



Socio-economic challenges facing children with disabilities in Kajjansi Town Council, Wakiso district

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keywords: *disability prevalence, disability, persons with disabilities*

Introduction


The study focused on the socio-economic challenges faced by children with disabilities in Kajjansi Town Council, Wakiso District. The study was utile because it examined both the peculiar and general socio-economic challenges faced by children with discernible and non-discernible disabilities among the children aged 0 to 17 years in Kajjansi Town Council.

Study objectives

The study was based on the following objectives:

1. to establish the forms of disabilities prevalent in children in Kajjansi Town Council,

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2. to establish the social and economic problems faced by children with disabilities in Kajjansi Town Council, and
 3. to examine the strategies that were implemented for improving the social and economic status of children with physical disabilities in Kajjansi Town Council.

Methodology

The study employed a descriptive, mixed methods research design. Data were collected on 77 respondents. Self-administered questionnaires, observation, and interview guides were used to collect data. Quantitative data were analysed using frequency counts, means, and percentages while qualitative data were analyzed by making sense of the responses provided by the respondents. Data cleaning was done after the data were collected to remove any response errors before subjecting them to analysis.

Key findings

The study found that cases of disability in children in Kajjansi Town Council were various. While some children were afflicted by physical disability, others suffered from mental/cognition impairment. Generally, some children were limbless, those incapacitated by spinal cord injuries, those who were epileptic, those who were dumb and mute, those who stuttered, those with hearing impairment, and others. The study found that children with disabilities generally lacked access to basic services; often fail to access education facilities and instructional and scholastic materials; failed to access



legal assistance when in need of it; failed to access professional counselling. The study also found that access to recreation facilities was difficult for children with physical disabilities in places that are far from their homes, although, at home, they would play with the rest of their colleagues and siblings.

Most of the children with disabilities did not have modern mobility and hearing aids and technologies. The study, however, also found that there was no pronounced social exclusion in society except that because of household poverty, although it affects all children who are born into them, it does nonetheless disproportionately affect children with disabilities since they have needs that are not similar, in many ways, to those of normal children.

The study revealed that there is a national policy on children including children with disabilities according to which respect for their right to decent livelihood and children with disabilities are trained by their caregivers in basic education and livelihood support.

Key recommendations

The study recommended that there should be an intensification of Special Needs Education to enable the children with learning difficulties. There should be established a special needs education authority to provide and fulfill the special needs of the children with disabilities.



There should be a policy for children who have a physical disability whether in or not in school to access a range of school and out of school-based services aimed at training and equipping them with knowledge and skills for survival.

To those ends, a comprehensive assessment is required to inform program planning. There is a need to engage therapists who specialize in pediatrics and can ably be involved with children with physical disabilities at a young age, and help with finding appropriate strategies to enable children to live more normal lives and find solutions to support them develop independence at home and school.

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