

## **Abstract on Grameen Health Care Services**

Professor Muhammad Yunus, founder of the Grameen Bank established Grameen Health Care Services (GHS) in 2006. Its formation came through the joint effort of some of the Grameen Companies. GHS's mission is to provide quality healthcare services at affordable costs to the people especially to the low-income group in Bangladesh.

Cataract is major cause of blindness where a simple operation helps in restoration of the eyesight. Therefore, GHS is working for establishment of several eye hospitals as a social business and replicating the same model of its first eye Hospital at Bogra, Grameen Green Children (GC) Eye Hospital. Green Children Foundation of United States provided financial support whereas Arabinda Eye Hospital, India provided technical support to both the Hospitals. Currently GHS has constructed the building of its second hospital in Barisal and started its operation. Thakurgaon and Shathkhira would be next locations for the subsequent chain Hospitals.

The two-storied hospital building at Betgari, Banani, Bogra has capacity to accommodate 40 clients with the provision of expansion into a four-storied building that would accommodate 100 beds in future. Since inception to April, 08 Grameen G.C. Eye Hospital, Bogra has provided services to 10,176 patients. Another 3,644 patients have been treated without charge in the weekly eye camps organized in different villages of Bogra. Commencing on December '07, the hospital has successfully operated 366 cataract patients of these 144 poor, paid no charges.

Increased access to the Cataract operation with implantation of Intra-ocular-Lens (IOL) would prevent the premature blindness, hence the poverty.