

## Poster

Parental views and perception on the impact of accessing disability equipment on activity participation for children living in LMICs

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**Problem and aim:** To date, it is unclear how access or lack of access to disability equipment affects children living in low and middle-income countries (LMICs) from a parental point of view and what could be done to enhance wellbeing and quality of life.

The study aims to explore LMIC beneficiaries' experiences of accessing refurbished disability equipment from the UK.

**Research design and methods:** A qualitative exploratory approach was taken with parents of Romanian children with disability who received disability equipment. Interviews were undertaken to explore the experience of accessing the equipment and how it has affected their child's participation in activities as well as the family's experience of lack of equipment and use of equipment.

Interviews were done online with audio/video recordings taken and real-time translations during interviews.

**Results:** Twelve interviews were conducted from January–February 2022. Initial findings include: significance of disability equipment for the wellbeing of both child and parents, lack of opportunities for accessing disability

equipment, parental priorities relating to posture and long-term goals of independence, as well as themes of marginalisation of children within communities, on account of lack of resources, awareness or education on disability.

**Conclusion:** Accessing disability equipment in Romania is a real challenge for parents without the support of organisations from abroad. Although access to equipment suggests perceptions of significant improvement in child and parental wellbeing, parents and children face community marginalisation and discrimination in relation to accessing education.

### Conference theme

Connecting health and social care

### Keywords

Children and families, Health inequalities, Social care

### RCOT Career Development Framework Pillars of Practice

Evidence, Research and Development

**Ethical approval**

Oxford Brookes University Faculty of Health and Life Sciences Ethics Committee, HLS/2112/AJW/03.

**Author information**

Chelsea Pratt is a final-year master's (pre-reg) student at Oxford Brookes University. Having completed undergraduate degrees in political science and psychology, she decided to travel to the UK to pursue further education and a future career in occupational therapy.