

**Thesis Title** Study on Knowledge, Perception  
and Self-Care Practice Regarding  
Primary Eye Care of Out-Patients  
in Siriraj and Nakhon Pathom  
Hospital, Thailand.

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**ABSTRACT**

Blindness and loss of vision are not only enormous burden to family but also to society. More than 90 % of blind people live in developing countries. Up to 80 % of

blindness in developing countries is avoidable. Thailand is ranged as one of the developing countries where the blindness prevalence is not low if compared with some advanced countries in the region. One of the important factors affecting the blindness prevalence is knowledge, perception and practice regarding primary eye care of people.

The purpose of this study is to identify the knowledge, perception and self care practice in primary eye care of people studied as out-patients of Siriraj and Nakhonpathom hospitals, in addition to determine the association between knowledge-practice and perception-practice of people.

A cross sectional study was conducted at Siriraj and provincial Nakhonpathom hospitals, Thailand. Two hundred and four patients from the two hospital were purposively selected as the sample of this research.

Regarding the knowledge, perception and practice in primary eye care, the finding revealed that the majority of patients had a fair or medium level and the interesting thing is that there was a correspondence of patients' score level in all three variables: knowledge, perception and practice.

The results also found that there was an association between knowledge- practice and perception- practice of people regarding primary eye care.

The results also indicated that there was no significant difference in knowledge among the three age groups and two hospital groups but there were significant differences of perception and practice among three age

groups and two hospital groups. Substantially the differences lay on educational levels and occupation of patients

The study concluded that to contribute to limitation and reduction of blindness in Thailand, the information and health education about basic knowledge and practice regarding primary eye care should be reinforced and done regularly through the mass media, especially the knowledge, perception and practice concerning some main causes of blindness in Thailand, such as glaucoma, cataract, ocular injury and refractive errors.