

clefttosmile

# Mission Smile





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## Mission Smile

Mission Smile (formerly Operation Smile India) is an NGO dedicated to provide free life-changing surgeries to children born with cleft lip, cleft palate and other facial deformities. Mission Smile conducted its first medical mission in India at Manipal, Karnataka in 2002. It was registered as a Charitable trust in New Delhi in 2003. Till today we have provided free physical examinations to more than 36,000 children and adults suffering from cleft afflicted deformity and more than 24,000 individuals have received life-changing surgery.

Kolkata Mission May, 2015



3 children every hour  
in India are born with cleft  
- Indian Journal of Plastic  
Surgery

## Quick facts

- It is estimated that 1 in 700 children in India is born with a cleft lip/palate or other facial deformity (Survey by Indian health ministry in 2010 - The approximate incidence of cleft lip and palate is 1.4 per 1,000 live births in India) But more recent studies put the number at 1 in every 500 births - Journal of Indian Society of Periodontics and Preventive Dentistry 2012 vol. 30 issue 3.
- There is an existing backlog of 1 million untreated children and adults in India alone. (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2825065/>)
- Though the minimum contribution for basic corrective surgery is around \$400 (@Rs 60, Rs 24,000), however the holistic nature of our care involving Post Operative Care, Speech Therapy, Dentistry, Orthodontics, Nutrition escalates the cost per surgery higher.
- Some of the partners/donors of Mission Smile are - Govt. of Assam, Govts. of Meghalaya & Tripura, NHM Assam, Sir Dorabji Tata Trust and Allied Trusts, Johnson & Johnson, Muthoot Pappachan Foundation, Boeing, GMS, Singh and Associates, Jindal Steel & Power, BUPA, Abbott India Ltd., UPS Foundation, Numaligarh Refineries, NHPC, GMS, NEEPCO, Phoenix Lamps, ONGC, Abbott, Quasar Growth Group, Apeejay Trust, J Thomas & Co. Ltd., APPL Foundation, India Power Ltd.
- Over 1200 volunteers from 36+ countries have participated in our missions.
- A dedicated Mission Smile Comprehensive Cleft Care Centre in Guwahati was established in 2011 which has completed more than 14000 surgeries in Assam & neighboring states.



### Mission:

A Cleft Free India

### Vision:

Compassionate Comprehensive  
Cleft Care

### Values:

Our delivery is based on the values of  
equality, dignity and empowerment



Our surgeons performing surgeries at GC4



Kottayam Mission, 2015

### Mission Smile - Smile Delivery Model

**Outreach Centers:**  
These are the centres run in partnership with local hospitals, with Mission Smile Credentialed surgeons and experts, with approved equipment and infrastructure: Mission Smile has 10 outreach centres in Aurungabad, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Jaipur, Kolkata(2), Kottayam, Patna, Siliguri & Gurgaon.

**Medical Missions:**  
Missions are the primary mode of intervention and though they are short term, they are effective as large numbers of patients are given medical assessments and receive surgeries in a particular mission. A location is chosen and volunteers from India and abroad spend 10 days making it possible to conduct medical evaluations and surgeries, followed by a post-op check-up. Till date Mission Smile has conducted 70 missions in India.

**Dedicated Comprehensive Cleft Care Centre:**  
The Dedicated Comprehensive Cleft Care Centre is the model that Mission Smile would like to replicate. A private public partnership with Govt. of Assam, Guwahati Comprehensive Cleft Care Centre includes post operative care, counselling, hearing and speech therapy, dentistry orthodontics, nutrition besides having an ongoing program on medical training and education.

**Training:**  
Training is the cornerstone of Mission Smile. It ensures that every patient receives the same global standards of care every time they reach us. All team members (medical and non-medical) attend regular training workshops and have opportunities to interact with other professionals from their specialty to ensure optimal patient care. Two fellowship programs for Plastic Surgeons / Maxillo - facial Surgeons are conducted at GC4. These are of one month and four months duration. A cleft Anesthesia training program has also been started recently.  
The Guwahati Center is equipped with video teleconferencing equipment to conduct remote training, specialty education and academic interaction with local and international facility. Most of the nurses at Mahendra Mohan Choudhuri Hospital (MMCH), Guwahati have been trained to minimum BLS level.



## Unique highlights of the past 10 years

- In May, 2015 we successfully completed our Corporate Kolkata Mission to bring smiles to 106 children. It was supported by organizations like Quasar Growth Group, APPL Foundation, Apeejay Trust, J.Thomas & Co., SREI and India Power Corporation.
- Recognizing the needs for Cleft surgery in Northern India, Mission Smile performed its first medical mission in Delhi NCR on March, 2015 with the help of donors like Phoenix Lamps we have been able to provide smile to 45 children and adults in and around Delhi NCR.
- Mission Smile inaugurated its first outreach center in Delhi NCR at Fortis Hospital Gurgaon on 19th Feb, 2015.
- Mission Smile's Comprehensive Cleft Care include - Surgery, Pediatrics, ENT, Dental, Speech Therapy, Child Life, Nutrition & Specialized training and education for international and domestic surgeons, anesthetist, pediatricians, nursing staff, students & volunteers.
- Our missions have been attended by 1200+ volunteers from 36+ countries over the past 10 years - Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Belgium, China, Canada, Columbia, Denmark, Egypt, Ecuador, Honduras, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Nepal, Nicaragua, Peru, Philippines, Paraguay, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, Spain, Singapore, United States of America, United Kingdom, Kenya, Japan, France, Vietnam, Uzbekistan, Indonesia, Bangladesh, UAE, Thailand and around 750 volunteers from India.

## The Dedicated Comprehensive Cleft Care Center in Guwahati, Assam (GC4)

- The Dedicated Comprehensive Cleft Care Center in Guwahati, Assam is the result of a unique Public-Private Partnership between Mission Smile, the Government of Assam, the National Health Mission (NHM) and is supported by the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust and Allied Trusts also a major grant from Bupa International. On May 9th, 2011 the first surgery took place at the Comprehensive Cleft Care. Since then more than 14,000 patients from Assam and neighboring states have been treated at the Center & has provided 25,000 free medical assessment.
- In addition to being a center for Comprehensive Cleft Care, the Guwahati Center is also emerging as a Center of Excellence in Education and Training for healthcare professionals & Research and Development Studies.
- During a visit to the facilities in January 2012 the Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad stated that the Mission Smile's GC4 model in Assam in the future of Cleft Care Delivery for the country.

## Future Focus

- Replicate the Assam, Meghalaya & Tripura model in rest of the India where we get support from state Govts.
- Make 'Cleft Free India' included in the National Health Agenda.
- Secure Support through State Health Government and NHM.
- Infrastructure to set up Comprehensive cleft care centers in existing hospitals and support to more hospitals to provide cleft care surgeries.