



International Conference: Evidence in Global Disability and Health

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ABSTRACT

Title:	Developing innovative mixed methods to evaluate the outcomes of a CBR Empowerment Programme in South African townships
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Abstract text (limited to 300 words, should include background, methods, results and conclusions):

AIM: This presentation sets out to disseminate the findings of a doctoral study into the individual-level empowerment outcomes experienced among caregivers of children with disabilities contributed to by a Community-based Rehabilitation (CBR) empowerment component intervention.

METHODOLOGY: This longitudinal study was set amongst over 300 families of children with disabilities living in an impoverished township south of Johannesburg in South Africa. Using a transformative paradigm, the study implemented multiple mixed methods, including developing, piloting and using a quantitative Empowerment Questionnaire. The innovative, pragmatic and culturally-appropriate Questionnaire was developed in collaboration with seven co-researchers- all mothers of children with disabilities from the self-help group catalysed by the CBR programme.

FINDINGS: This participatory evaluation highlighted significant improvements in the way that caregivers felt about their power to exercise agency (intrapersonal empowerment); as well as their knowledge and skills in relation to negotiating for access to their childrens' human rights (interactional empowerment). In addition, the caregivers registered on the CBR programme increasingly performed empowered behaviour, in the roles of advocates for their children and disability activists. Secondary changes in the access of their children to their rights to healthcare, rehabilitation, social assistance, education and the justice system are also noted.

CONCLUSION: The CBR empowerment component intervention under evaluation did contribute towards the empowerment of caregivers of children with disabilities. The empowerment of caregivers, in turn, influenced the environment and improved access to human rights for children with disabilities. The methods utilised for evaluation further facilitated meaningful participation of self-help group members in CBR monitoring and evaluation activities.

IMPLICATIONS: Lessons learned from this study contribute to the practice of CBR evaluation, and highlight the importance of including people with disabilities and their families in all aspects of CBR implementation, including evaluation.

Deadline for abstract submission: November 30, 2015

Please submit your abstract to: disabilitycentre@lshtm.ac.uk

Restricted to one first author abstract per participant.

If you have any questions, please write to:

disabilitycentre@lshtm.ac.uk