



Sightsavers

# Insight

How your contribution is building lives | October 2022

## Manu's Story

Manu is an 18-year-old girl, blind since birth. She lives with a joint family of eight people in a village in Katni district of Madhya Pradesh. Her parents are daily wage earners with meagre income to support the large family.

Manu finished her primary school education at the local school. From class VI onward, she was enrolled in the publicly funded school for blind children. Because of a lack of resources and financial support, she left school after finishing class VIII. Manu was forced to stay at home as a result and developed depression.

Sightsavers reached out to Manu when it launched its Social Inclusion Programme in Katni. Manu, who comes across as shy and introverted, went to a training on the **"Rights of Women, Girls, and Persons with Disability."** Manu's journey with Sightsavers was just getting started.

Manu was enrolled in a series of Sightsavers interventions after the training. She was inspired to enrol in 'TANYA', a computer training centre under Sightsavers programme supported by Madisons Resource Foundation. She enthusiastically picked up beginner and intermediate computer skills throughout the course. She took part in personality development classes, which helped her become more fluent in the English language. This was not the end of the journey.

Manu never looked back and diligently continued to learn everything. She was one of the 20 people who signed up for Sightsavers' 6-day self-defence training programme. Her outlook on life was completely altered by this training, which also increased her confidence.

For Manu, turning back is not an option. She is currently preparing to travel to Delhi for additional studies because she hopes to become a successful and confident woman to support her family.



### Eye Health (January - August 2022)



36,46,989

Number of Eye Screenings



14,18,902

Number of People Refracted



3,62,608

Spectacles Distributed



1,80,049

Sight Restoration Surgeries

Sightsavers wishes you and your loved ones a wonderful and joyous festive season.

## Enabling education for children with visual impairment in six districts of India

Sightsavers, in collaboration with Oracle India, has launched the Inclusive Education Project in multiple locations across India. The Inclusive Education project will be implemented in six districts - Deogarh (Jharkhand), Kalahandi (Odisha), Bankura (West Bengal), Gaya (Bihar), Sitapur (Uttar Pradesh) and Baloda Bazaar (Chhattisgarh).

The project aims to improve learning outcomes for children with visual impairment through community mobilisation, raising awareness and strengthening government systems. It aims to benefit over **1000** children with visual impairment and will provide training to **205** master trainers, **775** general teachers/ resource teachers and **936** parents and social animators on how to support education for children with visual impairment.



## Mobile Vision centre in Pune to prevent avoidable blindness among the Urban slum population

As parts of its Urban Eye Health Programme also known as Amrita Drishti, Sightsavers India established a mobile vision centre in Pune to improve the city's primary eye care services.

In Pune, the programme will reach out to the targeted population through the fully equipped Mobile Van Eye Clinic and provide comprehensive eye care services at their location.



The model is cost-effective and accessible for the most vulnerable & marginalised group of people such as women, elderly and children in the urban slums.



## Five years journey of RAAHI- National Truckers' Eye Health Programme

On 13th September, 2017, Sightsavers India launched the RAAHI National Truckers' Eye Health Programme. With the vision to create a world where no one was blind from avoidable causes, Sightsavers India, embarked upon addressing a problem that was perceivably massive but had not been systematically approached before. Over the next five years, the journey has been quite a learning experience!

Starting from an isolated vision centre, RAAHI has been able to reach out to 5.4 lacs truck drivers plying along the Golden Quadrilateral, North-South and East-West Highways in India through 19 Vision Centres and 39 Camp locations across 54 cities in 16 states.

RAAHI programme has screened a total of 5,40,166 beneficiaries upto June 2022. About 83.6% of those screened were from the trucking industry with 70% getting an eye check up for the first time ever.

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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