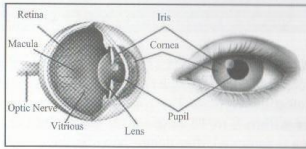


and sign an eye donation pledge card available at Nepal Eye Bank, Tilganga Eye Center with two witnesses from your family or friends.

Corneas can be donated even if it is not pledged. The closest kin/relative of deceased can give consent to the Eye Bank Staffs to excise corneas. Eye bank staffs can be contacted any time. This process is facilitated by Eye Donation Counselors and Eye Bank Technician who stay in different hospitals.



*"Give my sight to a man who has never seen a sun rise, a baby's face or love in the eyes of a woman"*

-Robert N. Test

We welcome your enquiries about the  
Nepal Eye Bank

Please Call:

## Nepal Eye Bank

Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology

G. P. O. Box: 561

Tel: 977-1-4493684, 4493775

Mobile: 98510-20933, 9851146825

9851146826, 9851146827

Fax: 977-1-4474937

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Supported by



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### NEPAL EYE BANK

Nepal Eye Bank is a non-profitable community based organization working for restoring sight to the corneal blind. Once cornea develops opacification, there is no other treatment except corneal transplantation. Nepal Eye Bank was established on 16th September 1994 at Tilganga Eye Centre with the generous support of IFETB (International Federation of Eye & Tissue Banks). Currently, Nepal Eye bank is associated with SightLife U.S.A.

### AIM OF THE EYE BANK

Corneal Blindness is the second major cause of blindness after cataract in Nepal. Nepal Eye Bank is responsible for the procurement, processing, storage and distribution of donated corneas. Besides this, it also runs public awareness programs for cornea donation through Eye Donation Society, which is a group of volunteers from various social organization. Nepal eye bank keeps records of all corneal donors and pledgers. It also registers patients who are waiting for corneal transplantation. Nepal Eye Bank is working with vision and mission of eliminating corneal blindness by real time transplantation in Nepal and beyond. It is being established as a National Center for eye banking and is working with international standard quality.

### WHAT IS CORNEA ? HOW DOES CORNEAL OPACITY DEVELOP ?

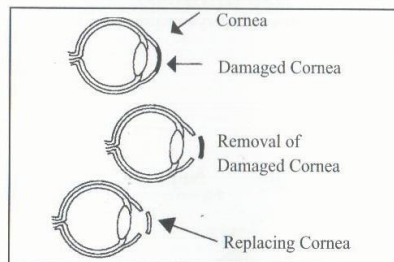
Cornea is the clear transparent layer in front of the eye. Due to various factors, cornea may become opaque like frosted glass and this may result in loss of sight.

In Nepal, most of the people live in villages and depend upon agriculture. Agricultural and other industrial

trauma to the cornea, corneal infections and lack of immediate medical treatment to corneal problems result in large number of corneal blind in developing countries like ours. Besides this, sometimes complications of diseases like measles, typhoid, small pox, malnutrition, eye surgeries etc. may cause cornea to become opaque.

### CORNEAL TRANSPLANTATION: THE TREATMENT OF CORNEAL BLINDNESS

The treatment of corneal blindness is corneal transplantation. It is the process of surgical removal of the opaque or unhealthy cornea and replacing it with healthy cornea from the donor cornea of deceased person. Later the transplanted cornea becomes a part of the recipient's eye. The rate of success of corneal transplantation is high in comparison to other organ transplantation. So, a human corneal transplant can restore sight and enable a person to regain independence.



### WHO CAN BECOME AN EYE DONOR

Most people think that to become an eye donor, they should have good vision. But the truth is that, anyone can be an eye donor even if the donor is old, wears glasses or is blind from causes other than corneal diseases. However, if a person has Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, HIV/AIDS, Syphilis or blood borne infectious diseases, s/he can't donate eyes.

### HOW LONG AFTER DEATH CAN EYES BE DONATED ?

After death, the donor eyes should be well closed and be protected from red powder (Abhir) and direct sunlight to protect the corneas. The corneas are removed from donor within 8 to 12 hours after death. Earlier the cornea is removed after death, better is the quality of cornea.

### DOES REMOVAL OF EYE DISFIGURE THE FACE OF DONOR ?

No. The Eye Bank Technologists or Doctors will treat the dead body with respect and only the cornea is removed from the eyes (NOT THE WHOLE EYE BALL). So removal of the corneas does not disfigure the appearance of the face.

### HOW DO YOU DONATE YOUR EYES AFTER PASSING AWAY ?

It is better to discuss about eye donation with your family and friends. Donating corneal tissue does not entail any cost to the donor or the donor's family. If you decide to become an eye donor, please complete