

**VOSH KANSAS MISSION
AT HARIHARANANDA GOKULASHRAM
PURI, ORISSA, INDIA NOVEMBER 20-26 2008**

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VOSH Kansas planned a mission to India for November 2008. The mission coordinators were Hare Patnaik, from Michigan, Dale Cole, OD from Salina, Kansas, Joyes Abraham, OD and Nelson Rivera OD, both from Carrollton, Texas.

Our lead eye camp coordinator was Gopi Gopalan. Gopi and Hare's assistance with all their local contacts in India was crucial in assuring the success of this mission. Hare is a native of Orissa and Gopi hails from Chennai.

We had a USA team of 20 volunteers consisting of:

- 1) Six optometrists: Dale Cole, OD Ruth Mc Andrews, OD, Nelson Rivera, OD,, Joyes Abraham, OD Niru Agrawal- Robbins, OD and Hui Song Choi, OD
- 2) Three Optometry Student Interns : Komal Patel, Pranali Mehta, Puja Shah
- 3) Four Dispensers : Trisha Eastman (our head Optician) , Todd Fleischer, Carolyn Wedel , Bhabani Tripathy
- 4) Four in Preliminaries: Camille Gregg, Alex Gregg, Ken Bolland, Nalini Robbins
- 5) One autorefractor master: Charlie Covington
- 6) One Statistics Expert : John Gehrig
- 7) Multitask "Gopher" : Hare Patnaik

Our local hosts were,:

Host : Baba Paramahansa Prajnananda and Baba Samarpananada
other Brahmacharis (brothers) : Ravibaba, Debendra Baba, Sisir baba, Usha Maa, David Hanna from Melbourne, Australia.

Dr. Sahani, a local Ophthalmologist, helped us for a couple days. And an Optician name Sahu also helped us (and prepared the eyeglasses)

Puri is a coastal city on the Bay of Bengal in the State of Orissa in Northeastern India. Bhubaneswar is its capital (about 600,000 people) Puri has a population of 200,000 in the city but including surrounding villages it will be approx 300,000. The Ashram was about 15-20 minutes car ride from Puri. The local language is Oriya, very different from Hindi (the national language). Our local hosts were most helpful with the translation as very few people spoke or understood english.

Our clinic ran for 5 ½ days. From Nov 20th to Nov 26th, 2008.

We had 9 total sections:

1. Registration (2 people)
2. Case History (2 people)
3. Visual acuities (3)

4. Auto refractor (1)

5. Triage (2-3 O.D.s here to decide why the patient is here, what they need, and what section they go to next) The Triage is the epicenter of the entire clinic. They make the ultimate call on whether the patient requires further testing or the patient is fine, he'd just get an ocular health check (ophthalmoscopy) and then he could leave. The triage station also had an assortment of readers and sunglasses so patients who did not need a complex prescription bypassed dispensing altogether.

6. The Fundus exam (2 O.D.s); they check the back of the eye, the eye pressures or any other pathology.

7. Retinoscopy (3 student O.Ds)

8. Optical/dispensary (1 optician)

9. Consult - discusses option of surgery with our surgical referrals.

We saw 1708 patients in 5 1/2 days. We gave about 1700 pairs of prescription eyeglasses (some recycled) and readers, and then 180 patients got customized prescriptions glasses which they picked up later. These were made by an optical shop in Cuttack, Orissa, about 60 km away.

We had about 282 referrals for Cataract and glaucoma. The cataract rates in this population were very high (about 20%, twice the average we see in these types of eye missions) We were only able to refer the ones who had very poor vision in both eye (worse than 20/200) . Only 80 patients showed up Prasad Clinic for surgery (half of those originally referred) . The Lions Club in Bhubaneswar also supported about 56 cataract surgeries

LV. Prasad Eye Clinic in Bhubaneswar contribution was most helpful as they assisted us by picking up most of our referrals. Dr Taraprasad Das and his assistant Barash (?) were wonderful in its assistance with our camp. They arranged to have the patients bused to Bhubaneswar for surgery

In addition to the ones mentioned above, we'd like to thanks Toshali Sands resort and Kingfisher Airlines for their assistance.

And finally, thanks to all our volunteers, both from the USA and India, whose camaraderie and teamwork efforts assured that this mission ran very smoothly and successfully.