



Status Of Optometry In Optometric Institutions- From Beginnings To Now

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Abstract

Optometry, as a profession, has undergone significant transformations since its inception. It plays a vital role in eye care by addressing vision disorders and promoting ocular health. This study aims to provide an overview of the status of optometry in optometric institutions, tracing its journey from humble beginnings to the present day. We will explore the historical development of optometry, its growth and recognition, and the current state of optometric education and practice in India. Today, optometry is a recognized healthcare profession in India, with optometrists playing a vital role in the country's eye care delivery system. Optometry institutions offer a range of programs, from diploma to doctoral levels. This study concluded that an optometry in optometric institutions in India has been long and challenging. From humble beginnings to the present day, the profession has made significant progress.

Keywords: Optometry, Optometrists, Optometric Institutions, Optometric Education

INTRODUCTION:

Optometry, the science of vision care, has its roots in ancient civilizations. However, as a distinct profession, optometry began to take shape in the late 19th century. The first optometry school was established in the United States in 1886. In India, the first optometry institution was set up in 1958.

Early Years (1950s-1980s):

In the early years, optometry education in India was largely unorganized and lacked standardization. Optometry courses were offered as diploma programs, and the curriculum was often limited to basic optics and refraction. The profession struggled to gain recognition, and optometrists were often seen as more "spectacle sellers."

Growth and Recognition (1990s-2000s):

The 1990s saw a significant shift in the status of optometry in India. This period also saw the establishment of several optometry institutions across the country.

Current Status (2010s-Present):

Today, optometry is a recognized healthcare profession in India, with optometrists playing a vital role in the country's eye care delivery system. Optometry institutions offer a range of programs, from diploma to doctoral levels. The curriculum has expanded to include advanced topics such as low vision, pediatric optometry, and sports vision.

This study aims to provide an overview of the status of optometry in optometric institutions, tracing its journey from humble beginnings to the present day. We will explore the historical development of optometry, its growth and recognition, and the current state of optometric education and practice in India.

MATERIAL & METHODS

Study area:-

Optometry Institutions and college of India

Study population:-

Optometrist and Optometric Institutions of India

Inclusion criteria:-

- Leading Optometry Institutions will be included.
- Institutions of Optometry having latest technology will be included.
- Faculty Optometrist of the listed institutions will be included.



Exclusion criteria:-

- Institution and Optometrist who are not willing to share information were excluded.

Study design:-

This was Qualitative Descriptive time bound Study.

Time frame:-

The study period of this study was one year.

Data collection

Information has taken by physical visit from the following institution of India

Name Of Institutes	Place
School of Optometry, Gandhi Eye Hospital	Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh
School of Optometry, Sarojini Devi Eye Hospital	Hyderabad, Telangana
School of Optometry, Sitapur Eye Hospital	Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh
School of Optometry (Regional Institute Of Ophthalmology)	Chennai, Tamil Nadu
Elite School of Optometry Shankra Academy	Chennai, Tamil Nadu
Arvind Eye Hospital	Mudrai, Tamil Nadu
LV Prasad Eye Institute	Hyderabad, Telangana

Statistical analysis:-

- All statistical analysis was performed in SPSS and Microsoft excel software.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

The findings of physical visit to the seven institute of India indicates many challenges in Optometry Education in India.

Despite advancements, optometry education in India faces several challenges:

Historical Development of Optometry (1950s-1980s)

56% of respondents reported that optometry education in India began in the 1950s.

71% stated that the first optometry institution in India was established in 1958.

81% agreed that optometry was initially seen as a technical profession rather than a healthcare profession.

Growth and Recognition (1990s-2000s)

85% of respondents reported that the Indian Optometric Association, Indian Optometry Federation and Optometry Council of India (OCI) were working towards the Growth and Recognition of profession.

Current Status (2010s-2020s)

95% of respondents reported that optometry is now recognized as a healthcare profession in India.

88% stated that optometry institutions in India offer a range of programs, from diploma to doctoral levels.

92% agreed that the curriculum has expanded to include advanced topics such as low vision, pediatric optometry, and sports vision.

Perceptions of Optometry as a Profession

95% of respondents reported that optometry is a respected profession in India.

88% stated that optometry offers good career prospects and job satisfaction.

92% agreed that optometry is an essential component of the healthcare system in India.

Conclusion:

The journey of optometry in optometric institutions in India has been long and challenging. From humble beginnings to the present day, the profession has made significant progress. However, there is still much work to be done to overcome the challenges and capitalize on the opportunities. As we move forward, it is essential that we continue to promote awareness, advocate for recognition, and strive for excellence in optometric education and practice.

Recommendations:

Establish more optometry institutions and programs to meet the growing demand for eye care services. Develop and implement standardized curricula and competency-based education. Promote awareness about



the role of optometrists and the importance of eye health among the general public. Encourage collaboration and integration with other healthcare professionals to enhance patient care and outcomes.

Challenges and Opportunities:

Despite significant progress, optometry in India still faces several challenges. These include:

Limited awareness about the role of optometrists among the general public

Inadequate infrastructure and resources in some optometry institutions

Limited job opportunities and career advancement prospects for optometrists

However, there are also several opportunities for growth and development. These include:

Increasing demand for eye care services due to the growing population and rising incidence of eye disease

Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and tele-optometry, which can enhance the scope and reach of optometric practice

Growing recognition of optometry as a vital component of the healthcare system, leading to increased collaboration and integration with other healthcare professionals. Development in optometry to stay abreast of emerging technologies and advancements.

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