# Quantitative Research on PeerPerception and Self-Perception of Grade-5 Students with Reference to Students Who Wear Eyeglasses 

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#### Abstract

A. TITLE: Quantitative Research on Peer and Self-Perception of Grade-5 Students with Reference to Students Who Wear Eyeglasses. B. ABSTRACT: It has been observed that the number of school-going students wearing eyeglasses has been steadily increasing over the years. In a report entitled 'Enhancing the Effectiveness and Impact of Schools: Insights from School Health Screening Programme' released in 2019 by Jarma Wellness, a health consultancy firm, with reference to the health problems including that of vision in school-going children, has found that $25.5 \%$ children had an abnormal vision (Reference: https:// www.livemint.com/science/health/india-s-schoolchildren-suffer-from-abnormal-bmi-vision-dental-issues-report 1554383077480. html). The Covid-19 pandemic directed students and teachers towards online teaching and learning. This mode of study has been widely criticised as it has increased the screen time for students thereby resulting in the weakening of eye-sight. Keeping in view the fact that children hold their own opinions about their peers who wear eyeglasses, a study was undertaken to assess how these perceptions differ in 'students who wear eyeglasses', hereafter known as Category A, and those who 'do not wear eyeglasses', hereafter referred to as Category B. These perceptions that children hold may have led to a certain behavioural pattern among students, for example, teasing. A popular perception among students about children who wear eyeglasses is that they are academically bright. On the other hand, yet another perception is that students who wear eyeglasses look like old people. Some considered that wearing eyeglasses is stylish while some others


[^0]considered it silly thereby making the appearance of an individual an important aspect of personality.

In order to gain an insight into these and other perceptions by self and peer group, a questionnaire was developed and administered to 100 Grade- 5 students in a reputed public school in New Delhi. The results were analysed and the findings recorded, some of them validated the perceptions while some negated them.

While some who wore eyeglasses exhibited a positive selfimage, others had a negative self-image about themselves on certain parameters. These perceptions differed from one gender to the other. For example, while some students considered wearing eyeglasses a stylish addition to their appearance, others considered it silly. It was also felt that some students hadn't given much thought to the various aspects of eyeglass wearing as defined in the study and their perceptions were based on the perceptions of their peers and/or parents.
C. OBJECTIVES: The purpose of this study is to assess the following:

1. What proportion of students wear glasses?
2. Number of boys and number of girls wearing eyeglasses?
3. How many students wear eyeglasses throughout their waking hours and how many wear it only in some part of the day?
4. Self-Perception and Peer-Perception on the following aspects:
a. 'Children who wear specs are intelligent and clever'
b. 'Children who wear specs wear it because they cannot see well'
c. 'Children who wear specs look silly'
d. 'Children who wear specs look stylish'
e. 'Children who wear specs spend more time on digital screens/ in reading books’
f. 'Children who wear specs wear it because their parents like it'
g. 'Children who wear specs wear it because they like it'
h. 'Children who wear specs find it easier to do their school work'
i. 'Children who wear specs are teased by their friends/peer group'
j. 'Children who wear specs look like old people'
D. METHODOLOGY: A questionnaire comprising 10 questions of the 'Yes/No/Sometimes' type was developed to elicit responses from students.

## Rationale for the choice of sample population

It is an established and known fact that self-esteem first begins to rise between the ages of 4 years and 11 years (Reference: https:// time.com/5373095/self-esteem-highest-study/). With this in mind, Grade- 5 students were chosen to be the target Category/respondents as they are almost at the end of this age bracket. It may be noted that the Grade-5 students are 10-11-year-olds. The presumption here is that this age group starts forming their own independent opinions on certain aspects concerning themselves.

## Rationale for the design of the test questions

The perceptions of students were selected in accordance with the goals of the study and an objective discussion with the teaching community. It was presumed that the teaching faculty would have interacted with students on matters such as this earlier. Discussion with students was avoided so as not to alert them and make them conscious of the questions viz-a-viz their answers. The perceptions so enlisted can be categorized under 3 broad heads- Positive, Negative and Factual/ Objective.

The POSITIVE perceptions were considered to be those that built on the self-esteem of the students of Category A. Their self-image and peer-image were reflected in a positive light. This was validated in the study.

The NEGATIVE perceptions were, on the other hand, those that appeared to lower the self-esteem and self-image of the Category A students.

The FACTUAL/OBJECTIVE perceptions were irrefutable, medically proven facts. Considering that 10-11-year-olds are still in the formative years of their life and their opinions may not have fully developed, the influence of parental opinion on the respondents was also taken into consideration.

The general Positive, Negative or Factual/Objective perceptions among students with respect to wearing eyeglasses is:

1. They look intelligent and clever -POSITIVE
2. They cannot see well
3. They look silly
-FACTUAL/OBJECTIVE
-NEGATIVE
4. They look stylish
-POSITIVE
5. They spend more time on digital screens/in reading books
-FACTUAL/OBJECTIVE
6. They wear it because their parents like it
-FACTUAL/OBJECTIVE
7. They like their appearance with eyeglasses -POSITIVE
8. They find it easier to do their school work
-FACTUAL/OBJECTIVE
9. They are teased by their peer group -NEGATIVE
10. They look like old people -NEGATIVE

## Administering the test

The variables like the time of the day when the test is administered and other external influences, were controlled. The test was administered at a single point in time, not providing an opportunity for participants to interact with other respondents. It was ensured that the interaction between teachers and students was eliminated on the issue in question.

All students of Grade- 5 who recorded their attendance on a particular day were chosen to be the sample for this study. They were administered the test in the first period, in the presence of their class teachers ascertaining a certain comfort level and ensuring that they were fresh in the morning. It is also noteworthy that the test was administered on a day before the vacation when the students were in a relaxed state of mind as all tests/exams were over and the results had been disclosed. The class teachers then gave instructions for attempting the questions. No time limit was imposed and students were asked to respond truthfully and objectively in a calm and composed manner after giving each question considerable thought. Respondents could submit the questionnaires on completion to their class teachers.
E. TABULAR COMPILATION OF RESPONSES: The following table summarizes the responses obtained from the respondents who were administered the questionnaire. The compilation has been done in two categories - Self-Perception and Peer-Perception. The responses of the eyeglass wearing respondents were analysed under Category A and responses of the non-eyeglass wearing respondents were placed in Category B.

SELF-PERCEPTION (CATEGORY A)
NO. OF STUDENTS WHO WEAR EYEGLASSES ALL THE TIME $=43$ IN NO.

|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { NO. OF } \\ & \text { 'YES' } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \% \text { OF } \\ & \text { 'YES' } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { NO. OF } \\ & \text { 'NO' } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \% \text { OF } \\ & \text { 'NO' } \end{aligned}$ | NO. OF 'SOMETIMES' | $\% \text { OF }$ <br> 'SOMETIMES' | NO. OF <br> 'INVALID' |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| QUES NO. 1 | 9 | 21 | 12 | 28 | 21 | 49 | 1 |
| QUES NO. 2 | 39 | 91 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 9 | 0 |
| QUES NO. 3 | 0 | 0 | 36 | 84 | 6 | 14 | 1 |
| QUES NO. 4 | 9 | 21 | 14 | 33 | 20 | 47 | 0 |
| QUES NO. 5 | 19 | 44 | 6 | 14 | 16 | 37 | 2 |
| QUES NO. 6 | 2 | 7 | 40 | 93 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| QUES NO. 7 | 4 | 9 | 25 | 58 | 14 | 33 | 0 |
| QUES NO. 8 | 27 | 63 | 11 | 26 | 5 | 12 | 0 |
| QUES NO. 9 | 1 | 2 | 21 | 49 | 21 | 49 | 0 |
| QUES NO. 10 | 1 | 2 | 41 | 95 | 1 | 2 | 0 |

## PEER-PERCEPTION (CATEGORY B)

NO. OF STUDENTS WHO DON'T WEAR EYEGLASSES = 57 IN NO.

|  | NO. OF <br> 'YES' | $\%$ OF <br> 'YES' | NO. OF <br> 'NO' | $\%$ OF <br> 'NO' | NO. OF <br> 'SOMETIMES' | \% OF <br> 'SOMETIMES' | NO. OF <br> 'INVALID' |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| QUES NO. 1 | 8 | 14 | 20 | 35 | 26 | 46 | 3 |
| QUES NO. 2 | 46 | 81 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 11 | 0 |
| QUES NO. 3 | 0 | 0 | 49 | 86 | 7 | 12 | 1 |
| QUES NO. 4 | 8 | 14 | 29 | 51 | 20 | 35 | 0 |
| QUES NO. 5 | 22 | 39 | 19 | 33 | 14 | 25 | 2 |
| QUES NO. 6 | 5 | 9 | 50 | 88 | 2 | 4 | 0 |
| QUES NO. 7 | 4 | 7 | 43 | 75 | 9 | 16 | 1 |
| QUES NO. 8 | 25 | 44 | 17 | 30 | 13 | 23 | 2 |
| QUES NO. 9 | 4 | 7 | 30 | 53 | 21 | 37 | 2 |
| QUES NO. 10 | 5 | 9 | 48 | 84 | 3 | 5 | 1 |

F. DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS: The data thus collected were analysed. Percentages were calculated and inferences were drawn. A question-by-question analysis is detailed below:

## Analysis 1

## What proportion of students wear glasses?

A total of 100 students were present in the classes on the test day. Incidentally, the number of girls equalled the number of boys in
attendance that day i.e. 50 boys and 50 girls. Of the 100 students, 43 were users of eyeglasses i.e. Category A, and 57 were non-eyeglass users i.e. Category B. Hence, the percentage of eyeglass users is $43 \%$. This result was examined with reference to other similar studies done in the past. Extract of one such study is quoted below:

A study titled 'Enhancing the Effectiveness and Impact of Schools: Insights from School Health Screening Program' was conducted by Jarma Wellness and covered over 1,76,240 children spread across different socio-economic backgrounds going to varied schools and pre-primary centres. The study locations were the cities of Ludhiana, Mathura, Renukoot, Jaipur, Patna, Kolkata/Howrah, Raipur, Sambalpur, Mumbai Metropolitan Region, Pune, Surat, Ahmedabad, Bharuch, Nagpur, Bangalore, Mysore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Coimbatore and Mangalore. The results indicated that potentially one in every 2 kids may need vision-correcting glasses, as $50 \%$ of them were diagnosed with uncorrected myopia or hyperopia. (Reference: https://www.momspresso.com/parenting/ article/study-finds-that-1-in-every-2- children-in-India-may-needeyeglasses)
The findings of this study broadly corroborate with the numbers obtained in this quantitative analysis, as presented in the pie graph below:


Analysis 2
Number of boys and the number of girls wearing eyeglasses
On further break-up, respondents who wear eyeglasses all the time comprised 23 girls and 20 boys indicating that the number of girls
who wore eyeglasses was marginally more than boys. Respondents who wear eyeglasses only in some part of the day had 27 girls and 30 boys once again revealing that there were more girls using eyeglasses for a longer time and had visual limitations while more boys could manage by wearing eyeglasses during only some part of the day, though the difference in numbers was only marginal. An attempt was made to compare this finding with a similar study conducted earlier which is quoted below:

In 2016, the percentage of children aged 6-17 years who wear eyeglasses or contact lenses was higher among girls (36.2\%) compared with boys (29.1\%). Girls aged $6-9$ years (20.2\%) and 14-17 years ( $51.9 \%$ ) were more likely than boys of the same age group ( $14.9 \%$ and $38.8 \%$, respectively) to wear eyeglasses or contact lenses. There was no statistically significant difference by sex for children aged 10-13 years (35.9\% among girls, 33.5\% among boys). Among both girls and boys, children aged 14-17 years were most likely to wear eyeglasses or contact lenses, and children aged 6-9 years were least likely to wear eyeglasses or contact lenses. (Reference: National Center for Health Statistics. National Health Interview Survey, 2016. https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm)

The findings reveal that the results obtained from this study are not much different from the study quoted above pertaining to the year 2016. Girls continue to remain the larger number of users of eyeglasses, though the difference at this age is only marginal as presented in the bar graph below:


[^1] USERS

## Analysis 3

How many students wear eyeglasses throughout their waking hours and how many wear them only in some part of the day?

Out of 43 responses received from Category A, 25 respondents wore their eyeglasses all the time. This is $58 \%$ of the total eyeglass wearers. 15 respondents use eyeglasses only in some part of the day, either in school or at home. This is $35 \%$ of the total responses received under this category. While $9(21 \%)$ of these respondents wore eyeglasses to school, only $6(14 \%)$ of them wore them at home. This is presented in the bar chart below. This could be attributed to the fact that there are academic demands at school and respondents and their parents exhibited great value to school learning.

It would have been safe to presume that students would not wear eyeglasses to school as they did not want to portray themselves as eyeglass users, needless to substantiate that they perceived that it made them 'look silly' or found it uncomfortable to wear or 'spoilt their appearance/look'. However, this seemed to be only a conjecture or a presumption. It is graphically represented below:

PATTERN OF EYEGLASS USE IN SCHOOL/HOME


Analysis 4
The questionnaire comprised 10 questions based on the perceptions of students of Grade- 5 with reference to those who wear eyeglasses. Those who wore eyeglasses were grouped under Category A and hence, their responses were considered as Self-Perception responses. Those who did not wear eyeglasses were grouped under

Category B and their responses were considered as Peer-Perception responses. The following analysis from 4(a) to 4(j) are based on the responses collected from the grid in the questionnaire:

## Analysis 4(a)

## 'Children who wear specs are intelligent and clever'

The Category A respondents did not feel that they were intelligent and clever. This is evident from the number of respondents who chose 'No' as their answer ( $28 \%$ ). This is contrary to the popular perception that children who wore eyeglasses are intelligent. Thus this proposition stands negated.

The Category B respondents were more unequivocal in negating the proposition under discussion.

This perception is more pronounced (almost 4 times over) in the Category B respondents who strongly negated the perception that children who wore eyeglasses were intelligent and clever ( $35 \%$ ), which is contrary to the common, intuitive belief. An extract from a study conducted in this regard is quoted below:

If you wear glasses I've got some good news: you may well be smarter than the average person. A new study published in the journal Nature Communications has found that needing to wear glasses is associated with higher levels of intelligence. But you probably knew that already.

In the study, the largest of its kind ever conducted, researchers from the University of Edinburgh analyzed cognitive and genetic data from over 300,000 people aged between 16 and 102 that had been gathered by the UK Biobank and the Charge and Cogent consortia. Their analysis found 'significant genetic overlap between general cognitive function, reaction time, and many health variables including eyesight, hypertension, and longevity'. Specifically, people who were more intelligent were almost 30\% more likely to have genes which might indicate they'd need to wear glasses. (Reference: https://www.theguardian.com/science/2018/ may/30/glasses-
smarter-study-intelligence-bad-eyesight-link-healthbenefits)

While $\mathbf{2 1 \%}$ of the respondents who wore eyeglasses felt they looked intelligent and clever, only $14 \%$ of their peers felt similarly. It may be presumed that respondents who wore eyeglasses had good self-perception and a positive self-image about themselves.

The findings of this study appear to be contrary to the analysis in the above University of Edinburgh study published in The Guardian. However, this is a study of perceptions of respondents of 10-11 years of age whose thoughts and opinions may still be developing.
The findings of this study are presented graphically below:


Analysis 4(b)
'Children who wear specs wear it because they cannot see well'
Both Category A and B respondents saw wearing eyeglasses as a practical need. They had a clear perception that not wearing eyeglasses would hamper their day-to-day work. There was a marginal difference observed in Category A and Category B students which is presented in the graph below. Category A respondents had a clearer perception that eyeglasses need to be worn as they had weak eyesight. Although $81 \%$ of respondents felt the same way, there were a few who felt otherwise. Among the causes for feeling that Category A respondents wore eyeglasses for reasons other than the eye-sight requirement, were the perceptions that they wore it for style.

SELF-PERCEPTION AND PEER-PERCEPTION ON RESPONSE-2


## Analysis 4(c)

## 'Children who wear specs look silly'

The Category A respondents who wore eyeglasses unanimously felt that they did not look silly. Their responses to 'Yes, they look silly' had a $0 \%$ response and 'No' responses were a strong $84 \%$. This indicates that the eyeglass-wearing respondents considered 'looking silly' as a strongly negative feature of their personality and did not want to identify themselves with this trait.

The Category B responses were almost similar to the responses of Category A respondents. $0 \%$ of respondents felt that eyeglass-wearing respondents looked silly. $86 \%$ of the respondents strongly felt that they did not look silly. This is presented in the pie chart below.
This question was framed since it was felt that eyeglasses are a part of one's overall presentation and children are acutely aware of their looks. With these study results, it can be safely deduced that eyeglasswearing is not a matter of stigma and did not have a negative connotation among 10-11-year-olds which is contrary to the common notion.


## Analysis 4(d)

## 'Children who wear specs look stylish'

Only 21\% of eyeglass wearers (Category A) felt that they looked stylish with eyeglasses on while $33 \%$ did not feel so.
Only $14 \%$ of the non-eyeglass wearers felt that their counterparts looked stylish while $51 \%$ felt otherwise. The bar graph representing this is supplied below.
Hence, the common perception that can be safely presumed is that wearing eyeglasses did not add to the style quotient.


Analysis 4(e)
'Children who wear specs spend more time on digital screens/ in reading books,

Category A respondents admitted to being in front of the digital screens for a longer period of time. Category B respondents seemed to have mixed opinions on this question.

Admittedly, there is a certain honesty noticeable in the eyeglasswearing respondents, who marked 'YES' as the answer to this question. This appears to be supported by the recent reports in the newspapers: Increased screen time, online schooling, assignments, and a sedentary lifestyle have already started showing ill effects on kids. More than a year of online schooling has led to more eye problems in children, with a number of kids as young as 5-8 years of age requiring spectacles. (Reference: https://times ofindia.indiatimes. com/city/nagpur/more-kids-need-glasses-now-but-real-spike-feared-once-schools-reopen/articleshow/84656284.cms)

Corroborating facts and reports, it might be safe to infer that prolonged exposure to digital
screens led to vision problems even in younger children.


## Analysis 4(f)

'Children who wear specs wear it because their parents like it'
A large percentage of responses from both Category A and Category B respondents was contrary to this popular belief that young children would go by their parental likes and dislikes. However, wearing eyeglasses was not treated as a matter of style which is similar to the findings in 4(d).
The findings are quite categorical and reflect that the respondents have a clear and decisive opinion on this issue and would not wear eyeglasses just because their parents like them.


SELF AND PEER PERCEPTION ON WEARING SPECS BECAUSE PARENTS LIKE IT

## Analysis 4(g)

## 'Children who wear specs wear it because they like it'

$58 \%$ of respondents who wore eyeglasses wore it not because they liked it, but for reasons other than that. A very minuscule percentage liked wearing eyeglasses. A majority of their peer group also felt similarly. A $75 \%$ response was recorded with a finding that eyeglass wearers wore them not because they liked them.
Hence, it may be inferred that wearing eyeglasses was not a matter of liking, perhaps, it was a necessity for better vision.


[^2] IT'

## Neither the wearers nor the non-wearers responded favourably

 to this question.Analysis 4(h)
'Children who wear specs find it easier to do their school work' A majority of eyeglass-wearers i.e. $64 \%$ of them found it easier to do their school work with their eyeglasses on while $26 \%$ found it otherwise. This could be attributed to the fact that respondents were not comfortable wearing eyeglasses and perhaps handled them clumsily. $44 \%$ of their peer thought that wearing eyeglasses would be making it easy for the eyeglass-wearing respondents to do their school work. $30 \%$ felt otherwise and a reasonably large percentage of respondents i.e. $23 \%$ felt that wearing eyeglasses only sometimes assisted them in doing their school work.
The findings indicate that eyeglass wearers found it easier to do their school work with eyeglasses on. However, the non-eyeglass-wearing respondents ( 57 in no.) appeared to have given an ambiguous response as no conclusive inference could be drawn from their responses.


## Analysis 4(i)

'Children who wear specs are teased by their friends/peer group' A negligible $2 \%$ of eyeglass-wearing respondents confirmed that they are teased by their friends/peer group. $49 \%$ of respondents responded with a 'No' and another $49 \%$ with a 'Sometimes'. It is not surprising to note that the peer group influence at this age is strong. The reason for a negligible 'Yes' response could be that they did not want to
antagonise their peers/friends and spoil their relationships. It could also be 'fear of the predator'. Hence the veiled 'Sometimes' response by the eyeglass-wearing respondents. A finding of a similar nature in an earlier study in support of this finding is quoted below:

Seven characteristics did not appear to be associated with reporting: bullying that involved making fun of the victim or calling the victim names, excluding the victim, spreading rumours about the victim, forcing the victim to do things he or she did not want to do, and bullying that occurred in the school building, on school grounds, or somewhere else. (Ref: https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ ED511593.pdf)

The overwhelming $53 \%$ response of 'No' by the respondents who did not wear eyeglasses and $37 \%$ 'Sometimes' indicates that the respondents knew that teasing was not socially acceptable behaviour and certainly not in school. Hence, they apparently denied the idea of teasing their eyeglass-wearing counterparts. $37 \%$ of respondents felt that their eyeglass-wearing friends were teased 'Sometimes'. However, they might actually be indulging in teasing in one way or the other.

A study published in Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science shows that kids who wore glasses or eye patches have a one-third greater risk of being victims of physical or verbal abuse. Children with glasses have been the targets of nearly every type of bullying you can imagine, from being called 'four-eyes' to being beaten up. This is often because glasses are not perceived as an attractive accessory, making children who wear them bully magnets. (Reference: https://plano.co/bullies-often-target-kids-who-wear-glasses/)

The idea that eyeglasses are not perceived as an attractive accessory is also being corroborated in 4(d) and $4(\mathrm{~g})$ above.
The results obtained from eyeglass-wearing respondents and non-eyeglass-wearing respondents were not dissimilar. Both categories of respondents strongly rejected the idea of spectacled respondents being teased. This could indicate that students are very well aware that teasing is a negative trait and socially unacceptable behaviour. However, there is a certain element of conjecture involved and needs to be further corroborated on the ground.


## Analysis 4(j)

'Children who wear specs look like old people'
Category A respondents strongly rejected the idea that eyeglasswearers looked like old people. There was a marginal difference in the perception of Category B respondents in this aspect with $9 \%$ responses in the affirmative and $5 \%$ responding with the 'Sometimes' response. This once again indicates that respondents did not see eyeglasses as enhancing or moderating their overall looks. They viewed it as an object of practical necessity. This perception is strengthened by the response analysis at $4(\mathrm{~d})$ and $4(\mathrm{~g})$.

No formal studies have reported how glasses influence age perception, except for a London Vision Clinic survey that found that people over 45 look 5 or more years older when wearing eyeglasses. To investigate the effect of eyeglasses and sunglasses on age perception while controlling for age and interpersonal
differences, we digitally manipulated the photographs of faces of 50 young adults, to create two age conditions (young and old) and three eyewear conditions (no glasses, eyeglasses, and sunglasses). Participants then estimated the age of the faces, displayed in random order. Contrary to the generally accepted beliefs that wearing eyeglasses makes you look older and wearing sunglasses make you look younger, our results suggest that the effect of glasses on age perception is rather small. (Reference: 'Do glasses modulate age perception?' https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/ PMC7457662/)

Not many formal studies have been conducted on children to elicit if they, with their eyeglasses, are perceived to look like old people. The above study quoted from https:// www.ncbi.nIm.nih.gov/ pme/articles/PMC7457662/ too was conducted on middle aged people. However, the findings of this study are not much different from the study quoted above from 'Do glasses modulate age perception?'

G. CONCLUSIONS: This study was undertaken to assess the perceptions of the eyeglass-wearers and the non-eyeglass wearers towards the use of eyeglasses. The responses indicate that one in every two children wear eyeglasses. Girls continue to remain the larger users of eyeglasses, though the gender difference in eyeglass use at this age is only marginal. Most users wore their eyeglasses to school and only a small $14 \%$ wore them only at home. Both the users and the non-users of eyeglasses did not perceive intelligence correlated to eyeglass-use though other studies do correlate the two. Both users and non-users saw the practical use of wearing eyeglasses as it makes the respondent see better. The Category A respondents felt that wearing eyeglasses helped them in doing their school work. Eyeglass-wearing did not seem to be a matter of stigma and did not have a negative connotation among the 10-11-year-olds which is contrary to the common notion. Hence, they did not feel silly wearing eyeglasses. Alternately, they also felt that wearing eyeglasses did not add to their style quotient. Respondents of both Category A and Category B felt that those who wore eyeglasses had a greater exposure to digital screens. Respondents would not wear eyeglasses because their parents liked it or because they themselves liked it. Rather, they saw it as a necessity for improved vision. Both categories of respondents strongly rejected the idea of spectacled respondents being teased indicating that they are very well aware that teasing is a negative trait and a socially unacceptable behaviour. Contrary to the common perception, respondents did not perceive their eyeglass wearing peers as old looking.
H. LIMITATIONS: The data has been collected through a questionnaire as a research tool which is subject to its own limitations. The study sample represented only one urban school. While most findings corroborated with the findings of other studies conducted on a larger scale with conclusive evidence, this study is more basic in nature and is based on responses of students who do not have well-defined opinions on certain issues pertaining to the topic. Students seem to have given guarded responses on issues they perceive as socially unacceptable. Hence, the findings of this study are only correlations and not conclusive evidence.

## H. REFERENCES:

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2. https://www.theguardian.com/science/2018/may/30/glasses-smarter-study-intelligence-bad-eyesight-link-health-benefits
3. $\quad$ https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/more-kids-need-glasses-now-but-real-spike-feared-once-schools-reopen/ articleshow/84656284.cms
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https://plano.co/bullies-often-target-kids-who-wear-glasses/ https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7457662/

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[^1]:    CATEGORY A - EYEGLASS USERS; CATEGORY B - EYEGLASS NON-

[^2]:    GRAPHIC REPRESENTATION OF RESPONSES TO 'CHILDREN WEAR SPECS BECAUSE THEY LIKE

