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**Original article:**

**A study on ocular morbidity and its associates among Madrasah students of Kolkata**

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**Abstract:**

**Introduction:** Avoiding preventable blindness is a major challenge of Vision 2020. Most ocular morbidities develop during school going period, allowing them to be detected best by school screening programs. Students of madrasah usually belong to the underprivileged section of the community. Present study was to bring out the magnitude and patterns of ocular morbidity among madrasah children of Kolkata and to find out different socio-demographic associates of ocular morbidity.

**Material and Methods:** 1649 students, ranging from 8-17 years age randomly selected from different madrasahs in Kolkata, during the academic session 2013-14, and were interviewed (including their parents for socio-economic status) and examined for ocular morbidity, the necessary sample was selected by simple random sampling technique using computer generated random numbers from statistical package “Program for Epidemiologists (PEPI)”, version 4.0, windows compatible.

**Results:** The prevalence of ocular morbidity was found to be 12.67%, majority being refractive errors (9.40%) with myopia being the commonest (7.76%). Amblyopia and squint was observed to be 1.09% and 1.57% respectively followed by Pterygium and Chalazion, 0.12% each. Increasing age and metropolitan habitat were significantly associated with ocular morbidity.

**Conclusion:** Refractive error was the commonest ocular morbidity observed, myopia being the commonest. The importance of school eye screening should be duly recognised to protect the under privileged.

**Key words:**Ocular Morbidity, Madrasah students