

Reasons for Low Uptake of Eye Care Services Among Tribal and Non-Tribal People in Mysore District: An Anthropological Study

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ABSTRACT The present study aims at to identify the reasons for low uptake of eye care services among tribal and non-tribal people in H.D. Kote Taluk, Mysore District. In the study, 5 rural multi caste villages and 10 tribal settlements known as hadis were selected. A total of 400 individuals consisting of 240 non-tribal persons and 160 members of Scheduled Tribes were interviewed. Out of 400 informants, 200 were males and remaining 200 were females. Among members of Scheduled Tribes, the major reasons for low uptake of eye care services were 'no money' (137), 'fear of surgery or treatment' (79) and 'lack of information on eye care services' (61). Among non-tribals the major barriers identified were 'no money' (140), 'fear of surgery or treatment' (55), lack of time' (47) etc. These responses are culturally significant and act as major constraints for low uptake up eye care services.