

**“It is not the strongest of species that survived, nor the most intelligent, but the ones most responsive to change”**

**-Charles Darwin**



The above words of wisdom and worldly fact is befitting for the world of ophthalmology and the people involved in revolutionizing working and treatment methods since Ophthalmology has been a very dynamically developing branch.

I am grateful to be able to interact with all the exceptional professionals through this medium and I wish to share some of my thoughts with all of you. Members of our society have made a lot of progress in clinical and academic fields in the regional, national, and international scene. But reality is that much more progress is necessary to remain at par with the contemporary world of ophthalmology.

The recent mushrooming of private medical colleges is encouraging but also worrisome in context of the commercial viewpoint and substandard services both in terms of teaching and treatment. The ophthalmology branch being a high-tech branch requiring regular upgradations. The department is mostly under equipped. hence the central medical governing bodies should adopt a stricter approach before granting permission to such institutions.

The covid 19 pandemic has severely burdened health services to the patients but more so patients with ophthalmic diseases requiring regular follow up and evaluation and it was highly unfortunate that many patients turned blind due to unavailability of access to ophthalmic services.

It should be of utmost importance on the part of our ruling government to prioritize and actively promote sanctioning of economic, infrastructural, and human resources for purpose of establishment of eye care facilities for preventable blindness specially eye banking and corneal transplantation, so that the incidence of preventable blindness can be reduced in our country.

Another major concern is the increment of diabetes worldwide and in our own country. International diabetes federation report 2017 estimated 425 million diabetics in the world which is expected to increase to 629 million by the year of 2045. And every fifth diabetic will be Indian making India diabetic capital of world. As per National diabetes and Diabetic Retinopathy survey 2015-2019 among population aged  $\geq 50$  years, Prevalence of diabetic retinopathy (DR) among diabetics is 16.9%, diabetic maculopathy 7.0%, sight threatening DR 3.6%. Given these alarming rates it should be a major concern for the policy makers of our country to propose diabetic control measures, easy access to medications and ophthalmic fundus screening for early detection and laser for treatment of diabetic retinopathies.

Key issues of present day are reaching out to our young friends, familiarizing with the amazing, advanced technology and unprecedented explosion of information and knowledge. And our society must keep ourselves updated with this world of evolving health care facilities.

Wishing you all a fruitful reading experience.

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