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ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORMAT (PAPER / POSTER)

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Title (not exceeding 30 words)

**LOW UPTAKE OF EYE CARE SERVICES IN RURAL INDIA AND OVERCOMING BARRIERS**

Abstract (not exceeding 100 words)

Introduction

The aim of this study was to investigate eye services uptake in a rural Indian population served by outreach camps and to identify barriers to uptake. Routine eye camps were conducted in rural areas in South Assam. Semi structured interviews and eye examination were done. Studies showed that only around 5.6% of total population availed eye services. Unawareness, education, fear, cost, family responsibilities, ageism were the principal barriers to attending the eye camps. Increasing age and education were associated with increased utilisation of eye care services. A high proportion of people who could have benefited from eye treatment were not using available services.

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