



Low Vision Aid - An Emotional Necessity

AVIJIT DAS

Optometrist & Low Vision Specialist

Low Vision is partial loss of sight which can not be corrected by any kind of medicine, surgery or traditional visual aids. Low vision can occur because of several reasons. Some of them are retinopathy of prematurity, diabetic retinopathy, ARMD, retinitis pigmentosa, cataract and so on..The loss of vision is so profound that it affects the daily routine activities of the individual. The individual loses his or her independence and become dependent on the family members to carry out his or her day to day work..

Some of the problems caused by Low Vision are

1. Loss of Central Vision
2. Loss of peripheral vision.
3. Glare
4. Overall blur
5. Poor night vision

The subject might seek the help of his family member to read the newspaper for him. He might need to request somebody to take him to across the room. He might bump onto the furniture of the house while moving around. His or her grandson might be seen narrating the story of the TV serial .She might not be able to thread the needle to fix up the button in her husband's shirt. That's how the individual can not express his or her emotions to his or her some one.

This does not mean that these individual should be put into the category of blind. In fact it is not so .Only thing is that they have some vision which is not completely utilized. The traditional spectacle ,contact lenses or medicine or surgery are not good enough to use their residual vision. They need to be attended by specialist who are specially trained to utilize their residual vision. These specially trained are known as Low Vision Specialist who examines

their eyes, assess the amount of residual vision and finds out the suitable gadget and train them about the use of those gadgets. These gadgets may be grouped into two category-

Optical Aids, and Non Optical Aids.

- ❖ Optical aids are magnifiers, telemicroscopes, telescopes etc.
- ❖ Non-optical aids are add onto those optical aids which are visors, foldable canes, torch lights etc.

Besides there are certain Hi-Tech aids like CCTV, Low vision softwares which makes their life easy.

The patient's eyes are examined and various types of magnifiers, optical and non optical aids are tried which helps magnifying the objects of interest. When targets are magnified, their image covers more retinal areas, which may have more responsive visual receptors. Thus, the patient is assisted to use his or her remaining vision. Unlike other eye examination, the low vision examination takes more time and hours of hard work. The patient has to be motivated to take the responsibility for whatever may be asked to get the maximum improvement. In fact it is the beginning of a life long process that will continue for the rest of patient's life.

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