

Preventable Disease Blinds Poor in Third World

By CELIA W. DUGGER

Blindness is a leading cause of disability in the developing world. It is often preventable, but in many areas, it remains a major public health problem. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that over 100 million people are blind or visually impaired worldwide. In the third world, blindness is often caused by preventable diseases such as trachoma, onchocerciasis, and xerophthalmia. These diseases are often spread by flies and mosquitoes, and they can be prevented by simple measures such as using insecticide-treated bed nets and wearing protective clothing. However, in many areas, these measures are not available, and blindness remains a major public health problem. In addition, blindness is often caused by lack of access to eye care services. Many people in the third world do not have access to eye care services, and they often do not know when to seek help. This can lead to blindness, which is often irreversible. Blindness is a major cause of poverty in the third world, and it is often preventable. Simple measures such as using insecticide-treated bed nets and wearing protective clothing can prevent blindness. In addition, access to eye care services is essential for preventing blindness. Governments and the private sector should work together to improve access to eye care services in the third world. This will help to reduce the burden of blindness and improve the lives of millions of people.

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