บทความพิเศษ

THE INCIDENCE OF TRACHOMA IN THAILAND

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The incidence of trachoma in Thailand is moderate, varying with locality. There are fewer cases in the south where precipitation is dense and the land is richer than in the north–east, where the standard of economy is low and the climate is not favorable. A survey by the Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health, in cooperation with WHO in 1959 revealed that more than forty per cent of trachoma cases were found in the north – eastern provinces [1].

Radovanovic [1] reported that out of a total of 1,142 cases examined in Bangkok and Dhonburi, in the central part of Thailand, 10 % were positive for trachoma.

In 1964, Wangspa [2] surveyed in the central region and found only 90 cases of trachoma (0.887 %) out of 10,137 cases examined. Those cases were mostly in the acute stage. In the northern part of the country 7.94% was found, with 6% in the acute stage. Among the people of the hill tribes in the north, trachoma was found in 10 % out of 242 cases examined, all in the acute stage. In the north – eastern part the incidence of trachoma in the town was 15 %, whereas in the rural areas it was 20 % ; 2,481 cases were examined.

The Department of Health and WHO also organized the Trachoma Control Project to gather data and to set up a Trachoma Prevention Center in Nakorn Rajasima in the north – east, operating in six provinces, viz., Nakorn Rajasima, Khon–Kaen, Chaiyapoom, Udorn, Roi–Ed and Surin[3]. The data showed that out of 391,786 cases examined, 1,618 cases were classified as doubtful, 44,594 cases as trachoma I, II, III, and 2,086 cases were complicated with trichiasis and entropion. In 1969 and 1970 it was planned to expand this project to cover three more provinces.

In 1969, the case–finding programme report for the fiscal year 1969 in seven provinces of the north – eastern area showed that out of 386,065 cases examined, 17,992 (4.66%) had conjuntivitis, 1,202 cases were doubtful cases of trachoma, 38,646 (10 %) cases were trachoma stage I, II, III; 98,085 cases (25.4 %) were trachoma IV, 2,308 cases (1.68 %) were complicated with entropion[4].

At the Siriraj Hospital, in the central region, it was observed that only one to two cases of entropion and trichiasis were found per day, and two to four cases of trachoma I, II, III, were found per week; the number of eye cases examined daily in the past four years (1965 to 1968) has been 70 to 150.

References

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3) Annual Report of the Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand, 1968, p. 141.

4) Dissamarn, R. : Personal Communication (Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand).

การส่งเงินค่าบำรุง

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