

Breaking down Barriers

Understanding barriers to family planning by
using an intersectional lens

DR. WILLEM ELBERS 18-11-2022

The problem

Women & girls with disabilities consistently ignored by family planning policies in Sub-Saharan Africa

- Incorrect assumption PWDs are not sexually active
- Stigma

Consequently, they have great difficulties in accessing and benefiting from family planning services

- Birth control
- Desire to have kids

Barriers to family planning

- The barriers for women and girls with disabilities to access and benefit from family planning policies are already known
- Barriers structured using Levesque's (2013) access to healthcare model:

PWD-level	Service delivery level
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ability to perceive → low health literacy• ability to seek → low self-esteem and self-stigma• ability to reach → lack accessible transport transport• ability to pay → low income• ability to engage → lacking self-confidence & empowerment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• approachability → information is not made available• acceptability → negative attitudes of service provider staff• availability & accommodation → inaccessible geographical location & infrastructure• affordability → high costs of services• appropriateness → not tailored to needs

Knowledge gap & rationale

Existing studies overlook that women and girls with disabilities are marginalized in different ways depending on 'mix of identities':

age	type of impairment	religion	ethnic group	education level	rural/urban	etc.
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Thus, depending on their 'identity mix', some women/girls with disabilities will have more/less benefit more from family planning services than others

To develop effective solutions and lobby the government, we need to understand how different intersecting identities of women and girls with disabilities affect their ability to benefit from family planning services

The research

How do the different intersecting identities of women/girls with disabilities affect their ability to...

- perceive family planning
- seek family planning
- reach family planning
- pay family planning
- engage with family planning

How do the different intersecting identities of women/girls with disabilities affect the of family planning services?

- approachability
- acceptability
- availability & accommodation
- affordability
- appropriateness

Methods

2-3 sites per country

In-depth interviews using shared interview guides

6 interviews with service provider staff

8 interviews with women & girls with disabilities able to benefit

8 interviews with women & girls with disabilities **unable** to benefit