



International Conference: Evidence in Global Disability and Health

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ABSTRACT

Title: **Measuring Disability in Population Based Surveys: Evidence from Cameroon and India**

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

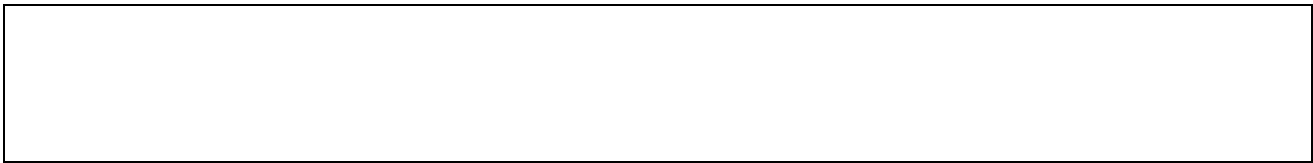
Background: The formal adoption of the Global Goals for Sustainable Development herald a great opportunity for disability inclusive development. Amongst numerous specific references to people with disabilities throughout the text, the Goals also emphasise the need to collect data on disability so as to monitor inclusion of people with disabilities. However, multiple methodologies to collect data on different components of disability (such as impairments, activity limitations and participation restrictions) exist and there is little understanding of the relationship between these types of tools when used in population-based surveys.

Methods: We undertook an all age population-based survey of disability in North-West Cameroon and Telangana State, India. Disability was measured using a self-reported functional limitation tool and a battery of tools to objectively assess clinical impairment. Information was also collected using structured questionnaires, including on participation restrictions.

Results: Overall disability prevalence in the study (reflecting participants who either self-reported a functional limitation and/or screened positive to a moderate or severe clinical impairment) was 10.5% in Cameroon and 12.2% in India. There was limited overlap between the sub-populations identified to have a disability using the two types of tools. 33% of participants in Cameroon identified to have a disability, and 45% in India, both reported functional limitations and screened positive to objectively-screened impairments, whilst the remainder were identified via one tool only.

Highest participation restrictions were observed amongst those who both self-reported and screened positive for a clinical impairment.

Conclusion: Tools to assess reported functional limitation alone are insufficient to identify all persons with participation restrictions and moderate or severe clinical impairments. A self-reported functional limitation tool followed by clinical screening of all those who report any level of difficulty would identify 94% of people with disabilities in Cameroon and 95% in India.



Deadline for abstract submission: November 30, 2015

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