

# Analysis of Food Security Newspaper Coverage Through a Disability Studies Lens

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## Introduction:

- Food security is a global issue and a social determinant of health<sup>[1-2]</sup>
- Disabled people experience higher than average food insecurity<sup>[3-6]</sup>
- No media analysis has been conducted that investigated newspaper coverage of food security as it relates to disabled people

## Purpose:

- Determine the visibility of disabled people in the newspaper coverage on food security
- Identify present themes in food security coverage and whether these themes are associated with disabled people

## Methods:

- Articles were collected from the Calgary Herald, Globe and Mail, National Post, New York Times, The Guardian and the Canadian Newstand (collection of 300 Canadian newspapers)
- ATLAS.ti© data analysis software was used to detect themes present in the articles (qualitative) and to determine the frequency of these themes (quantitative)

## Results/Discussion:

- Disabled people were not present in the media coverage of food security (Table 1)
- There was a substantial number of themes covered by the newspapers such as, acknowledging food security as a concern, food insecurity's association with poverty and foreign aid for food security, that are of relevance to disabled people

Table 1 Code	Canadian Newsstand (n=300 newspapers)	Globe and Mail	National Post	Calgary Herald	New York Times	The Guardian (UK)	The Times (UK)
Food Security	10315	376	186	184	313	11300	281
Food Security and "people with disabilities"/ disabled people	59/13	1/0	0/0	1/1	0/0	29/81	0/2
Food insecurity and "people with disabilities"/ disabled people	13/0	1/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	9/25	0/0

- The lack of visibility of disabled people (Table 1) hinders their social participation in addressing food security issues
- Inclusion of disabled people in food security must be addressed directly by NGOs, the government and media

• The Guardian was the one exception which gave disabled people some level of coverage. In the article *Put disability on the food security agenda*, it is stated: “[f]ood security for all: The food security agenda post-2015 should be about equity, human rights, sustainable and inclusive development and sustainable and inclusive growth. Beneficiaries should be included in the design, implementation and monitoring of programmes, which make programmes more likely to succeed. Ask yourself, are disabled people involved in all stages of the project cycle in you organisation- project identification, project design, implementation and monitoring, and project evaluation.”

## References:

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