AIMS AND OBJECTIVE

The study was conducted with the aim of providing the baseline data on the major causes of severe visual impairment or blindness in children of Gujarat state using the WHO prevention of blindness standard reporting form. By this survey we can identify the avoidable causes and monitor the changes in pattern of causes of childhood blindness over time. We can also compare the variations by socioeconomic status for different causes of childhood blindness in Gujarat state in different areas.

AIMS:

1) To provide baseline data on the major causes of severe visual impairment [SVI] or blindness [BL] in children of Gujarat state using the WHO prevention of Blindness programme [WHO / PBL] standard reporting form.\(^{(11)}\)

2) To identify the avoidable i.e. readily preventable or treatable causes of SVI / BL.

3) To provide baseline data to allow monitoring of changes in pattern of causes of childhood blindness over time.

4) To describe the variations in different causes of childhood blindness in different parts of Gujarat state.

5) To describe the variations by socioeconomic status.

6) To assess requirements of individual children attending hospital or blind school for medical, surgical or optical treatment.