

Investigation of factors of community integration of the disabled in two different rural areas

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Introduction: This study was done as a part of a project called "community based rehabilitation in two different rural areas" accepted by Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey. Community based rehabilitation strategies for disabled are needed in Turkey as it is a developing country.

Objectives: The purpose of the study is to investigate personal, occupational and environmental factors, determine negative factors effecting the integration and participation of disabled people, develop community based rehabilitation strategies to increase participation.

Methods: To understand personal characteristics, roles, social and physical environment of disabled people, data is collected by socio-demographic questionnaire and interview. To assess difficulties and the perceived social support levels Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS), to understand coping skills and social behaviour Adaptive Behavior Scale-School (ABS-S) and to investigate activity limitations and participation of the disabled Canadian Occupational Performance Measurement is used .

Results: Results were similar in two rural areas. We assessed 107 people from Kazan and 108 people from Van at ages between 18-60. We found that postnatal reasons were higher than prenatal reasons as a cause of disability. %88,7 of disabled in Kazan and % 80 in Van do not involve in productive activities. People do not have leisure time activities (84%). Physical environment was inappropriate and when their social environment is checked, it is found that families were mostly overcrowded. Mostly mothers were care-givers in both districts. In Gürpınar coping skills were all poor while in Kazan they were mostly below average. Social behavior scores were poor in Gürpınar, while social behavior scores are average in Kazan. Disabled person / caregiver don't get support from people and share feelings except family members.

Conclusion: The data showed that disabled do not participate in activities except self-care. Community based strategies were developed to increase awareness and participation in daily activities. The high cause of postnatal reasons reflected problems in baby-care, knowledge of health care systems, vaccine prevention and economy. It is thought that caregivers, volunteers and leaders from community should be educated to prevent disability, create activity opportunities and increase participation of disabled people.