

Access to health care for women with disabilities in Nepal

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Persons with disabilities have essentially the same health needs as any other person. On a purely formal level, there are multiple legal instruments –most notably the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)– that seek to ensure access to health care for persons with disabilities and to prevent discriminatory practices that restrict access to health services. However, persons with disabilities continue to face significant barriers in accessing health care. It follows that formal equality does not necessarily translate into substantive social equality, and that the right to health –as a fundamental social right– may be jeopardised for persons with disabilities.

In this lecture, Dr. Christine Bigler, Dr. Sony KC and Yamila Pita address this issue with a particular focus on the barriers to health access that women with disabilities in Nepal face on a daily basis. Drawing on the theoretical efforts of Dr. Amber Knight, they inquire into the role of power structures in the unequal distribution of human vulnerability and explore the political implications of addressing disability as a public welfare issue in order to effectively guarantee the right to health for women with disabilities in Nepal.