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**Original article**

**Analysis of Causes of Blindness among South Indian Population**

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**Abstract:**

**Aim:**  To determine the age, sex and cause specific prevalence of blindness (3/60 or less).

**Materials and Methods:** 97 patients with vision less than 3/60 were evaluated for the cause for low vision (blindness). Examination protocol consisted of the following: demographic details, Ocular examination using Snellen’s chart, Auto refractometry, Ophthalmoscopy, Tonometry, Confrontation test.

**Results:** Of the 97 patients, 24.7% were bilaterally blind, 80.3% were above 40 years of age. Cataract (58.7%) was the leading cause of blindness followed by glaucoma (10.4%), congenital (10.3%), refractive errors (5.2%), corneal opacities (5.1%), retina and nerve pathologies (5.2%) and other causes (5.2%).

 **Conclusion:** Cataract, glaucoma, refractive errors, corneal opacities and congenital causes are the most common causes of blindness in our study in chronological order.

**Key words:** Vision 2020, Ophthalmoscopy, Tonometry, Cataract, Glaucoma, Blindness