

## Besrouer Center for Global Family Medicine

### Poster Presentation Besrouer/FMF 2020

**Title:**

Disability inclusion in Nepal and Canada: Development of a community-informed educational seminar for healthcare professionals

**Authors:**

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**Context:**

Both Canada and Nepal have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which calls for inclusion of persons with disabilities (PwD) in society and access to inclusive healthcare. While Nepal has made advances in legislature and policy to promote the health of PwD, there remain many barriers to inclusive healthcare. This project was completed as a part of the Care of Underserved Populations Enhanced Skills Program at Memorial University of Newfoundland.

**Purpose:**

1. To collaborate with Nepali non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community members and healthcare professionals (HCPs) for the purpose of identifying educational needs for HCPs regarding inclusive healthcare for PwD.
2. To develop an interactive seminar for HCPs for the purpose of engaging in cross-cultural discussion about disability inclusion and exploring Canadian strategies and resources that may be transferable or adaptable to the Nepali context.

**Method:**

Meetings were arranged with several NGOs focused on advocating or supporting PwD in Kathmandu, Nepal to discuss health inequities and barriers to inclusion in the healthcare system. Conversations with various HCPs and a literature search helped identify areas related to disability inclusion where HCPs may benefit from additional exposure.

A 90-minute interactive seminar was developed based on identified needs. Presentation objectives included providing an overview of physical and developmental disabilities (DD), introducing recent Canadian primary care guidelines for adults with DD, and reviewing strategies to improve healthcare inclusivity.

The workshop was presented to five groups of Nepali HCPs and program evaluation forms were provided. Approximately 320 HCPs attended the presentations and 110 forms were returned. Qualitative free text questions were analyzed for common themes.

**Outcomes:**

Key themes identified from the presentation feedback:

1. Not making assumptions about PwD.
2. The importance of the consent process and involving PwD in decision-making.
3. The challenges of providing inclusive healthcare for PwD in Nepal and Canada.
4. A critical focus on language such as "differently-abled" in reference to PwD.

**Conclusion:**

This presentation design allowed community needs to shape the educational content. Concepts about disability inclusivity were successfully conveyed, however feedback with a critical focus on language use around PwD suggests a need for further work in this area.