

Eligibility

Health professionals working in eye health programs. Any candidates, preferably graduates, and or at least with 3 years of work experience in eye care including-

- Ophthalmologists
- Optometrists / vision technicians / nurses/ other mid level ophthalmic personnel
- Supervisors / managers

Course fee: Varies for each course. Please contact program conveners for details. It includes shared accommodation and food in the campus hostel.

Duration: 4 weeks (Begins second Monday in November every year)

Deadline for submission: Completed application forms should be submitted on or before third Saturday in October. The application form is available on our website http://www.lvpei.org/assets/images/services/icare/CCEH_application_form.pdf

Program Conveners

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Teaching Faculty

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LV Prasad Eye Institute

Certificate Course in Community Eye Health



Address for correspondence

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L V Prasad Eye Institute

L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) is a comprehensive eye health facility with its main campus located in Hyderabad, India. A World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for the Prevention of Blindness, the Institute offers comprehensive patient care, sight enhancement and rehabilitation services and high-impact rural eye health programs. It also pursues cutting edge research and offers training in human resources for all levels of ophthalmic personnel.

LVPEI's mission is to provide equitable and efficient eye care to all sections of society. In the past 31 years, we have provided eye care services to over 26.04 million people, over 50 percent of them free, regardless of complexity. We have trained over 20,046 eye care personnel from India and abroad. The LVPEI system is now a network with 1 Centre of Excellence at Hyderabad, 3 Tertiary Centres at Bhubaneswar, Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada and 18 Secondary and 176 Primary Eye Care Centres that cover the remotest rural areas in the state of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka & Odisha in India. Each day, hundreds of people who cannot afford eye care, receive care from some of the best eye health professionals, while hundreds more benefit from LVPEI's affiliate and satellite centres in rural areas and urban slums.

Gullapalli Pratibha Rao International Centre for Advancement of Rural Eye care (GPR ICARE)

The Gullapalli Pratibha Rao International Centre for Advancement of Rural Eye care (GPR ICARE) was founded in 1998. LVPEI's community eye care services are planned and managed by GPR ICARE. GPR ICARE has been involved in the development of eye care services in underserved areas. GPR ICARE is an organized large-scale effort to reduce blindness in rural and unreached India, and other parts of the developing world, over the long term. All LVPEI's community eye care services are planned and managed by GPR ICARE. GPR ICARE offers training programs in the areas of Community Eye Health and Eye Health Management under the Ramachandra Pararajasegaram Community Eye Health Education Centre.

Community Eye Health

The principle of community eye health is to apply the knowledge of eye care to the community to reduce blindness and visual impairment. This specialized area of study is not included in the routine curriculum of ophthalmology teaching in India and, to the best of our knowledge, in other developing countries. This short course in Community Eye Health (CEH) is aimed to inculcate the basic concepts of CEH among those working in the communities.

Demographic and epidemiological transitions and changing lifestyles have led to an increase in eye ailments and blindness. The knowledge and skills required to prevent and treat visual impairment, and rehabilitate the blind and the visually impaired, not only enhances the quality of their lives, but also benefits society. The skills learnt from this course can be applied to other health care and development programs. The course fits the broad objectives of the global 'VISION 2020: The Right to Sight' program.

Course goal

To provide an opportunity for participants to acquire knowledge, skills and attitude required to better manage comprehensive eye health care as an integral part of health care in a community setting.

Learning outcomes

At the end of this course the students should be able to

- Demonstrate the knowledge and understanding of the core elements of community eye health
- Demonstrate the understanding of four basic elements in epidemiology – definition, magnitude, causes and control and its application to health care in particular to eye health care
- Describe how health communication and media functions at various levels
- Assist in developing and implementing effective disease specific programs in the community to reduce blindness and visual impairment
- Demonstrate the use of basic need assessment, planning concepts and relevant tools and technologies
- Monitor, evaluate and document specific programs

Course Content

Week 1 - Module 1

- Introduction to Community Eye Health
- Global initiatives of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight
- Health Care systems and social determinants

Week 2 - Module 2

- Introduction to Epidemiology and Basic Biostatistics
- Epidemiology of common eye diseases
- Rapid Assessment methods in eye care
- Community Health Needs Assessment

Week 3 - Module 3

- Comprehensive community eye care and community based rehabilitation
- Eye health communication and advocacy
- Planning, management and evaluation of eye health programs

Week 4 - Module 4

- Field visit / Report writing / presentations

Teaching methodology

- Didactic lectures
- Group activities and Individual project work
- Field visits
- Guided observation visits to community programs focussed on various eye health issues including rehabilitation
- Observation on how the eye care facilities are managed at tertiary, secondary and primary level
- Opportunities will be provided for training and discussion in individualized areas of interest