



VISION 2020: The Right to Sight-India Annual Conference Report



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Introduction

VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – India successfully organized the 19th Annual Conference on Community Ophthalmology, themed “Inclusion and Accessibility in Eye Care: A Step Towards Viksit Bharat 2047”, held from 11th to 13th July 2025 at the Blind People’s Association, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

The conference commenced on 11th July with a Community Ophthalmology Workshop, bringing together public health leaders, ophthalmologists, and sector experts to showcase and discuss innovative models and practices in eye care delivery across India. Alongside, a Pre-Conference Session featured two capacity-building workshops:

- Grant Writing Essentials
- Storytelling for Impact

These sessions were designed to strengthen organizational capabilities in fundraising and strategic communication, providing NGOs and eye health professionals with practical tools to enhance donor engagement and advocacy efforts.

The conference witnessed an enthusiastic turnout of 748 delegates, including heads of eye care organizations, program managers, ophthalmologists, optometrists, and students from across the country. This diverse participation underscored the importance of the event and reflected the sector’s collective commitment to advancing equitable and accessible eye health for all.

The recent conference aimed to address eye care issues with a focus on reducing avoidable blindness through collaboration and knowledge-sharing. The broad goal of the conference was to enhance the capacity of the eye care fraternity. The conference also served as a pivotal platform for networking, upgrading technological use, and sharing best practices in eye health.

Objectives:

- 1. Increasing Capacity in Eye Care:** The conference sought to build the skills and knowledge of professionals in the eye care field to better address and reduce avoidable blindness.
- 2. Networking and Knowledge Upgradation:** A key goal was to foster networking opportunities among professionals and create an environment conducive to the exchange of knowledge and technological advancements. By connecting various stakeholders, the conference aimed to facilitate the sharing of innovative solutions and practices.
- 3. Sharing Experiences and Best Practices:** The conference provided a platform for sharing successful strategies and experiences in eye health care. This exchange of ideas was intended to enhance planning and implementation of eye care services, ensuring better outcomes and more efficient practices across the hospitals and the institutions.

Key Highlights:

Diverse Participation: The broad spectrum of attendees, ranging from seasoned professionals to students, showcased a unified interest in advancing eye care practices. This diversity enriched discussions and fostered a more inclusive environment for learning and collaboration.

Innovative Sessions: The conference featured a variety of sessions that addressed the latest advancements in technology, case studies, and evidence-based practices in eye health.

These sessions were designed to enhance the attendees' understanding and application of new techniques and tools in their respective fields.

Networking Opportunities: The event facilitated numerous networking opportunities, allowing participants to connect with peers, exchange ideas, and form collaborative partnerships. These interactions are expected to lead to ongoing collaborations and shared initiatives aimed at improving eye care services.

Knowledge Exchange: Through presentations, workshops, and panel discussions, attendees had the chance to share their experiences and learn from one another. This exchange of knowledge is crucial for identifying effective strategies and adapting them to different contexts and needs.



The conference featured sessions under 5 tracks spread across 2 days – 12th to 13th July



Scientific Committee

4-member Scientific committee along with 4 Associates created the Scientific Program



Prof. (Dr.) Padma Paul

Chair – Scientific Committee

Professor – Outreach Services,
Department of
Ophthalmology, Christian
Medical College, Vellore



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Preconference Sessions- 11th July 2025

As part of the 2025 Annual Conference, two high-impact pre-conference sessions were conducted to build organizational capacity in strategic communication and fundraising.

Preconference Session 1

1. Grant Writing Essentials

Led by Mr. Jatin Tiwari and Ms. Deepshikha Sharma from Sightsavers India, this 2-hour session was tailored for NGOs. It covered essential grant writing components including types of proposals, budgeting techniques, donor alignment, proposal frameworks (Log Frame, Gantt Charts, Theory of Change), and the role of AI in proposal development. Interactive group exercises on budgeting and proposal critique helped participants apply their learnings in real-time.

Preconference Session- 2

2. Storytelling for Impact

Facilitated by Mr. Shrikant Ayyangar from Mission for Vision, this session emphasized narrative-building for fundraising and donor engagement. Participants learned to craft compelling donor reports and proposals through interactive sessions, writing exercises, and peer feedback.



The workshop strengthened participants' ability to translate ideas into impactful stories that resonate with diverse stakeholders.



Community Ophthalmology Workshop-11th July 2025: The Community Ophthalmology Workshop brought together public health leaders, ophthalmologists, and sector experts to explore innovations and models in eye care delivery across India.

Key sessions included:

Primary Eye Care Models: A range of vision center models—mobile, standalone, tele-ophthalmology, and PPP—were shared by leaders from Aravind Eye Care, SCEH, and Tejas Eye Hospital.

Cataract Backlog-Free Strategies: Successful district-level implementations and scalable high-volume, low-cost surgical approaches were presented.



- **DR and Glaucoma Screening Models:** Use of AI and community-based screening approaches highlighted advancements in diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma care.

- **Eye Care for Vulnerable Populations:** Strategies for serving underserved, disabled, and elderly populations were discussed along with school programs, presbyopia screening, and corneal blindness prevention.
- **Capacity Building:** The final session showcased training models for optometrists, ASHA workers, and Vision Guardians to strengthen the grassroots eye care workforce.



Scientific Sessions- 12th and 13th July

The Scientific sessions were spread across five parallel running tracks and a common session with two speakers. All the sessions were designed by the expert scientific committee. The sessions were led by experts in eye care as well as speakers from government sector along with speakers from NGOS who are highly experienced in the field of eye care and community ophthalmology.

Track 1: Breaking Barriers for Inclusive Eye Care

Breaking Barriers for Inclusive Eye Care

In the journey to maintain and restore life in all its facets for persons living with visual impairment, this track will address innovation, equity and collaborations aspects. Further, it will delve into all aspects of rehabilitation including health, education, economic, social and empowerment interventions in a path steered by the individual with impairment only to be facilitated by professionals in health care, policy makers, advocates and the community at large.

Sessions Theme

- Breaking Barriers: Empowerment for Inclusion
- Inclusion in children with disability
- Community Based Inclusive Development: Sustainable solutions to Inclusion
- Capacity Building in Inclusion
- Sharing experiences from the field: Enabling inclusion

Track 2: Road to Vision 2030: Key Actions

Road to Vision 2030: Key Actions

In the short time ahead to 2030, if India has to achieve the targets set before us, there needs to be galvanised a systematic approach with pillars from international mandate: Elevate, Integrate and Activate, further broken down into Universalize, Consolidate, Systematize, Coordinate and Advocate – our national mandate.

This track will explore partnerships, models, innovations and building momentum in the communities to reach where we would like to reach. Integration will include engaging within sectors outside health, across primary, secondary and tertiary care and more importantly alongside primary health care.

Sessions Theme

- ✓ Advocacy for eyecare provision as an economic case
- ✓ Elevate- occupational health
- ✓ Activate- Public-private partnerships -possibilities and case studies
- ✓ SPECS 2030
- ✓ Integrate- Eye health into General health
- ✓ India Clear Vision Mission: Tackling Presbyopia to Enhance Productivity and Improve Quality of Life
- ✓ Vision 2030 -VISION 2020 INDIA STRATEGY FOR 2030/ VIKSIT BHARAT
- ✓ Strategies to improve eCSC

Track 3: Innovations and Technological solutions in eye care

Innovations and Technological solutions in eye care

This track focuses on the latest advancements in technology and innovative solutions aimed at improving eye health. This includes tools for health awareness, screening and diagnosis, and digital platforms that enhance patient care and access to vision services. Experts will explore how artificial intelligence, telemedicine, and other technological innovations are reshaping the landscape of eye care, making it more accessible, and effective.

Sessions Theme

- AI driven innovations for effective eyecare delivery
- Digital Platforms for Bridging hospitals and communities
- Capacity Building: Important pillar towards realizing Vksit Bharat 2047
- Innovative models of service delivery
- Innovative Community Engagement Strategies for Blindness Prevention Through Awareness and Screening
- Role of BIG DATA in enhancing delivery of for eye health
- Reimagining eye care through Telehealth
- Technology Innovation in ophthalmic lenses and equipment manufacturing sector
- Focus Forward: Innovative solutions for better vision

Track 4: Excellence in Optometry

Opto-excellence

This track involves a combination of hands-on training and inspirational dialogues, including discussing the advanced career path for Optometrists with special features like quizzes. Best suitable for students of optometry and young practitioners of optometry.

Sessions Theme

- Emerging Trends in Optometry – AI, Early Refraction and Beyond
- Myopia Management
- Optometry Quiz Competition
- Complex Case Discussions
- Free Paper Presentations (14 Papers)
- Discussion on Future of Optometry
- Industry Showcase

Track 5: Sharing Knowledge Repository: Towards organization's excellence & growth

Under this track there were free oral presentations based on abstracts reviewed and selected by the Scientific Committee. The speakers were a mixture of presenters from various organisations as well as students. There was a total of 125 paper presentations over two days with broader themes mentioned in the box. There was an extensive response in Poster Presentation as well.

One hundred and twenty-five abstracts were presented under oral presentation spread over 16 sessions on Day 1 and Day 2 of the conference. The Best of the Best winner was selected from best paper from each session.

Sessions Theme

1. Vision Centres: The way forward to Vision 2030
2. Strategies for reaching the unreached
3. Providing services in the unserved areas
4. Universal Eye Health
5. Eye Health for Vulnerable groups
6. Technology in Community Ophthalmology
7. School Screening and Refractive Errors
8. Refractive Error coverage
9. Strategies to Improve Visual Outcome Post Cataract Surgery
10. Tackling Diabetic Retinopathy and ROP
11. Target: Inclusive Eye Health
12. Comprehensive Eye Care
13. Quality in Eye Health
14. Sustainability in Eye Health
15. Research in Community Ophthalmology
16. Hospital based studies in Community Ophthalmology

The best paper presentation in each session was given memento as well as certificate. The BEST OF THE BEST 2025 presentation award was announced: Dr. Thomas Cherian from Little Flower Eye Hospital, Kerala for his paper presentation on topic-

“Literacy rates and gender discrimination in health care: Is there a correlation”. The ‘best of the best’ awardee would enjoy: Waive off registration fee for next annual conference.

- Get sponsored for full travel support to participate in the next annual conference.
- Presentation topic will be considered under Main track by the scientific committee for the next year Annual conference 2026.
- The BEST OF THE BEST 2024 memento awarded to Mr. Sathish Nagappan, CBM for his paper presentation on topic “Social Return of Investment (SROI) of 51 Inclusive Vision Centre in three states of India.”



Poster Presentation

Poster presentations is an integral part of the conference, providing participants with the opportunity to showcase their work and engage in meaningful dialogue with peers and experts. Each participant presented their poster before a panel of judges, comprising Dr. Col M. Deshpande and Dr. Uday Gajiwala. The sessions witnessed active participation and thoughtful discussions. Winners were recognized for their outstanding contributions and were awarded a memento and certificate in appreciation of their efforts.

- First- M Vikky Kumar (Aravind Eye Hospital)**
- Second- Shikha Jhalani (Globe Eye Foundation)**
- Third- Seran Ilango (Aravind Eye Hospital)**



Industry Showcase

Roche Products (India) Pvt. Ltd.



Akriti Ophthalmic Pvt Ltd



Appasamy Associates Pvt. Ltd



Essilor India Private Limited



Remidio Innovative Solutions Pvt. Ltd



Ajanta Pharma



On Day 1, 12th July, an Eye health awareness rally was organized from Blind People's Association (BPA) to Ahmedabad Management Association (AMA). The rally witnessed enthusiastic participation from conference delegates, who walked in solidarity holding placards to raise awareness about eye health and the importance of preventing visual impairment.



Common Session

The conference featured a deeply engaging motivational session by Dr. Jayanti S. Ravi, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Revenue Department, on the theme "Balance in Life – Personal and Professional." Drawing from her vast experience in public service and leadership, Dr. Ravi offered valuable insights into harmonizing professional responsibilities with personal well-being.



She emphasized the importance of self-awareness, time management, and emotional intelligence in achieving holistic success. Her address inspired participants to reflect on their own life choices and adopt mindful strategies for maintaining equilibrium in the face of growing professional demands. The session was particularly well-received for its practical guidance, relatable anecdotes, and uplifting message on purposeful living.

1. Women-Led Development

An inspiring session on "Women-Led Development" was delivered by Dr. Neerja Gupta, the first woman Vice-Chancellor of Gujarat University. Dr. Gupta highlighted the transformative role of women in driving inclusive and sustainable development across sectors.

Drawing from her own journey in academia and leadership, she emphasized the need for creating enabling ecosystems that empower women to take on decision-making roles. Her address underscored the importance of education, mentorship, and institutional support in advancing gender equity. The session resonated deeply with the audience, especially young professionals and students, and served as a powerful call to action to recognize and amplify the contributions of women in nation-building.



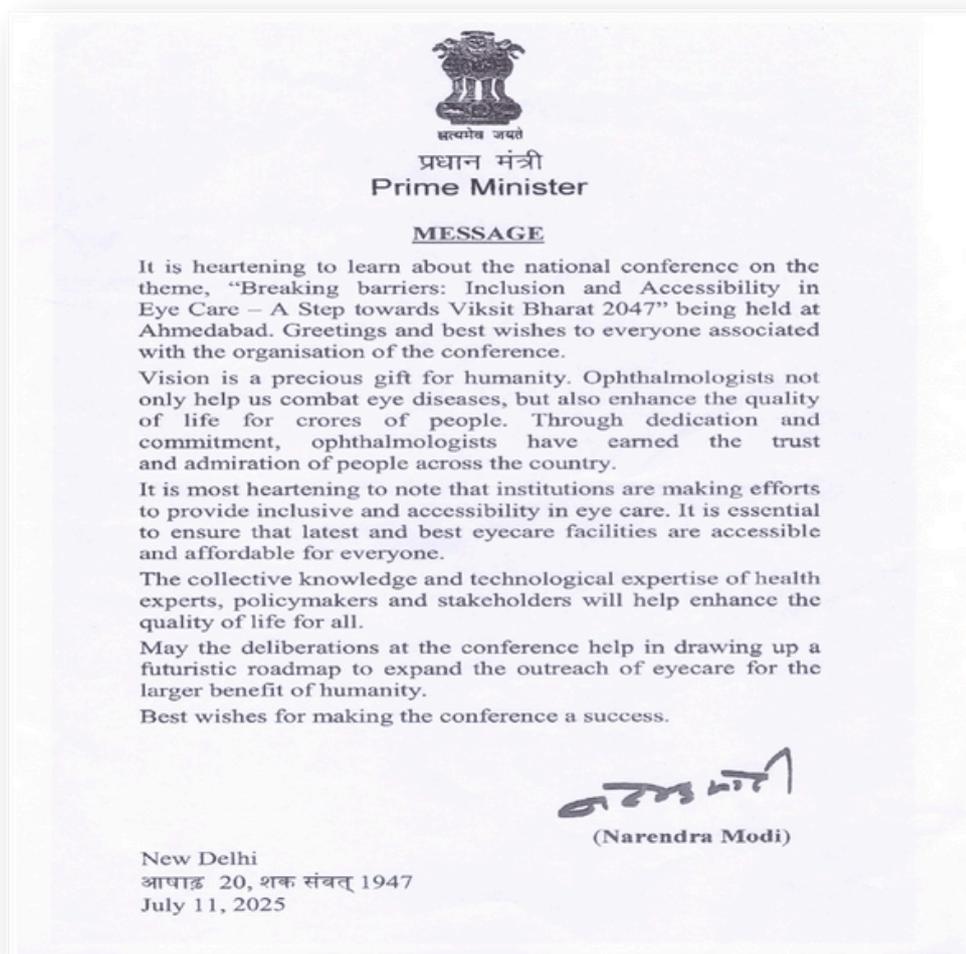
Inauguration of the Annual Conference

The conference was formally inaugurated in the evening of 12th July, 2025 at 1800 hrs at Ahmedabad Management Association by ChiefGuest, Shri Vijay Nehra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.



Prime Minister's Message

The President of Vision2020 read the Prime Minister's message during the conference inauguration.



Awards Presentation

Three open Categories Award Women Lead Eye Care Award 2025

Dr. Sucheta Kulkarni, PBMA's HV Desai Eye Hospital, Pune.

This honor recognizes women based on their influence, excellence, contribution, and commitment to the field of eye care, especially in community ophthalmology.

Winner was awarded Memento and Certificate



Young Achiever Award 2025



Ms. Sneha Aggarwal, Dr. R P centre for Ophthalmic Sciences, AIIMS, New Delhi

This honor recognizes young persons who have had special accomplishments in the field of eye care. Winner was awarded Memento and Certificate

Eye Health Champions Award 2025

The Award recognizes and celebrate young and upcoming frontline staff, volunteers, support staff and more within the eye health sector.

Total 5 Winners were awarded Memento and Certificate

Mr. Parvinder Kumar,
Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital, Delhi

Mr. Kushal Dharmani,
Seva Sadan eye hospital, Bhopal



Mr. Jitendra Kumar Sahoo,
Vision India Foundation, Odisha



Dr. Divya Rao,
Remidio Innovative Solutions, Bangalore



Dr. Charanya C,
Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai



5 Annual Awards

VISION 2020: The Right to Sight- INDIA recognizes its member hospitals for their exemplary work in the field of eye care. The following institutions have been recognized with the Annual Awards. A three-member jury assessed the applications received for these awards.

Shri. S. N. Shah award 2025

Equity: to provide comprehensive primary eye care screenings with a focus on women and children

Award Winner- India Vision Institute



Shri. G D Agrawal Gomabai Netralaya Award 2025

To inspire especially the smaller and medium volume member hospitals to continue reaching the unreached through "Sustainable community eye health approaches towards integrated people-centred eye care (IPEC)".

Award Winner- Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital



Dr. Jordan Kassalow VisionSpring Award 2025

For reaching the unreached through eyeglasses.

Award Winner- Samaritan Social Service Society



Lotus Award 2025

For Holistic Development of an Organization to Serve Community Better

Award Winner- Gomabai Netralaya



Sant Hirdaram Sewa Sadan Award for Innovative Eye Care Practices 2025

Award Winner- Akhand Jyoti Eye Hospital



Lifetime Achievement Award 2024-



Guru Dronacharya Award 2024- Prof. Jeewan S Titiyal



Felicitation

VISION 2020: The Right to Sight- India felicitated-

Dr Padma Paul for serving as Member of Scientific Committee during 2023 – 2024 and Chairing the scientific program development for this year 2025.



Blind People's Association, Ahmedabad

For hosting 19th Annual Conference and Annual General Body meeting



After the Awards and felicitation, Chief Guest, Shri Vijay Nehra, in his address, emphasized the pivotal role of eye health in achieving broader public health goals and sustainable development. He highlighted the government's commitment to strengthening primary eye care services and integrating eye health into the national healthcare agenda.

His remarks underscored the importance of collaboration between government, civil society, and the private sector in eliminating avoidable blindness and ensuring equitable access to quality eye care for all.



Vote of Thanks



The conference concluded with a heartfelt Vote of Thanks delivered by Dr. Dharmendra Jena from the BPA, expressing deep gratitude to all dignitaries, speakers, partners, and participants for their valuable contributions to the success of the event. The team acknowledged the unwavering support of the organizing committee, volunteers, and host institution team in ensuring seamless coordination throughout the conference.

Special thanks were extended to the Chief Guest, keynote speakers, and session chairs for sharing their time, insights, and vision. The BPA Team also recognized the enthusiastic participation of delegates from across the country, whose engagement and commitment enriched every session.

Cultural Activity by BPA Team



Impact and Future Directions

The conference has made a significant impact in shaping the future of community eye care by:

Strengthening Professional Capacity: Participants gained enhanced skills and knowledge, empowering them to more effectively address the challenges of visual impairment and improve eye care delivery within their regions.

Fostering Collaboration: The conference served as a vibrant platform for networking and collaboration, paving the way for continued partnerships and coordinated efforts in the field of eye health.

Promoting Best Practices: The exchange of innovative approaches and successful models offered actionable insights, enabling better planning and more effective implementation of eye care services across diverse settings.

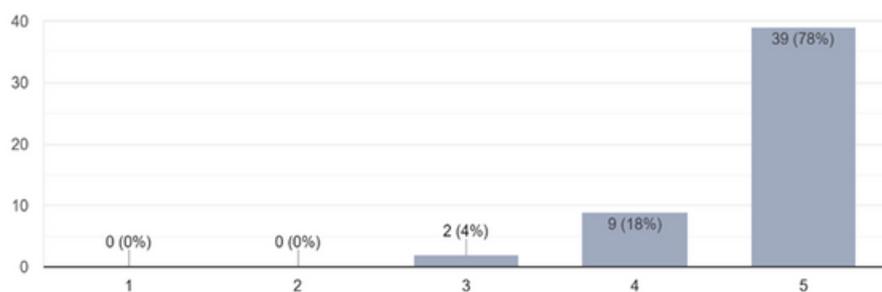
Conclusion

The conference successfully achieved its core objectives of capacity building, fostering collaboration, and promoting best practices in eye care. The enthusiastic participation and meaningful engagement of delegates underscored the collective commitment of the eye health community toward reducing avoidable blindness and improving visual outcomes. Looking ahead, the knowledge shared and connections forged during the conference will serve as a catalyst for advancing eye care initiatives and driving impactful change on a broader scale.

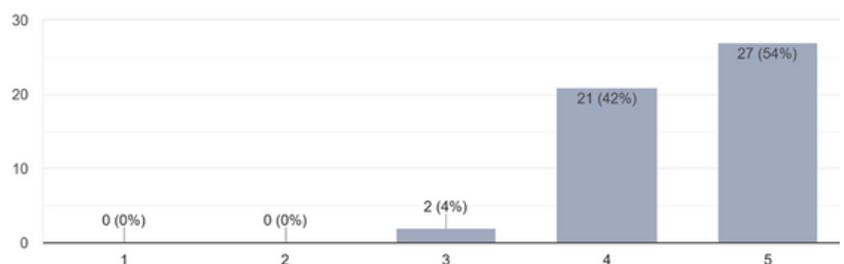
Participant's Feedback Report

The feedback was received by 50 participants and 78% were male and 22% were female respondents. About 88% of the respondents attended both the sessions. Majority of the respondents felt that there is no need to change the registration fees for the annual conference. The participants were requested to share their responses on a scale of 1-5 where scale was defines as (1- Very Poor, 2- Poor, 3- Good, 4- Very Good and 5- Excellent). The responses shared by the participants for rating the scientific tracks are mentioned below:

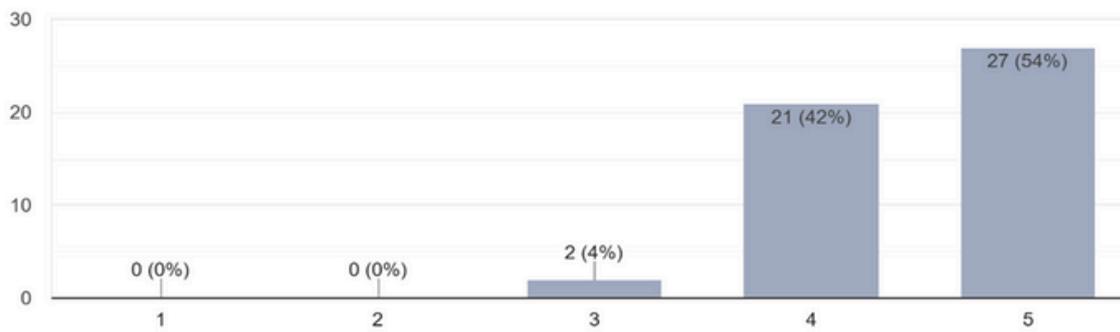
1. How well do you think the scientific program is designed?



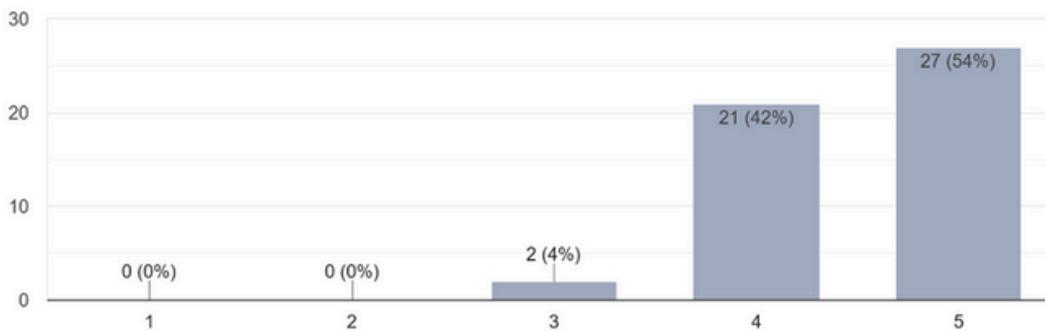
1. How will you rate the Track 1 titled 'Breaking Barriers for Inclusive Eye Care'?



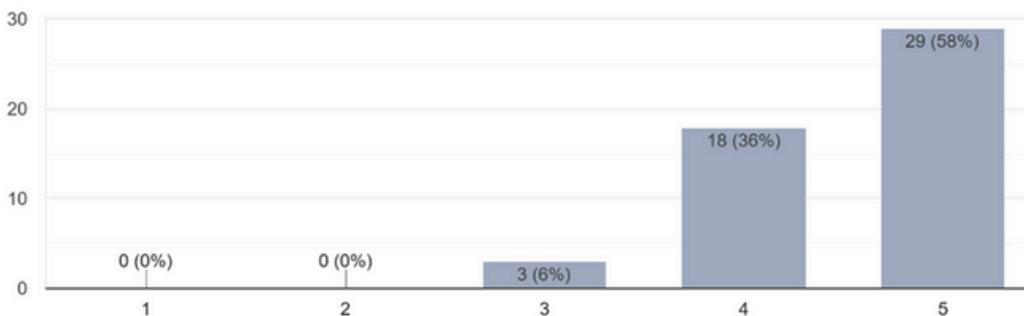
2. How will you rate the Track 2 titled 'Road to Vision 2030: Key Actions'?



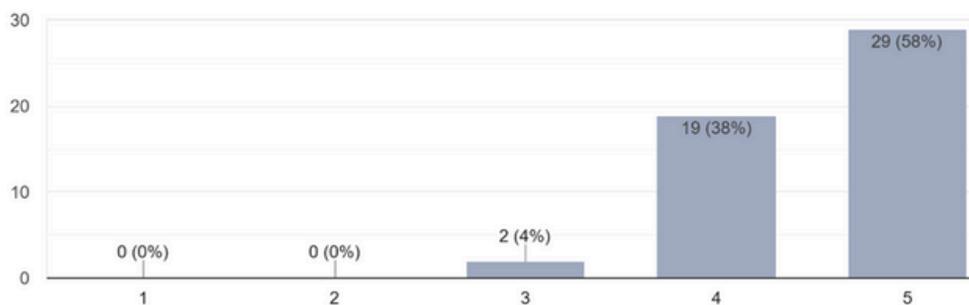
3. How will you rate the Track 3 titled 'Innovations and Technological solutions in eye care'?



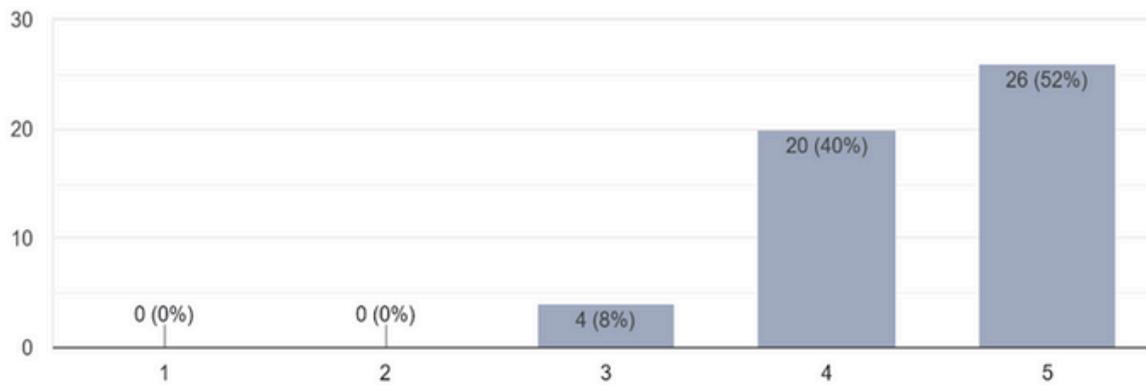
4. How will you rate the Track 4 titled 'Excellence in Optometry'?



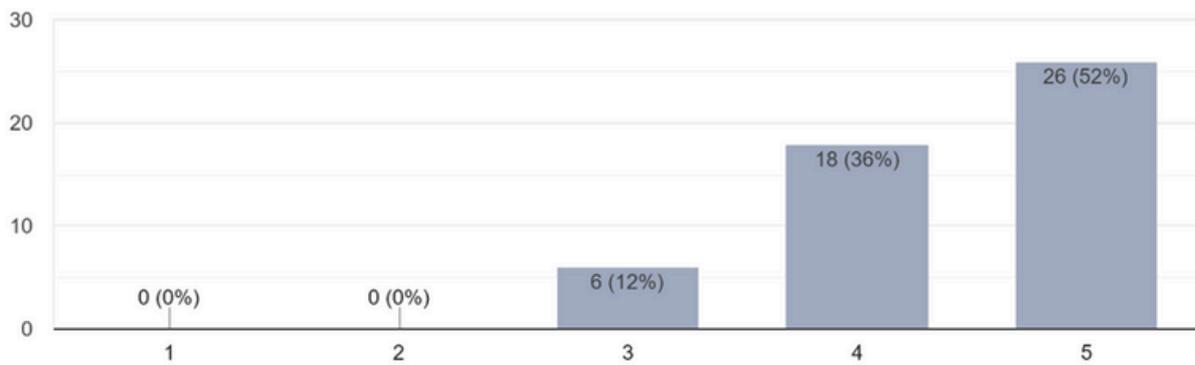
5. How will you rate the Track 5 titled 'Sharing Knowledge Repository: Towards organization's excellence & growth'?



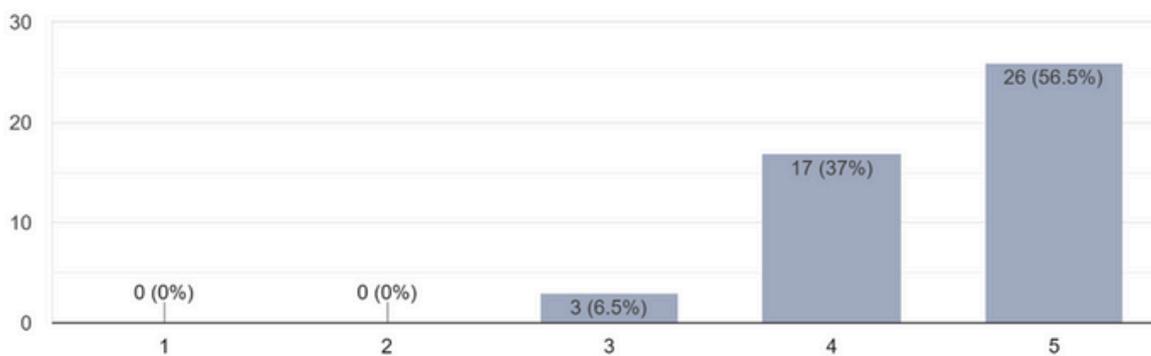
6. How will you rate the Pre-conference session 'Grant Writing Essentials'?



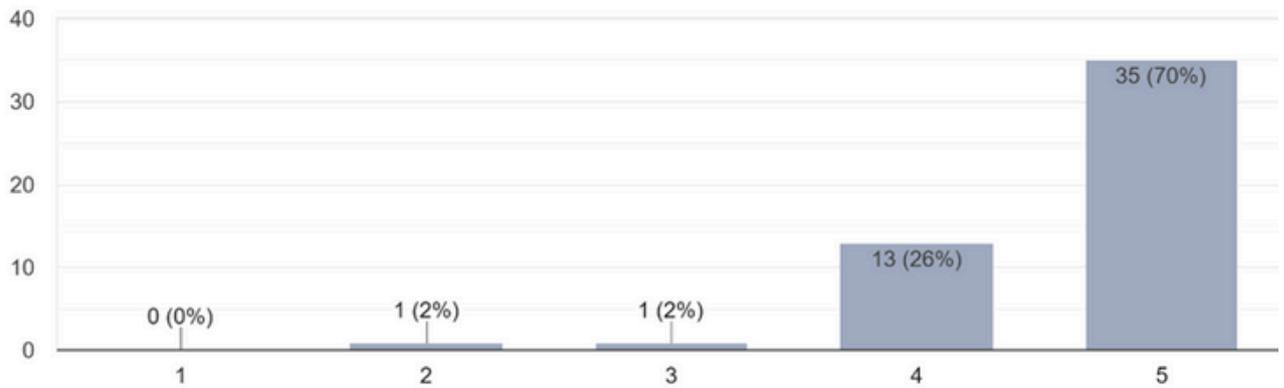
7. How will you rate the Pre-conference session 'Storytelling for Impact'?



8. How will you rate the 'Community Ophthalmology Workshop'?



11. How do you rate your satisfaction regarding overall quality of conference?



Some of the Feedback shared below

Heartfelt congratulations & sincere thanks for organizing such a well thought out & insightful national level conference. Every detail was meticulously arranged, ensuring a smooth & hassle free experience for all of us. It was truly enriching to see almost every hospital being given the opportunity to share their experiences. The conference keeps getting better each time really commendable work by the entire team of Blind People Association, Ahmedabad, Vision 2020, & especially Dr. Rajesh

Saini

Kudos to Vision 2020 and BPA for hosting such a seamless and enriching conference. Every detail was thoughtfully arranged, making the experience hassle-free and informative. Kudos to all participants for their dedication, and heartfelt congratulations to all the winners! 🏆👏 Kalaivani Sankara Eye Foundation, India

Thanks and Congrats to the entire Organizing Committee of Vision 2020 and BPA for orchestrating such a beautiful event over the last 3 days. All the sessions were well organized and we thoroughly enjoyed them. Lokesh

Acknowledgement

The successful execution of the conference was made possible through the unwavering support and dedication of several key contributors.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Scientific Committee and Associates for their valuable time, insightful discussions, and collaborative efforts in shaping the conference programme through a series of planning meetings and brainstorming sessions.

A special thanks to the Blind People's Association (BPA), Ahmedabad, particularly Dr. Bhushan Punani (General Secretary), Ms. Nandini Rawal (Executive Director), Dr. Dharmendra Jena, and the entire BPA team for their tireless efforts and exceptional coordination. Their commitment and round-the-clock support ensured the seamless organization of the event.

We also express our appreciation to the Corporate Advisory Board for their continued encouragement and support of this important skill transfer initiative.





WE ARE THANKFUL TO



VISION 2020 INDIA CORPORATE ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS



EssilorLuxottica





*Connect with over 185 eye care institutions working in over 27 states
across the VISION 2020 INDIA network.*



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