



International Conference: Evidence in Global Disability and Health

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ABSTRACT

Title: **Cost of exclusion and gains of inclusion of people with disabilities**

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

While the inclusion of people with disabilities from society is recognised as a key human rights and development issue, it is commonly perceived that inclusive interventions are not financially feasible particularly in resource constrained settings of many LMICs. The resulting exclusion of people with disabilities has been linked to economic costs not only for individuals and their families – including the theorized link between disability and poverty – but also for society more broadly. However, there is evidence to suggest that inclusion of people with disabilities is beneficial from an economic perspective.

This study i) conducted a systematic literature review of the association between disability and economic poverty in LMICs and ii) explored the pathways through which exclusion of people with disabilities from health, education and work/employment may generate economic costs at the individual, family and societal level and investigated the potential economic gains of inclusion.

The systematic review identified 97 epidemiological studies that examined the relationship between disability and poverty. The majority of studies (80%) found a positive, statistically significant association between disability and poverty and this relationship was consistent across age groups, location, disability types and study designs.

This study provides a robust empirical basis to support the theorized link between disability and economic poverty link. It also highlights that the inclusion of people with disabilities in the areas of health, education and work/employment has the potential to generate significant economic gains and describes the pathways through which this impact may be realised. There is an urgent need for research on the extent, magnitude and scope of the economic impact of exclusion and inclusion.

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