

VISIT REPORT OF THE DHQ HOSPITAL ALPURI, SHANGLA.

Background:

Eye Department of DHQ Hospital Alpuri, Shangla was upgraded under the National Program for Prevention and Control of Blindness (NP for PCB) in the FY 2005-06. Eye Equipment worth millions of rupees was provided to the hospital under the said program.

The DHQH Alpuri, Shangla was visited by Provincial Coordinator, National Program for Prevention and Control of Blindness/Dean PICO accompanied by his Program Officer on Saturday 26th of April, 2014 to see the latest status of the eye unit of the hospital and also finalize the arrangements for free surgical eye camp scheduled on 11th-15th May, 2014 under the NP for PCB.

Findings of the Visit:

i) **Infrastructure:** The hospital is located near the road side adjacent to Deputy Commissioner Shangla Office. The hospital has got a good building and physical infrastructure. It has a dedicated Eye OPD and shared OT.

ii) **Equipment:** The hospital has been provided with the standard equipment allocated for a DHQ Hospital including Operating Microscope, YAG & Organ Lasers, Autoclave, A-Scan, Ophthalmoscope, Retinoscope and surgical instruments (**List attached**). It was unfortunate to see that almost all of the eye equipment was lying in a dilapidated form unutilized due to absence of the Eye Specialist. Presently, only one Ophthalmic Technician was working in the hospital. No details of functional Eye OPD or OT were noted during the visit. The equipment required for OT and the infrastructure for OT was however checked for the purpose of upcoming Eye Camp of PICO. Other details of the camp were discussed with Dr. Abdul Jabbar, DMS of the Hospital, who facilitated the visit.

iii) **Human Resource:-** There was one Ophthalmic Technician and an Ophthalmic Nurse working in the hospital. The post of a District Ophthalmologist is sanctioned but lying vacant.

iv) **Meeting with Deputy Commissioner Shangla:-** After inspection of the hospital, Dean PICO had a brief meeting with the Deputy Commissioner Shangla in view of the

Health Department's directions to the District Administration to facilitate the PICO Team for the surgical eye camp. The Deputy Commissioner welcomed the PICO Team and said that he already has had a meeting with the District Health Officer Shangla in this regard. He further added that some of the Local NGOs have also been directed to aware the public through publishing of banners about the camp. He also directed the Assistant Commissioner to make arrangements of accomodation for the PICO Team coming for the camp and also provide any other support required for smooth fuctioning of the camp. Dean PICO thanked the Deputy Commissioner for his support.

Recommendations:-

i) Since, the hospital has been provided with very expensive eye equipment worth millions of rupees, PICO therefore recommends to the Govt. to fill up the vacant post of District Ophthalmologist at the hospital to utilize the same for the benefit of public or PICO may be allowed to re-assess the utilization of the eye equipment lying there unutilized and prepare a proposal for relocation of the equipment to another hospital in need in the best public interest.

ii) PICO suggests that till the arrangement of a permanent eye specialist at the hospital, Dr. Akbar Shah, Ophthalmologist, who belongs to District Shanlga and is presently working as Registrar in Saidu Group of Teaching Hospital, Swat, his duties may be arranged for two days at DHQH Shangla to operationalize the eye unit of the hospital.