

# Bringing World Class Nursing Care to a World Class Eye Institute through Transdisciplinary Collaboration

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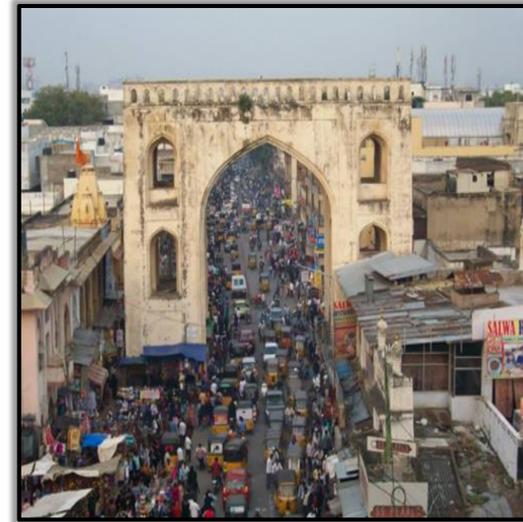
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## Background

- 2010: 21% of global blindness/visual impairment in India (WHO, 2012)
- 82% caused by cataracts or refractive errors
- LVPEI performs 70 surgical procedures daily/ 21,840 annually
- Catchment area = 50 million people
- University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) has long-standing relationship with LVPEI
- UR SON requested to assist in training ophthalmic nursing assistants (ONAs)
- 2 UR SON nurses observed for 2 weeks @ LVPEI in Hyderabad, India
- Recommendations made to enhance training of ONAs, use interprofessional education and collaboration
- Consistent with WHO call for increase in collaborative practice

## Environment

- LVPEI operates in 4 areas of practice:
  - Vision Centers
  - Secondary Centers
  - Tertiary Centers
  - Center of Excellence
- 3 disciplines:
  - Ophthalmologists
  - Registered Nurses
  - Ophthalmic Nursing Assistants
- ONA has minimal training in systemic disease
- Little collaboration between disciplines
- Under utilization of ONA in community
- Goal – Excellent, equitable eye care – Ending blindness in India



## Situated Learning

- First described in 1988 (Lave)
- Concepts that are learned in context are retained better than those learned in abstract
- Would be applicable to learning in a simulation environment

## Transdisciplinary Collaboration

- Each discipline uses own theories and practices to reach a common goal, working either in parallel or jointly with other disciplines
- Use shared conceptual framework
- Multidisciplinary: can be sequential, not simultaneous
- Interdisciplinary: work jointly, but may have different goals
- Functional for analyzing social, economic, political, environmental and institutional factors affecting health (Rosenfeld, 1992)
- Often used in problem solving in issues such as violence, hunger, poverty, disease, and environmental pollution (Hirsch, et al., 2010)
- Successfully demonstrated in India in HIV/STD study using psychologists, physicians, scientists, educators, traditional healers, and activists

## Applications @ LVPEI

- Education to be provided by multiple disciplines:
  - RN/Senior ONA collaborate to provide initial education to ONA students
  - Physicians to collaborate in ONA/RN continuing education
  - Needs assessment to be performed with physicians to determine continuing education curriculum
  - ONA to be sent out to work alongside vision tech in rural areas – enhance prevention
- Simulation to be utilized:
  - Allow for communication practice between disciplines
  - Facilitate situated learning

## Interim Results

- Senior ONA appointed & functioning as additional instructor
- Expanding curriculum for ONAs to include systemic disease
- Educational collaboration between LVPEI and UR SON to result in joint certificate for ONAs completing program

