

EYE HEALTH CHECKUP AND CBC SCREENING FOR ORPHANED CHILDREN

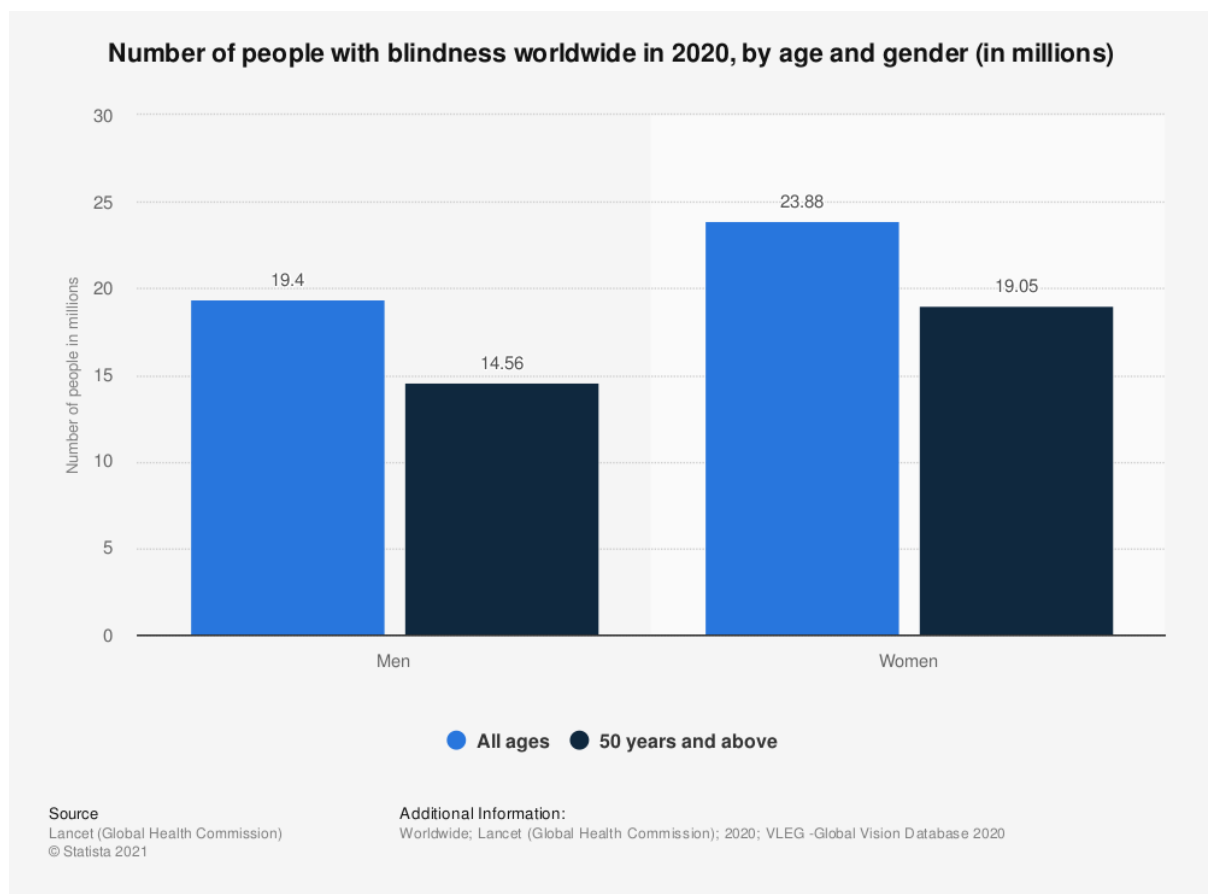


Blindness in children leads to deep impact on psychological, emotional, and socioeconomic growth to the family. A child with blindness is more likely to have delays in developmental milestones, to be more frequently hospitalized, and die during childhood than a sighted child. Such severe vision loss also adversely affects the educational activities, orientation, and mobility from the early stage of life resulting in lack of employment privilege. These differential characteristics between a sighted and non-sighted child is more obvious in developing countries.

Childhood blindness (CHB) is a public health concern across the world. Global estimates on childhood blindness show that there are around 1.42 million and 17.52 million children suffering from blindness and moderate to severe visual impairment, respectively. Almost three quarters of these live in low–middle income countries where the prevalence is reported to be as high as 1.5 per 1000 children in contrast to high-income countries where the prevalence is 0.3 per 1000.

Globally, at least 1 billion people have a near or distance vision impairment that is preventable or is yet to be addressed, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). According to the WHO, 3 out of 4 visually impaired people in the world are avoidably so.

"India is home to a third of the world's blind population. The country has around 12 million individuals with visual impairment as against the global total of 39 million, according to a report published by the National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB). However, when it comes to accessible education, healthcare and employment, people with visual impairment are cut off," RN Mohanty, the CEO of Sight savers India, told ABP Live.



As the prevalence of blindness in children is relatively lower than that in adults, a larger sample size of children is required to provide accurate data on the prevalence and causes of childhood blindness. Hence, population-based surveys on childhood blindness are few. The current prevalence of blindness in children is known to be around 0.8/1000. The prevalence is likely to be affected by the methodology used to estimate the blindness such as community-based surveys and locations like rural or urban settings.



Star Wellness and Care Foundation along with Bal Sahyog, an organisation supported many children who were orphaned, destitute, deaf and disabled, and those who were missing, implemented Free Eye Screening Camp and CBC Screening at L Block, Connaught Place, New Delhi, Delhi-110001 on 17.02.2022 with an objective to spread awareness on eye disorders, early detection of ailments and to detect refractive errors. The camp was a success with around 70 children benefitting from the camp. This was a small initiative to ensure the well-being of their health.

Bal Sahyog was founded by late Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi in 1954, for the care and protection of orphan, helpless, abandoned and neglected children. Prime Minister of India is the Patron of Bal Sahyog. It is a Children's

World serving thousands of children in its Home and Contact Centres in the slums of Delhi by providing nutrition, health care, education and protection. It is also supporting thousands of youth and women through vocational training, awareness education, health services and gainful engagement/placement services etc.



The objective of this camp was to spread awareness on eye disorder, their early detection and detect refractive errors and eye ailments among school children and we are happy to share that this was a successful campaign and we are planning to organise these kinds of campaign to ensure the well-being of their health.

