



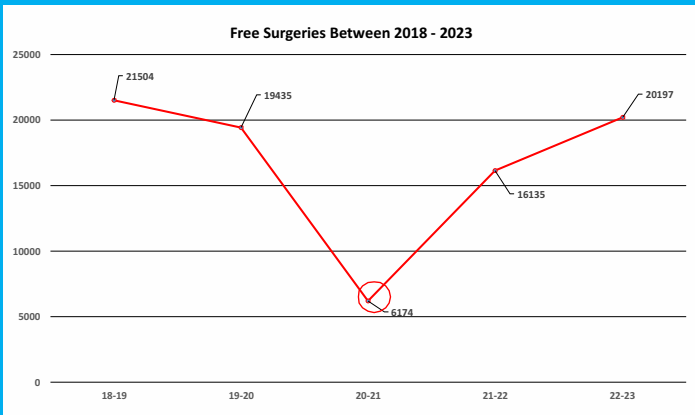
SANKARA NETHRALAYA'S COMMUNITY SERVICES



Sankara Nethralaya has been vehemently pursuing community services since its inception in 1978. About 50% of the out-patients treated are non paying patients and 35% of the surgeries are done free of cost to the underprivileged. Over the years it has been able to expand its community services beyond the shores of Chennai benefiting lakhs of people. The community service initiatives include conducting eye-camps in rural areas, education and awareness programs on ophthalmic care, screening patients for Diabetic Retinopathy and Glaucoma, conducting free surgeries to those with an income of less than Rs. 20,000 per month and successfully and relentlessly taking mobile teleophthalmology benefits to the door steps of the poor in rural India. All of this has been possible due to the tremendous support that Sankara Nethralaya has received from organizations and individuals over the years. Today, Sankara Nethralaya provides teleophthalmology services in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, thereby reducing the need for travel for many and at the same time providing access to a super-specialist through teleconnectivity via the Internet.

The introduction of the most advanced 'Mobile Eye Surgical Unit' (MESU) a medico-engineering marvel, a first of its kind 'operation theatre on wheels' developed jointly with the Indian Institute of Technology - Madras (IIT-M) has facilitated the most advanced Cataract surgery on par with similar surgeries performed in a sophisticated base hospital to be performed right at the doorsteps of indigent patients living in the most inaccessible regions including tribal and hilly belts, totally cost free. It is noteworthy to mention here that Sankara Nethralaya is the only ophthalmic institution in India which has been approved to perform surgeries outside a regular operation theatre by the Central Government.

A glance at SN's nationwide cost free surgeries



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