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Investigating the Impact and Attitudes of Social Workers in Assisting People with Disabilities in Alice in the Eastern Cape of South Africa

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ABSTRACT The aim of this study was to investigate the efficacy of social workers in assisting people with disabilities. The study used a qualitative research design to collect data from twenty-nine (29) participants. The findings discovered a number of serious constraints in providing services for people living with disabilities, which include: inadequate knowledge and skills of how to take good care of people living with disabilities as well as inadequate funds to support them. Family support services are important safeguarding elements for people living with disabilities as policy documents shows that they required different services from community. However, a clear link between the aims of family preservation and the needs of families caring for a relative with a disability has been established. Rural contexts in these countries may present greater barriers than urban contexts, but little is known about access issues in such contexts. There is a paucity of studies in South Africa looking at “triple vulnerability” – poverty, disability and rurality. The current study provides a local case study of these issues with the aim of informing future interventions to improve the lives of persons with disabilities.