



## International Conference: Evidence in Global Disability and Health

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<b>Preferred presentation format:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oral <input type="checkbox"/> Poster <input type="checkbox"/> Oral or poster

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Yes

## **ABSTRACT**

<b>Title:</b>	<b>A study of the experiences of people with disabilities and their families on enablers and barriers to education in Mali and Senegal</b>
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**Abstract text (limited to 300 words, should include background, methods, results and conclusions):**

This presentation will discuss the main results from two qualitative studies on the education of children and young people with visual impairments who were supported by Sightsavers in inclusive education projects between 2011 and 2015 in Mali and Senegal. An exploratory research design was used, drawing on different methods including interviews and focus group discussions.

The two studies found that the educational interventions gave parents and family members a new perspective on the future of their children. This included new hopes and expectations that their children could perform as well as their non-disabled peers at school, transition to employment, live independently and even support their parents later in life. Although it is still difficult for some of the most disadvantaged families to make ends meet without their disabled children going out to beg, they seemed to have understood why it is important in the long run to invest in their children's education.

Conversely, most of the barriers to the success of the projects could be linked to the level of poverty experienced by the families and the lack of financial resources of the schools and wider communities. This was reflected in the difficulties families experienced in getting children to and from school and feeding them adequately for a full school day. The quality of educational provision was affected by inadequate levels of teacher education training in inclusive education practices for class teachers and itinerant teachers.

The final part of the presentation will discuss some of the technical, linguistic and logistical issues of conducting qualitative research with researchers who have had limited experiences of running such research projects with people with disabilities. Some of the strengths and weaknesses of conducting multi-partner research with institutions from the global north and south will also be explored.

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

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

**Restricted to one first author abstract per participant.**

If you have any questions, please write to:

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