Examining Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Care Services and Information for Young Women with Physical Motor Disabilities in Dakar, Senegal

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Physical motor disabilities in Dakar, Senegal.

This is a mixed-methods study that examines access to SRH knowledge.

Study Objectives

- To identify barriers in accessing sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services and information.
- To identify the current knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors of young women with disabilities.
- To assess the impact of disability on SRH knowledge and access.
- To explore the role of health care professionals in providing SRH services.
- To identify potential solutions to improve access to SRH services.

Results

71% of participants report not feeling knowledgeable about STIs; only 23% of participants knew of another STI other than HIV.

Health Care Professionals' Behavior and Attitudes

Many women spoke of how medical professionals judge them poorly and lack empathy. As one participant explained, "Sometimes, when you go to the doctor, they treat you poorly and judge you.

Financial Barriers

Many women spoke of how they lack the economic resources to access SRH services. Many women also spoke of how they lack the knowledge necessary to access SRH services. Some women stated that they lack money to pay for care. As one participant explained, "I wake up very early, you have to be there on time. Otherwise, you can't see the doctor.

Structural Barriers

The most common structural barriers cited were lack of ramps and elevators, and consultation tables being too high up. As one participant explained, "Sometimes, when you go up [on to the table], you fall.

Suggestions for Improving Access to SRH Services & Info

- Provide information on how to access SRH services.
- Encourage health care professionals to treat all patients with respect.
- Ensure that health care facilities are physically accessible to all patients.
- Provide information on how to access SRH services.