

INPLASY PROTOCOL

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Corresponding author:
Jaya Shanker Tedla

jtedla@kku.edu.sa

Author Affiliation:
King Khalid University

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Conflicts of interest:
None declared.

Quality of life among children with special needs in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. A Systematic Review

Tedla, JS¹; Sangadala, DR²; Mukherjee, D³; Reddy, RS⁴; Kakaraparthi, VN⁵; Gular, K⁶; Dixit, S⁷.

Review question / Objective: The purpose of this systematic review is to find the details of the quality of life among children with disabilities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Condition being studied: Quality of life is a holistic concept that goes beyond the health dimension. Quality of life is not affected by disability alone but also by the person's experiences. Different disorders affect neurological, sensory, respiratory, metabolic, cardiac, musculoskeletal, hematological, and autoimmune disorders, either prenatal, perinatal, post-natal or during the development of the children. These disorders affect any of the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual domains of the life of children. If any one aspect of domains of life is affected, which in turn influences the quality of life in these children. There is a prevalence of disability in children due to different disorders in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In the current systematic review, we intended to review the quality of life of children with different disorders in Saudi Arabia.

INPLASY registration number: This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 05 March 2023 and was last updated on 05 March 2023 (registration number INPLASY202330016).

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective: The purpose of this systematic review is to find the details of the quality of life among children with disabilities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Rationale: After a thorough literature search, we noticed many cross-sectional studies conducted on the quality of life of different disorders affecting the pediatric population in Saudi Arabia. But cumulative evidence focusing on the quality of life of children with pediatric disorders in Saudi

Arabia is lacking. Therefore, we aimed to provide valuable and collective information to the readers.

Condition being studied: Quality of life is a holistic concept that goes beyond the health dimension. Quality of life is not affected by disability alone but also by the person's experiences. Different disorders affect neurological, sensory, respiratory, metabolic, cardiac, musculoskeletal, hematological, and autoimmune disorders, either prenatal, perinatal, post-natal or during the development of the children. These disorders affect any of the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual domains of the life of children. If any one aspect of domains of life is affected, which in turn influences the quality of life in these children. There is a prevalence of disability in children due to different disorders in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In the current systematic review, we intended to review the quality of life of children with different disorders in Saudi Arabia.

METHODS

Search strategy: Electronic databases such as Campbell Library, Data Base of Promoting Health Effectiveness (DoPHER) EMBASE, NHS EED, PROSPERO, Pub Med, PsycINFO, MEDLINE (Ovid), SCOPUS, DOAJ, CINHAHL, Web of Science, Saudi Digital library will be used for search strategy. The medical subject headings such as quality of life, disabled children, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, autism, cystic fibrosis, asthma, juvenile arthritis, diabetes mellitus, obesity, intellectual disability, and Saudi Arabia will be employed as keywords in the above-mentioned databases to search for relevant articles. Authors also will search for grey literature from Google Scholar and also from the reference list of articles pertaining to this topic. Authors also will personally communicate for the articles related to this topic if required.

Participant or population: Children with special needs affected by different pediatric disorders.

Intervention: We will find out QOL among various disabilities by analyzing the studies. However, there is no direct intervention in this review.

Comparator: Studies conducted with the quality life of disabled children due to different disorders compared with the quality of life of children without disabilities.

Study designs to be included: Cross-sectional studies, Observational studies, Cohort studies, Experimental studies.

Eligibility criteria: Studies conducted on quality of life of children with disabilities, studies on quality of life of children with disabilities comparing with the quality life of caregivers without disabilities, studies measuring the quality of life by the children, studies measured the quality of life by the proxy if the children cannot rate the questionnaires. Studies performed during the period from 2000- 2022 and studies published in the English Language, Studies published in the field of nursing, psychology and medicine will be considered for the review.

Information sources: Information sources include Campbell Library, Data Base of Promoting Health Effectiveness (DoPHER) EMBASE, NHSEED, PROSPERO, Pub Med, PsycINFO, MEDLINE (Ovid), SCOPUS, CINHAHL, DOAJ, Web of Science, and Saudi Digital library will be used for search strategy. The medical subject headings such as quality of life, disabled children, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, autism, cystic fibrosis, asthma, juvenile arthritis, diabetes mellitus, obesity, intellectual disability, and Saudi Arabia will be employed as keywords in the above-mentioned databases to search for relevant articles. Authors also will search for grey literature from Google Scholar and also from the reference list of articles pertaining to this topic. Authors also will personally communicate for the articles related to this topic if required.

Main outcome(s): Quality of life and participation among children with disabilities.

Additional outcome(s): Additional outcomes, such as functional capacity and factors affecting QOL, will also be measured if enough articles are available.

Data management: Collected articles and their data will be analyzed and available with the corresponding authors.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis: All the included cross-sectional studies will undergo a methodological quality assessment using the National Institutes of Health (NIH) quality assessment tool for observational cohort and cross-sectional studies. Additional tool Joanna Brigg's Institute critical appraisal tool for cross-sectional studies also will be used for quality assessment if required.

Strategy of data synthesis: The study selection process and screening of the studies to include in the review will be explained with the help of a flow diagram. Methodological quality assessment will be explained in the form of tables. Qualitative data, such as findings and conclusions of the included studies, will be elaborated in narrative form with the help of tables and charts in the review.

Subgroup analysis: Subgroup analysis based on the different types of disorders in children, each domain of the quality of life of children will be performed if sufficient studies are available.

Sensitivity analysis: The National Institutes of Health (NIH) quality assessment tool for observational cohort and cross-sectional studies will be used by the review team for sensibility analysis of the included studies for the review.

Language restriction: Full text articles published in English language only will be considered for this review.

Country(ies) involved: Saudi Arabia.

Other relevant information: Nil.

Keywords: disability, children, quality of life, participation.

Dissemination plans: The results of this systematic review will be published in peer-reviewed international journals.

Contributions of each author:

Author 1 - Jaya Shanker Tedla.

Email: jtedla@kku.edu.sa

Author 2 - Devika Rani Sangadala.

Email: drani@kku.edu.sa

Author 3 - Debjani Mukherjee.

Email: debjani@kku.edu.sa

Author 4 - Ravi Shanker Reddy.

Email: rshankar@kku.edu.sa

Author 5 - Venkata Nagaraj Kakaraparthi.

Email: vnraj@kku.edu.sa

Author 6 - Kumar Gular.

Email: kmeny@kku.edu.sa

Author 7 - Snehil Dixit.

Email: snehil@kku.edu.sa