

Ocular health status of rohingya refugee children within (9-16) years at Ukhia, Cox's bazar

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to find out ocular health condition among 'Rohingya' FDMN (Forcedly Displaced Myanmar Nationals) considerably children within (9-16) years of age. Since the physical & visual health status of 'Rohingya' children was reportedly poor, so it was a necessity to collect dependable data through epidemiological surveillance & take necessary actions on that basis. It was a cross sectional prospective community-based study. This study was conducted at different children friendly spaces & learning centers. Total 274 respondents were enrolled. Ocular examinations were conducted by combined effort of Ophthalmologists and Optometrists to determine ocular & visual health status of 'Rohingya' children within 9-16 years of age. Demographic information was collected by local guide or representative. Among 274 study subjects, 64% of the sampled children were male & 36% were female. Majority of respondents (94%) belongs to the age group of 9 to 12 years. Mean age was 10.28 ± 0.69 . There were 29.20% ocular abnormalities among the respondents. In this study, the highest ocular morbidity was Allergic Conjunctivitis (36.0%) & Refractive Error (12.0%). Other mentionable ocular morbidities were Blepharitis (10.0%), Bacterial Conjunctivitis (8.0%), Strabismus (5.0%), Convergence insufficiency (3.0%), Cataract (2.0%), corneal scar (2.0%) and other ocular disease followed by conjunctival xerosis, dermoid, adherent leucoma, dry eye, polycoria, lime burn, etc. were present about (22%). Among 274 respondents, only 8% received eye care services & majority of them received well standard eye care service in Bangladesh. Only 12% had vitamin A capsule which was provided by Ministry of health & family welfare, Bangladesh. Ocular morbidity was higher in rate among the 'Rohingya' children in different refugee settlement camps at Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. So, it is important to raise awareness about the necessity to maintain hygiene also access to eye care services. Otherwise, different ocular disease might lead them to visual impairment. Timely intervention through proper eye care services might reduce the morbidity rate of 'Rohingya' children..

Biography:

Khaled Al Raquib has completed his B.Sc in Optometry & Vision Science under faculty of medicine, University of Chittagong. He is the current president of Rotaract Club of Chittagong Green City. He has published more than 3 articles & currently serving as an optometrist at Chittagong Eye Infirmary & Training Centre, Bangladesh.

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