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Doctor's vision to help the needy is rewarded

ONE of Inverclyde's best known doctors has received a prestigious award for his charity work.

Consultant eye surgeon Sadhu Gupta from Greenock won the 'Best in Medical' section at the British Indian Awards in Birmingham. The event, which attracted more than 400 guests, celebrates the contribution made in the field abroad by British men and women of Indian heritage.

Gupta, 68, who spent most of his career at the Inverclyde Royal in Greenock, rose from obscurity in the back streets of Delhi to become an internationally-renowned surgeon.

He won the award in recognition of his voluntary work among the world's poorest people. During the past 20 years he has used his spare time to establish eye camps in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Ethiopia. At these camps, often in the most inhospitable locations, he and a small team have performed eye surgery on some of the world's most impoverished people.

It is conservatively estimated that, thanks to his efforts, nearly 3,000 people have had their eyes restored.

Gupta's most recent eye camp was in India last year. It was the 15th since he started his overseas missions in 1985.

He heads a team of specialists performing operations which enable people to have their eyes replaced so that they can go back to work and look after themselves, instead of having to be supported by their families.

Gupta paid tribute to the many Inverclyde residents who help to pay for the trips.

He said: "The visits wouldn't be possible without the generosity of many people, including a large number of the patients who have been helped on previous missions, my former patients at IRH and members of Greenock and Gourrock Rotary Club."

"It gives us a great deal of satisfaction to help people. They are very grateful for what we do for them."

Gupta plans to take his eye camp to Kenya this year and said anyone who would like to help could do so by donating to the 'Drishti Eye Camp Project' at the Royal Bank of Scotland.



Award winner
Consultant eye surgeon Sadhu Gupta at an overseas clinic and, inset, with his well deserved award.