



International Conference: Evidence in Global Disability and Health

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ABSTRACT

Title:

The Active Engagement of Disabled People in Monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals

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

Historically, disabled people have been excluded from active and non-tokenistic participation in poverty alleviation initiatives, including in the Millennium Development Goals and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers. However, in contrast with previous poverty alleviation initiatives, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have made explicit reference to disability, and this therefore provides an important opportunity for disabled people and their representative organisations to participate actively in monitoring the SDGs and engage with this newly formulated global development framework.

Despite aspirational rhetoric by donor agencies, the participation of marginalised populations, including disabled people, has proved problematic. This can be partially attributed to the fact that bilateral and multilateral donors do not understand the principles of inclusion, and disabled people themselves have a lack of understanding of the processes of the development and implementation of poverty alleviation initiatives.

This paper will critically interrogate the challenges of genuine inclusion and engagement of civil society – including disabled people – in poverty alleviation initiatives by engaging with the mainstream development studies literature. Critiques of “participation” have included the assertion that only elites participate in these processes and that, in recent years, governments and donor agencies have distorted the original impetus for participatory development into a technocratic means for the achievement of corporate agency aims and objects.

The paper will conclude by making strategic recommendations regarding possible strategies for how this engagement can be enhance effective participation.

The methodology employed in this paper is primarily desk-based research, particularly from the development studies and disability studies literature. It will also be complemented by case studies of previous disabled people’s engagement in poverty alleviation strategies.

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