

MADRAS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

PG DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK – (DISABILITY AND EMPOWERMENT)

Report on

“Observance of World Sight Day”

Date: 12th October, 2022

Every eye donation can help about approximately 4 people. Blindness is a global issue, and a large population being affected with the same awareness and delivering knowledge about the same can help to restore people’s vision. With the spread of previously available stigmas and stereotypes regarding eye donation, the need to spread facts and information about the same is essential. The program is based on Celebrating World Sight Day which is observed on 11.10.2022. The program was about spreading awareness about eye donation and its significance through an interactive and engaging session with the group of students specialising in the field of disability and to motivate them to further act as a mediator.

Fathima and Tanya, Students of MSW Disability and Empowerment along with their fieldwork agency NAB (National Association for the Blind) organised an Interactive Awareness Program on eye donation to observe world sight day.

The Resource person, Dr Shruti Nishanth is the executive director of paediatric ophthalmologists skin specialist and neuro ophthalmology and joint editor Tamil Nadu ophthalmology association 2020 to 2022. She has a special interest in rehabilitation of children with visual and multiple disabilities. She explained about the current status of visually challenged people in the country and the various factors and challenges that they go through. She explained the statistics that showed the gap between the number of donors and visually impaired people.

Followed by which a small activity was demonstrated by the resource person where each student had to close each one of the eye one at a time, and so on to help the students understand the various challenges people with blindness and visual impairment go through.

In addition to the previous activity, a volunteer was asked to walk with one eye closed in a straight line to show the several hurdles faced by people with visual impairment and blindness. She then further explained about the concept of eye donation and how it can help others. She explained the procedures done for an eye donation. The parts of the eye, its uses and importance was also shared.

The session was followed with a demonstration on video which shared the insights of what a visually impaired or blind person goes through and how they long for a donor. To make the session interactive, the question and answer session was facilitated.

The session was followed with Interested students and teachers volunteering to register for eye donation.