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## Causes of blindness and present status among blind school children in Chittagong, Bangladesh

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A total of 59 children with blindness or severe visual impairment attending only one school for the blind was examined and details recorded using the WHO standard were collected. Children were asked with the aid of an interpreter the age at which they lost vision, whether they knew the causes of their poor vision and whether there was any relevant family history including a history of consanguinity. The total number of male and female children examined was almost equal (male 50.8%). Of the children examined (94.9%) were blind (3/60-NPL) and (5.1%) had severe visual impairment (6/24-4/60). Only (6.8%) students in blind school were having an associated disability. Among the students who participated in the study (37.3%) gave history of blindness among the family members. Parental consanguinity was identified among 32.2% of the children. All students who participated in the study, their whole globe (28.2%), cornea (9.3%), lens (16.1%), retina (35.6%), optic nerve (1.7%) and amblyopia (2.5%) were found to be the affected sites causing blind or severe visual impairment. Since birth 67.8% of the children were blind. All of the children visual acuity improved with pinhole (8.5%). The main causes of blindness were retinitis pigmentosa (19.49%), phthisis bulbi (16.95%), congenital cataract (9.32%), pseudophakia (9.32%), buphthalmos (9.932%), amblyopia (16.95%) and others (30.5%). Different ocular abnormalities were found as the reason of blindness where retinitis pigmentosa, amblyopia, congenital cataract was major causes of blindness. It was found that, the major affected ocular sites were retina and whole globe.

### Biography

Mohammad Noim Uddin has completed his BSc in Optometry in Institute of Community Ophthalmology, University of Chittagong, Bangladesh. He has worked several research studies in remote areas like hill tracts, offshore island, slum area, fishing community, etc. He started his working career at Institute of Autism and Child Development Center in Chattagram Maa-O-Shishu Hospital. Currently he is working in Rohingya camp, Cox Bazar, Bangladesh for providing eye care service which is one of the largest humanitarian crises in the world.

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