patients are illiterate. In spite of the economic strides India has made in the last decade, more than 70 % of the population lives below USD 2 per day. In such conditions there is hardly any money with people for travel and health expenses. In fact, studies have shown that illness leads people to borrow money and they sink further into debt and a downward spiral of poor to poorest. Under these circumstances free eye surgery promoted with donation from the Eagle Foundation is a boon to our people. Following are some poignant case studies from patients operated in our eye camps.

**Keli Devi** w/o Goodar Ram Meghwal , 45 YO. Two years ago she started losing vision in the RE first and then in the LE. The doctor in Dangiawas suggested surgery and demanded 60,000 Rupees. Since they couldn't afford the expenses they came back home. Within a few months her vision deteriorated to a point where she could not do any household work. She often burnt her fingers while cooking and the Roti [flat bread] she made were often undercooked. Her 10 year old son, a standard V student, had to leave school to attend to her and perform household



chores. When she came to our camp she had milky white cataracts in both the eyes and vision of light perception only. When a patient has such over-ripe cataracts, they can burst anytime leading to glaucoma and permanent irreversible blindness. Therefore, it's important to not let cataracts become over-ripe and if they are that way then it's most important to operate them immediately lest they burst. Keli Devi's husband who is a farm labourer held her hand and guided her gently to our camp in village Bilara and literally begged us restore her vision. We reassured him that everything will be alright and admitted her. After bilateral surgery on consequent days she has recovered her vision fully. She is so happy about the fact that she could walk back home on her own and her neighbors were delighted at her overnight transformation from a blind woman to a fully sighted independently mobile person. Of course she is very proud that her son is back in school now.

**Badri Ram**, 70 YO villager. This one eyed septuagenarian lost his RE in childhood due to an infection. He came with a cataract in the LE and a small corneal opacity – possibly a residue of the childhood infection. He earned his livelihood as an odd job man. All his life his one good eye served him well in doing his daily chores including work. But now he was finding it increasingly difficult to work, because vision in his good eye was deteriorating rapidly due to a cataract. When he was detected in a camp, he had a mature cataract and counting fingers vision at 1 meter only. He was operated successfully and his restored vision is 6/12.



He is a very happy man indeed and has resumed work and become financially independent. This case story exemplifies the dramatic difference free cataract surgery can make in the lives of the aged and the indigent.

Audited accounts of the Trust are attached for the FY 2017-18 which show how money was utilized in purchase of consumables for free cataract surgery, transport and publicity.

**2. ETO Gas Steriliser** : This machine that sterilizes all items including plastic items was purchased and installed at the base hospital of the Trust. Its value lies in the fact that it not only sterilizes routine surgical instruments but also plastic materials which would otherwise melt in

an autoclave. Thus it is useful in recycling costly plastic disposables too. Its receipt is attached as [Annexure 2](#).

**3. Fogging Machines :** All eye operations must be performed in a sterile environment otherwise the eye would become septic and become blind. Currently we were using formalin aerosol spray to sterilize the operation room. But formalin is a carcinogenic compound and it's been banned in the west. With the donation from the Eagle foundation we have bought two fogging machines that sterilize by spraying a mist of a safe disinfectant. Receipts of two fogging machines are attached as [Annexure 3 & 4](#).



**4. Cataract Surgery Sets :** Cataract instruments become worn and obsolete after a few years of service and need to be replaced at regular intervals. With support of the Eagle Foundation we purchased them from two different vendors and their receipts are attached. Their replacement was much needed in order for us to continue providing good surgical care for our patients. The receipts are attached as [Annexure 5,6,7](#).

### **Utilisation of Grant**

The grant was utilized as shown in the Utilization Certificate [UC] from the Chartered Accountant attached as [Annexure 8](#). The Tarabai Trust Audited Accounts for the FY 2017-18 are also attached as [Annexure 9](#).

On behalf of the Tarabai Trust and the patients whom we serve I take this opportunity to thank the Eagle Foundation for their support in giving the gift of sight to the aged and the indigent people of the Thar Desert region of India. Without your financial aid we would fail in our mission and hundreds of people would remain blind without timely help.

Dr Sanjiv Desai