Reviewer’s report

Title: Wheelchairs users' perspectives on improving their access to services in Kenya and Philippines: a qualitative study

Version: 0 Date: 26 Oct 2016

Reviewer: Jessica Power

Reviewer's report:

This study highlights and gives perspectives from persons with disabilities who use wheelchairs on their experience with services. This research area requires attention and this research provides valuable information. It was good to see representation also of those who had not had access to services. This study adds to current knowledge and its publication would be of benefit.

Suggestions for improvement of this study would include building more of a case for this study in the background. Introducing what studies have come before this along with current research gaps would be of benefit. In particular with reference to wheelchair users perspectives of services and wheelchair skills training it will assist to build the case for this research.

Under the methods and results the WHO guidance for wheelchair service provision was used as a framework. However in presentation of results it may be helpful to layout what themes and issues under each of these headings were found. This could be completed as sub-sections under these headings.

The quantitative part of the study was mentioned but more information on this and how it relates would be helpful. Additionally in the recommendations sections it may be some of the recommendations are built form the combination of knowledge between the quantitative and qualitative studies. It may be helpful to go over this section and unpack what was found in this particular qualitative study and the specific recommendations from this.

Below are more specific suggestions for each heading.

Title: When saying "service" may be clearer to specify wheelchair services as could be interpreted access to all services (as in general health or other services being wheelchair friendly).
Background

There is little discussion on previous research on perspectives of wheelchair users to access and wheelchair skills training - has there been research on this before in similar settings? Has there been research in different for example in high income settings that may have relevance?

If so this would help relate findings to past research. If there was not - mentioning this lack of research would help build the case for this study.

What is the evidence for use of wheelchair services and wheelchair skills training in terms of effectiveness? It is discussed more research is needed in recommendations section but more information on this in background would be helpful.

When building the case for the rights of persons to have access to wheelchairs it may help to mention that wheelchairs were found to be in the top 50 priority assistive products list recently developed by WHO this year. [http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/207694/1/WHO_EMP_PHI_2016.01_eng.pdf?ua=1](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/207694/1/WHO_EMP_PHI_2016.01_eng.pdf?ua=1)

Referencing

Line 8 - state most wheelchair users cannot afford - ensure reference is in place (I think this may be from reference 2).

Line23/24 - Discussing guidelines on provision and service provision of wheelchairs and reference WHO wheelchair service training package. However also reference postpartum care WHO guidelines and unsure of relevance (reference 6)

Line 26 - two references in in brackets (2,6) in middle of sentence. Post partum care guidelines reference 6 also mentioned here - unsure of relevance.

Grammar/Style

Line 31-38 - May be clearer if broken into two sentences.

Line 41 - end bracket present.

Line 43 - look at sentence structure

Methods:

Page 7
Lines 4-9: Discusses screening question of service use. It may be helpful to clearly state that this was what you deemed criteria for whether they had access to services. Also may be helpful to mention if there was reason this particular statement was chosen to represent wheelchair service access.

State why age (above/below) 45 years chosen for selection criteria?

Results were presented together as similar (Kenya/Phillipines)- was there any difference in findings?

Table 2. A lot of numbers - may be clearer if just the n (total) number given, or alternatively just the percentage. Are all headings necessary? Could some be discussed in text instead?

Results

Use of WHO wheelchair service provision as a framework. But under these heading more clarity on themes which emerged may be helpful. Sub-headings may help make this clearer.

For example;

Steps 1-2 - was access through social networks a theme?

Steps 3-4 - was more experience in wheelchair use and knowledge to actively select or request chairs a theme?

Step 6 - were donations of wheelchairs and users expectations around fitting and/or unawareness of need for fitting themes?

Discussion

Line 22 - discusses how the findings complement the survey. More information on the key findings of the survey would be helpful in addition to the reference. This would help give more background information and could be included in this section also when building the case for research.

Discusses how this research fills a gap however this should be expanded more in background section.

Recommendations for future research
Ensure all recommendations are based off the literature search and findings from this qualitative study. There should only be recommendations based off what you found through completing this study.

Line 26 - The second point may be best in a new paragraph. Talk of dearth of research of longitudinal outcomes and experimental studies. This does not seem to be following on from background results or discussion of this study. May be best to include this at earlier stage if making a recommendation on it.

Line 34/35 - I would avoid making a statement on what type of study for evaluating wheelchair skills training (e.g. experimental or quasi-experimental) from this research. It also may be helpful to note what current research on wheelchair skills training is in background section.

Line 37-45 This may be a better fit in discussion section over recommendations section

Line 48 - The paragraph on how findings from this study may relate to other technologies - this may be better in discussion section being backed up by research of similarities from other technologies. You have referenced the Borg study on access to assistive technologies in low resourced settings so this study could build on this in discussion to make this point.

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable
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