

2011

BREAKTROUGH CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES



This publication is a compilation of research on children with disabilities world-wide.

Defining Disabilities

A person who is limited in the kind or amount of activities that he or she can do because of ongoing difficulties due to a long-term physical condition, mental condition or health problem¹

World Outlook

- Roughly 10% of the world's population are born with or acquire a disability within their lifetimes²
 - Many of these disabilities are due to chronic diseases, injuries, violence, infectious diseases, malnutrition, and other causes closely related to poverty
- 80% of persons with disabilities live in developing countries³
 - Of this number the majority are poor and have limited or no access to basic services, including rehabilitation centers

Children with Disabilities

- Mortality for children with disabilities may be as high as 80% in countries where child mortality as a whole has dropped below 20%, suggesting an attitude of “weeding out”⁴
- 90% of children with disabilities in developing countries do not attend school⁵

Violence

- Women and girls with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to abuse⁶
 - A small study 2004 survey in Orissa, India that virtually all of the women and girls with disabilities were beaten at home. 25% of women with intellectually disabilities had been raped. 6% of the disabled women had been forcibly sterilized⁶
- Violence against children with disabilities occurs at annual rates at least 1.7 times greater than for their non-disabled peer

In a brief provided by the World Bank they stated that the majority of children with disabilities “Receive no education, are absent in school data sets, and invisible on the national policy agenda.”

¹ United Nations, 1998

² UN agency

³ UN Development Programme

⁴ United Kingdom’s Department of International Development

⁵ UNESCO

⁶ United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Overview 2006

In Article 7, regarding Children with Disabilities of the United Nations Enable: *Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities*, it declares that the “best interests of the children shall be a primary consideration.” Additionally, it adds that children with disabilities should be able to obtain human rights equal to all other children. According to the statistics listed above, the majority of children with disabilities worldwide are not a primary consideration, nor are they given opportunities equal to their peers.