Including children with disabilities in community-based child protection mechanisms: A school-based intervention in Uganda

Dr Karen Devries
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK
Violence against disabled children

- 150 million children live with disabilities globally
- Data show 3 to 4 times the levels of violence versus non-disabled children in high income countries, but little known about the rest of the world
- Children with disabilities less likely to attend school, but majority do
- Some data from Ugandan primary school children:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Any violence from any perpetrator</th>
<th>Physical violence</th>
<th>Sexual violence</th>
<th>Emotional and neglect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>Disabled, %</td>
<td>Non-disabled, %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95.5</td>
<td>94.6</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99.5</td>
<td>99.1</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65.2</td>
<td>57.5</td>
<td>23.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main perpetrators among disabled students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**For boys with disabilities:**
- Physical: male peers
- Sexual: ‘others’
- Emotional: school staff
- School is a key location

**For girls with disabilities:**
- Physical: school staff
- Sexual: ‘others’, male peers
- Emotional: school staff
- School is a key location
Can we reduce violence in schools?

The Good Schools Study design:
- Cluster randomised trial in 42 primary schools in one district in Uganda
- Surveyed more than 3700 primary students and 500 staff in 2012 and 2014

➢ The Toolkit reduced physical violence from staff to students

➢ (OR=0.40, 95%CI p<0.0001)

The Good School Toolkit, by Raising Voices...a whole-school intervention to:
- prevent violence against children
- to improve teaching techniques
- to change school culture
Does it work for disabled children too?

Children with some difficulties engage more than children with more severe difficulties, but not much practical difference between groups.

The intervention reduces violence across all groups (no statistical difference).
Conclusions:

- The Good School Toolkit is a promising strategy for reducing violence against children, INCLUDING children with disabilities.
- It is possible to design universally targeted violence prevention interventions which also include children with disabilities!

Research team: Karen Devries, Louise Knight, Jennifer Child, Nambusi Kyegombe, Liz Allen, Charlotte Watts, Diana Elbourne (LSHTM); Jenny Parkes (IoE); Eddy Walakira (Makerere University); Dipak Naker (Raising Voices)
Raising Voices team: Willington Sseskade and the implementation team, Janet Nakuti, Angel Miriembe
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Good Schools Publications: