

Q&A session with Professor Santanam

1. Do you think that advancements in the field of optometry are indispensable to advancements in ophthalmology?

Yes, very much. I think optometry and ophthalmology are as inseparable as a word and its meaning. Total care of the eye and Vision go hand in hand, in tandem and in sequence. If optometry is the work up, ophthalmology is the treatment, if ophthalmology looks into the structural aspects, optometry is concerned with the functional aspects, if ophthalmology provides eye care, optometry provides vision care. In view of the shortage of ophthalmologists in India some of the basic functions of an ophthalmologist can in fact be done with perfection by trained optometrists, which would leave them free to handle more complex tasks relating to the eye.

2. Have advancements in optometry kept pace with advancements in ophthalmology?

Yes in many parts of the world but not yet in India because of lack of awareness and lack of trained educators who could create such awareness.

3. Is optometry in India on par with the advanced nations?

No, primarily because of lack of facilities for doing research and studies in optometry

4. What has been the contribution of the Elite School Optometry (ESO) to the field of optometry?

The very concept of optometry is the brainchild of Dr SS.Badrinath. Although it did not receive much encouragement, he stood by his conviction and started the ESO with the help of great men like Professor Jay M. Enoch, of the Berkley School of Optometry and Professor SR.Govindaraj. The Elite School of Optometry continues to be the breath and forerunner in optometry education in India and has been selected by the prestigious Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS) as a partner in its off campus collaborative program.

5. Do you think the ESO has come a long way since its inception?

Yes, undoubtedly. It has evolved to offering post graduate, M Phil and PhD courses, has great research abilities, committed community participation, conducts camps, is socially accountable and offers wonderful clinical service and most importantly it lays emphasis not only on creating good optometrists but great citizens