IMPACT OF LOW INCOME AND LINGUISTIC MINORITY CONTEXT ON POST-STROKE PARTICIPATION: A SITUATION OF OCCUPATIONAL DISADVANTAGE

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INTRODUCTION

- Majority of stroke survivors experience difficulties with participation\(^1\)

- Low income is associated with poorer participation\(^2\)

- Linguistic minority status is linked to challenges engaging in rehabilitation\(^3\) and transition back to the community\(^4\).

How do Canadian Francophone stroke survivors living in a low income and linguistic minority situation experience attempting to return to participation?
MULTIPLE CASE-STUDY\(^1\)

**Case**
- Stroke survivor
- French as mother tongue or first official language spoken
- Low income (under $19,500 USD /year for a single person)

- 2 semi-structured interviews
- 1 interview for confirmation
- Participant observations
- 4 measures: Stroke Impact Scale, Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale, ICF Participation, Assessment of bilingualism
- Medical chart reviews

**Care partner:**
- 1 semi structured interview

\(^1\)(Stake, 2006)
FINDINGS: LANGUAGE

In this regional context...

- There were no reported events of language discordance during services received.
- Language influenced post-stroke participation minimally.

Other language-related issues were identified:

- professionals using standard language and jargon
- participants with low health literacy
FINDINGS: LOW INCOME

Low income affected the ability to afford precursors to participation:

- Housing
- Services
- Goods

Access to social services had a strong influence on the experience of return to participation.
RELATIVE INFLUENCE OF THE LEVELS OF ENVIRONMENT ON PARTICIPATION

Macro-environment
Examples: policies, laws, regulations related to health and social services

Meso-environment
Examples: income support programs, social housing, healthcare services

Micro-environment
Examples: social supports, built environment

Personal Factors
Examples: Language, age
Social and health policies maintained situations of occupational disadvantage for the low-income stroke survivors.