QUALITY OF LIFE OF PERSON WITH DISABILITIES IN MALAYSIA: AN EXPLORATORY STUDY

Rohana Jani, Alias Abd Aziz

1Departments of Applied Statistics, University of Malaya

Abstract: Malaysia through Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and Incheon Strategy has made a commitment to improve the quality of life Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Malaysia. A survey was carried out with sample assessed comprised of 142 respondents who were stratified based on three types of disabilities, hearing, visual and physical impairment. This paper aimed to explore the quality of life (QoL) of PWDs using the World Health Organization Quality of Life instrument (WHOQOL-DIS) measuring seven domains, namely, physical health, psychological, social relationship, environmental, discrimination, autonomy and inclusion. The results indicated that the highest mean score was in domains social relationship (mean = 15.45, sd = 2.82) followed by autonomy domain (mean = 15.15, sd = 3.21) with discrimination domain scored the lowest mean (mean = 11.69, sd = 3.19). Results also revealed that persons with visual impairment reported the highest mean score for social relationship, autonomy and social inclusion compared to their counterparts. Persons with physical disability felt that they were the most discriminated against. However, there is no significant different in mean score were observed for all domains across the different types of disabilities except for physical domains. The study found that persons with visual impairment seems to have the highest total QoL score. In addition, we were able to identify the domains that should be given due attention based on the respective types of disabilities.

Keywords: Exploratory Study, Person With Disabilities, Quality Of Life, WHOQOL – DIS