Learning from Korean Women with Disabilities: Lessons from the Field

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Research Questions

1. What barriers do women with disabilities in Korea face to accessing quality, effective health care?
2. What strategies do the women use to address these challenges?
3. What would they like doctors and other health care workers to know; what changes would they like to see to improve their health care experience?
Research Procedure

• Qualitative interviews using semi-structured interview guide

• Snowball sampling procedure; participants recruited through disabled women’s advocacy organizations, Independent Living Centers, professional contacts

• Goal of maximum variation as a form of purposive sampling to achieve theoretical saturation (Palys, 2008)

• Worked with associate as interpreter and “cultural bridge”
Interviewee Demographics:
Relationship Status

- Single: 20
- Married: 13
- Divorced: 2
- Widowed: 1
Interviewee Demographics:

Education

- No formal education: 1
- Middle school: 7
- High school: 8
- Some college: 9
- 4-year degree: 5
- Postgraduate: 6
Interviewee Demographics:
Current Primary Activity

Note: Total adds to more than 36 due to interviewees’ reporting multiple activities.
Interviewee Demographics: Characteristics of Interviewee’s Disability

- **Congenital**: 29
- **Acquired**: 7

- **Visible**: 32
- **Hidden**: 3
- **Both**: 1
Interviewee Demographics:
Type of Disability

- Cerebral palsy: 10
- Post-polio syndrome: 8
- Quadriplegia: 3
- Paraplegia: 1
- Osteogenesis imperfecta: 2
- Hearing impairment: 3
- Visual impairment: 4
- Kidney disease: 2
- Cognitive impairment: 1
- Muscular dystrophy: 2
- Chronic pain: 1
- Other mobility impairment: 1

Note: Total adds to more than 36 due to interviewees’ presenting multiple disabilities.
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