

IOA Teaching Volunteer

October 23 - November 10

Aravind Eye Hospital

Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India

My IOA volunteer teaching mission to India in November 2013 was an unforgettable and satisfying experience for me. So I immediately agreed when Dr Shashikant Shetty, professor of the Paediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus Department of Aravind Eye Hospital & Postgraduate Institute of Ophthalmology in Madurai (www.aravind.org), asked me to volunteer again.



Dr Shashikant and myself discussing a patient

Also Dr P. Vijayalakshmi, chief of the Paediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus Department and one of India's pioneer paediatric ophthalmologists, was happy to host me again. She is the founder and sole of the orthoptic training course in Aravind. Every 6 months 2 orthoptic trainees start the orthoptic course in Aravind Madurai for a duration of 6 months. They mostly have already a diploma in optometry. This time also trainees from the other Aravind Hospitals followed my classes.



All the trainees

During my stay I was teaching the residents, the fellows and the orthoptic students. I lectured every morning and evening before and after seeing the hundreds of patients.



Morning - evening lesson

In addition to the theoretical lessons, this teaching mission included a lot of practical teaching. During the day, I examined patients



with them and demonstrate valuable orthoptic examination techniques. I also explained them the value of the synoptophore and instructed them how to use it.



Synoptophore training

During the weekend the team of the Paediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus Department organised a Symposium “Orthoptics d.e.c.o.d.e.d” for local ophthalmologists, orthoptists and optometrists. The symposium was a great success with 250 attendees.



First lecture

Beside my participation with 10 presentations, the faculty consisted of Zoran Pejic, IOA orthoptist of Singapore, Matt Dunn, Phd optometrist from Wales, dr Shashikant Shetty and 3 Indian optometrist-orthoptists from North India.



All the speakers of Orthoptics d.e.c.o.d.e.d.

My IOA volunteer teaching mission to India was again a great experience for me. They learned from me and I learned from them.



Orthoptad in India

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Daisy Godts, Principal Orthoptist,

Antwerp University Hospital, Edegem,
Belgium