## Eye Care Camp

A Report...

Date – November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Time - 10.00A.M -4.00p.m

Venue – Molar Band Slum, Badarpur

## Eye camp no-35 /FY19-20



Comprehensive eye care camps are concerned with primary eye care approach, providing several types of services for many ocular or systemic conditions that lead to visual disability or blindness if left untreated.

Routine eye examination is important — regardless of age or physical health. To improve the quality of eye care in people of Molarband, Continuing with their Initiative, this time Oxigen CSR team reached Molar Band slum community of migrants at which is a very congested place of South East Delhi, is teeming with migrants, with

no special health service facility available. Given the grueling nature of their work and job commitment, in comparison to the facilities available to them, we decided to help them by organizing an Eye camp which includes Eye Check up & Eye care awareness. During our planning phase we met Local Mahila Mandal members, Couple of times to understand the residents need. Mahila Mandal team was quite

cooperative & happily supported our initiative. The eye camp was scheduled on 15<sup>th</sup>November, 2019 in their residential colony block. Extensive promotion for the eye camp and free cataract surgery was done in different languages and leaflets were distributed.

The camp started on time, and as a result of four days of publicity, we were able to mobilize more than 180 patients to get their eyes screened. All the patients were registered with their name, address and contact number for follow up. The activity went on till 4.00 pm.



Out of 172 patients, 13 were identified for cataract surgery and were given appointments by the doctor for surgery. We hope that their families will cooperate and help these patients to get surgeries done.

The eye camp program for the community has increased trust of the people on us and our work. The community people demanded for more such programs. Few of them could not be screened due to lack of time. An old man, around 60 years of age, came over to the us later to thank them after he



received eye glasses from us at a nominal rate which solved his visibility problem and he could now see the world clearer!

During the camp several people were keen to understand cataract surgery and clear their misconceptions around it. The questions frequently asked at the camp included the duration of the procedure, risk factors and the cost involved. All these doubts were cleared by the doctor. During examination there were some untreatable cases which were caused due to ignorance and unavailability of medical facilities. All patients, including small children below 10years, with major & minor eye ailments were identified and briefed about their problem and counseled to visit base hospital for further treatment. While free consultation and medication was offered to all, around 65 villagers were provided spectacles with different powered glasses.

While thanking the Eye camp team Mahila Mandal team said," We are very happy to join you as your services were remarkable." They further added, "We have seen many a times that health camps run by various agencies become a business gimmick. The poor people attend the camp with the aim of free check up and free treatment. When they do not get free treatment or subsidy for treatment, they stop following up".

Post Camp we learnt that the major causes of poor vision and eye infections are unhygienic living conditions, uncorrected refractive errors and Vitamin A deficiency. Based on this assessment, apart from examining the eyes, the team also shared necessary preventive measures to take care of eye ailments with the laborers. Speaking on the occasion Manoj Dubey said, "Good eye care is critical towards having a decent life. Since eye care facilities are not easily accessible at remote level, many people face extreme hardships. Having realized their difficulties, we quickly decided to organize this eye care camp."

It was a remarkable event, thanks to the combined efforts of all people involved. We are looking forward to continuing to serve people by easing their suffering and changing their lives for the better in the years to come.

Looking forward for future campaigns to be held .....

Seema Khurana

**CSR Lead & Activist**