

[演題2]

Situation of children with disabilities and community activity

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1. INTRODUCTION

According to the World Health organization (WHO), disability affects 10% of every population. An estimated 650 million people worldwide, of whom 200 million are children experience some form of disability. In addition, South Asia and Sub-Saharan African countries account for 40% of the problem according to Year Lived with Disability (YLD). Disability among children is also more common in low and middle income countries. However, there are few research on children with disabilities (CWDs) on their status and community activities to support CWDs in rural Kenya. Therefore, the purposes of this research were to assess prevalence and their socio-economic status of children with disabilities in rural area in Kenya and to describe current activities related to CWDs.

2. METHODS

There are two phase in this research. One is community based cross-sectional survey conducted in Mbeta district, one of the poorest districts, in Kenya from September to December, 2010. The participants were 833 children (413 TQQ positive plus 420 TQQ negative) and their care taker screened by Ten Question Questionnaire (TQQ)

from all 6362 children in the area. In addition, the data was collected by focus group discussion, informant interview, and internet search since September, 2010.

3. RESULTS

The prevalence of CWDs was estimated to be 29/1000. Cognitive impairment was the most common. Compared with CWDs, family with CWDs was poorer, received less support from community and less likely to get full vaccination. In community level, community health worker is front-line health worker to support CWDs. Mother and child booklet might assist to identify CWDs in early stage. Although there were four special schools in the research area, some of CWDs were not attended because of distance to school, economic issue, lack of volunteer in the school, severity of disability, cultural belief and lack of parent's awareness.

4. DISCUSSION

CWDs and their family stayed in severe situation, compared with Non-CWDs. It might be cost effective methods to strengthen CHWs capacity on disability and MCH handbook.