

[演題 2] **Prevalence and impact of children with disabilities (CWDs)
in Mbita district, Kenya.**

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Background: Of the world's population of nearly 6.5 billion in 2004, 18.6million (2.9%) were severely disabled and another 79.9 million (12.4%) had moderate long-term disabilities. The average global prevalence of moderate and severe disabilities is 5% in children under 15 years old. In Kenya, the prevalence of children with disabilities (CWDs) aged 2-9 years living in rural area was ranged from 6 to 16%.

About 80% of persons with disabilities (PWDs) live in poverty. What is worse is that poverty causes many disabilities. Furthermore, CWDs are a more vulnerable group than normal children. CWDs are at high risk for malnutrition. Their disabilities represent a higher risk factor for their schooling than gender, distance to school and economic statuses. Only about 1-2% of them can have access to appropriate basic services like opportunities for schooling. Moreover the women who have disabilities suffer from the discrimination related with both their gender and their handicaps.

Thus, it is clear that disabilities cause severe problems such as poverty, discrimination from community or relatives, and malnutrition. Moreover, there are other problems associated with going to school and the burden of caring for CWDs. However, almost of the studies targeted CWDs in schools or hospitals, not in their homes. The studies were conducted focusing one topic, not on people's lifestyles as a whole. Therefore, this research focuses on CWDs in the community and examines their socio-economic status compared with children without disabilities

Objective: To estimate the prevalence of CWDs aged 6-9 years old in a rural area in Kenya, and to investigate the difference between CWDs and Children without Disabilities (Non-CWDs).

Methods: Study sites: The present study was conducted in the Gembe West, Gembe East and Rusinga areas of Mbita district, Nyanza province, Kenya. The area is covered by

Health Demographic Surveillance System (HDSS: SSC No.1088) in KEMRI-NUITM project.

Study populations and procedure: The Ten Question Questionnaire (TQQ) developed by UNICEF for the purpose of screening CWDs was used in the study. Based on the result of TQQ, further assessment of physical, psychological and neurological disability was performed in about 450 children with at least one positive response on the TQQ. About 100 children with all negative response on TQQ were selected randomly as controls. The structured questionnaire about socio-demographic condition and quality of life (QOL) was also administered to their caregivers.

Data analysis: All data were processed by using Epi-info software. Statistical analysis was performed by using Stata software Version 10.

Anticipated Outcome: The prevalence of CWD aged 6-9 years in the research area is assumed to be about 1 %. The schooling rate will be lower in CWDs compared with children without disabilities (non-CWDs). The QOL and economic status is assumed to be lower in caregivers of CWDs than in caregivers of non-CWDs. The QOL status will be also related with severity of disability, total caring time and family support. However, there will be no difference of immunization rate, number of antenatal care and postnatal care and positive history of birth difficulty between CWDs and non-CWDs.

Discussion: Compared with previous studies conducted in Kenya, the estimated prevalence in the present study was low. The following two reasons were assumed. First, the CWDs might be easy to die before 6 years old. Second, some CWDs might have migrated to special school or any organization. Although the prevalence was low, the life of CWDs was revealed to be severe. They couldn't get enough support from family, community and government. The family of CWDs engaged much time in caring and was burdened with heavy duty.