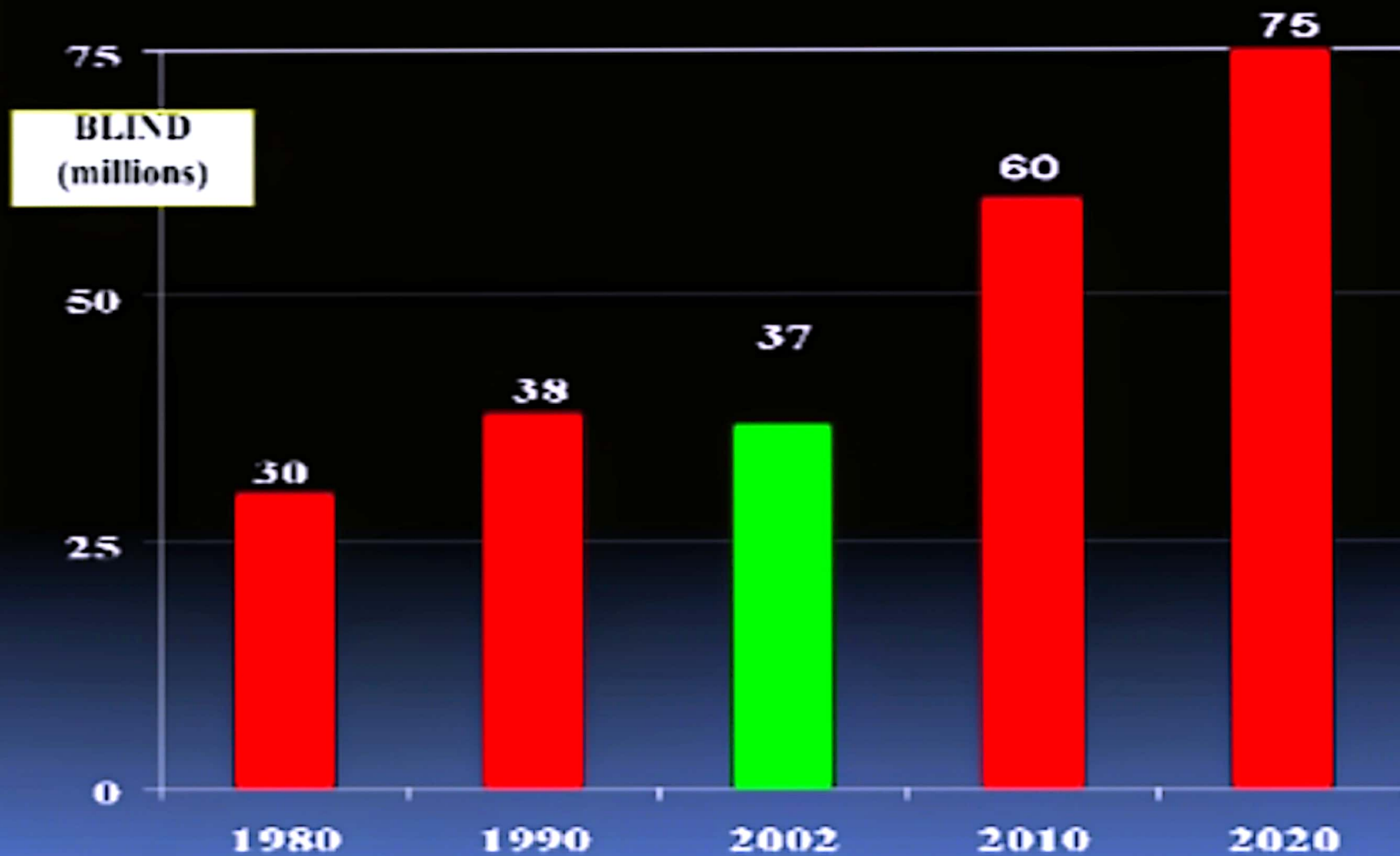


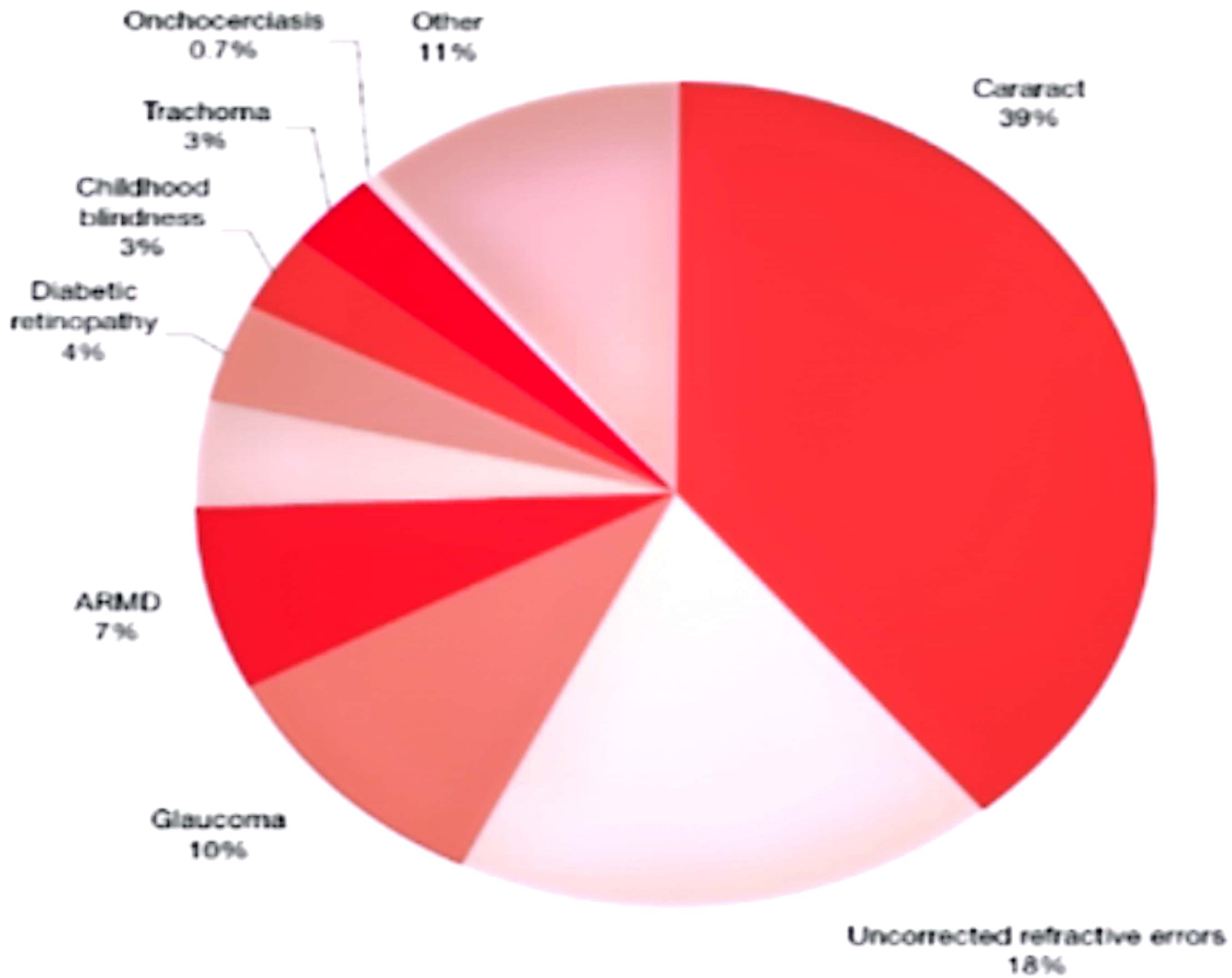
Definition

- **Low vision** – VA of less than **6/18** but equal to or better than 3/60, or a corresponding visual field loss **to less than 20°**, in the better eye with the best possible correction. (10th revision of the WHO International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death)
- **Blindness** - VA of less than **3/60**, or a corresponding visual field loss to less than **10°**, in the better eye with the best possible correction.

- 'Visual impairment' includes both low vision and blindness.
- In 2009, the term 'low vision' was deleted from the 10th revision of the ICD (ICD-10),
- **Moderate visual impairment** -presenting visual acuity of $< 6/18$ to $6/60$ and
- **Severe visual impairment**- $VA < 6/60$ to $3/60$ from all causes.

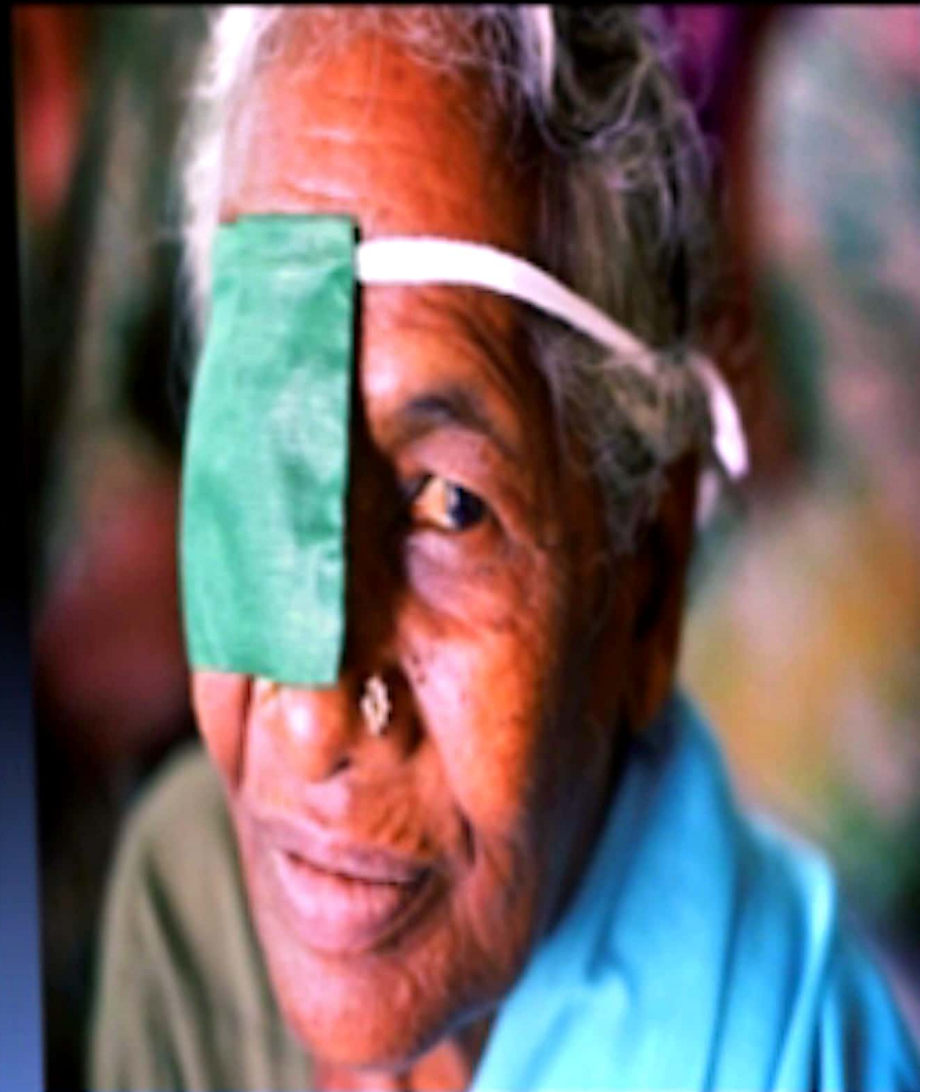
GLOBAL BLINDNESS





Major causes of blindness in India

Disease	%
Cataract	62.60
Refractive error	19.70
Corneal blindness	0.9
Glaucoma	5.80
Surgical complication	1.20
Post. Capsular opacification	0.9
Posterior segment disorder	4.7
Others	4.19



Key facts

- About **314 million** people are visually impaired worldwide, 45 million of them are blind.
- Most people with visual impairment are **older, and females** are more at risk at every age, in every part of the world.
- About **87%** of the world's visually impaired live in developing countries.
- The number of people blinded by **infectious diseases** has been greatly reduced, but age-related impairment is increasing.
- Cataract remains the **leading cause** of blindness globally, except in the most developed countries.
- Correction of refractive errors could give normal vision to more than **12 million** children (ages five to 15).
- About **85%** of all visual impairment is **avoidable** globally.



Objectives

- To **reduce the backlog** of blindness through identification and treatment of the blind;
- To develop **Comprehensive Eye Care facilities** in every district;
- To develop **human resources** for providing Eye Care Services;
- To improve **quality** of service delivery;
- To secure **participation** of Voluntary Organizations/Private Practitioners in eye Care.
- To enhance **community awareness** on eye care.

Four pronged strategy of the programme

- Strengthening service delivery,
- Developing human resources for eye care,
- Promoting outreach activities and public awareness and
- Developing institutional capacity