

Use of Washington Group Short Set on Functioning for the screening of disability

among adults in a rural community of Bangladesh

Shagoofa Rakhshanda, Farida Yesmin, Aminur Rahman, Riffat Ara Shawon,
AKM Fazlur Rahman, AHM Eanayet Hussain, Saidur Rahman Mashreky



Background

- The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) defines disability as "an umbrella term for impairments, activity limitations and participation restrictions".¹
- Persons with disability from developing countries face many challenges in aspect of poverty, access to healthcare services, and social stigmas.²
- About 15% of the global population lives with some forms of disability.³
- About 80% of these are from developing countries.³
- Rapid Assessment of Disability (RAD) indicated a prevalence rate of 8.9% in Bangladesh, and the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) of Bangladesh (2010) puts the prevalence rate of disability at 9.1%.²
- Lowest prevalence is among children of 0-4 years, and the highest prevalence is among adults of 80 years and above.²
- There is a dire need to design interventions for the management of disabled people for which reason individuals with disability needs to be identified so that they can be linked to the existing health system of Bangladesh
- Amongst several tools and questionnaires, the Washington Group Short Set (WGSS) on Functioning is an easy to use, simple and valid tool for the measurement of disability.⁴
- The WGSS is set of six questions based on six domains (seeing, hearing, walking, cognition, self-care and communication) that most often limit an individual's functionality.⁴
- Many countries use WGSS for national surveys.⁴

Objective

The aim of this study is to determine the feasibility (in terms of acceptability and ease of administration) of using WGSS as a screening tool to identify persons with disability for further diagnosis and treatment, and consequently determine the prevalence of disability among adults in a rural community of Bangladesh

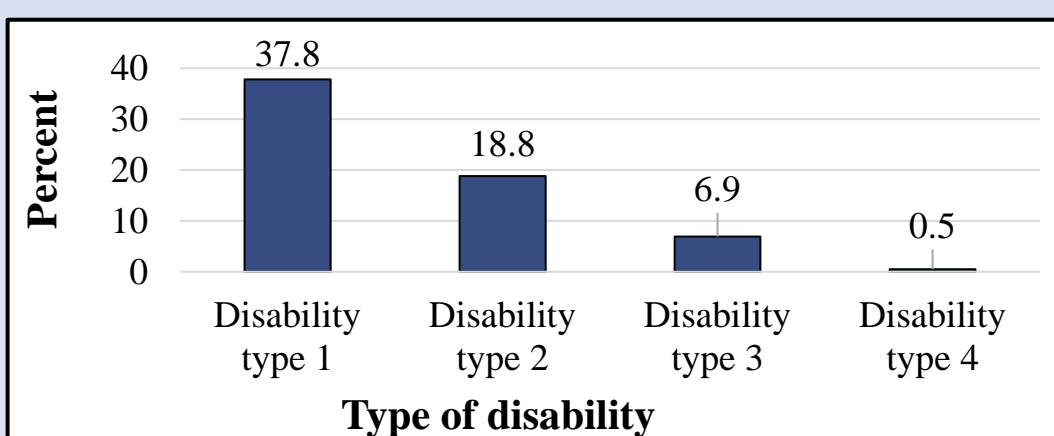
Methods

Study design	Study site	Study population	Data collection procedure	Study tool
Cross-sectional survey	Dhangora Union of Raiganj Upazila	All adults (18 years and above)	Data collected at household level using digital software	Washington Group Short Set on Functioning

Data analysis:

- Data on extent and degree of disability generated in this study
- All quantitative data was cleaned and checked for consistency
- Descriptive analysis along with other statistical analysis was performed on the cleaned data set using STATA version 12
- The data was analyzed and put into tabular formats following the Analytic Guidelines of the Washington Group Short Set on Functioning

Results



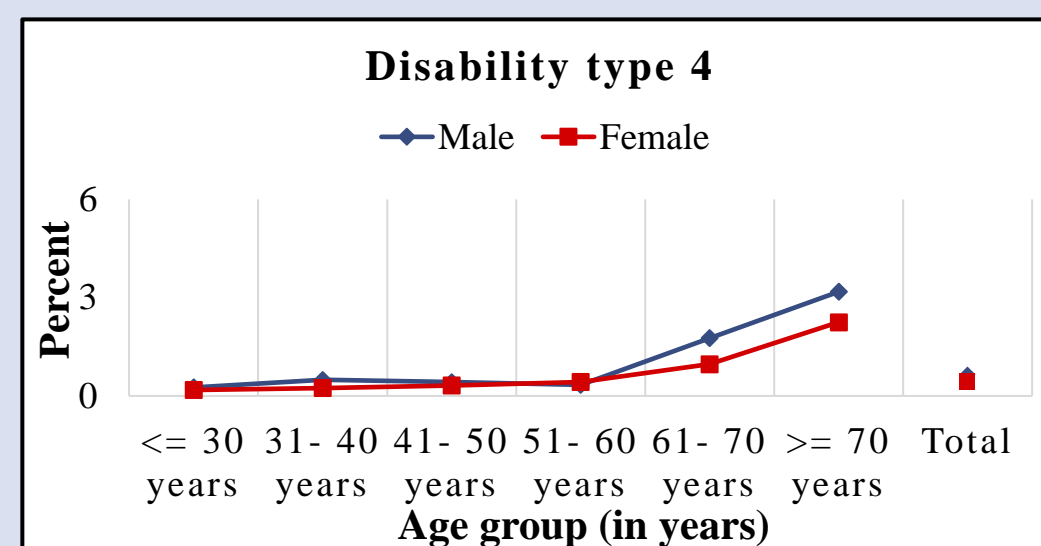
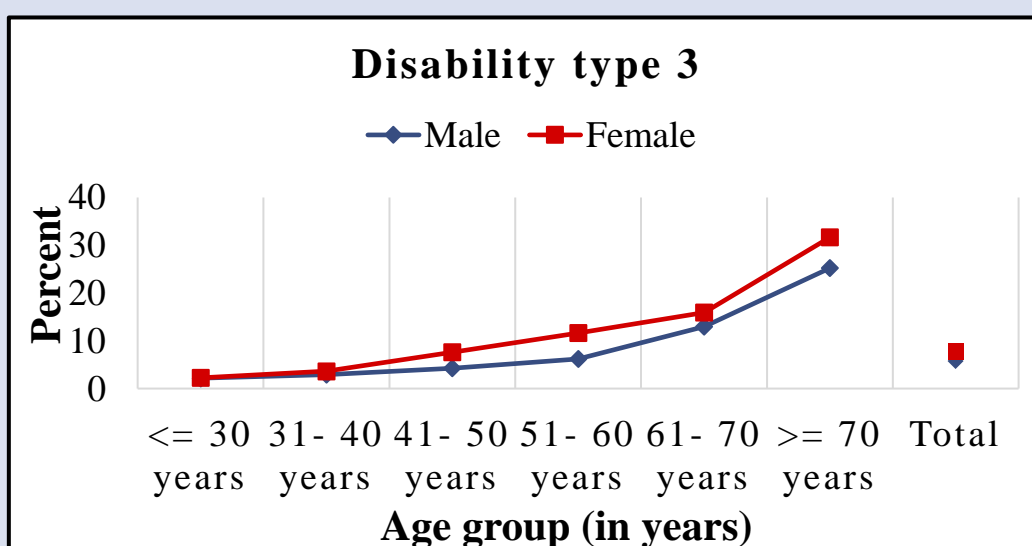
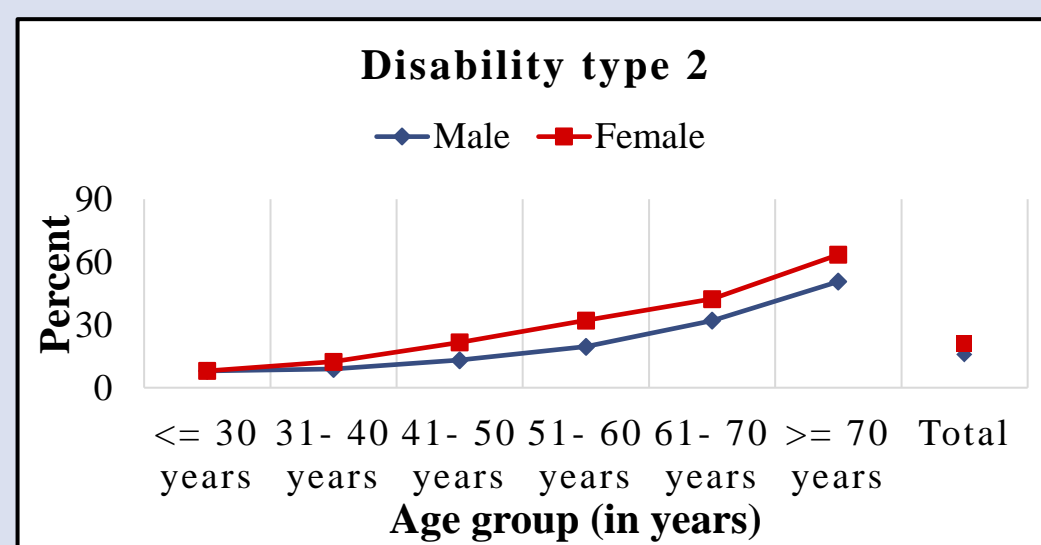
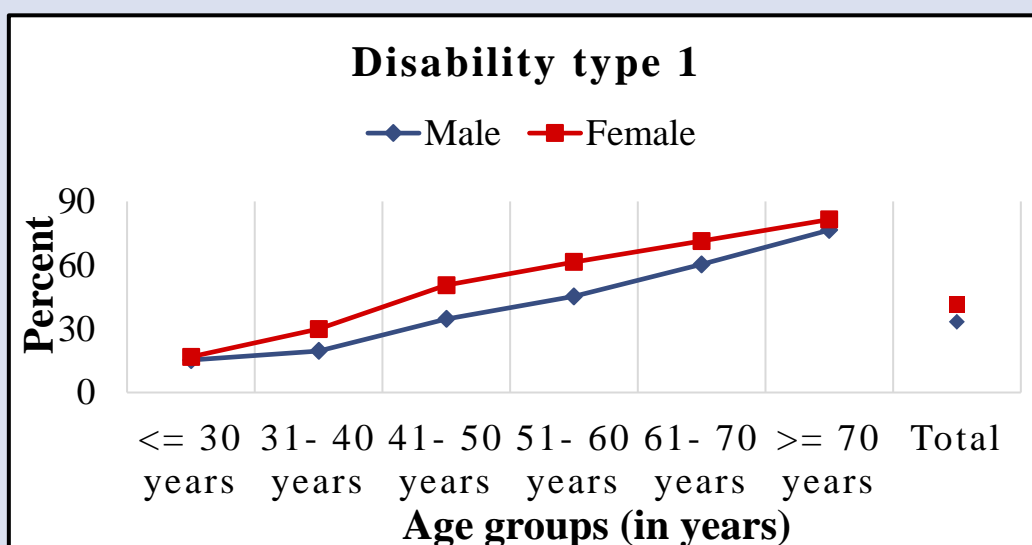
Domain	No difficulty n (%)	Some difficulty n (%)	A lot of difficulty n (%)	Cannot do at all n (%)
Vision	16469 (73.9)	5086 (22.8)	700 (3.1)	15 (0.1)
Hearing	19805 (88.9)	2161 (9.7)	261 (1.2)	43 (0.2)
Mobility	19156 (86.0)	2467 (11.1)	601 (2.7)	46 (0.2)
Memory	20297 (91.1)	1812 (8.1)	152 (0.7)	9 (0.0)
Self-care	21144 (94.9)	987 (4.4)	110 (0.5)	29 (0.1)
Communication	20653 (92.7)	1459 (6.5)	131 (0.6)	27 (0.1)

Disability type 1: Person has any form of difficulty in functioning in any (or more) of the domains

Disability type 2: Person has some difficulty in more than one domain or a lot of difficulty and/or cannot do at all in any (or more) of the domains.

Disability type 3: Person has a lot of difficulties or cannot do at all in any (or more) of the domains.

Disability type 4: Person cannot function at all in any (or more) of the domains.



Conclusion

This study identified people who self-reported that they had some level of disability in any or more of the domains among all the adult population of a selected rural area of Bangladesh. The study revealed disability as a considerable burden, more so among females. Also, it showed how different types of disability outcomes vary with socio-demographic characteristics such as age and sex. It is expected that the finding will help the policy makers and program managers to recognize the target population for intervention according to the distribution of the four types of disability.

Acknowledgements

Non Communicable Disease Control (NCDC) department of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), and Dr. Farhana Islam

References

- ICF. (2010). The ICF: An Overview. Epub ahead of print 2010. Retrieved from: https://www.wcpt.org/sites/wcpt.org/files/files/GH-ICF_overview_FINAL_for_WHO.pdf
- Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). (2010). Report of the household income & expenditure survey 2010. DOI: 10.1017/CBO9781107415324.004.
- World Health Organization (WHO). (2018). 10 facts on disability. Geneva, Switzerland: WHO. Retrieved from: <https://www.who.int/features/factfiles/disability/en/>
- WHO and The World Bank. (2011). World report on disability. Geneva, Switzerland: WHO. Retrieved from: https://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/report.pdf