

Disability And Skills Empowerment in Kisoro District: A Case Study of Kisoro Demo Primary School in Kisoro Municipality**Wednesday Obed¹, Sabiiti Benard²****1,2 Metropolitan International University****ABSTRACT**

The major objective of this study lied in finding out whether there was a relationship between Disability and Skill Empowerment in Kisoro Municipality, Kisoro District. Other objectives included: To find out the extent of Disability in Kisoro Municipality and to find out the level of Skill Empowerment progress in Kisoro Municipality. The study adopted a descriptive and observational research design and simple random probability sampling technique were used to obtain a sample size 80 respondents of from Kisoro Municipality The researcher concluded that disabled people are not well considered in most of the activities of the society and this has created a wide discrimination of disabled people. The researcher also concluded that practical skills like carpentry, hair dressing motor vehicle repair and maintenance should be taught to disabled people The researcher also concluded that the strong positive correlation between Disability and skills empowerment means that people with disabilities can also acquire skills to perform community works. On the basis of the findings of this study and conclusions drawn, the following are the recommendations regarding the relationship disability and skill empowerment in Kisoro municipality. The researcher recommends that teachers should include integration of the disabled with in the regular school activities and teaching. This can motivate those impaired students in the school. The researcher also recommends community members including parents to nurture their children well and encourage them to participate in skill activities. The community members should also be encouraged not to discriminate the disabled people in society activities.

Key words: Disability and Skills Empowerment**Background of the study**

According to the National Disability Strategy (Kazaara, 2023), disability is the complete or partial loss of a person's physical or mental functions. He defines disability as social oppression involving the social imposition of activity limitations on people with disabilities and the socially conditioned undermining of their psycho-emotional well-being. Disability refers to a malfunction, malformation, or disfigurement of a part of a person's body (Disability Discrimination Act. (Moses, 2023) describes skill enhancement as expanding the assets and abilities of poor people to engage in negotiation and influence, by controlling and holding accountable the institutions that affect their lives. Skills empowerment refers to measures designed

to increase the degree of autonomy and self-determination of a selected group of people (Ninsiima et al., 2023). Skills empowerment is a process, a mechanism by which people, organizations and communities acquire mastery over their lives (Julian Rappaport, 1984). respect, critical reflection, caring and group participation through which people who lack an equal share of resources gain greater access to and control over those resources. Report published by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank (Performance et al., 2023) shows that more than 15% of the world's population consists of people with disabilities, with a disproportionately high number of them living in poverty and without qualifications.

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(Denis & Richard, 2023) also suggests that the global prevalence of disability is higher than previous WHO estimates. According to this report, the overall estimate of disability was underestimated. However, the latest reports show that the disabled population continues to increase due to an aging population and the rapid spread of chronic diseases. Eighty (80) percent of people with disabilities (PWD) live in developing countries and 20% of the world's poorest people are disabled (Ronald & Kazaara, 2023). In Ghana among

the Ashanti, children with deviations were rejected. For example, a child born with six fingers would be killed after birth (Rattray, 1952). Children with severe special needs were sometimes described as “animal-like” and were often abandoned on the banks of rivers or near the sea to return to what were considered “their own kind” (Isaac & Peter, 2023). People with disabilities were prevented from becoming chiefs and a chief who contracted a debilitating disease such as epilepsy would be deposed (Kazaara, 2023).

Statement of the problem

In Kisoro district, there is a high level of neglect of disabled people by discouraging them from accessing some community benefits such as politics and participating in some community activities, yet these disabled people can engage in skill acquisition activities such as carpentry, tailoring and hairdressing when empowered. Therefore, the researcher wanted to find out the relationship between disability and skill enhancement in Kisoro village

Major objective.

The major objective of the study was to assess the relationship between Disabilities and Skills Empowerment at Kisoro Demo Primary School in Kisoro Municipality.

Specific objectives.

1. To find out the extent of Disability in Kisoro Municipality.
2. To find out the level of Skill Empowerment progress in Kisoro Municipality.
3. To find out the relationship between Disability and Skill Empowerment in Kisoro Municipality.

Research questions

1. What is the extent of Disability in Kisoro municipality?
2. What is the level of Skill empowerment in Kisoro municipality?
3. What is the relationship between disability and skill empowerment in Kisoro Municipality?

Methodology.

The study used descriptive research design because of the nature of the variables that were at hand, to produce data, required for qualitative and quantitative analysis to allow simultaneous description of views, perceptions and beliefs at any single point in time (White, B, 2000). The study was carried out in Kisoro municipality Kisoro district considering Kisoro demo primary school as a case study. The study population for the study were 20 parents, 42 students, 16 teachers, Head teacher and a district Education officer of Kisoro district. These were correlated with Slovenes formula of sample size determination to obtain a sample population of 80 respondents from a target

population of 100 elements of interest for this study. The study sample comprised of 80 respondents out of 100 of the total population, this was derived from using the Solvin's formula. The different two methods were used to collect data which included questionnaire and interview method. These were used to collect data from all industrial workers and community members from Hima cement factory, Kasese district. The validity of the instruments was established under the guidance of the supervisor (Dr. Arinaitwe Julius). To establish the reliability of the research instruments, the researcher carried out a pilot test of the instruments using another similar group with the same characteristics as the one targeted in the study. Quantitative data analyses were carried out using a software application called Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) (Nelson et al., 2022). Cross tabulations, Pearson's correlation coefficient, regression, and ANOVA tests and analyses were carried out on the data to examine the relationships between assessment of learning and student academic performance (Nelson et al., 2023). Qualitative data was organized according to themes identified from research questions and analyzed using content analysis. Data from interviews were organized and presented in form of report.

Results.

The extent of Disability in Kisoro Municipality

This Section describes the independent variable (Disability). The independent variable was addressed in Section B of the questionnaire for respondents.

Table 1: The extent of disability

EXTENT OF DISABILITY	
N	Valid
	Missing
	Mean
	60
	0
	3.6757

The extent of disability in Kisoro district was analyzed and interpreted basing on the mean which was 3.6757. The mean is low hence indicating the low extent of disability in Kisoro district. The extent of disability was alternatively analyzed and presented in form of frequency distribution tables and interpreted using the percentages.

The level of skills empowerment in Kisoro Municipality

This Section describes the dependent variable (Skills empowerment). The dependent variable was addressed in Section C of the questionnaire for respondents. Information regarding the level of skill empowerment in Kisoro municipality was tabulated in table 4.4 below.

Table 2: Level of skill empowerment (Primary data, 2022)

N	Valid	60
	Missing	0
Mean		2.4768

The level of skills empowerment in Kisoro District was analyzed and interpreted basing on the **mean** which was 2.4768. The mean is very low hence indicating the low level of skills empowerment in Kisoro District. The low level of skills empowerment in Kisoro District can be attributed to few vocational schools in the area and some individuals neglecting practical skillful courses

Relationship between Disability and Skills empowerment

Table 3: Showing Pearson Correlation between Disability and Skills empowerment

		Disability	Skills empowerment
Disability	Pearson Correlation	1.00	.885
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
Skills empowerment	N Pearson Correlation	60	60
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.885	1.00
	N	.000	
		60	60

Table 3 indicates that there is a very strong positive relationship between Disability and Skills empowerment at $r = 0.885$ and since the sig. value (.000) was far less than 0.01, which is the maximum level of significance required declaring a significant relationship between Disability and Skills empowerment, this implies that the level of Disability greatly affects the level of skills empowerment. The findings were in line with the study conducted by World Health Organization (2014) in Indonesia, where it was found that disability is always associated with physical, mental or visual impairments. Most communities believe that being disabled is an indirect restriction to properly accomplish common tasks or perform certain skills like carpentry, brick laying activities etc.

Summary of Findings

The extent of disability in Kisoro Municipality was found to be small (63.3%). 23.3% respondents agreed that the extent of disability is at medium extent and only 13.3% respondents argued that the extent of disability is at a large extent. Under this research objective, the researcher went ahead and asked respondents the problems faced by the

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disabled people and there is unemployment, poor living conditions, discriminations in society and lack of a common voice to talk about them in developmental issues of the society. Under this study objective, respondents were asked questions like what is the level skill empowerment in kisoro municipality, examples of practical skills and examples of vocational institutions in Kisoro district. The responses were interpreted as follows, 23(38.3%) of the total number of respondents in the study agreed that the level of skill empowerment was low and this was because of few vocational schools in the area and some individuals neglecting practical skillful courses. 21(35.0%) agreed that the level of skill empowerment is at a medium level, 18.3% agreed that the level is very low and only 5(8.3%) respondents agreed that the level of skill empowerment was at a high level in Kisoro district. This showed that few people in Kisoro district involve in practical skills. There is a very strong positive relationship between Disability and Skills empowerment at $r = 0.885$ and since the sig. value (.000) was far less than 0.01, which is the maximum level of significance required declaring a significant relationship between Disability and Skills empowerment, this implies that the level of Disability greatly affects the level of skills empowerment.

Conclusion of the findings

The researcher concluded that disabled people are not well considered in most of the activities of the society and this has created a wide discrimination of disabled people. The researcher also concluded that practical skills like carpentry, hair dressing motor vehicle repair and maintenance should be taught to disabled people. The researcher also concluded that the strong positive correlation between Disability and skills empowerment means that people with disabilities can also acquire skills to perform community works.

Recommendations of the study

On the basis of the findings of this study and conclusions drawn, the following are the recommendations regarding the relationship disability and skill empowerment in kisoro municipality.

The researcher recommends that teachers should include integration of the disabled with in the regular school activities and teaching. This can motivate those impaired students in the school.

The researcher also recommends community members including parents to nurture their children well and encourage them to participate in skill activities. The community members should also be encouraged not to discriminate the disabled people in society activities.

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