



**International Conference:  
Evidence in Global Disability and Health**

<b>Applicant Details</b>	
<b>Name:</b>	Israel Adekunla Balogun
<b>Position:</b>	Medical Doctor and Student
<b>Institution:</b>	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
<b>Level of study (if applicable) (e.g. MA, PhD):</b>	M.Sc
<b>E-mail:</b>	israelkunle@yahoo.com
<b>Phone number:</b>	
<b>Preferred presentation format:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Oral

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## ABSTRACT

**Title:** **Accessing Sexual and Reproductive Health Services by Women with Disabilities in Northern Nigeria: Barriers and Opportunities. A Qualitative Study.**

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

### **Background**

The goal of universal access to sexual and reproductive health is to make enough services and information available, accessible and acceptable to meet the different needs of individuals. Several strategies have been employed to make this goal a reality. However, despite these efforts, women with disabilities remain marginalised and isolated from benefitting from these services. This study investigates their experiences in 2 urban areas in order to understand the barriers they face and proffer solutions through the opportunities that are available for their inclusion in sexual and reproductive health services.

### **Methods**

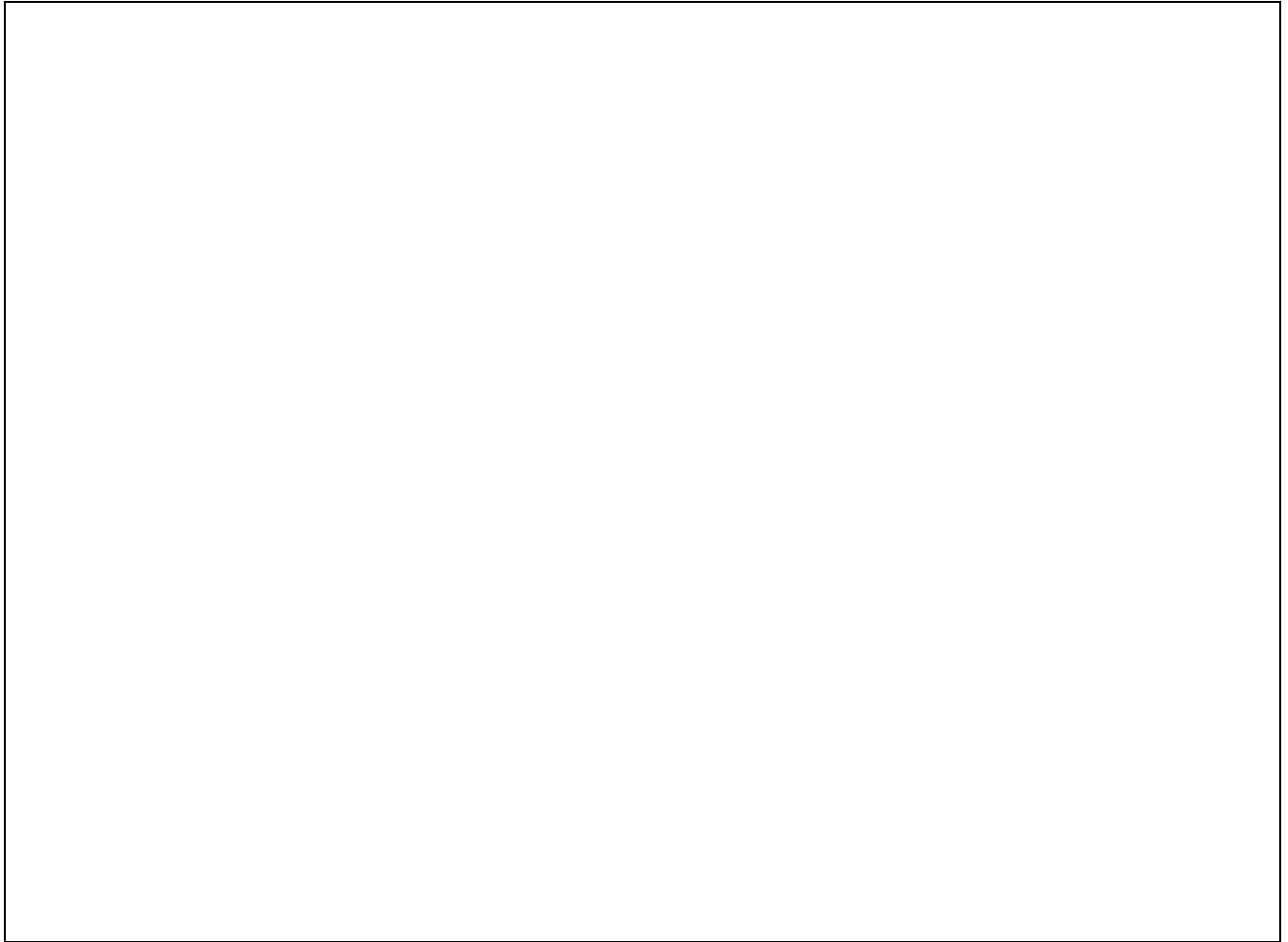
In this qualitative study, 31 participants were interviewed comprising leaders of an advocacy groups and health workers. Data were collected using semi-structured interviews from 14 women with disabilities group within the reproductive age who served as key informants. 3 focus group discussions comprising doctors and women with disabilities were held. Participants were purposively sampled from members of Advocacy of Women with Disabilities Initiative (AWWDI) and health workers. Interviews were conducted in Pidgin and English Languages and were audio-recorded and later transcribed. The transcription was done using thematic content analysis approach.

### **Findings**

The main findings were classified into physical and infrastructural barriers, financial barriers, socio-cultural and attitudinal barriers; communication barriers; quality of care barriers and user knowledge barriers. Opportunities for improving access to sexual and reproductive health services include empowerment of women with disabilities, capacity development of health workers, providing incentives and specialised care; family and societal support and political commitment and policy development.

### **Conclusions**

Mainstreaming women with disabilities into sexual reproductive and health services should be a top priority for all stakeholders especially government leaders and policy-makers in Nigeria. All efforts aimed at improving this access must take into cognizance the need for partnership with women with disabilities and their organization in developing the framework for inclusion.



**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:

[disabilitycentre@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:disabilitycentre@lshtm.ac.uk)