

Folding Phoropter

By Sunderarajan Padmanabhan

New Delhi, April 09: This is a novel device developed at the DBT supported Srujana Center for Innovation, L V Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad for screening for refractive errors in low resource areas. It is a simple device made using origami, is extremely low cost (less than 1.5 U.S. \$), easy to assemble and open- source. The device has been calibrated on the most commonly observed refractive error ranges. It is being used in rural centres and can replace high-end equipment in eye hospitals. The device has reached around 18 countries. The traditional practice of screening for refractive error in the rural areas, generally involves a volunteer doing a visual acuity test using an eye chart. This practice however has two aspects which the Folding Phoropter (FoFo) has tried to change.

1. Need of an expert to do the eye screening: To use an eye chart the volunteer has to be trained while FoFo can be used by anybody with almost no training.
2. An Eye chart is a "test": When the patient is asked to read the eye chart it is like an examination/test, on the other hand FoFo helps the user "realize" a clear image while using the device.



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