
Contents

Preface	v
1. Clinical aspects	1
Definition	1
Types of cataract	1
Symptoms and signs	3
2. Cataract as a public health problem	5
Prevalence	5
Incidence	6
Age	7
Sex	8
Possible risk factors	8
Conclusions	10
3. Organization of cataract services	12
Assessment of the problem	13
Identification of cases	14
Creation of an awareness of the problem among the population	14
Motivation of the blind to use the services available	15
Development of a referral system	15
Selection of cases for surgery	16
Provision of cost-effective, high-quality surgical services on a mass scale	17
4. Therapeutic strategies	18
Choice of technique	18
Follow-up procedures	19
Monitoring and quality assurance	20
Correction of aphakic refractive error	20
Provision of low-cost spectacles	21
Provision of low-cost intraocular lenses	23

5. Material requirements	24
Surgical beds and operating-room time	24
Surgical supplies and equipment	25
6. Personnel	26
Categories of personnel	26
Training in new techniques	28
Teamwork	28
7. Community participation, role of nongovernmental organizations and coordination with other health programmes	29
8. Operational research	31
9. Evaluation	33