

## Health: The Design, Planning and Politics of How and Where We Live

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

Mainstreaming inclusion in urban eye health: a pilot project in Bhopal, India

- **Format:**

Presentation (in-person)

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- **University or Company Affiliation:**

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- **Abstract (300 words):**

Sightsavers is an international organisation working with partners in over 30 countries to prevent avoidable blindness and promote the rights of people with disabilities. Through its social inclusion strategy, the organisation has committed to ensuring that people with disabilities and women equitably access eye health services.

In order to learn how best to mainstream inclusion in their India urban eye health programmes and develop a standard Inclusive Eye Health (IEH) model, Sightsavers adopted a phased approach, investing financial and technical resources in an IEH pilot initiative in Bhopal, India. The project specifically focused on addressing barriers preventing people with disabilities, women, and other marginalised groups from accessing eye care. The initiative was informed by a system-strengthening human rights-based approach to inclusive development, in line with the commitments expressed in

international human rights treaties, Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The IEH project was implemented in partnership with a tertiary eye hospital, a local development agency and in close collaboration with the government, and involved the hospital and six primary vision centres located within urban slums of Bhopal.

A learning review conducted at the end of the pilot identified three major areas of success: improved knowledge, skills and attitude of health workers on disability inclusion and gender mainstreaming; increased accessibility of local health infrastructure for people with physical and sensory disabilities; successful targeted outreach to provide services to marginalized groups in collaboration with government and local development stakeholders. Key challenges included poor compatibility of health management information systems across different health facilities and limited uptake of cataract surgeries by individuals belonging to marginalized groups.

Finally, the pilot initiative succeeded in producing a standard model for inclusion in eye health programmes, which will be further tested across Sightsavers' programmes in 2018 and later shared with the international community.

• **Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

Andrea Pregel is Programme Advisor for Social Inclusion and Disability at Sightsavers, UK. He is an inclusion professional with experience in disability, development, education, gender and health across Europe, Asia and Africa. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Social Research from the University of Turin (Italy), and an Erasmus Mundus MA/Mgr in Special and Inclusive Education from the University of Roehampton in London, UK, the University of Oslo, Norway, and Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic.

Daisy Macdonald is Senior Global Impact Advisor at Sightsavers, UK. She is an M&E professional in the area of international development and environment, working for many years evaluating environmental and social development projects and policies, and currently leads the Evaluations team at Sightsavers. She has a Bachelor's joint degree in Economics and Environmental Science from University of Stirling, and a Masters degree in Environment, Development and Policy from University of Sussex.

Archana Bhambal is the Area Director in Sightsavers and responsible for implementation of Sightsavers Programmes in four major States of India. She is a development professional and has worked for almost 24 years in field of disability, gender, development, education and eye health. She hold post graduate degree in Education and involved in research studies conducted on Gender and disability by National level Institutions.

Jayashree Kumar is State Programme Manager responsible for programme development, management, planning and effective implementation of Eye Health,

Social Inclusion and Inclusive Education projects in Madhya Pradesh, India. She holds a Post Graduate degree in Medical and Psychiatric social work from Devi Ahilya University, Indore, India, and Masters in Population studies from International Institute of Population sciences, Mumbai, India. She has worked in the development sector for many years in the area of Mother and child health, Reproductive and Sexual Health having long standing experience with Family Planning Association of India (funded by IPPF – International Planned Parenthood Federation, London).

Sandeep Buttan is Global Technical Lead for Eye Health, South Asia at Sightsavers, and is based in Delhi, India. Dr Sandeep is responsible for providing technical and strategic inputs to development and implementation of eye health initiatives in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan. He has a Master's Degree in Ophthalmology from Awadhesh Pratap Singh University, India, a Master's in Public Health (Eye Care) from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK, and is a Fellow of the Paediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus in New Delhi, India.

Tracy Vaughan Gough is Global Technical Lead for Social Inclusion and Disability at Sightsavers, UK. Tracy is responsible for the strategic direction of Sightsavers thematic work on inclusion, both disability inclusion and gender mainstreaming. She has worked in the development and humanitarian sector for many years, working with various United Nations agencies and international NGOs. She has a P.G.C.E (Middlesex University) and a Masters Degree in Gender and Development (Institute of Development Studies, Sussex).

Utkarsha Authey is Consultant for the Inclusive Eye Health Programme at Sightsavers Bhopal, India. She looks after the overall implementation of IEH projects and coordination of Sightsavers and IEH partner organisations. She is a gold medalist in her Bachelors of Social Work from Nagpur University and holds MA in Social Work from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (Mumbai). She is specialized in Dalit & tribal rights, gender, and disability.