

THE AFRICA HEALTH REHABILITATION SUMMIT 2025

Theme: Making People Living With Disability Embrace And
Accept Their Identity

Topic : Raising Public Awareness on Disability Right and Self
Acceptance

Presenter: Amos Paschal (Tanzania)

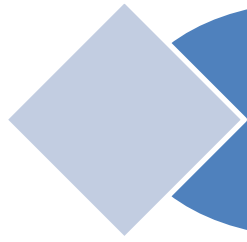
Introduction

Disability rights are fundamental human rights that ensure individuals with disabilities have equal opportunities in society. According to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), inclusion and participation are key elements in promoting dignity and respect for people with disabilities (United Nations, 2006).

Introduction

Historically, disabled people have been viewed as incompetent, helpless, unproductive and dependent (Fichten & Amsel, in press; Fichten & Bourdon, 1984; Jackman, 1983)

On 13 December 2006 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol was adopted at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, and entered into force on 3 May 2008.



Introduction

The constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania firmly states that all human beings are equal and are entitled to equal rights irrespective of color, tribe, gender and religion. United Nations Resolution No. 27 (a) (iii) of 20 December 1948 states that all human beings are born free with equal rights and dignity.

Introduction

"Your attitude toward the disabled can be their biggest handicap". Mounted in 197

Promote positive narratives

To promote positive narratives, society must:

- Challenge stereotypes by recognizing disability as a natural aspect of diversity.
- Highlight success stories of individuals with disabilities excelling in different fields.
- Shift public perception by embracing disability as an identity rather than a limitation.
- Use respectful language that emphasizes ability rather than deficiency.

Inclusive education

Inclusive education is that educational idea that all children (with and without disabilities) should be educated in the same schools/ classrooms in their local community.

1.2.5 Education:

According to Tanzania **MINISTRY OF LABOUR, YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND SPORTS of 2004** in the **NATIONAL POLICY ON DISABILITY (1.2.5 Education:)**

Educational system in the country does not allow for equal access for children with disabilities. Almost all school facilities at all levels are inaccessible. Teacher education and school curriculum as well do not incorporate the needs of disabled persons. Enrollment of children with disabilities decrease with education level.

Educators and technology need to be linked together “Unfortunately, many teachers, special educators, and administrators do not realize how new technology can benefit their students” (Forgrave, 2002, p. 122)



3. Media and Education as Tools for Change

3.1 Role of Media

Positive media representation can challenge harmful stereotypes and promote awareness (Barnes, 1992). The following strategies are essential:

- Increasing disability representation in mainstream films, television, and news.
- Encouraging media campaigns that highlight inclusivity and equal rights.
- Promoting digital platforms for persons with disabilities to share their experiences.

4. Encouraging Self-Advocacy and Community Engagement

Understanding their legal rights, including accessibility, employment, and healthcare.

Building confidence to express their needs and opinions.

Participating in decision-making processes at local and national levels.



DISABILITY IS NOT INABILITY.
THANK YOU SO MUCH.