

A REPORT ON THE OPTYSE UNITS DONATED FOR USE BY IMPACT FOUNDATIONS AND PARTNERS



**A SPECIAL REPORT FOR STEVENAGE
GRANGE ROTARY CLUB**

Apr 08

Introduction

We, the IMPACT Foundation UK (UKIF) would like to express our sincere gratitude following the very generous donation of 100 Optyse made by the Stevenage Grange Rotary Club, on behalf of other Clubs, for use by IMPACT Foundations across the globe.

The Optyse were distributed to five of our partners located in India (2), Kenya, the Philippines and Cambodia. As well as using them within their own projects the partners distributed them to medical professionals and facilities with whom they work. These were very gratefully received.

This report provides an analysis of all the responses to date from those medical professionals and IMPACT partners that have tried and tested the donated Optyse.

Feedback from Recipients

The IMPACT India Foundation (IIF) received a total of 50 ophthalmoscopes. These instruments were distributed to medical professionals at The Lifeline Express Hospital Train for use in the mobile clinics, to hospitals and medical officers in the Community Health Initiative project in Thane District and also to partner medical professionals working across the state of Maharashtra.

Within their own projects IIF have provided training to their local health staff in the use of the units. This was staged at a Rotary hospital located approximately 100 kilometres from the project area in which the mobile clinics operate. The staff managed to attend the training in their spare time while continuing to attend to their normal duties. This once again demonstrates the level of commitment that the workers have towards their roles; they are always extremely keen to further their knowledge so that they can be as effective as possible within their roles in the project. The IIF health workers have all now completed their training and are using the Optyse Units extensively in the screening work that they undertake on the clinics.

Dr. A. Deshpande, who is Resident Ophthalmic Surgeon at the Hasanali Tobacowala Eye Centre (HTEC), Talwada reported that the Optyse were used on a daily basis at the HTEC. He said that because the instrument was pocket sized and thus easy to carry around that they were used extensively in OPD, wards and in operation theatres. He also reported that the instruments provide accurate information regarding cataract existence, and the status of the posterior segment of the eye including vitreous, retina and optic nerve. Dr. Deshpande feels that these instruments are easily on a par with other existing ophthalmoscopes in detecting ocular pathology but their size and ease of use gives them a distinct advantage over other similar equipment he has used in the past.

Other benefits he highlighted include the fact that the instruments help in the detection of visual disabling conditions like cataract, glaucoma, vitreous, haemorrhages, diabetic and hypertensive retinopathies, Eale's disease, retinal detachment and other retinal pathologies. He also stated that the instruments are extremely user friendly and minimal training is required in their use; with the brochure being sufficiently informative regarding their use and maintenance. Dr. Deshpande says: "This innovative device is flawless and convenient to use, particularly in community ophthalmic practise where in you come across large numbers of patients everyday. Please convey my thanks to the Stevenage Grange Rotary Club".

Another surgeon working at the HTEC, Dr Muljiani, said: "Thank you so much for the donated Optyse ophthalmoscope, it will be extremely useful for examination of patients at the Centre". Additionally, Mr Prabha Mathur, president of the Rotary Club of Bombay Airport said: "It is with heartfelt gratitude that we acknowledge the wonderful gift of the ophthalmoscopes which will be of great utility for our ongoing projects in eye care. Kindly convey our greetings and best wishes to the Rotary Club in Great Britain for their generosity and kind gesture".

The PNR Society, based in Bhavnagar, India, received 10 ophthalmoscopes and reported some very positive findings. Dr. Nileshbhai Parekh an ophthalmic surgeon at the PNR Hospital in Bhavnagar stated that the ophthalmoscopes were very useful for the examination and diagnosis of patients with a cataract problem. During recent cataract camps at four different villages, doctors examined a total of 551 patients using the Optyse. Of these, 73 had cataract problems and were selected for operations. Dr. Parekh reported that the instruments can be used by medical doctors, ophthalmic assistants and ophthalmic nurses. The only slightly negative finding was that the Optyse have a simple lens which means ocular problems such as retina damage cannot be easily detected.

IMPACT East Africa (IEA) received a total of 10 ophthalmoscopes. Dr. Ashok Shah who is a Consultant Ophthalmologist and leads the ophthalmology projects of IEA stated "This is a very useful instrument for field use by clinical officers and also by general practitioners". He also reported that the ophthalmoscopes were a good screening tool for both optic disc changes and diabetic retinal changes and says that he would kindly assist in further distribution of the instruments to general practitioners and clinical officers and would carry out training sessions on their use if required. Dr Shah did feel though that the instrument had some limitation of use in the presence of opacities in the media i.e. early cataracts and also in the presence of large refractive error in the eyes being examined e.g. high myopia.

IMPACT Cambodia received a total of 6 ophthalmoscopes and the medical professionals that received these instruments reported back with positive findings. They stated that they found the ophthalmoscopes extremely useful and on a recent mission to Preah Vihear they screened 233 patients of whom 70 patients with cataracts were selected for and provided with an operation.

IMPACT Philippines received a total of 24 ophthalmoscopes. Of these, seven were distributed to medical professionals in Cebu City and a further seven to medical professionals in Marikina City. We are still to receive feedback from them regarding their use.

Conclusion

Overall the majority of medical professionals and IMPACT partners were certainly keen to attain more ophthalmoscopes. Although there were contrasting views with regards to the use of the ophthalmoscopes all the partners have found them to be of great benefit to their work. The size and subsequent portability of the Optyse means that they are a very useful tool within the field work activities that many of the partners undertake. The fact that they are very simple to use means that a range of medical professionals can utilise them within their work and identify a range of eye conditions that otherwise would go undetected.

We are seeking further feedback from the partners, especially those in the Philippines, and will include this information in any subsequent reports to be sent to the Rotary Club of Stevenage Grange.

We are extremely grateful to the Rotary Club of Stevenage Grange for arranging such a generous donation of 100 Optyse to UKIF. Their widespread use within many IMPACT projects has meant that hundreds of individuals have had a disabling eye condition identified and treated that otherwise would have been left untreated. Please accept our heart felt thanks for your continued support of work. We are proud to work in partnership with you.

Simon Rea
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The IMPACT Foundation
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