

Many Indian children struggle in school because they have vision problems like short-sightedness (myopia) or long-sightedness (hyperopia). **Around 3.5 million children and adolescents in India have these vision issues.**

Learning loss

When children can't see well, they can't learn as much as their classmates. This affects their education and future career opportunities.

Schoolchildren with poor vision learn approximately



as those with good or corrected vision

In India

1.2 million
years of schooling
are lost
to uncorrected refractive error
every year

The economic impact

Poor vision in children can lead to lower educational achievement, which affects the ability to earn a good income in the future. India loses billions of rupees every year from failing to address vision problems in children.

One year of sub-optimal learning due to uncorrected refractive error

 **costs India 156.3 billion rupees every year**

The benefit of addressing poor vision

In India, each child with uncorrected refractive error misses out on significant future income. If a five-year-old child with poor vision receives glasses, in primary school and continues to wear them until the age of 18, they will experience:

- **A 55% increase in lifetime earnings.**
- **This translates to an extra 483,000 rupees in individual lifetime earnings.**

These figures are based on comparisons to individuals who do not receive glasses.

Image by Bharath Balasubramaniam courtesy of IAPB

 **YOUR EYES**

What can be done?

The good news is that a lot of poor vision can be easily fixed with simple solutions like eye exams and quality glasses. Investing in school eye health programs is a cost-effective way to improve children's learning and their future earning potential.

For full details see:

Parami Dhakhwa, Bryce Everett, Brad Wong. Better education in sight. An estimate of global learning and economic productivity losses from uncorrected refractive error in schools. (2024) DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/ZTGPQ>