



**International Conference:**

**Evidence in Global Disability and Health**

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## ABSTRACT

**Title:** Reducing disability-related stigma and discrimination – lessons for measuring impact of interventions on disability inclusion in Indonesia

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

### **Background**

Stigma is one of the important factors leading to social exclusion for people with disabilities. Persons affected by leprosy and their family members are often stigmatised and experience problems in social participation. However, stigma is rarely quantified and the effectiveness of interventions is often not evaluated. The SARI Project in Cirebon, Indonesia, aimed to test and evaluate three intervention strategies, peer counselling, socio-economic development (SED) and contact with affected persons, to reduce stigma against persons affected by leprosy.

### **Methods**

This study used a controlled trial design in which pairs of the stigma reduction interventions were randomly allocated to sub-districts in Cirebon. The study sample comprised community members and persons affected by leprosy. Mixed methods were used to establish a baseline regarding stigma and related parameters, to monitor the implementation and assess the impact of the contact events. Quantitative instruments were subjected to a cultural validation study before use and adapted where necessary. We used the EMIC stigma scale and Social Distance Scale (SDS) to measure impact on attitudes and expected behaviour of community members. Among leprosy-affected persons, we used the SARI Stigma Scale to assess anticipated, experienced and internalised stigma and the Participation Scale to measure social participation.

### **Results**

Two independent representative samples were drawn from community members in the study area. The baseline sample included 213 persons; the final survey 375 persons. The instruments worked well, but placed a burden on the data collection team. A highly significant reduction in stigma scores was found in intervention areas where contact events were organised, while differences in other areas were not significant. The largest differences were found among those attending actual contact events. Among affected persons, stigma levels had also reduced significantly and restrictions in social participation decreased.

### **Conclusion**

Contact with affected persons, peer counselling and SED are effective interventions to reduce social stigma in the community and its impact on persons affected by leprosy. The interventions can be easily adapted for use with people with other NTDs or disabilities.

**Deadline for abstract submission: November 30, 2015**

Please submit your abstract to: [disabilitycentre@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:disabilitycentre@lshtm.ac.uk)

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