

# Title The characteristics of the Doctor of Optometry's workforce in Saudi Arabia

Name: Lama Yousef Alsamnan
Global Eye Care , KSA

**PURPOSE**: In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qassim University (QU) and King Saud University (KSU) offers the Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) program. The first O.D.s had graduated in the year 2013. Data on the graduated O.D.s is sparse. The objectives of this study were to present an analysis of the current O.D.s workforce and to provide useful information to assist optometry institutions in formulating effective student recruitment strategies while providing insights to the impact of optometry schools within Saudi Arabia.

**METHODS**: This cross-sectional survey was conducted among the Saudi O.D.s using a structured questionnaire. Database of KSU and QU alumni was employed, and an electronic form was distributed to all O.D.s. The survey included the data on demographics, employment status and type, primary mode and location of clinical practice, and further factors affecting their career.

**RESULTS**: Ninety-nine O.D.s responded to the survey. Of these respondents, 61.6% were males, and 30.4% females. The employment rate was higher (72%) among the men compared to women (21%). Of the 99 O.D.s, 42.5% were employed in Riyadh region, 37.5% were working in Qassim region, and the rest were practicing in the other areas. Around 58% employed at the ministry hospitals while 42% were in private clinics. The O.D.s worked an average of 38 hours per week. The majority of the O.D.s (74%) in practice receive salaries between $15,500 to $31,000 per annum. The professional and job satisfaction was average among the respondents.

**CONCLUSION**: More considerable effort needs to be made to benefit more from O.D.s workforce immediately after graduation throughout the country. Employed O.D.s salary in Saudi Arabia is less compared to the developed countries. Moreover, the reason for the relatively lower professional and job satisfaction rate need to be studied and addressed.

## Biography

I have completed my Doctor of Optometry Degree from King Saud University – Collage of Applied Medical Sciences – Optometry Doctor Program by excellent grade and degree of honor in 2018. I am currently working as an Optometry doctor at Global Eye Care, Riyadh and has been serving as a researcher at King Khaled Eye Specialist Hospital, Riyadh.

**Presenting author details**
Full name: Lama Yousef Alsamnan
Contact number: +966555485313
Twitter account:@LamaAlsamnan
Linked In account: www.linkedin.com/in/lama-alsamnan-97904014a
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