

ROLE OF Lions Clubs in removing blindness

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ABSTRACT

Lions play a very significant role in the social welfare of the society . Lions are the groups of service minded men and women who are interested in improving the lot of their communities. To be a lion is to be an active volunteer , a member of a respected International Organization, a Leader in the community and a friend to the people in need. Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service organization, the present study was undertake with the objective of analyzing the role of Lions Clubs in removing the blindness from this world.

KEY WORDS: Lions, LICF, Melvin Jones, Melvin Jones Fellowship (MJF), Campaign Sight First .

Introduction:

The Lions Clubs play a very significant role in removing the blindness from this world. The mission of Lions Clubs International Foundation is to strengthen eye care system in underserved communities, enabling them to fight blindness and vision loss and assist the persons who are blind or visually impaired .

LIONS:

Lion are the volunteer member of Lions Clubs grouped under an international organization, where they enjoy fellowship, develop their leadership capacities, and dedicate part of their free time to help those in need all over the world.

LCIF:

Lions Clubs International Foundation(LCIF) is a social welfare organization of Lions Clubs international . Its mission is to support the efforts of Lions Clubs and partners in serving the communities locally and globally, give hope and imparting lives through humanitarian service project and grants .

Melvin Jones :

Melvin Jones was the founder of Lions Clubs. Melvin Jones was born on January 13,1879 at Fort Thomas , Arizon (USA). With his efforts the Lionism began in USA in 1917.

Melvin Jones Fellowship:

Melvin Jones Fellowship is presented to those Lions who donate US\$ 1000 to LCIF. Melvin Jones Fellowship is the backbone of Lions Clubs International Foundation. It is a tremendous contribution to humanity and to the legacy of the founder of Lionism, Melvin Jones, it provides 75% of the foundation's annual revenue. Melvin Jones Fellow receives a special lapel pin, a plaque and a congratulatory letter.

Campaign Sight First:

At the Lions Clubs International convention in 1925 Helen keller asked Lions to be “ knights for the blind”, And ever since sight first programmers have been a key part of the work of Lions and LCIF. LCIF is a

leader in providing support for blindness and restoring sight for the people . The sight first programs have played a key role in reducing global blindness.

Review of Related Literature:

Charles and Herbert (1958) further strengthened the point that the membership in a voluntary organization was affected by socio-economic status of the person when they suggested that voluntary association customarily have been identified as the characteristic of the urban life and membership in such association is more directly related to the socio-economic status as measured by the level of income, occupation, education and house-ownership.

Panday (1991) classified the voluntary organization into three categories service group, development group and action group. Service groups follow the delivery system. These groups provide their services voluntarily where need arises. Service groups provide food to the poor, pay school fee of the poor students, deliver tri-cycles or aids to the disabled persons. They arrange group marriages for the poor couples. In Punjab voluntary religious organizations such as *Sukhmani Sahib Seva Societies*, *Singh Sabhas*, *Guru Nanak Sewak Dal Simran Societies*, *Nar Seva Narayan Seva Samities* etc. are also thrusting their efforts in the social welfare works in this direction. Such voluntary organizations can be grouped into service groups.

Development groups help the government in the process of development. Developmental groups are involved in developmental activities like opening the schools for the poor children in slum areas, open hospitals for the poor & grow trees to protect the environment. They also arrange awareness programmers to protect the environment, arrange seminars for the awareness about diseases. The lions clubs, Rotary clubs etc. can be classified into developmental groups. Action groups are involved in organizational works. The activities of SEWA (Self-Employed Women Association) & AMUL (Anand Milk Producers Ltd.) can be classified into action groups.

Self-Employed Women Association (SEWA) works towards mobilization and integrated development of unorganized rural women in Banaskantha and Kutch districts of Gujrat. SEWA played a catalytic role among women, providing them access to information and ideas tapping their collective strength as well as leading purpose and direction to their unity. Founded in 1972, SEWA during the 15 years of its existence restricted itself to the self-employed women of Ahmadabad and then turned toward 'organization and struggle. SEWA Academy organizes training programmes and research programmes to increase the efficiency of their members.

Crowell (2003) focused on the efforts of self-employed women's association (SEWA) toward mobilization and integrated development of unorganized rural women in Banaskantha and Kutch

districts of Gujrat. SEWA played a catalytic role among women providing them access to information and ideas tapping their collective strength as well as lending purpose and direction to their unity. Found in 1972, SEWA during the 15 years of its existence restricted itself to the self employed women of Ahmadabad and then turned towards 'organization and struggle'.

Kulkarni (1969) has clarified the role of voluntary action in a developing society working towards a democratic socialistic welfare state. He stated that the most important thing is to explain the people the need for their active co-operation and participation in and with social, social welfare and other services and programmes in the community.

Geeta Ram (1984) has visualized the role of voluntary organization in removing the literacy among adults. He has tried to find out the strength and weakness of the voluntary agencies and also to explore suggestion to remove hurdles which are coming in the way of effective and efficient implementation of the programme of removal of adult literacy.

Statement of the problem:

Role of Lions Clubs in removing blindness.

Objectives of the study:

1. To throw light on the working of Lion Clubs as a Voluntary Organization
2. To analyses the role of Lion Clubs removing blindness

Methodology:

The present study is exploratory in nature. The very purpose of exploratory research is to seek out new insights, ask questions and assess phenomenon in different perspectives. Exploratory studies permit the researcher to seek new insights.

Universe of the Study:

As on march 31,2019, Lions Clubs International had 1,459,012, members in 48,401 Lions Clubs in 200+ countries and geographical locations. There are 275 Lions clubs in Punjab

Selection of Sample:

A sample is a smaller, manageable part of the universe. For the statistical purpose when the population is too large, it become too impractical to survey every member of particular population. So the study is delimited to the Lions Clubs in the Malwa region in Punjab. A sample of 45 Lion Clubs of the Malwa region of Punjab has been take into account for the present study.

Data Collection:

For the present study primary data of the 45 Lions Clubs of the Malwa region of Punjab has been collected. The primary data has been collected through a systematized questionnaire to collect maximum information.

Programs Related to Vision For All

The most significant contribution of Lions Clubs is towards Campaign Sight First, Vision for all. The Lions Clubs organize several programmers related to it in order remove blindness.

Eye Donation**Table 1****Table showing clubs who pledged for Eye Donation**

Contribution towards vision for all	Number of Clubs	Percentage	Lion Members	Non Lion Persons
Who Pledged for Eye Donation	30	66.7	191	206
Not Pledged for Eye Donation	15	33.3	0	0
Total	45	100	191	206

The table 1 shows that 66.7% club contributed for Eye Donation. The figures show that 191 Lion members and 206 non lion persons pledged for eye donation.

Eye Operation Camps

Table 2 shows that out of 45 clubs studied 53.3% clubs organized eye operation camps and 1492 people were operated at these clubs. There were 21 clubs which did not organize eye operation camps.

Table 2**Table showing clubs who organized eye operation camps**

Contribution towards vision for all	Number of Clubs	Percentage	No. of Person operated
Organized Eye operation Camp	24	53.3	1492
Not organized eye operation Camp	21	46.7	0
Total	45	100	1492

Adoption of School(s)/Village(s) for eye check up

An attempt has been made to know whether Lions Clubs adopted a School or a Village or a block for organizing eye check up

Table 3**Distribution of clubs according to adoption of School/Village for eye check up**

Contribution towards eye check up	Frequency	Percentage
Adoption of School	28	63.3
Adoption of Village	2	4.4
Adoption of Slum Area	1	2.2
Not mentioned about School/Village	2	4.4
None	12	26.7
Total	45	100

It is clear from the table 3 that 63.3% Lions Clubs adopted schools for eye check up. 4.4% of Lions clubs adopted Villages and 2.2% Lions Clubs adopted slums for eye check up. The most remarkable service was done by Lions Club Giddarbaha Ashirwad as it adopted 53 Villages of Giddarbaha Block for eye check up. The services rendered by this Lions Club was remarkable. They pledged to remove blindness from this block. There were however 12 clubs which did not adopt any Village. Block or School for this purpose

Eye Grafting/Transplantation Camp

Lions Club also organized eye grafting/transplantation camp

Table 4**Table showing the number of clubs who organized eye grafting/transplantation camp**

Contribution towards eye grafting/transplantation	Numbers of Clubs	Percentage	Number of operations
Yes	2	4.44	35
No	43	95.56	-
Total	45	100	35

The table 4 shows that only 4.44% clubs organized eye grafting/transplantation camp. The low percentage was due to the fact that these operations are complicated and are done in the hospitals of big cities. The two clubs which arranged such camps were Lions Club Ludhiana skipper and Lions Clubs Ludhiana Pioneer.

Amount Spent of Eye Operations Camps: An attempt has been made to know that how much amount these clubs spent on eye operation camps.

Table 5**Distribution of clubs according to the Amount Spent on eye-operation camps**

Amount (In Rs.)	Frequency	Percentage
NIL	20	44.5
Upto 100000	19	42.2
10000-20000	4	8.9
200000-300000	1	2.2
300000-400000	1	2.2
Total	45	100

The table 5 shows that 44.5% Lions Clubs spent no money on eye-operation camps. 42.2% clubs spent up to Rs. 1,00,000 on eye operation camps. 8.9% clubs spent Rs. 1 Lac to 2 Lac. 2.2% clubs spent Rs. 2 Lac to 3 Lac. It is a surprising fact that a rural Lions Club Daudhar spent Rs. 3.5 Lac on eye operation camp. It looks their great achievement.

Majority of the clubs did not spend any amount on eye operation camps. Only 19 clubs spent up to Rs. 1,00,000 on these camps.

Arrangement of money for eye operation camps

Finance is the back-bone of any organization. The money for the eye operation camps was arranged by the Lions Clubs in two ways, from the lions members or from the public.

Table 6**Distribution of clubs according to their source of money for eye camps**

Source of Money	Frequency	Percentage
Lion Member	9	20
Public	6	13.3
Both	11	24.4
None	19	42.3
Total	45	100

The table 6 shows that 20% clubs collected money only from Lion members. They did not collect money from public. 13.3% clubs collected money for eye operation camps from public. 24.4% clubs collected money both from Lion Members and public.

Donation from outside source

Lions clubs spent most of their collected money for eye operation camps. This donation comes from Lion members themselves as well as from the outside sources. Such as from the public and NRI's.

Table 7
Distribution of clubs on the basis of their taking donation from outside source

Donation from outside source	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	22	48.9
No	23	51.1
Total	45	100

The table 7 shows that 48.9% clubs did not take donation from outside sources and 51.1% clubs arranged the money from outside sources also.

Finding and conclusion :

1. The Lions Clubs lead the world's fight against blindness.
2. Melvin Jones Fellowships is the noble cause to achieve this target.
3. Lions Member pledge for eye donation.
4. Lion Clubs motivate public to donate their eyes.
5. Lion Clubs organize eye donation camps, eye check up camps , adopt school(s) and village(s) to remove blindness.
6. This is the most leading efforts by the Lions Clubs that make a difference in individual's lives by saving their sight through campaign sight first (Vision for all). Lions have restored or save the sight of millions.
7. The money for these projects of Campaign Sight First comes both from the Lion members as well as donation from public.

Suggestion for further study

1. The present study was delimited to Lions Clubs of Malwa region of Punjab. The same can be extended to other Geographical areas also
2. The research can be undertaken to study the modus operandi of the Lions Club.
3. The research can be undertaken to study the role of Lions Clubs in the general health check up programs of the people.
4. The study can be conducted on the other voluntary organizations also

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