

**ASSESSING THE IMPACT CREATED BY THE YOUTH LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM ON THE
YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES IN UGANDA: A CASE STUDY OF MITYANA MUNICIPALITY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

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ABSTRACT

The study aimed at examining the participation of people with disabilities in government programmes such as the youths livelihood program: a case study of Mityana municipality, the study shall be directed by the stated objectives. To examine the influence of people with disabilities in government programmes in Mityana Municipality, Central Uganda. To identify the challenges faced by people with disabilities while participating in government programmes in Mityana municipality, Central Uganda. To establish possible measure to mitigate challenges faced by people with disabilities while participating in government programmes in Mityana Municipality, Central Uganda. The study shall also use the qualitative method as the research design as well as 50 respondents are expected to be involve in this study. According to the study, there is a misperception about people with disabilities because they are not allowed to participate, they don't have anything unique to contribute to the creation process (9(18%), and they are unable to take part in development initiatives on an equal footing with others (11(22%). For the purpose of fostering a greater knowledge of disability issues, inclusive procedures, and the particular difficulties and requirements experienced by youth with disabilities, government officials should offer training and education opportunities to YLP staff and other interested parties. This will help to foster a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere within the context of the course.

Key words: youth livelihood program, youth and disabilities

Background of the study

Based on the numbers provided by (WHO, 2012), it is believed that there are over a billion people suffering from disabilities worldwide, or 15% of the total population, of whom 2-4% have substantial functional challenges and 80% are thought to reside in the global South (WHO, 2003). Only 5-15% of people who need assistive aids and devices have the opportunity to use them (WHO, 2012); the worldwide literacy rate among individuals with disabilities is as low as 3%, and 1% for women with disabilities (United Nations, 2006). These are tragic situations for numerous individuals with disabilities. East African landlocked nation of Uganda shares boundaries with: With a predicted population of 34,612,250 as of July 2011, the DR of the Congo borders Sudan to the north, Kenya to the east, Tanzania to the south, Rwanda to the southwest, and Burundi to the west (Rashid et al., 2023). Pursuant to the 2014 Uganda National Household Survey, 7.1% of the overall population is impaired, compared to the 10% global prevalence of people with disabilities.

Prior to 1980, Ugandans with disabilities were excluded from the planning and execution of government initiatives aimed at assisting them. The services offered stressed separating PWDs from society as a whole and were considered as a preserve for charitable initiatives; mainstream programs and the surroundings were built or created in a way that demonstrated a lack of appreciation and awareness to the needs of individuals with disabilities. But after 1980, a new environment for the development of disabled people's organisations was formed.

Statement of the problem

The Convention of the United Nations on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol were approved by the government of Uganda on September 25, 2008, in an effort to reduce prejudice toward people with impairments and to advance and preserve their welfare. The Children's Statute of 1996 mandates the prompt identification of disabilities among children for suitable therapy, recuperation, and

schooling (Shamim et al., 2023); the Uganda Journalism Act of 1997, which calls for the advancement of techniques and technological advances; and the parliamentary system Elections Statute of 2006, which establishes that a total of five members of PWDs in parliament, no fewer than one of whom must be a female. ‘People with disabilities have written to Parliament to pass legislation that addresses issues such as prejudice against disabled people in their advancement and in the realization of their legal rights, lack of understanding among the disabled population regarding existing legal structures, and affirmative action on hiring PWDs in both the public and private sectors. As a result, the investigator was motivated to report the level of engagement of individuals living with disabilities while also addressing the difficulties these individuals encountered when taking part in public programs.

Objective of the study

- 1. To examine the influence of the impact created by the youth livelihood program on the youths with disabilities in Mityana Municipality, Central Uganda.*
- 2. To identify the challenges faced by people with disabilities while participating in government programmes in Mityana municipality, Central Uganda.*
- 3. To establish possible measure to mitigate challenges faced by people with disabilities while participating in government programmes in Mityana Municipality, Central Uganda.*

Research objective

- 1. What is the influence of people with disabilities in government programmes in Mityana Municipality, Central Uganda?*
- 2. What are the challenges faced by people with disabilities while participating in government programmes in Mityana municipality, Central Uganda?*
- 3. What are the possible measures to mitigate challenges faced by people with disabilities while participating in government programmes in Mityana Municipality, Central Uganda?*

Methodology

Research Design

Using Mityana Municipality as a case study, the study employed a descriptive approach to research that will aid in comprehending how people with disabilities participate in government programs. Quantitative as well as qualitative methods were used in the design. In qualitative research, the replies of those who participated will be used to create themes that are based on the study questions. The use of descriptive statistics produced with probability tables, graphs, and charts was a requirement of mathematical methods.

Target population

The study focused on a total of (45) respondents of whom 15 were disabled people, 5 Community members, 10 Municipal Administrators, 5 Employees and 5 Non-Governmental Organizations which will include: UNICEF, (International Labour Organisation (LLO) (Community Based Rehabilitation Uganda, (National Union of Disabled Persons Uganda (NUDIPU) (Disabled Women Network and Resource Organisation Uganda) among other.

Research procedure

After being instructed to do so by the person in charge, the investigator received a welcome letter from the coordinator of the investigation asking for authorization to carry out the study. In order to obtain authorization to conduct the study, this letter was delivered to the participants in the study region (Mityana Municipality). Following the obtaining of authorization, the investigator had to conduct interviews with participants, deliver surveys to them, and go on to the next phase once the responses' data had been processed.

Data collection instruments

The study used the following data collection methods and tools that will be used during data collection at the time of the study as the researcher used both primary and secondary data as explained below:

Research Instruments

In-depth Interview guides

In-depth Interview guides were designed and administered to different key informants within the sample frame. They shall be mainly administered on the disabled and their employers. This instrument will be more appropriate in capturing their voices and concerns. The interview guide shall enable the researcher to have a dialogue with respondents in a participatory manner in order to reflect their views.

Self-administered questionnaire

A series of prepared inquiries will be aimed at gathering data from residents who are going to utilize both impaired individuals and the general population. Self-administered surveys were employed to obtain primary data. Participants were allowed to complete the survey, and the investigator will, whenever feasible, assist them if they lack a formal education but would be able to contribute important study information. The questionnaire technique of gathering information was chosen since it was inexpensive, produces responses with few errors, and offers a high level of secrecy because participants may respond to the questions whenever it was most convenient for them.

Data Analysis

*A coding frame was applied to closed-ended questions and pre-coded responses from semi-structured interviews. The coding for open-ended inquiries was done after the fieldwork. Additionally, a code framework based on themes and sub-themes will be created. This was accomplished by going over every query and each response to a specific variable. SPSS was used to enter and evaluate the data from the semi-structured conversations (Nelson et al., 2022). The proportion of responders for each variable was calculated and displayed as graphs and tables. **RESULTS***

Accessibility to Microfinance Services by People with Disabilities in Mityana District, Uganda

Table 1: Table of Nature of Final Sample

<i>Population</i>	<i>Able-bodied</i>	<i>People with disabilities</i>			<i>MIF Providers</i>	<i>Sub-Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
		<i>Deaf</i>	<i>Blind</i>	<i>Physical disability</i>			
<i>Rural</i>							
<i>Male</i>	5	3	1	1	3	13	26
<i>Female</i>	3	4	2	1	2	12	24
<i>Urban</i>							
<i>Male</i>	6	3	2	1	1	15	30
<i>Female</i>	5	2	1	1	1	10	20
<i>Total</i>						50	100

Source: primary data, 2021

Focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted separately for physically disabled (2 people), physically abled (2 people), and blind (3 people). The researchers and the deaf were able to communicate thanks to local sign language translators. The investigators recorded what happened on tape and took notes as well. Participants' verbal agreement was sought before the interviews or FGDs were conducted after being informed of their rights as respondents and the potential uses of the data. The examination of the findings was centered on three themes, including availability to MF services, opinions on availability to MF services by individuals with disabilities, and recommendations to enhance this as described above. Data analysis was done in accordance with the research purposes.

Participation of Youth with Disabilities in Mainstream Secondary Schools' Sports Activities in Uganda

Non-discrimination on the basis of impairment, sexual orientation, color, ethnic origin, socio economic standing, or political viewpoint is guaranteed by the Republic of

Uganda's 1995 Constitutional. In Uganda, there is a national sports policy that includes provisions for both people with disabilities and those who do not, which may be helpful in creating an environment that encourages people with disabilities to participate in sports. The investigation's discovery that adolescents with impairments do not actively participate in sports activities in conventional secondary schools, nevertheless, served as the impetus for this study.

Three different types of data were used: interviews, documents and the archives, and workshops procedures. A qualitative approach was applied. Interviewing was done at the National and District Councils of Sports as well as two conventional secondary schools in west central Uganda.

19 participants in all were purposefully selected to serve as representatives of various disability groups and their instructors in the study. 12 pupils, including a total of four pupils without disabilities, 2 sports professors (half from each school), and 3 executives (1 from the National Council of Sports and 2 from District Sports Offices), who are comprised of youth who are disabled (2 young with hearing difficulties, 2 youth with visual disabilities, and 2 youth with physical deficiencies).

Everyone who participated had an in-depth interview based on predetermined topics. The conversations were captured on tape and then typed out. The main themes that arose from the interviews were identified through a thematic approach, which was applied with the study goals and inquiries as a guide. Thematic study of the individuals who participated in institutions' archives and records came next.

Challenges People with Disabilities Face in Accessing Health Services

Distance: It takes people with disabilities 40 minutes to three hours to walk from their homes to the health centers, which are located between a half and ten kilometers distant. For many of them, these distances are too great to walk, and the cost of transportation is too high. Transportation costs are sometimes increased because people with disabilities frequently need someone to assist them to travel with them (2 physically disabled people, 1 blind person, and 3 people with hearing impairments who were questioned need assistance). Long lines at the health facilities, hostile healthcare providers, communication difficulties caused by a lack of interpreters who speak sign language, a lack of mobility devices, which forces some persons with disabilities to crawl on the filthy floor, and a lack of specific bathroom amenities were also seen. tall steps, high treatment beds and lack of ramps present difficulties for visually and physically impaired people.

Challenges Faced by Medical Workers While Providing Health Services to People with Disabilities:

Difficulties with communication were the biggest reported problem and resulted in not knowing the history of the disease, for example from the deaf clients, because of lack of knowledge of sign language. Other difficulties were work overload because of few staff, very small working spaces and insufficient drugs for dispensing.

How people with disabilities deal with the challenges: Apart from one visually impaired respondent who works with the Education department and earns money to pay for transport, medicines and health services, the rest of the people with disabilities who were interviewed did small jobs which are not well paid. Consequently, they could not deal with the challenges of expensive transport and medicine, and depended on local herbs.

Ways of improving accessibility as suggested by health workers:

To assist persons with impairments when they are seriously ill, this center has to have a wheelchair. H.C. Mityana. According to the senior nursing officer at the health center, a unique restroom should be constructed in the ward for those with disabilities. Every health center needs an eye physician, therefore provide one. According to Mityana, H.C., "it will decrease the overall number of blind people." "Data gathered about individuals that have limitations should be maintained so that they are identified and prepared for" (Mityana H. C.

Examine the influence of Perception of disability on the participation of persons with disabilities in government programs

Table 2: Descriptive results on perception in participating of Persons with Disabilities in development programmes in Mityana District

	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Even when Persons with disabilities are allowed to participate, they have no single value to add to the development process</i>	09	18

<i>Persons with disabilities can-not participate in government programmes at the same level with others</i>	11	22
<i>Participation of Persons with disabilities in government programmes is a waste of time and money</i>	07	14
<i>Family breakups are responsible for non-participation of Persons with disabilities</i>	03	6
<i>Persons with disabilities have limited decision making due to violence caused in the community</i>	11	22
<i>Persons with disabilities are more susceptible to violence in any given community</i>	09	18
<i>Total</i>	50	100

Source: Primary data, 2021

According to the study, there is a misperception about people with disabilities because they are not allowed to participate, they don't have anything unique to contribute to the creation process (9(18%), and they are unable to take part in development initiatives on an equal footing with others (11(22%). Because it is believed that because of their impairment status, people with impairments cannot participate successfully at the same level as able persons in the process of community growth, the majority of the population must have an unfavorable view of people with disabilities engaging with government-funded initiatives and incorporating value to the procedure.

According to the study, residents believe that people who have impairments who participate in charitable organizations and other related initiatives, such as those in politics, food production, and education, are wasting their time and money (7(14%)). It was also determined that people with disabilities are thought of as being slow to complete tasks. This suggests that a number of community members view people with impairments negatively and believe that including them in development initiatives

could be a waste of time because of how slowly they are regarded to carry out their duties.

Conclusion

There was a misperception about people with disabilities because they were not allowed to participate, they didn't have anything unique to contribute to the creation process (9(18%), and they are unable to take part in development initiatives on an equal footing with others (11(22%).

Recommendation

The government should provide training and sensitization programs to YLP staff and stakeholders to foster a better understanding of disability issues, inclusive practices, and the specific needs and challenges faced by youth with disabilities. This will contribute to creating a supportive and inclusive environment within the program.

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