

CEHRI'S INITIATIVES FOR CHILDREN



GROUP PHOTO OF CEHRI TEAM

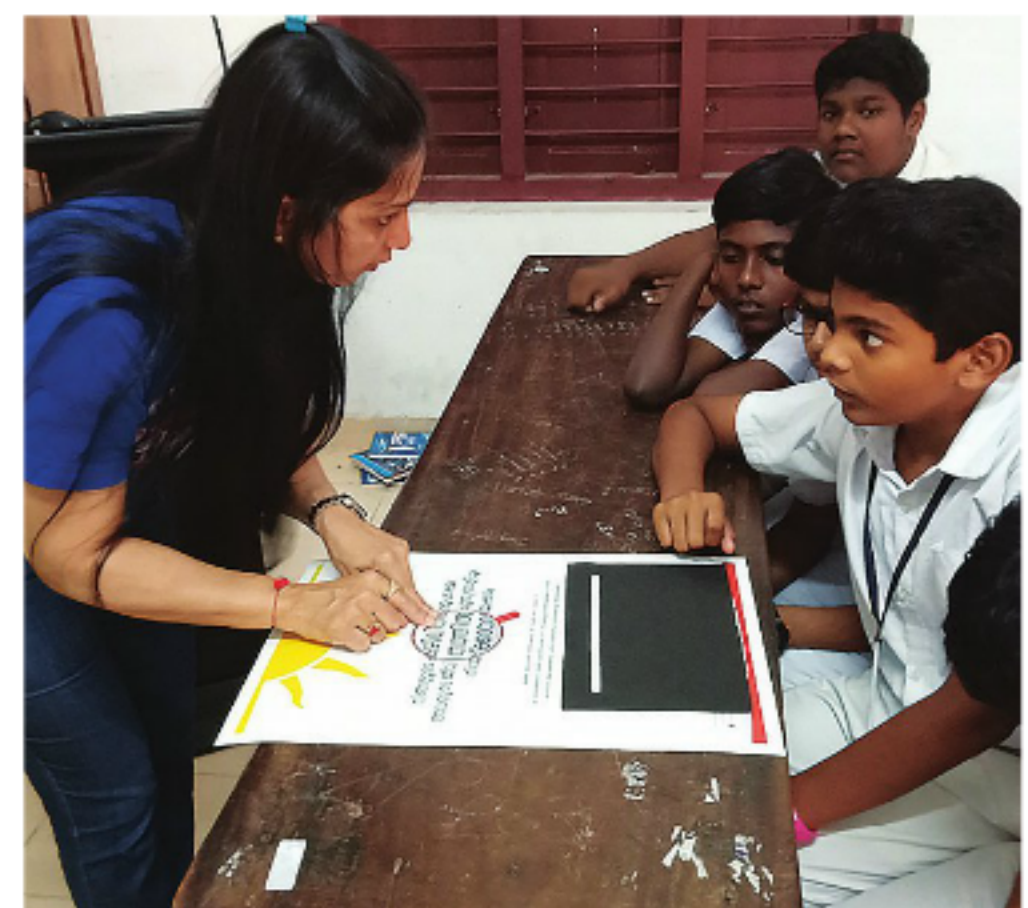


STUDENTS HIGHLIGHTING THE IMPORTANCE OF LVD

Chaithanya Eye hospital and Research Institute (CEHRI) in Thiruvananthapuram, founded in 1995 by Dr KGR Nair, has established itself as a super specialty ophthalmic hospital that offers quality eye care to all sections of society through state-of-the-art equipment and treatment techniques, highly qualified doctors, trained medical and para-medical staff. Its facilities are also

available at fully owned centres in other cities in Kerala.

This year, the institute's annual founder's day on 27 February was celebrated with a scientific exhibition to spread awareness on visual impairment, aimed specifically at school children. Pre-event preparations were intensive, with training programmes for



YOGITA RAJGANDHI INTERACTING WITH THE STUDENTS

optometry students, designing and printing of brochures, and creating presentations. Yogita Rajgandhi had drawn up the schedule, planned the activities, and trained the students on the demonstration of low vision devices.

Advance visits to 15 schools between 5 and 19 February 2019 helped identify the specifics that needed to be drawn up for each institute. The concept was to gather advance data to tailor the outreach programme to suit each school based on the medium of instruction, the gender it catered to, age, human resources, standard, type of administration for low vision education awareness presentations, and demonstrations of optical and

non-optical devices, in English and Malayalam.

Thirteen were government schools, both English and Malayalam mediums, and two schools were English medium schools that were affiliated to the CBSE board. A total of 785 students of classes 6 to 9, 345 girls and 440 boys between the ages of 11 and 14 years, were covered.

The teams that visited each school comprised optometry students, personnel of the Chaithanya Foundation and Ms Rajgandhi. Their presentations detailed the definition of low vision, the challenges in daily living skills, orientation mobility, assistive technology and a management plan with rehabilitation. The concept, myths and the right



STUDENT EXPLAINING LVD TO DR ABRAHAM KURIAN

approach to low vision too were explained in a simple way. It was found that the children were quite taken with and enthusiastic in their approach to learning about low vision devices, and that such awareness and interactive sessions had a good outcome.

The presentations were followed by a two-day scientific exhibition towards the end of February, where more than 100 low vision products on display had been designed and prepared at a very economical cost.



PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS



OPTOMETRY STUDENTS WITH YOGITA RAJGANDHI



TRIAL OF LVD



institute's medical director, welcomed the Chief Guest Mr TP Sreenivasan, the hospital's senior consultants, optometrists, students, department heads and team members, their family and friends to a function on 27 February. He shared CEHRI's beautiful 24-year journey, its mission and vision, and thanked everyone for their support and contribution. Following his speech, Chief Guest Sreenivasan lit the inaugural lamp and then gave an inspiring talk which was greatly appreciated by the audience.



CERTIFICATE DISTRIBUTION TO STUDENT

All the children, their teachers and parents were invited to an opening ceremony on the morning of the first day in the presence of senior faculty Annie Joseph and computer educators from the National Association for the Blind – Kerala chapter, and the team members. An introduction to the founder's day celebration as well as to low vision devices was followed by photo and video sessions of the school children.

Later, the optometry students gave brief talks on their products, the process of making them, the cost involved, and the benefits of the



JUDGE YOGITA DISTRIBUTING CERTIFICATE TO SECOND PRIZE WINNER

devices. Trophies and certificates were awarded that were judged by Dr Abraham Kurian and Ms Rajgandhi.

Dr Unnikrishnan Nair, the host

The school children, nearly all from government schools, who had been declared winners in three different categories, were given a total of nine prizes for their creativity.

The ISO 9001:2008 certified Chaithanya Eye Hospital is the first NABH (National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers – a constituent board of Quality Council of India) accredited eye hospital in the state's capital. The Chaithanya Sight Foundation, a Lasik Centre, an eye bank, tele-ophthalmology services, an optical establishment, and an advanced and specialised low vision rehabilitation centre that was inaugurated early this year are its other institutions.