

ABSTRACT

Prevalence of amblyopia in school population

Dr. Tayyab Afghani, M.B;B.S. MCPS, MS, DCEH (London), FIACLE (Australia)

Purpose of study: To measure prevalence of avoidable visual impairment in school children.

Design and Setting: Retrospective analysis of school screening carried out in Rawalpindi District

Main outcome measures: Proportion of children with amblyopia.

Results: 518,648 children were screened over a period of 4 years in Rawalpindi District. Trained teachers carried out the primary screening while our clinical medical officers carried out further examination of screened children. 35% of children had some sort of ocular symptoms. 6% of children had significant visual problems to warrant further management. Amblyopia was found in 0.43% of children.

Conclusion: School screening with assistance from teachers is a cost-effective measure for prevention of visual impairment in children. Al-Shifa Journal of Ophthalmology 2005; 1(2): 74-82 © Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital, Rawalpindi, Pakistan.