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Pilot study of Model Disability Survey (MDS) in a single region; Seongbukgu, Seoul, Korea

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Objective

World Health Organization (WHO) developed Model Disability Survey (MDS) which is disability survey on general population. In MDS, the disability is explained as the result of interaction between individual health condition, various environmental and personal factors based on International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF). We conducted MDS for general population with intent to understand disability better as the combination of various factors.

Method

We translated MDS into Korean and educated investigator through communication and consultation with WHO. And we carried out MDS on population of Seongbuk-gu because Seongbuk-gu had a most similar population characteristics compared to that of Seoul city in four perspective; age, sex ratio, residence type and the number of family member. We surveyed 321 participants over the age of 19 years old with randomized sampling during July to September in 2018. In our MDS questionnaires, there are 337 questions about individual health condition, various environmental factors and personal factors. We calculated cut off value with Polytomous Rasch model for stratification degree of disability into 4 subdivisions, 'No', 'Mild', 'Moderate' and 'Severe'.

Results

We ascertained the distribution of degree of disability in Seongbuk-gu that 'No', 'Mild disability', 'Moderate disability' and 'Severe disability' accounted for 28.0%, 24.0%, 27.1% and 20.9% respectively. We could confirm strong statistical associations between age and degree of disability. (P<.01). There was no significant difference according to gender. The problems in everyday life which people with 'severe disability' experienced were as follows; difficulties in vigorous activity like cycling or running (22.4%), seeing things that are far away (19.4%), caring for or helping others (13.8%). About environmental factors, 38.8% of 'severe disability' respondents have difficulties in participation to social life because of attitude of other people and 12.3% have difficulties at work or school. When looking at Questionnaires on self-reported health status, there were morbidities such as hypertension(14.0%), arthritis(8.1%), gastritis(7.8%), migraine(7.5%) in order of frequency.

Conclusion

Disability is a concept of continuity that can be extended to all people in a lifetime. During our study, various analyses such as degree of functional impairment, severity of disability and environmental factors were conducted in addition to disease status. This study is the first domestic application case of MDS. It is meaningful as a health survey on general population which is different from the previous survey that investigated just for persons with disabilities. Arising of our study, we hope that further development of materials that can be developed and used in various fields such as education, health, health care, social insurance, labor, policy for persons with disabilities.