



## International Conference: Evidence in Global Disability and Health

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## ABSTRACT

**Title:** Social construction of disability stigma and its effects on disabled people's participation in the socio-economic activities in their communities.

**Abstract text (limited to 300 words, should include background, methods, results and conclusions):**

Attitudes and perceptions towards disabled people have always been complex, often reinforced by the prevailing cultural, religious, political and economic conditions, which in turn have greatly contributed to their exclusion from social and economic activities. This study investigated the role of stigma in disabled people's participation in socio-economic activities. A qualitative study, using focus group discussions and in-depth interviews, was conducted to assess the impact of stigma on the inclusion of disabled people in socioeconomic activities in the Kumasi Metro of Ghana. A total of 35 participants were purposively selected to participate in focus groups discussions (21) and in-depth interviews (14). The data has been analysed thematically through the question led approach. Some of the responses have been presented as quotes to support the findings. The findings of the study indicated that disability was highly stigmatised in the study area because of misconceptions about the causes of disability and this affected the full participation of disabled people in mainstream society. As a result, many disabled people have turned to begging for arms on the street while others relied on financial interventions from the government. The study recommended an intensified public education on disability, which should be custom-made to suit the community's needs, local culture and belief systems.

**Deadline for abstract submission: November 30, 2015**

Please submit your abstract to: [disabilitycentre@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:disabilitycentre@lshtm.ac.uk)

**Restricted to one first author abstract per participant.**

If you have any questions, please write to:

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