



They are not Half-Humans: Case Studies of Disabled in the Developing World

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ABSTRACT

Marginalized and forgotten, the plight of disabled people in the developing world is a harsh reality that persists despite international recognition of disability rights. This study aims to shine a light on the lived experiences of disabled individuals in several developing countries, examining the unique challenges they face as a result of poverty, social stigmas, and inadequate legislation. Through in-depth case studies, the research documents the barriers faced by disabled people in accessing healthcare, education, and employment, as well as the difficulties they encounter in navigating their local communities and political systems. Despite these challenges, many disabled people in developing countries are actively engaged in advocating for their rights and mobilizing their communities for change. This research highlights the efforts of these activists and the grassroots movements they lead, drawing attention to the strength and resilience of disabled individuals who are fighting for a more just and inclusive society. By exploring the diverse experiences of disabled people across several developing nations, this study aims to contribute to a better understanding of the complex issues facing this population, with the ultimate goal of supporting policy initiatives and social programs that can improve the lives of disabled individuals and promote disability justice worldwide. To gather data for this study, a qualitative, ethnographic approach was utilized, with case studies conducted in several developing countries. In-depth interviews and focus group discussions with disabled individuals, their families, and community leaders were conducted to gain a comprehensive understanding of the lived experiences and challenges faced by disabled people in these regions. In addition, a participatory research method was employed to engage disabled individuals as active participants in the research process. This approach allowed for a more nuanced and personalized understanding of the barriers faced by disabled people in developing countries, as well as their perspectives on effective strategies for advocacy and change.

Keywords: Half-Humans, Disability, Developing, World

INTRODUCTION

Findings and the work of the International Centre for Evidence in Disability and UNICEF, the World Bank, and the United Nations Development Programme have suggested that the relationship between disability and poverty is complex, multi-dimensional, and non-linear. The CBR matrix suggested that the level of poverty is not determined by the presence and type of impairments, but by how the impairment is effectively managed by the individual. It is clear that an individual, who receives the necessary support, whether in the form of surgery, medication, physiotherapy, etc., will have greater prospects of fully participating in education, vocational training, and eventual employment. An effective means of preventing disability is therefore ensuring that people receive adequate healthcare following an injury, illness, or disease. This is often difficult in developing countries.

There is a lack of reliable data about people with disabilities, making it difficult to accurately assess the prevalence and nature of their disadvantages. To get around this, it is useful to look at the situation of disabled people within developing countries. There are widely held assumptions that in developing countries, people with disabilities and their families are under great burden and that it is more costly to support a disabled child than it is to support a non-disabled child. It is also assumed that caring for a person with disabilities often results in economic hardship for the family. These assumptions are understandable; as it is clear that the majority of disabled people in the world live in poverty, and that the daily struggle for survival of such families is a harsh one.

Disability in the world today is not a new phenomenon. As the adage goes, 'not all fingers are equal', so it implies to humans- 'not all humans are born the same way'. Some may be born with one impairment or the other while others may not. However, this does not negate the fact that we are all humans. Not minding the circumstances, being disabled has its roots in a social construct that influences societal attitudes when viewed as an inherent condition in an individual. In the world at large, there exists a negative typecast about disabled people.

Hurst associated it with Western folktales where the wicked witch or evil person is usually imagined to have a hunchback and use a stick. This is not only particular to folktales; tribal societies and religion also have a role to play in influencing the perspectives on disability in countries of the developing world. Amidst plenty, disabled people continue to experience marginalization in diverse areas such as political representation and social gains.

Ableism is a term that describes a certain attitude towards individuals based on their abilities or perceived lack thereof. This mindset is rooted in beliefs, processes, and practices that prioritize certain abilities over others. It shapes how individuals view themselves, their bodies, and their relationships with others and the world around them. Ableism also influences how individuals are judged by society. It perpetuates the idea that certain abilities are more valuable than others, leading to discrimination and exclusion of those who do not fit into this narrow definition of worth. This attitude promotes social structures and constructs that prioritize productivity and competitiveness, often at the expense of those who may not conform to these standards. By recognizing and challenging ableism, we can work towards creating a more inclusive and equitable society for all individuals, regardless of their abilities.

Another simple example is verbal expression which is more socially valued than communicating through signs or symbols. Placing values on certain ideals comes with adverse effects psychologically and socially on the disabled directly or indirectly. The 'isms' include ageism, racism, sexism, casteism, consumerism, and anti-environmentalism.

Ableism can likewise come in various forms like organic structure-located Ableism, cognition-located Ableism, hierarchy-based Ableism, and ableism basic to a given financial structure.

Therefore, ableism is a general process that creates a difference between individuals who are identified as incapacitated and those who are not labelled as incapacitated and in what way or manner they relate with one another in the social system. People living with defects are faced with plenty of challenges in Nigeria, and this has become a clog in the wheel of their social and emotional progress. N. Isaac in his book entitled *Coping with Disability in the Next Millennium* argued that people living with defects face a lot of challenges in a country like Nigeria. He stressed that unlike some developed countries where proper care and attention is given to the disabled the case in Nigeria is different. Other scholars, A Harris and E Enfield also pointed out how the fundamental rights of the disabled are trampled upon in their book titled *Disability and Human Rights: A Training Manual for Development and Human Rights*. They argued that government intervention is necessary to sustain the people living with defects.

It does not necessarily need to be a financial help but constitutional support. This paper gives details on how the government can make laws that will order establishments to construct walkways for disabled persons in wheelchairs and stiffen the laws regulating these physically challenged individuals as they are also humans and have equal rights as others.

Disability is a multifaceted concept that encompasses various aspects of impairment, inactivity, limitation in participation, and restriction due to certain circumstances. It serves as an umbrella term for the undesirable consequences that arise from the interaction between an individual with a health condition and their immediate environment. This complex relationship highlights the impact of personal factors and environmental barriers on an individual's ability to function effectively.

The presence or absence of aids and facilitators can significantly influence an individual's performance and overall well-being. Without proper support systems in place, individuals with disabilities may face challenges in accessing opportunities and fully participating in society. Conversely, a supportive environment can enhance their abilities and promote inclusion. Disability is not solely defined by physical or mental impairments but also by the external factors that shape one's experiences and opportunities. It underscores the importance of creating inclusive environments that empower individuals to thrive despite their limitations.

As a result, this gives 'disability' two broad contextual dimensions which are first, an environmental-based limitation and second, a personal limitation in participation. In a Convention On The Rights Of Persons With Disabilities, emphasis was placed on the possibility of individuals participating in different spheres- 'recognizing that defects are an upcoming concept which results from the relationship between people with impairment and other environmental and attitudinal factors that hinders their good enough participation within the society based on the principle of equality.

According to OECD's Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI) in their document 'Students with Disabilities, Learning Difficulties and Disadvantages: Policies, Statistics and Indicators' published in 2007, disabilities are categorized into three main categories. Category A includes students with limitations impairments that are classified as natural diseases caused by natural pathologies in medical language, such as sensory, motor, or neurological disorders. Category B consists of pupils with behavioural or emotional disorders, or distinct problems in learning. Lastly, Category C encompasses students facing disadvantages due to various factors. This classification system helps educators and policymakers better understand the diverse needs of students with disabilities. By recognizing the different types of challenges these students face, appropriate support and interventions can be implemented to ensure they receive the necessary resources to succeed academically and socially.

Students with behavioural or emotional illness, or learning difficulties, they are misfortune students who suffer from socioeconomic, cultural, and/or semantic problems. Overall, disability can be classified into one or more following groups. Intellectual disability, hearing impairments, visual impairments, physical impairments, autism spectrum disorder, communication disorder, and multiples disabilities. Disabilities, therefore, do not make people half human, in terms of having the properties or relating to mankind.

Living with disabilities does not diminish a person's humanity or worth. In fact, it often highlights their strength, resilience, and unique perspective on life. Society may sometimes view those with disabilities as less capable or valuable, but this is a harmful misconception that must be challenged. People with disabilities are just as human as anyone else, with the same desires for love, connection, and fulfilment. They may face additional challenges in their daily lives, but this does not make them any less deserving of respect and dignity. It is important to recognize the abilities and potential of individuals with disabilities, rather than focusing on their limitations. By embracing diversity and inclusivity, we can create a more compassionate and understanding society where everyone is valued for who they are. Those who face physical or mental challenges are like faded ink that can still create beautiful works of art, or a pen that is mightier than the sword. Their struggles and triumphs showcase the resilience and strength of the human spirit. People with disabilities often have to navigate a world that is not always accommodating or understanding. Despite these obstacles, they continue to persevere and

contribute in meaningful ways to society. Their unique perspectives and experiences can offer valuable insights and inspire others to overcome their own challenges.

It is important to recognize and celebrate the abilities and talents of individuals with disabilities, rather than focusing solely on their limitations. By embracing diversity and inclusivity, we can create a more compassionate and accepting world for all. Disabilities do not define a person; they are simply one aspect of who they are as individuals deserving of respect, dignity, and equality.

Individuals with disabilities face various limitations that can be influenced by personal or environmental factors. While some disabilities may be more severe and incapacitating, others may cause difficulties in daily life without rendering the individual completely unable to function. Mental illnesses, for example, can have a significant impact on an individual's ability to navigate social interactions and relationships. One such mental illness is character deficiency, which can lead individuals to experience feelings of loneliness and isolation. This is often due to their personality traits interfering with their ability to form meaningful connections with others. While not necessarily incapacitating, character deficiencies can still have a profound impact on an individual's quality of life. It is important to recognize and support individuals facing various forms of limitations, whether they are physical or mental. By understanding the unique challenges they face, we can work towards creating a more inclusive and supportive society for all individuals.

People who have eating disorders may become so concerned about their weight and physical appearance that they force themselves not to eat. Individuals who experience post-traumatic stress disorder get angry easily; have distressing thoughts, or have concentration problems.

Throughout history, individuals with disabilities have often been misrepresented and marginalized in the media, cinema, and various societies. Researchers such as (Braint et al. 2011; Rice et al. 2015; and Shakespeare, 1994) have highlighted how characters with impairments are frequently portrayed in negative ways, perpetuating harmful stereotypes. In films, individuals with disabilities are often depicted as comedic, villainous, or defenceless, reinforcing the idea that their handicap is a tragedy or a sign of vulnerability (Schwartz et al., 2010).

Furthermore, (Braint et al, 2011) argued that the media frequently uses derogatory language such as "the crippled," which only serves to further stigmatize individuals with disabilities. (Burning et al., 2017) said in some African societies, disability is viewed as demonic or a punishment, leading to discrimination and exclusion. These negative attitudes and perceptions towards disability contribute to societal prejudices and incorrect assumptions about individuals with disabilities. We must challenge these harmful narratives and strive for more inclusive representation to promote understanding and acceptance of all individuals regardless of their abilities.

BACKGROUND ON DISABILITY IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

It would seem that the first thing to note is that the vast majority of disabilities in the (so-called) developed world have five main causes: poverty, conflict, malnutrition, disease, and injury. From an understanding of this fact at a global level emerges some important context to the understanding of disability in the developing world. Essentially, it is in the developing world that 80% of the world's population, those who are more likely to be affected by the five main causes of disability, reside. More specifically, 82% of the world's children live in developing countries. It is estimated that between 100 to 150 million children in developing countries have disabilities (UNICEF 2001). While the use of the word 'children' refers to those under 18, it is important to expand on the fact that half of the global population of people over 10 years of age, who have a disability, have never been to school and that 2/3 of all the children out of school are disabled. In understanding these statistics, it is clear that there is an issue in the developing world that needs to be addressed. What we can take from the statistical evidence is that when compared to the developed world, there are more affected by the five main causes of disability.

The significance of the statistical evidence lies above in the fact that those who are affected by the five main causes of disability reside in the developing world. This is a critical realization in understanding the issues surrounding disability in the developing world. At a global level, after an extended period in which disability issues were largely unseen on the international development agenda, the late 20th century began to see the issues surrounding disability emerge on the agenda. This is notably so in 2006 when the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This new convention marks a significant change around the world and in many of the participating countries in terms of how society views and treats persons with disabilities. This is a place where relevant international and national institutions recognize the issue of disability in the developing world.

The institutions that do recognize are those whose work is directed to the lives of people living in the countries affected by the five main causes of disability. These institutions help promote research and implementation of policies that will see a change in the instances of disability, more specifically regarding children with disabilities. This is a clear understanding of disability, as international agency activity and foreign assistance programming have drawn on an expanding base of evidence regarding the size, characteristics, causes, and consequences of disability in specific countries. This has led to a CRT of developing countries, as they come to understand the implications that the prevalence of impairment and disability has for the lives of individuals, families, communities, and the economic and social development of their countries. Finally, the above statement is a MasterCard Foundation that is seeking to 'work with partner organizations to enhance knowledge and understanding of disability and its long-term effects on children's lives and identify measures to implement change in 3-4 developing countries'. This quest for knowledge and understanding in continuation of what this document shall bring will only depreciate the instances of disability in the developing world.

OVERVIEW OF DISABILITY IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

Numerous social, economic, political, environmental, and cultural factors determine who is defined as impaired and the degree of disadvantage a person suffering from a disability will encounter. The context of disability is now recognized to be an interactive phenomenon, which enacts a cycle of disablement or enablement, which is expressed in the experiences of people with impairments. Over the past three decades, the understanding of disability has evolved from a focus on individual biological or psychological limitations to a view of disability as a complex phenomenon, reflecting the interaction between features of a person's body and features of the society in which he or she lives. These features of society include attitudes, institutional structures, and physical and social environments. This shift in the understanding of disability has significant policy implications, pointing to the need to change both the nature and focus of intervention in the lives of people with disabilities. This is a theme that has been taken up by the disability movements that have emerged in many countries over the past two decades and which have often argued that the primary focus of the development for people with disabilities should be the transformation of societies into a more inclusive direction, rather than on an endless process of intervention aimed at changing people with impairments to fit pre-existing societal conditions.

DEFINITION OF DISABILITY

A more sociologically valid definition of disability is that it is a socially created problem. This view is especially held by many disabled people who have struggled to overcome the limitations placed on them by environmental factors such as negative attitudes or inaccessible buildings. For example, a disabled person in a wheelchair who has to get into a building by a rear entrance, which has steep steps and no ramp, is socially restricted from using the same door as able-bodied people. In this case, steps are the impairment, but it is the limit in access to the building that disables the person. This view further considers the concept of an "able-bodied norm." This is the mistaken assumption that everybody should try to model themselves on the able-bodied person and that anything less is deviant. Impairment is only a disability because the social order does not provide for the full and normal participation of the impaired person. This model teaches us that the way to end disability is to remove the social barriers and discrimination faced by impaired people. This can be seen as congruent with the aims of the social development perspective to end poverty and oppression.

According to a medical model, disability is a restriction or lack of ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being. This translates into an impairment (loss or abnormality of psychological, physiological, or anatomical structure or function), which will lead to a disability, or a limitation in the performance of daily activities. This model is attractive because it is short and simple. However, it is an inadequate definition of disability, particularly in the eyes of many disabled people.

People have long recognized that some people are "different" from the rest of society, and have labeled these people as "impaired," "handicapped" or more recently, "disabled." However, it is only recently that people have started thinking about what these labels mean. It is often difficult to understand what disability is.

CASES OF DISABILITIES IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

According to the statistics of the United Nations in 2020, about 600 million people with disability live in the whole world out of which about 400 million reside in developing countries and about 18 million are domiciled in Africa.

The WHO report posits that estimates of disability prevalence in Nigeria are 13.2%. This includes men, women, and children. Most of the disabilities faced by these persons in the developing world include physical impairments, intellectual impairments, communication impairments, visual impairments, and hearing impairments. These impairments are caused by malnutrition, environmental problems, wars, accidents, terminal diseases, negligence, and poverty.

In the vast continent of Africa, the disabled population faces numerous challenges that hinder their access to education, employment, and social benefits. This lack of opportunities leaves a lasting impact on their lives, making it difficult for them to thrive and succeed in society. Additionally, mental illness is often stigmatized in many African countries, further marginalizing those who are already vulnerable. The absence of inclusive policies and support systems for the disabled community perpetuates inequality and limits their potential for growth and development. Governments and organizations must prioritize the needs of this marginalized group and work towards creating a more inclusive society where everyone has equal access to education, employment, and social services. By addressing these issues and breaking down societal barriers, we can create a more equitable future for all individuals in Africa.

In society, individuals with mental illnesses are often unfairly judged as the cause of their suffering. This stigma can lead to shame and embarrassment within families, causing them to hide or coddle their loved ones with mental health issues. This not only prevents these individuals from receiving proper care but also perpetuates the cycle of misunderstanding and neglect. Furthermore, when these negative attitudes towards mental illness are magnified on a societal level, it results in a lack of funding for mental health services and inadequate care for those in need. This systemic issue only serves to further marginalize and isolate individuals struggling with mental health issues. We must challenge these harmful beliefs and advocate for better support systems for those battling mental illness. By promoting understanding and compassion, we can work towards creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for all individuals affected by mental health challenges.

In the past, psychiatric hospitals often resorted to extreme measures such as keeping patients caged or shackled, or even hospitalizing them against their will. However, with the rise of health education and advocacy for the mentally ill, attitudes towards mental diseases have started to shift in many communities. The existence of these resources has helped to raise awareness about the struggles faced by those with mental illnesses and has encouraged more compassionate and effective treatment options. As a result, the stigma surrounding mental health issues is slowly being dismantled, leading to greater acceptance and support for those in need. Despite this progress, it is important to acknowledge that the economic and social costs of mental illness remain significant. The burden placed on individuals, families, and society as a whole is enormous. Continued efforts in education, advocacy, and support are crucial in addressing these challenges and improving the lives of those affected by mental illness.

Depression is a serious mental health condition that affects a staggering 500 million people worldwide. This debilitating illness not only causes immense suffering for those afflicted, but it also has far-reaching consequences on society as a whole. Depression is known to cause more disability time than chronic diseases like diabetes and arthritis. The costs associated with depression are multifaceted. There are direct costs, such as medical expenses for treatment and therapy. Indirect costs include the toll on individuals and society due to diminished or lost productivity. Additionally, there are economic costs of mental illness, including the time lost to care for family members with mental health issues. It is clear that depression is not just a personal struggle, but a societal issue that requires attention and resources to address effectively. By recognizing the significant impact of depression on individuals and society, we can work towards better support systems and treatments for those affected by this pervasive illness.

Mental illness is a significant economic burden in the United States, with costs projected to be \$103.7 billion in 1985. Treatment and support expenditures accounted for \$42.5 billion, highlighting the strain on the healthcare system. When considering the cost of mental illness per affected individual, the impact becomes even more apparent. Premature deaths and disabilities resulting from mental illness have a profound societal impact that extends beyond just financial costs. The toll on individuals and families is immeasurable, affecting relationships, employment opportunities, and overall quality of life. Addressing mental health issues requires a comprehensive approach that includes increased access to treatment, destigmatization of mental illness, and greater support for those affected. By investing in mental health resources and prioritizing early intervention, we can reduce the economic burden while improving the well-being of individuals and communities as a whole.

Depression, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia are three of the most prevalent mental health disorders affecting individuals worldwide. According to research conducted by the World Health Organization and the World Bank in 1990, depression alone accounted for more than 10% of the overall burden attributed to all disorders among individuals aged 15 to 44 years. This staggering statistic sheds light on the significant impact that mental health conditions have on a large portion of the global population.

In addition to depression, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia also contributed significantly to the burden of illness in this age group, with another 6% of the load being borne by these two conditions. These findings highlight the urgent need for increased awareness, resources, and support for those struggling with mental health issues. By addressing these challenges head-on, we can work towards creating a healthier and more resilient global community.

This study has helped the government recognize that mental disorders constitute a great challenge to public health systems. Like physical diseases, the highest rates of mental illness occur among people in the lower socioeconomic classes, especially those living in severe poverty. Deafness is another example of a disability found in underdeveloped countries.

Deafness is often defined simply as the inability to hear, but this narrow interpretation fails to capture the full extent of its impact on hearing-impaired individuals. Deafness can be hereditary, or it can be induced by sickness or an accident. However, one of the most common causes of deafness is continuous exposure to noise levels above 85 decibels, which can lead to sensor neural hearing loss that worsens over time. The effects of deafness on a person's ability to operate in society are far-reaching. Communication becomes a challenge, making it difficult for individuals to interact with others and participate fully in social activities. This can lead to feelings of isolation and exclusion from their community. To address these challenges, society needs to recognize the unique needs of individuals who are deaf or hearing-impaired and work towards creating more inclusive environments that accommodate their communication needs. By doing so, we can help ensure that everyone has the opportunity to fully participate in society regardless of their hearing abilities.

In recent years, another type of rising disability in Africa and the rest of the world is stroke. A stroke is a type of brain injury caused by a lack of blood flow to a particular area of the brain. This can result in various physical and cognitive impairments that can significantly impact an individual's quality of life. The brain is a complex organ that plays a crucial role in carrying out various functions and directing actions throughout the body, from walking to seeing to reasoning. To perform these tasks effectively, the brain requires a large amount of energy. When blood flow to the brain is disrupted, either due to a blockage or bleeding, it can lead to serious consequences such as paralysis, speech difficulties, and memory loss. As the prevalence of strokes continues to rise globally, individuals need to be aware of the risk factors and take steps to prevent this debilitating condition. By promoting healthy lifestyle choices such as regular exercise, a balanced diet, and managing stress levels, we can reduce the likelihood of experiencing a stroke and improve overall brain health.

After a stroke, the majority of stroke sufferers experience a persistent disability that interferes with regular everyday tasks. This can include difficulties with speaking, movement, vision, thinking, comprehension, and memory loss. Stroke often leaves sufferers with permanent limb weakness and speech impairment.

The specific effects of a stroke can vary greatly depending on the part of the brain that was deprived of oxygen. For example, if blood stops flowing to an area of the brain that controls speech, the stroke will result in a speech disability such as slurring, the incapacity to express oneself through speech or writing, or the inability to understand speech.

Stroke survivors need to receive proper medical care and rehabilitation to improve their quality of life and regain as much function as possible. With proper treatment and support, many stroke survivors can make significant improvements in their abilities and lead fulfilling lives despite their disabilities.

Stroke is a devastating medical condition that affects millions of people worldwide, particularly in developing countries. It is one of the leading causes of death and serious, long-term disability. When a stroke occurs and damages the part of the brain that controls motor skills, it can result in difficulties with walking or moving an arm. These physical consequences can have a profound impact on a patient's quality of life and independence. Stroke survivors may also experience psychological effects as a result of their condition. The emotional toll of dealing with the aftermath of a stroke can be overwhelming for both patients and their loved ones. Healthcare professionals must provide comprehensive care and support to help stroke survivors navigate the challenges they face in their recovery journey.

People who have experienced a stroke often face a myriad of challenges as they navigate through their recovery process. One common struggle that many stroke survivors encounter is the emotional toll that comes with their newfound limitations. It is not uncommon for individuals to feel depressed, angry, and frustrated at their incapacity to perform tasks that were once simple and automatic before the stroke.

The impact of a stroke goes beyond physical impairments; it can also take a significant toll on one's mental well-being. The sudden loss of independence and ability to carry out daily activities can lead to feelings of helplessness and despair. Coping with these emotions can be overwhelming, but stroke survivors need to seek support from loved ones, healthcare professionals, and mental health resources. The emotional struggles faced by individuals who have experienced a stroke should not be overlooked or underestimated. These individuals must receive the necessary support and guidance as they navigate through this challenging chapter in their lives.

THE RIGHTS OF THE DISABLED

A disabled person can be said to be a person who is physically or mentally incomplete, which has an age-long impact on their ability to do their daily work routine. This definition highlights the challenges and limitations faced by individuals with disabilities in society. The term "disabled" often carries negative connotations and can lead to stigmatization and discrimination. However, it is important to recognize that disability does not define a person's worth or capabilities. Many disabled individuals can overcome their limitations and excel in various aspects of life. With the right support and accommodations, they can lead fulfilling lives and contribute positively to society. Society must promote inclusivity and accessibility for individuals with disabilities, allowing them equal opportunities to participate in all aspects of life. By recognizing the unique strengths and abilities of disabled individuals, we can create a more inclusive and supportive environment for everyone.

The World Health Organization calculates that about 25 million people are living with one disability of the others and this makes up roughly 20% of the people who live in the country. As stated earlier, they are not half-humans and therefore they still have rights. According to the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Disabled Persons enshrined in the General Assembly Resolution 3447 (xxx) of December 7th, 1975, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) held in December 2006 emphasis have laid on the change of approach and attitude towards persons with disabilities.

Coming home to Nigeria as one of the less-developed countries in the world, Section 42 of the 1999 law provides for the right to freedom from discrimination based on sex, place of origin, ethnic group, or political or religious opinion. However, the 1999 constitution does not include any specific section for disabled persons.

Discrimination against the disabled (Prohibition) Act, 2018 (DAPD) is a primary law that sees to the discrimination issue. The following are a few essential provisions of the DAPD in Nigeria. The law is against discrimination on the grounds of deformity and levies sanctions including fines and jail terms on anyone who goes against such law.

The law also agrees on a five-year interim period for reconstructing public building structures and vehicles to make them easy to use for people living with any form of deformities. The National Commission for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) was set up by law to make sure that the disabled have the right to education, housing, and healthcare.

The NCPD is backed up by the law, to receive complaints of dissatisfaction concerning violations of rights, and support the discriminated victims to seek legal rights among other duties. The NCPD law argues that all public organizations are to reserve at least five percent of employment opportunities for disabled people. In the realm of architecture and urban planning, accessibility is a crucial aspect that must not be overlooked. The NCPD law emphasizes the importance of ensuring that all public buildings are equipped with necessary accessibility structures to accommodate individuals with disabilities. This mandate serves as a reminder to government agencies, bodies, and individuals responsible for approving building plans that they must uphold the rights of all citizens, including those with disabilities.

By incorporating accessibility features into building designs, we create a more inclusive and equitable society where everyone can access public spaces without barriers. Building plans must adhere to these guidelines set forth by the government to promote equal opportunities for all individuals. Ultimately, prioritizing accessibility in building design not only complies with legal requirements but also fosters a more accessible and inclusive environment for everyone.

The implementation of the Disability Rights Act in Nigeria is a crucial step towards ensuring equal opportunities for individuals with disabilities. The law that supports the National Centre for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD), stipulates that people with disabilities should be given priority when accommodations are provided by schools, employers, service providers, organizations, government agencies, and in any other circumstances.

Furthermore, the NCPD constitution mandates that at least 5% of employees in public organizations should be individuals with disabilities. This provision not only promotes inclusivity but also helps to create a more diverse and representative workforce. By enforcing these laws and regulations, the NCPD is working towards protecting the rights of disabled individuals in Nigeria. All stakeholders must adhere to these guidelines to ensure a more inclusive and equitable society for everyone.

Authorities should endeavour to put in place effective measures that will aid the full implementation of policies that emphasize equal treatment for disabled persons and equal participation in various sectors of the economy across Nigeria. Disabled people should be allowed to enjoy the same rights as their fellow counterparts or citizens in a country. Amongst these rights are: the right to life; right to equal standing before the law, access to justice, security, and liberty of persons; respect for privacy; access to quality living standards and socio-cultural life; respect for the family; freedom from exploitation, torture, inhumane treatment, and punishment; right to protect the integrity of a person; right to participate in elections to vote and be voted for; and right to freedom of speech.

Since the ratification of the CPRD in 2008 with the signatures of 82 countries, it became known as the first convention of human rights for the disabled that was opened to regional organizations. As a result, the perception of disabled people as mere "things" in need of medical attention, charity, empathy, and other services shifted.

CHALLENGES FACED BY THE DISABLED IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

Disability is a natural part of life that affects almost everyone at some point. Whether it be temporary or permanent, individuals will face challenges in functioning as they age. It is common for extended families to have a member with a disability, leading non-disabled individuals to take on the role of caregiver. However, the concept of disability is complex and often debated. The shift from viewing disability through a medical lens to understanding it as a social construct has been significant. This change, known as the transition from a "medical model" to a social model, emphasizes how society can create barriers for individuals with disabilities rather than their bodies being the source of impairment. Disability is an integral part of the human experience that requires societal awareness and support to ensure inclusivity and accessibility for all individuals.

The social and medical models are frequently presented as opposites, yet they are not. People with physical, psychological, financial, and social discrimination most time are affected in terms of employment, transportation, and access to public facilities. The disabled are faced with numerous challenges as they run their day-to-day activities. However, the challenges can be inherent or environmentally induced. Whatever the case may be, these challenges include stigma and discrimination, unemployment poverty lack of result oriented policies/incentives malnutrition etc. People with disabilities still confront several difficulties that have gone unaddressed for a long time, with no effective mechanism in place to address them. The lack of universal access to the structural building, the high unemployment, and persons with disabilities living in great poverty, rates are among these issues.

(The Human Rights Report on Tanzania in 2012) shed light on the challenges faced by people with impairments due to inadequate educational and healthcare services. Among these challenges is the lack of universal access, which hinders the movement of persons with disabilities throughout the country. Local NGOs, such as the Information Centre on Disabilities (ICD), have conducted studies revealing numerous obstacles faced by people with disabilities. These include stairs in hospitals and public buildings, inaccessible toilets, open rainwater and sewage canals, narrow pathways unsuitable for wheelchairs, and high structural elements that impede access. Basic facilities like reception windows are often placed too high for easy access by persons with disabilities. The issue of inaccessible toilets also persists in both public and private buildings. Urgent action is needed to address these barriers and ensure equal access for all individuals in Tanzania.

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE DISABLED IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

Discrimination against individuals with disabilities is a pervasive issue that continues to plague society. According to Bynoe, there are three main ways in which this discrimination can manifest itself. The first is direct discrimination, where individuals are treated unfairly due to their physical condition or disability. This could involve refusing to hire a blind person because of assumptions about their performance capabilities without any evidence to support such claims. The second form of discrimination is indirect, where barriers are put in places that make it difficult for disabled individuals to access opportunities. For example, requesting unnecessary health reports from disabled job applicants when others are not subjected to the same scrutiny. Unequal burdens refer to the failure to address social limitations that prevent disabled individuals from fully participating in society. Society must take proactive steps toward eliminating these discriminatory practices and creating a more inclusive environment for all individuals, regardless of their abilities.

For instance, if the location of an office is on the third floor and there is no elevator in the building, it would be difficult for a disabled to effectively perform in this kind of environment. From the definition above it is evident that discrimination against the disabled exists in one way or the other. A disabled in a wheelchair who needs to climb long stairs which is the only entrance to reach a classroom may not find it easy.

Bonita Janzen Friesen remarks that despite efforts to promote equality and diversity, systemic barriers continue to hinder marginalized individuals from accessing the same opportunities as their privileged counterparts. This inequality is evident in the disparities in educational resources and job prospects available to different groups within society. He further asserted that.....

"People with disabilities who are also beggars are visible... From birth or accidental injury, they have been destined to occupy a place at the fringe of society, resigned to their status as beggars. Women who are physically challenged are outwardly confident. They will occasionally display their contorted

limbs.... which will draw pitying glances from passers-by.... Mentally ill women who have fled or been ejected from shelters have a lower social position.”

In education, discriminatory practices such as tracking and unequal funding perpetuate a cycle of disadvantage for minority students. Similarly, in the workforce, biases in hiring practices and promotion decisions result in limited career advancement for marginalized individuals. We must address these issues head-on by implementing policies that promote equity and inclusivity. By recognizing and dismantling systemic barriers, we can create a more just society where everyone has equal access to educational services and job opportunities. Therefore, the disabled suffer discrimination in one way or the other. This could be in school, church, workplace, and society at large.

FORMS OF DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION

Disability discrimination is a pervasive issue that affects millions of individuals around the world. There are various forms of disability discrimination, all of which have detrimental effects on those who experience them. One common form of disability discrimination is physical barriers, such as inaccessible buildings or lack of accommodations for individuals with mobility impairments. These barriers prevent people with disabilities from fully participating in society and accessing essential services. Another form of disability discrimination is social stigma and prejudice. People with disabilities often face negative attitudes and stereotypes that limit their opportunities and perpetuate harmful beliefs about their capabilities.

Refusing to hire a candidate for a job because of their disability has been frowned upon by many. He or she might have a good phone interview with a new firm, but when such a person with disabilities walks in for an in-person interview, they cut it short and dismiss the person when they discover his or her disability. Alternatively, the person with a disability may have had a terrific interview process until he or she inquired about reasonable accommodations for his or her impairment, at which point the employer promptly rescinded his or her employment offer.

Employment discrimination is also a significant issue for individuals with disabilities. Many face barriers to finding and maintaining employment due to discriminatory hiring practices or lack of accommodations in the workplace. A potential employer is generally prohibited from asking you disability-related questions for requiring you to have a medical examination until after they have made you a conditional job offer, according to law.

However, there is one caveat. If you have a visible handicap or voluntarily reveal your condition, the firm may ask you a few questions about the types of adjustment you would want.

1. Terminating or demoting an employee due to a disability

It is illegal for an employer to discriminate against a qualified employee because of a real or perceived impairment. The following examples attract negative consequences:

- (a) He or she is being fired or demoted from his or her position unreasonably
- (b) Getting his or her work contract terminated for no justifiable reason
- (c) Changing his or her schedule or reducing the number of hours he or she work
- (d) Not assigning him or her to high-priority tasks
- (e) Refusing to place him or her in a customer-facing position
- (f) Denying such a person merited promotion while your colleagues advance
- (g) Such a person will be denied benefits that other employees receive.
- (h) Taking retaliatory disciplinary action against the disabled that isn't justified
- (i) Reducing the pay, salary, or benefits of the person living with disabilities.

These types of behaviours can cause your career to be delayed or even derailed. They can also make you suffer from mental and emotional distress. It's also against the law for you to do so.

Failing to provide equal opportunity to disabled employees

The law does not permit an employer to treat his/her employee discriminately simply because she is disabled. This includes how the employer is viewed by the firm in terms of promotions and prospects for advancement. Disabled employee is entitled to a legal claim for discrimination if their employer fails to consider them for a promotion or opportunity that they are qualified for but are denied due to their disability.

When you submit a successful legal claim, or lawsuit alleging handicap discrimination, you may be able to get compensation from your company for the income, perks, and bonuses you lost as a result of being passed over for a promotion. If you win your lawsuit, your employer may be liable for your legal fees and costs.

2. Harassment of a worker because of their disabilities

Harassment in the workplace is a severe problem with substantial implications for victims. Discrimination and harassment based on disability can create a toxic or hostile work environment, causing stress, anxiety, sadness, and mental pain. A co-worker, a boss, a subordinate, or even a non-employee, such as a customer or third-party vendor, could harass you.

Discrimination based on disability at work could take the following forms:

- (a) Harassment based on your disability, such as taunting, jokes, or insults.
- (b) Instructive remarks or questions regarding your impairment at work.
- (c) Being singled out for special attention because of your impairment
- (d) Refusing to provide you with an appropriate working environment
- (e) Management's failure to put a stop to harassing behaviour
- (f) Putting you in a setting that makes your impairment worse
- (g) Making assumptions about your ability regularly.

It's all about you when it comes to your health. Workers with disabilities have the right to a harassment-free workplace that welcomes people of all abilities.

3. Failing to Make Reasonable Arrangements

Your employer has a legal obligation to give you reasonable accommodations so that you may perform your work. You can sue your employer for discrimination if they refuse to make these adjustments or improvements.

You can fulfill your essential job activities with the help of a reasonable accommodation. Here are several examples:

Hearing aids and mobility are examples of disability aids.

The ability to move your desk to a more accessible location

Scheduled changes based on your requirements.

Time off for medical treatment and care is protected

When it comes to providing accommodations, your employer must take an active role in the process by involving you and asking about your requirements. Your organization is not obligated to supply the exact answer you request for such a lengthy time. Overall, it is crucial to address these various forms of disability discrimination to create a more inclusive and equitable society for all individuals. By raising awareness, advocating for change, and promoting acceptance, we can work towards eliminating these injustices and creating a more accessible world for everyone.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW THE DISABLED CAN BE TREATED

Changing the attitudes and behaviour of people towards the disabled is not a one-off process. It is a continuous one. It is the light of this that this paper recommends the:

Firstly, people should understand that they are complete humans and not half-humans. So, they should have access to all basic systems and services that everybody enjoys. They have the three basic needs of a man: - clothing, food, and shelter. Their well-being and health are important for economic and social security, society needs to develop and learn contemporary skills to better the lives of everyone living in it. These needs can be met through the introduction of social schemes intended for health care, education, vocation, and career development as well as entrepreneurship. To achieve this, changes to laws, and policies may be need to change or new ones enacted. Institutions and environments may need to be adjusted. Through this, the rights of the disabled will be protected and effective plans for human resources and financial investment in specific programs will be promulgated. Mainstreaming is not only effective but also complies with the human rights of people with disabilities.

Mainstreaming is a crucial process that ensures individuals with disabilities have equal access to all aspects of society. This includes education, health care, employment opportunities, and social services. By removing barriers to participation, such as discriminatory laws or inaccessible facilities, mainstreaming allows people with disabilities to fully engage in community life on an equal footing with their peers. Achieving mainstreaming requires a concerted effort from government agencies, organizations, and stakeholders at all levels. This may involve implementing new policies, making physical accommodations, or providing specialized support services. It is essential for mainstreaming to be integrated into all industries and sectors to create a truly inclusive society. Mainstreaming is not just about compliance with laws and regulations; it is about fostering a culture of acceptance and equality for individuals of all abilities. Only through collective commitment can we ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate fully in society.

Secondly, Developing countries should prioritize the use of rehabilitation services for people with disabilities. In addition to mainstream services, some individuals may require additional support such as rehabilitation, training, and assistive devices like wheelchairs and hearing aids. These services not only enhance function and freedom but also allow individuals to live independently and participate in their communities. By embracing modern technologies and well-regulated community support services, individuals with disabilities can lead fulfilling lives. Entrepreneurial training can also be

beneficial in helping them become self-sufficient. As the demand for these services increases, countries must provide accessible, flexible, integrated, and well-coordinated multidisciplinary care. Ultimately, by investing in rehabilitation services and support systems for people with disabilities, developing countries can promote inclusivity and empower individuals to reach their full potential.

Thirdly, disabled people should be motivated and encouraged to participate actively in governance and other aspects of leadership. Disabled people are usually smart and intelligent and have unique abilities despite their situations. This could be clearly stated in the enactment and execution of policies where specific positions would be exclusively reserved for them.

Fourthly, organizations need to be formed. This will act as its platform for interacting and negotiating with the government. Through this, they will be making their choices, needs; and agitations known. Increasing numbers of disabled students are pursuing postsecondary educational programs. In today's society, persons with disabilities are breaking barriers and proving that they are capable of excelling in various professions. Gone are the days when individuals with disabilities were limited to certain vocations due to physical limitations. With advancements in technology and a shift towards inclusivity, disabled individuals are now employed in almost every known vocation. From doctors to lawyers, teachers to members of the clergy, disabled individuals are making their mark and contributing their skills and talents to society. They are also working as secretaries, accountants, chemists, farmers, and labourers, showcasing their determination and resilience in overcoming obstacles. While there may still be some professions where a complete body part is an obvious requirement, the fact remains that disabled individuals have proven time and time again that they can succeed in a wide range of careers. Society needs to continue supporting and advocating for equal opportunities for all individuals, regardless of their physical abilities.

Finally, in today's society, it is crucial to promote disability awareness and understanding among the general public to create a more inclusive environment. By increasing public knowledge of disability, confronting negative stereotypes, and accurately representing individuals with disabilities, we can work towards building a society that benefits from mutual respect and understanding. Education authorities play a vital role in this process by ensuring that schools are inclusive and promote a diversity-valuing mindset. By educating students about disabilities and fostering an environment of acceptance, we can help break down barriers and create a more inclusive society. Furthermore, employers must also do their part by embracing their responsibilities towards disabled employees. By providing accommodations and support for individuals with disabilities, employers can create a more inclusive workplace that values diversity. Promoting disability awareness and understanding is essential for creating an inclusive society that benefits everyone. It is only through mutual respect and understanding that we can truly thrive as a community.

In today's society, there is a growing awareness of the importance of understanding and addressing public perceptions of disability. By collecting data on public knowledge, beliefs, and attitudes toward disabilities, we can identify gaps in understanding that can be filled through education and public information campaigns. Governments, non-profits, and professional groups have a crucial role to play in launching social marketing initiatives to influence public perceptions of stigmatized issues such as HIV, mental illness, and leprosy. One key aspect of these efforts is the involvement of the media. The media has a powerful influence on shaping public opinion and can play a critical role in changing attitudes towards disabilities. By working together with the media, we can ensure that accurate information is disseminated to the public and help break down stereotypes and misconceptions surrounding disabilities. We must continue to collect data on public perceptions of disability and work towards influencing positive change through education, public information campaigns, and collaboration with the media. Only by working together can we create a more inclusive society for all individuals.

Discrimination against disabled individuals is a harsh reality that many still face in the workforce. However, there has been a positive shift in recent years as more employers are recognizing the value and potential of hiring disabled persons. Companies are now making accommodations such as providing special working devices or adjusting work environments to enable disabled employees to excel in their roles. Despite these efforts, a significant number of disabled individuals remain unemployed or underemployed compared to the general population. This disparity highlights the ongoing challenges that many face when trying to secure meaningful employment opportunities. Research has shown that disabled employees are just as capable, if not more so, than their non-disabled counterparts. Employers have reported high levels of satisfaction with the performance, attendance, and loyalty of disabled workers. Contrary to common misconceptions, employees with disabilities do not pose higher risks for accidents on the job or increase health insurance costs. While progress has been made in promoting inclusivity and diversity in the workplace, there is still much work to be done to ensure equal opportunities for all individuals, regardless of their abilities.

People with disabilities often face unique challenges when entering the workforce. Due to their varying abilities and learning styles, they may require additional support and accommodations to succeed in a job. This is where sentence rewriter tools can be incredibly helpful, as they can assist in simplifying complex information and making it more accessible for individuals with disabilities. Supervisors play a crucial role in supporting employees with disabilities during their initial training period. By spending extra time with them and providing necessary guidance, supervisors can help these individuals feel confident and capable in their new roles. Job coaching programs are also valuable resources that offer specialized assistance to disabled individuals as they navigate the world of work. Furthermore, employers who hire disabled individuals may benefit from government tax credits and incentives, making it a win-win situation for both parties involved. With the right support systems in place, vocational rehabilitation and training programs can help people with disabilities find meaningful employment opportunities that align with their skills and interests. By promoting inclusivity and accessibility in the workplace, we can create a more diverse and equitable society for all individuals.

In today's society, the demand for services to support individuals during periods of transition is increasing. While more services are needed to cater to the diverse needs of individuals, it is equally important to ensure that these services are better, more accessible, flexible, integrated, and well-coordinated. This is particularly crucial during transitions such as from childhood to adulthood when individuals may face various challenges and uncertainties. Multidisciplinary services play a key role in providing comprehensive support to individuals during these critical periods. By bringing together professionals from different disciplines, such as healthcare, education, and social services, multidisciplinary services can offer a holistic approach

to address the complex needs of individuals transitioning between different life stages. Overall, investing in better and more integrated multidisciplinary services is essential for ensuring that individuals receive the support they need during periods of transition. It is only through collaboration and coordination among various service providers that we can truly meet the evolving needs of individuals in our society.

People with severe disabilities often face challenges when it comes to finding employment. While some may be able to work in special facilities like sheltered workshops, the reality is that most individuals with disabilities do not have jobs. According to surveys, only about 36 percent of disabled adults are employed either full-time or part-time. This statistic highlights a concerning issue within our society - the lack of opportunities for individuals with disabilities to participate in the workforce. Despite their ability and willingness to work, many face barriers such as discrimination, lack of accommodations, and limited access to job training programs. Society must address these disparities and create more inclusive and accessible workplaces for people with disabilities. By providing equal opportunities for all individuals, we can promote diversity, equality, and empowerment in the workforce.

The low employment rate among individuals with disabilities can be attributed to various factors. One major reason is the lack of training in vocational and social skills. Without proper education and guidance, many individuals struggle to find suitable employment opportunities. Additionally, the lack of encouragement from others can further hinder their chances of securing a job. Furthermore, the scarcity of community programs that aid people with disabilities in finding and maintaining employment adds to the challenge. These programs are essential in providing the necessary support and resources for individuals to succeed in the workforce. Moreover, employers may hesitate to hire individuals with disabilities due to uncertainty over how to provide accommodating structures for them. This reluctance can further contribute to the low employment rate among this population. Addressing these barriers through increased training opportunities, community support programs, and employer education is crucial in improving the employment prospects of individuals with disabilities.

CONCLUSION

Disability is as old as man himself. Physical, mental or any form of disability is a common condition in a human. And most people with disabilities were often born that. The disabled mostly initiate a pitiful look and are discriminated against widely. In the developing world, mostly Nigeria or the entirety of Africa, individuals who have disabilities are generally put aside, and discriminated against and this set of people are of the poorest class. In African society, these categories of people are often not allowed full access to the public's facilities. In Nigeria, disabled people are mostly misunderstood and looked down upon. Their disabilities may be managed when they are properly instructed, trained, and guided. They can learn arts or trades that most healthy and unimpaired persons earn their living from. With such arts, trades, or skills and full assistance, they can be self-reliant and take care of themselves and their immediate family and then live a meaningful and productive life. A lot of people have advocated that disabled people ought to be treated fairly and compassionately looked upon, but the reverse is the case.

The needs of the disabled include access to social amenities and empowerment through the provision of modern-day technologies that are built to augment their disabilities. Individuals with disabilities need acknowledgment from the public to display their capability and to carry out their tasks. Disabled people have their rights too. They are not half-humans. Their rights are enshrined in the International Law of the United Nations and the Declaration of Human Rights. Despite all the international and internal laws of the developing countries; that declare the rights of the disabled, nothing meaningful has been done to execute and enforce the law to protect the rights and privileges of disabled people, especially in Nigeria. This paper has addressed the status and identity of the disabled in developing countries. They are not half-humans but rather they have rights, needs, choices, and equal opportunities as their counterparts who are not disabled. Ableism, therefore, is an aberration as regards the notion that all humans are equal. While all humans face different challenges and different conditions, it does not negate the fact that we are all humans and so should all enjoy fairness, equal treatment, and equal opportunities.

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