

Project Echo: Examining Post-Event Ripple Effects

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OBJECTIVE: Examine the impact of major parasport events on sport participation for persons with physical disabilities in the host city once the event is complete



Impacts extend well beyond the event, but how these influence the lived experience of participation is not well understood (Misener et al., 2019)

Methodology

1. Web-platform for asynchronous focus group discussion
 - a) Elite Athletes
 - b) Recreational Sport Participants
 - c) Casual or Non-Participants
2. Go-Along Interviews with persons with disabilities in each city

Event and non-event experiences

- Facilities
- Access
- Opportunities
- Experiences
- Future Events



PROJECT ECHO PLATFORM LAUNCHED MARCH 2020

PIVOT: IMPACT OF COVID on participation

“The Covid-19 lockdown has had the potential to exacerbate the challenges of social isolation, particularly for groups such as PwD where lack of access to physical activity remains a critical concern”

- 5 Focus groups curated through the website

Findings: 4 key themes

Creativity	“online classes and new activities” “hitting a ball against a wall is boring”
Mental Well-Being	“...having suicidal thoughts at various points because of the feelings of isolation and anxiety”
Safety	Reduced access to hygienic and accessible facilities, including “public toilets” and “safe accessible public transportation” “People do not give me enough space”
Exacerbation of disablement	“perpetuating the “deviant” identity imposed by society” “..an afterthought”

Events of all kinds have a large impact on peoples lives and this impact is in some ways exacerbated for PwD

