

3 CRUCIAL QUESTIONS

Blindness, Bihar & AJEH

WHY SUPPORT BLINDNESS ?

- Inability to see 3 metres is blindness
- India shoulders the largest burden of blindness
- 15 million people are blind in India, cataract is the main cause
- Compared worldwide, cataract incidence in India is higher at 63%
- Another 52 million are visually impaired
- India accounts for 20% of all blind children worldwide
- 80% blindness is curable
- Seven of the 8 UN Millennium Development Goals depend on measures linked to blindness
- Poverty, hunger, child mortality & primary education are directly impacted
- Cataract surgery listed as the most effective health intervention
- Cataract surgery – low one time costs, instant results
- Annual global costs of blindness & low vision estimated at \$110 billion
- Bringing down blindness by 2020 will result in savings of \$53 billion every year

WHY SUPPORT BIHAR ?

- **Population over 100 million**
- **Lags behind in all aspects of poverty, health, education and human well being**
- **Lowest per capita PPP (Purchasing Power Parity) income**
- **81% population poor as per MPI (Multi dimensional Poverty Index)**
- **Lowest HDI (Human Development Index)**
- **Backlog of 1 million blind people**
- **1,00,000 people add to this number every year**
- **Cataract responsible for 83% of the blindness**
- **Extremely low CSC (Cataract Surgical Coverage rate) – More than half the population DO NOT have access to cataract surgery**
- **Key Issues - Accessibility, affordability and erratic quality**
- **Poor awareness levels - blindness & it's causes**
- **Inadequate infrastructure – to cope with high blindness levels**
- **Rural areas most affected – dearth of skilled clinicians like doctors, paramedics**



AKHAND JYOTI
EYE HOSPITAL

दृष्टि. जीवन. आशा.

WHY SUPPORT AKHAND JYOTI EYE HOSPITAL (AJEH) ?

- **First Mission – To eradicate curable blindness in Bihar by 2022 & empower women to achieve this**
- **Focused approach on clearing the backlog of blindness – Surgical priority to bilaterally blind patients**
- **Most effective outreach – 55 full time outreach staff, 700+ volunteers, 14 districts, door to door identification**
- **High volume, high quality setup – maintaining high levels of clinical quality and patient safety measures along with huge surgical numbers.**
- **Quality is documented and monitored**
- **Ability to attract and retain key HR like eye surgeons and paramedical staff.**
- **India's 3rd largest eye hospital – non-profit, registered, professionally managed, secular**
- **Targeting 1,00,000 annual surgeries by 2020 – Currently doing 65,000 surgeries each year, over 80% completely free**
- **Strong equity in the community**