



W I L L J I N I

# EYE DONATION & EYE BANKING IN INDIA

# WHAT IS EYE DONATION ?

Eye donation is considered one of the most noble acts of humanity by helping to provide vision to the blind.

The whole eye is not used for transplant. Only a thin transparent layer called the cornea is used. It can be compared to the outer lens of a camera.

# WHY EYE DONATION ?

There are approximately 2-2.5 million corneally blind citizens in India out of which 50% are children below 12 years of age.

Millions die each year but only about 20,000 were generous enough last year to donate their eyes after death.

# WHO CAN BE AN EYE DONOR ?

Anyone can be an eye donor irrespective of age, sex or blood group.

However, persons suffering from AIDS, Jaundice, Rabies, Syphilis, Tetanus and Septicaemia are considered unfit for donation.

# PROCEDURE

It's simpler than you think!

A timely phone call to the nearest eye bank after collecting the death certificate is enough.

In many cities in India including Mumbai, there is a centralized Help Line No. 1919 available round the clock for eye donation.

# PROCEDURE

After death, the eyes need to be removed as soon as possible i.e. not more than 4 to 6 hours.

It is not necessary to transport the donor to the hospital after death. The eye banks have personnel who will come to the donor's home. The procedure takes not more than 30 mins.

# MYTHS AND MISCONCEPTIONS

**1. Cataracts or use of spectacles render the corneas unfit?**

**Ans.** No, both these conditions relate to the lens of the eye and not the cornea.

**2. Eye donation disfigures the donor's face?**

**Ans.** There is neither any disfigurement nor any interference with the customary funeral arrangements.

# FURTHER DETAILS

For the list of eye donation centres /eye banks  
in other cities, you may visit :

<http://www.myeyeworld.com/files/eyebanks.htm>

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[www.ebai.org](http://www.ebai.org)

[www.eyebankcrc.com](http://www.eyebankcrc.com)