

Sankara eye care institutions lauded for service to the poor



Swami Dayananda Saraswati of Arsha Vidya Gurukulam conferring 'Netra Neta' title on founder and managing trustee of Sankara Eye Care Institutions R.V. Ramani (third from right) in Coimbatore on Saturday.— Photo: K. Ananthan

Till March, Shanthi, 35, a resident of a Ponnammappettai village in Salem district, would scarcely have considered herself lucky. For, the tough task she had of running a handloom to support her differently abled husband and three children was made all the more difficult by an eye problem.

Coming from the economically weaker section, she was unable to get treatment for her eyes. That is until she was spotted by the Sankara Eye Care Institutions.

Now she considers herself not only to be one among a million but also be the lucky one as she was the millionth beneficiary of "Gift of Vision" programme under which

the Sankara institutions perform free surgery for rural poor patients.

She had a place of honour at the felicitation function held here on Sunday for the Sankara Eye Care Institutions by the Coimbatore Citizens Council, a group of 34 social and industrial organisations.

During the occasion, Swami Dayananda Saraswati honoured R.V. Ramani, the Founder and Managing Trustee of the Sankara Eye Care Institutions and S.V. Balasubramaniam, chairman of the trust. Dr. Ramani was also conferred an honorary title of 'Netra Neta.'

Speakers on the occasion lauded the foundation for the work done so far and its objective of reaching a million rural poor people every year by establishing hospitals across the country.

Among those who felicitated the trust include Rajvardhan Azad, Director, R.P. Centre, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi and President of Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology, B.K. Krishnaraj Vanavarayar, Chairman, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Coimbatore Kendra, R.R. Balasundaram, president, Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and M.Krishnan, Chairman and Managing Director of Sri Krishna Sweets.

*Millionth beneficiary of
"Gift of Vision" programme honoured*