



Sightsavers

Insight

How your support is making a difference | May 2022

Judo Champion, Sudama, becomes Collector for a Day in Katni, Madhya Pradesh

21 years old, Sudama was given the opportunity to become a one-day District Collector of Katni, Madhya Pradesh on International Women's Day. Sudama is also a member of the Organisation of Persons with Disabilities (OPD) supported under Sightsavers' Social Inclusion Programme.

Sudama was born with visual impairment, which her family believed meant that she would never be able to lead an independent life. However, a few years ago, Sudama's life changed dramatically thanks to a self-defence and judo training project run by Sightsavers and its local partner, Tarun Sanskar.

After joining the training programme, Sudama quickly excelled at judo, and soon started competing at national championships in India. Sudama has won 5 medals between the year 2017 and 2021 for Para Judo National Championship.

In the present day, by being an active OPD member, Sudama is effortlessly working towards the improvement in accessibility of services that are meant for persons with disabilities.



Sightsavers performs successful mass Covid-19 Vaccine Equity drive for Persons with Disabilities in Hazaribagh, Jharkhand



This is a unique effort by Sightsavers in collaboration with District Health Administration and Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society (JSLPS) towards Vaccine Equity for Persons with Disabilities in Hazaribagh District of Jharkhand.

Covid-19 vaccination drive for persons with disabilities was made successful with the help of a coordination team at state, district and block levels. An online portal that could help in vaccine management as well as registration of beneficiaries and effective communication led to very little vaccine hesitancy.

Through this initiative a total of 15,858 Persons with disabilities from Hazaribagh District were vaccinated with 1st Dose whereas 5,556 Persons with disabilities were vaccinated with 2nd Dose between June 2021 to March 2022.

A New Life at 60

Sixty-year-old Rohitas lives in Alwar district of Rajasthan. His eyesight problem began in 2020 when the pandemic was at its peak. The world had come to a halt then. Rohitas could hardly see anything after dark. Due to his poor vision, he was not able to properly cook his food. Getting the eyes checked was not an option for him as he could not afford it. Rohitas became extremely worried about spending his life with bad vision and less money.

While at home, Rohitas heard an announcement from a moving van which was about a camp for the screening of eyes. He made up his mind to get his eyes tested. A free check-up was the only reason that encouraged him to go to the camp because shelling out even INR 30-40 at this point was painful for him. After the screening was done, it was found that Rohitas had cataract in both eyes and would require surgery for improvement in his vision. Before he could ask about the expenses, the hospital staff told them that the surgery will be done for free. That was a very big relief for Rohitas. After his blood pressure and sugar tests he was cleared for surgery and along with few more patients he was taken to Shroff hospital in Alwar for surgery.

Rohitas shares, "I had left farming when I was suffering from cataract. But now I am back to crop farming along with goat farming. I make profit from it. Without good eyesight how can anyone do any work? But after surgery I can work now."



Eye Health (January - March 2022)



13,67,574
Number of Eye Screenings



81,326
Sight Restoration Surgeries



1,40,407
Spectacles Distributed



5,14,862
Number of People Refracted

How to Ensure Good Eye Health as You Age



Get your eyes checked regularly



Eat well



Take frequent screen breaks



Exercise



Quit smoking

In India since 1966, Sightsavers works to eliminate avoidable blindness and promote equal opportunities for disabled people.

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Donation cheques should be in favour of 'Sightsavers'.

All donations to Sightsavers are eligible for 50% tax exemption with qualifying limit under Sec 80G of the Income Tax Act

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