



International Conference: Evidence in Global Disability and Health

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ABSTRACT

Title:	Community-based rehabilitation for people with disabilities in low- and middle-income countries: A Systematic Review
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Abstract text (limited to 300 words, should include background, methods, results and conclusions):

Background

There are over one billion people with disabilities worldwide, of which 80% of them live in low- and middle-income countries. They are often excluded from various aspects of society, which is not only contrary to the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disability but also increasing the risk of poverty. Community-based rehabilitation (CBR) is the strategy endorsed by the World Health Organization for addressing the needs of people with disabilities and their families/carers in low- and middle-income countries while ensuring their inclusion and participation. This systematic review aimed to assess the impact of CBR programmes for people with disabilities in low- and middle-income countries.

Methods

We conducted a systematic review following the strict Campbell/Cochrane methodology. We searched 23 electronic databases and 50 relevant websites, contacted authors, and screened the reference lists and tracked citations of included studies. Searches were not restricted by language or publication status, but limited to studies published after 1976. We included controlled studies assessing the impact of CBR programmes for people with disabilities and/or their families/carers in low- and middle-income countries

Results

The review identified 15 studies evaluating different CBR programmes in low- and middle-income countries targeting different types of physical (stroke, arthritis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) and mental disabilities (schizophrenia, dementia, intellectual impairment). Overall, the studies showed a modest beneficial impact of CBR in the lives of people with disabilities and their families/carers. However, the methodological limitations of several studies limited the strength of the results, and meta-analysis was possible on three studies only.

Conclusions

While results suggested a positive impact of CBR in the lives of people with disabilities and their families/carers in low- and middle-income countries, more robust evidence is needed, with studies adopting better study designs, focusing on several disabilities, and including economic evaluations.

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:

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