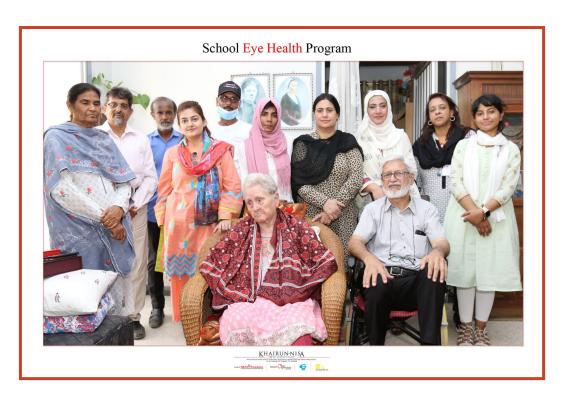






FREE EYE SCREENING CAMP & AWARENESS SESSION ON MYOPIA TATARCO YAGANGAT PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOL, MANGHOPIR





Background

Myopia Awareness Week (May 22-26, 2023)

Every year, the **BHVI** (**Brien Holden Vision Institute**) organizes the internationally recognized Myopia Awareness Week, a global initiative that began in 2018. The main purpose of this initiative is to draw attention to the escalating epidemic of myopia in children worldwide. Myopia Awareness Week serves as a platform to advocate for myopia management, emphasizing its importance as a crucial aspect of eye health, especially for children.

In alignment with this mission, the Khairunisa Eye Hospital proactively participated by organizing an awareness session and eye health screening at the community level, contributing to the overall objectives of Myopia Awareness Week.

The Organizer

The Khairunnisa Eye Hospital, a project by K&N's Foundation, joined forces with the MALC-Marie Adelaide Leprosy Center to organize a Free Eye Screening Camp and Awareness Session on Myopia on 24, 25 May, 2023. This event was a part of an ongoing school health program and awareness campaign, with a focus on providing top-notch eye health services to the communities residing in and around the important conservation areas of Karachi.

This was made possible with the support of MALC who strives to improve the quality of life for individuals affected by visual impairments, fostering an inclusive society where everyone has access to essential eye care services. On preventing blindness, MALC conducts outreach programs and awareness campaigns to educate communities about the importance of eye health. Through these initiatives, the organization aims to increase awareness about common eye conditions

The Facility and Community

Tatarco Yagangat Primary and Secondary School Manghopir serves as a sub-center of MALC, established in 1982. It has been dedicated to providing education to underprivileged communities in the region. The local population predominantly communicates in Balochi and Pashto, with a significant portion engaged in manual labor. Unfortunately, there is a lack of secondary or tertiary eye hospitals in the vicinity.

Activity Details

This was two days activity consists of following phases;

DAY 1

Phase I

This consists of enrolling the class teachers, and senior students and providing awareness and training programs. Screening material as a kit is provided beforehand.

The student volunteers were named Eye-Scouts and were distributed badges, to put on and feel proud of it. The central theme is to prepare a work force of screeners and master trainers, enabling them to conduct eyesight screening of children as well as to train other teachers and people around to screen children for presence or absence of weak eye-sight.

Students found with Non-Refractive conditions/common eye problems/unhealthy eyes are referred for Phase II.



Teachers training for Eye screening



DAY 2

Phase II

Our mobile van is adequately equipped and staffed, conduct this phase. Referred students are being checked by qualified Optometrist they make a decision to prescribe glasses or refer them to tertiary eye Hospital.

Furthermore, **Dr. Mazhar Awan, the Chief Medical Officer of Khairunnisa Eye Hospital**, conducted an informative awareness session on myopia specifically targeting parents and teachers. The primary objective was to raise awareness about eye health issues, particularly myopia, among children, with the aim of bringing about positive change at the community level. The response to this session was highly encouraging, as we received an overwhelming and positive reception from the participants.



Awareness session on Myopia by Dr Muhammad Mazhar Awan

Phase III:

This phase consists of the provision of specialized ophthalmic care to students. Those who can reach Khairunisa Eye Hospital will be treated as our patients and all care is provided free of cost.

9 students were referred for different eye health issues like, Amblyopia, ptosis and squint.



While providing glasses and drops to a patient

Statistics from the Camp

The segment below is a comprehensive outline of the facts and figures obtained from the camp; A total of 120 people including children and adults were screened for different eye disorders and treated by our well-qualified optometrists. Patients identified in the need of comprehensive examination were referred to Khairunnisa Eye Hospital.

People had following different eye conditions;	
Myopia (teachers)	07
Myopia (Children)	07
Presbyopia	45
Allergic Conjunctivitis	40
Dry Eyes	11

Students, teachers and parents were provided with glasses to address their near and far vision needs. This ensured that they could overcome any visual impairments and continue their academic and professional pursuits with clarity. Additionally, individuals with other eye conditions received necessary eye drops to alleviate their specific ailments.

By getting this significant number of affected people with Myopia, presbyopia and other eye conditions we can deduce that a large number of patients in this area are undiagnosed and left untreated.

There is a dire need for the provision of continuous eye health services in this marginalized community.

Additional Benefits:

- 1. Eye health related posters and literature in the form of pamphlets, in urdu and english were distributed among students and staff, with a hope to disseminate awareness.
- **2.** To encourage active participation and promote interest in such activities, goody bags were distributed to both students and teachers.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Free Eye screening Camp and an awareness session was a great success, reaching a less privileged community than ever before and treating a significant number of people.

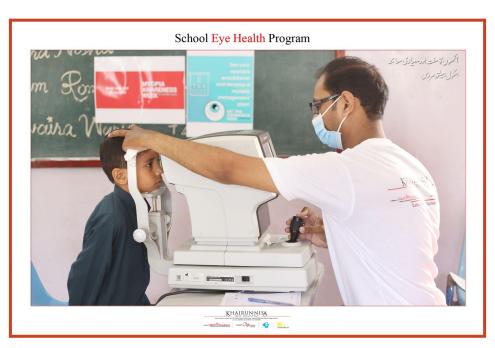
- **1.** Considering the need, regular camps should be organized at the camp location in close coordination with the health authorities.
- 2. There is a pressing need for a comprehensive awareness campaign in the area to inform the local population about the availability of medical facilities and the importance of seeking timely healthcare. This campaign should emphasize the significance of regular eye screenings and the overall benefits of availing eye health services.

- **3.** Considering the upcoming vacation period and the beginning of a new academic session, there was a limited number of students available for participation. Therefore, it was necessary to revise the activity schedule after the vacation in order to accommodate the maximum number of students. The objective was to ensure that a larger student population could benefit from the program.
- **4.** To embrace inclusivity, it was recognized that certain modifications were required in the school building to facilitate easy movement for individuals with disabilities during such activities.
 - By implementing these recommendations, future activities can further enhance their impact, reaching and positively influencing a larger number of individuals within the community.

School Eye Health Program RHAIRINNIA RHA

PHOTO GALLERY

Teachers were awarded with certificates & gifts



Eye Examination of students



School Eye Health Program





Token of appreciation to MALC

