

## AWARENESS OF EYE DISEASES AND EYE HEALTH INITIATIVES AMONG COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS IN EAST AND NORTHEAST INDIA

**Pankaj Vishwakarma, Amit Mondal, S.G. Prem Kumar, Shobhana Chavan, Shyam Sundar Das Mohapatra, Pranjal Daimary, Taram Taggu, Dipjyoti Medhi and Elizabeth Kurian**

This study aims to assess the awareness of eye diseases and willingness to work for eye health among CHWs in east and northeast India. A descriptive, cross-sectional study was done. Multiple logistic regression was performed for analysis of the association between awareness levels and sociodemographic and clinical variables. A total of 389 CHWs (ASHA: n=194; AWW: n=195) participated in this study. Awareness of cataract (53.5%) and refractive error (46.8%) was moderate. ASHA who had eye ailment in the past year and those wearing spectacles were significantly aware of cataract and refractive error respectively. AWW who were unmarried and those earning a monthly income over INR. 3,000 were significantly aware of cataract and refractive error respectively. Awareness levels for common eye conditions such as cataracts and refractive error was relatively higher amongst CHW as compared to lesser-known eye conditions like glaucoma or diabetic retinopathy.

*Pankaj Vishwakarma and his team, Mission for Vision, Office 45, Maker Chamber VI, 220 Jammalal Bajaj Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai, India, E-mail: [pvishwakarma@missionforvision.org.in](mailto:pvishwakarma@missionforvision.org.in)*

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