



International Conference: Evidence in Global Disability and Health

Applicant Details	
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ABSTRACT

Title: **Voices of the marginalised in Tanzania: what did we hear?**

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

Background: The commitment to 'leave no one behind' is a key feature of the Sustainable Development Goals. It has been widely quoted as a reminder to systematically include the most marginalised groups. The purpose of this study was to explore the lived experiences of older people and persons with disabilities in Tanzania in terms of their social, political, economic and cultural inclusion.

Methods: We used a community-based participatory approach, which aims to equitably involve community members, organisational representatives and external researchers in order to share resources and mutually exchange knowledge. 106 stories were collected and analysed by a combined team of six external and 29 community researchers.

Results: On an individual level, older people and persons with disabilities experienced multiple illnesses, emotional difficulties, high exposure to death and often focused on memories and/or opinions of youth. On an interpersonal level, they experienced the power of community attitudes, the promotion of traditional healing methods, many suffered domestic abuse and people with albinism expressed fear of extreme attacks and persecution. At a societal level, there were both positive and negative examples of basic human rights access and livelihood. Central to participants' individual, interpersonal and institutional experiences were outcomes of increased poverty, self-empowerment, the experience of being made invisible and a huge impact on primary or key relationships.

Conclusion: Findings indicate a need for a collaborative approach to act at a local, national and global level to improve the experiences of older people and persons with disabilities, based on what they and the organisations that support them have reported. Both groups experience similar challenges when it comes to achieving full participation in social, political, economic and cultural life. Their meaningful and active inclusion in society is necessary if we want to indeed "leave no one behind".

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