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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



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PREVALENCE OF USING SPECTACLES AND DETERMINANTS FOR COMPLIANCE OF WEARING IT AMONG SECONDARY LEVEL STUDENTS IN BATTICALOA EDUCATIONAL ZONE

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Background: Visual impairment in children is a severe public health and social and economic problem worldwide. Importance of school screening of refractory errors is one of the most important initiatives outlined in WHO Vision 2020 targets for control of avoidable visual impairment in children. But the benefit depends on the compliance of the spectacle worn by children.

Objectives: To estimate the prevalence of usage of spectacles and determinants of compliance of spectacle wearing and to investigate the reasons of non-compliance associated with spectacle wear among the secondary level students in Batticaloa educational zone.

Methods: A descriptive cross sectional study was carried out. Total of 200 students were selected and data collected using SDQ questionnaire.

Results: Overall prevalence of using spectacles was 20%. Among them 23.8% were females and 17.5% were males. Myopia was the most common 82.5% (33) cause for wearing spectacles and headache was reported by 17.5% (7) students. 42.5% of students wearing spectacles reported having good compliance. The non-compliance rate of spectacles wear in children was 57.5%. A significantly higher proportion of boys 11 (52.4%) were compliant to wearing spectacles compared to girls 6 (31.6). In general spectacle wearing compliance was low in secondary level students in Batticaloa educational zone. Reasons for non-compliance of wearing spectacles were: losing, breaking, forgetfulness, parents disapproved, teased about spectacles, don't like to wear, not comfortable, needed only when having headache, spectacles cause headache and don't feel spectacles are needed.

Conclusions: In general, the spectacle using compliance was found to be low in secondary level students in Batticaloa educational zone. There is a significant correlation between compliance of using spectacles and gender.

Keywords: Prevalence, spectacles, compliance, secondary level students, Batticaloa educational zone.