

Title: Prevalence and Causes of Childhood Blindness and Visual Impairment in Quranic Boarding Schools in Al-Gazira State of Sudan

Mohamed Zoelfigar Dafalla – Hussam Optical Co. Saudi Arabia

Aim: This study aimed to determine the prevalence and causes of childhood blindness and visual impairment among Quranic boarding schools children in Al-Gazira state of Sudan.

Materials and Methods: A total of 822 children were screened, and they distributed in 8 traditional Quranic schools. The study divided into two phases, the first one was designed to detect the visually impaired children, and in the second one, the affected children were investigated deeply through inner eye, refraction, and cover test examinations.

Results: The findings indicated that the prevalence of childhood visual impairment (6/12 and worse binocularly) with the best correction was 12 (1.5%) in children of traditional Quranic boarding schools in Al-Gazira state of Sudan. The prevalence of visual impairment among children was increased with the age of children ($P \leq 0.001$). The uncorrected refractive errors was the main cause of visual impairment which represented (36%) of impaired children followed by cataract (21.5%), corneal opacities (21%), optic nerve lesion (10.7%), retinitis pigmentosa (3.6%), glaucoma (3.6%), and squint (3.6%).

Conclusion: The study concluded that the most causes of childhood visual impairment in traditional Quranic boarding schools in Al-Gazira state of Sudan were avoidable. Uncorrected refractive errors was a major cause of visual impairment among children; this pointed out the need for urgent a comprehensive childhood eye care plan to deliver eye care services for them, through cooperation between governmental, community stakeholders, and nongovernmental organization working in the prevention of childhood blindness.

Biography

Mohamed Zoelfigar Dafalla candidate for PhD in pediatric optometry from Al-Neelain University – Sudan. He is the senior optometrist, work in Hussam Optical Company in Riyadh – Saudi Arabia. This abstract is an article under preparing for issue in Sudanese Journals of Ophthalmology.

Presenting author details

Full name: **Family name** Mohamed - **First name** Zoelfigar – **Father name** : Dafalla
Contact number: 00966563485980
face book account: https://www.facebook.com/abumihad
Email: abumihad2010@gmail.com
Category: Oral presentation