

One-year-old blind boy can now see the world

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bangalore: Baby Dhruva Kumar was born blind one year ago. His unemployed parents, who hail from Mandya, have never seen the world to date.

But thanks to a surgery conducted on Friday at the Narayana Nethralaya, Dhruva's blind parents will see the world through the eyes of their son.

On Saturday, doctors who operated on Dhruva for a congenital cataract condition, realised Dhruva had started seeing.

"The child came to us with an inability to see anything since birth. His parents were blind since birth. Cataract in both eyes was seen as cause for his blindness," says Dr Bhujang Shetty, director of Narayana Nethralaya.

Dhruva's parents Anjaneya Reddy and Renuka are overjoyed that their son can see. According to paediatric eye surgeon Dr Arun Sam-

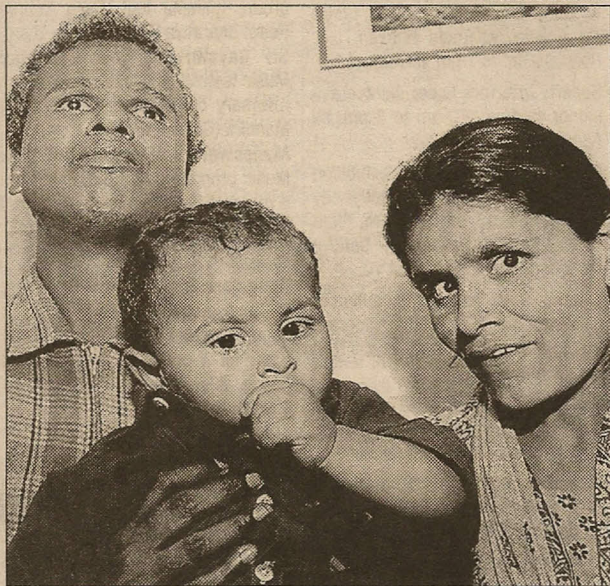
prathi, who performed the surgery, Dhruva's mother has a condition similar to that of her son, but has advanced beyond the stage of correction.

"This is a rare surgery case for us since both parents are blind and the child was blind as well. The key to curing congenital cataract is early surgery," says Dr Samprathi. A special technique to prevent the recurrence of the cataract — as seen in nearly 10 per cent children, has been used, he said.

On Saturday, a day after his surgery, Dhruva was reaching out for objects, a sure sign that he is seeing the world for the first time. As he grows, the child will need spectacles to see clearly, the doctor said.

The surgery was done free of cost by the hospital since Dhruva's father — who has learnt Carnatic music to earn a living — could not afford it.

Robert Maria Clement



One-year-old Dhruv Kumar, born blind due to congenital cataract, had his vision restored following a surgery at the Narayana Nethralaya in Bangalore on Friday. Both his parents are visually-impaired.