Book of Abstracts

3rd World Disability & Rehabilitation Conference 2018

(WDRC 2018)

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MESSAGE FROM THE CONFERENCE CHAIR WDRC 2018

It is an honor and privilege to serve as the Chairperson for the 3rd World Disability and Rehabilitation conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. It is exciting and wonderful to welcome you to this dynamic and multicultural event. The conference is a celebration of humanity and is specifically focusing on global disability rights and advocacy for individuals with challenges.

The keynote speakers, workshops and other related activities will allow attendees to closely interact and collaborate with people from all over the world. In the past, there have been representatives from over 25 countries. It is an outstanding opportunity to meet new colleagues and other professionals in your area of expertise.

It is extremely important for professionals to be validated by others in order to support and advocate for individuals with disabilities. We want people to have full accessibility to education, employment, health-care, academic endeavors and an overall positive quality of life and to eliminate discrimination in all forms. Let us all join together to accomplish these worthy goals.

Dr. Loren O’Connor
Assistant Vice Chancellor of the Office of Accessible Education and Counselling Services, Brandman University, USA.
MESSAGE FROM THE HOSTING PARTNER WDRC 2018

Dear Colleagues,

It is an honor and privilege to welcome you to the 3rd World Disability and Rehabilitation conference in Kula Lumpur, Malaysia. As the Chairperson, I represent Brandman University and we are the Hosting partner for this valuable and exciting conference. Presently, I am an Assistant Vice Chancellor overseeing our Office of Accessible Education and Counselling Services. I am also an Assistant Professor in the School of Education in the areas of school psychology and counselling.

Our university is very pleased to be part of championing the cause for disability rights and advocacy on a global level. As you know, so many individuals who do not have a challenge or disability are not familiar with the discrimination or misunderstandings that people with disabilities are exposed to in their communities. It is our professional responsibility to advocate and support people with disabilities for education, living conditions, employment, and the freedom to express themselves in a positive and productive manner.

This international event is an outstanding opportunity for you to interact with and create friendships with individuals from over 30 countries. I encourage you to meet colleagues, share experiences, provide valuable knowledge and develop personal bonds that will last into the future. If I can ever be of service to you or your institution, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Dr. Loren O’Connor
Assistant Vice Chancellor of the Office of Accessible Education and Counselling Services
Brandman University,
USA.
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PLENARY SPEECH
PPCR MODEL: A SOLUTION FOR DISABILITY IN ELDERLY

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ABSTRACT

Disability is part of the human condition. Almost everyone will be temporarily or permanently impaired at some point in life, and those who survive to old age will experience increasing difficulties in functioning. Disability is complex, and the interventions to overcome the disadvantages associated with disability are multiple and systemic and varying with the context. The purpose of this proposed model is to introduce a novel approach to address the problem of disability related to the aging process.

The World Health Organization in the 1970s estimated and suggested around 10% of the world population are having some form of disability. Based on the 2010 global population estimates, more than a billion people or about 15% of the world’s population are estimated to live with some form of disability. The number of people with disabilities is growing. One of the major reasons for this rising is aging populations. The other major reasons included the global increase in chronic health conditions associated with disability, such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and mental illness.

People worldwide are living longer. By 2050, the world’s population aged 60 years and older is expected to total 2 billion, up from 900 million in 2015. A longer life brings with it opportunities, not only for older people and their families but also for societies as a whole. Yet the extent of these opportunities and contributions depends heavily on one factor: health. At a biological level, aging is associated with the gradual accumulation of a wide variety of molecular and cellular damage over time. This damage leads to a gradual decrease in physical and mental capacity, an increased risk of many diseases, and a general decline in the capacity of the individual. Common conditions in older age include hearing loss, cataracts, and refractive errors, back, and neck pain and osteoarthritis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes, depression, and dementia. Furthermore, as people age, they are more likely to experience several conditions at the same time. Older age is also characterized by the emergence of several complex health states that tend to occur only later in life and that do not fall into discrete disease categories. These are commonly called geriatric syndromes. They are often the consequence of multiple underlying factors and include frailty, urinary incontinence, falls, and delirium and pressure ulcers. Inactivity in old age is another factor that may cause or furthers these health-related problems.

The changes of the body and health in older age, with or without the influence of environmental factors lead to lower the functional ability and restriction of participation and confined them into the state of disability. This process can be limited by influencing the changes of the body and health in older age. Most of the body changes and health conditions, which may lead the older people into disability, can be influenced through physiotherapy measures including physical exercises and physical activities. It is suggested to achieve this influence through the PPCR model either “Prehabilitation”, “Prevention”, “Cure” or “Rehabilitation” or with a combination of these approaches. This system has mainly consisted with a home and community based and also a user-friendly approach.
ORAL PRESENTATIONS
DISABILITY PREVALENCE & UNMET NEEDS FOR SERVICES: A RAPID ASSESSMENT OF DISABILITY IN KURIGRAM AND NARSINGDI, BANGLADESH

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ABSTRACT

Over 6,500 adults and children above 2 years old were surveyed to determine the prevalence and correlates of disability in Kurigram and Narsingdi districts of Bangladesh. In partnership with Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and local DPOs, the survey used a Rapid Assessment of Disability (RAD), including the Washington Group Short Set of Disability Questions. Disability prevalence for adults was 4.4% in Kurigram and 4.0% in Narsingdi. The most commonly reported difficulties for adults were psychological distress (3.0% in Kurigram and 2.1% in Narsingdi) and mobility difficulties (2.4% in Kurigram and 2.2% in Narsingdi). Over 50% of respondents in Kurigram and over 30% in Narsingdi who reported sensory, physical, communication or cognitive difficulties also reported psychological distress. Disability prevalence for 2-4 year-old children was 1.7% and 1.1% and for 5-17 year-olds was 1.9% and 1.2% in Kurigram and Narsingdi respectively. Adults from both districts had higher unmet needs for health, work, community consultations and social activities compared to age and sex matched controls. Among children with and without disabilities, differences in unmet need was only significant for health care. Lack of services and information were the most commonly reported barrier for accessing services by people with and without disabilities. Location-dependent estimates of barriers to services for PWDs and matched controls offer a method for evidence based inclusive development practice. Findings highlight important local and age differences in exclusion from social activities, which have important implications for inclusive development programming and specific services in Bangladesh.

Keywords: Rapid assessment, Disability, Bangladesh
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY BEYOND NORMALCY: LIVING IN THE SHADOW OF EVOLUTION AND THE DREAMS OF TRANSHUMANISM

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ABSTRACT

The epitome of the biomedical-technology challenge for people with disabilities is concretely present in transhumanism because they believe in their utopist dreams of “a better life.” These “dreams” is vis-a-vis theological and philosophical questions: What does it mean to be human? How do people with disabilities face the challenges of enhancement in the light of evolution? Ultimately, as Christians, how do we reflect on these circumstances in regards to imago Dei (image of God)? Transhumanists believe that biomedical-technology for genetic enhancement will bring improvement and development to the life of people with disabilities because it helps them to be “normal” and function in the community, as people without disabilities do. In contrast, I insist that this idea of normalcy is a threat for diversity and perpetuates the process of objectifying people with disabilities. This threat will be answered by the concept of theosis (union with God) from Ireneaus. For Ireneaus, humans do not possess life but participate in with the continuance of human’s existence depending on the grace of God. Thus “the image” is not perceived as some “good qualities” but in a participative relationship with God.

Keywords: Disability, normalcy, evolution, image of God, transhumanism, theosis
INTERRATER AND INTRARATER RELIABILITY OF ABDOMINAL DRAWING-IN TEST IN ASYMPTOMATIC INDIVIDUALS: A CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: The Transversus Abdominis stabilizes the back and back pain adversely affects the activation and endurance capacity of transversus abdominis. Transverse abdominis is local and deepest muscle and abdominal drawing in test by Pressure Biofeedback Unit (PBU) provides an indirect way of evaluating endurance capacity of transversus abdominis (TrA) muscle activity which is often used by clinicians and researchers. Aim and objective of the study: This is a crosssectional study to investigate the intra-rater and inter-rater reliability of abdominal drawing-in test in asymptomatic individual. Method: Sixty asymptomatic subjects were randomly selected for the study. The abdominal drawing-in test was measured for each subject with pressure biofeedback unit by the two testers for inter-rater reliability and by one of the testers after a gap of seven days for intra-rater reliability. All the subjects were previously taught and compensations were corrected. Results: The study demonstrated intra-class correlation coefficient (ICC) with standard error of mean (SEM) of 0.944 and 0.69725 for inter-rater reliability and 0.910 and 0.85814 for intra-rater reliability. A Bland Altman limit of agreement has also confirmed that inter-rater and intra-rater were within the limits of agreement in 95% of occasions. Conclusion: Abdominal drawing-in test has high inter-rater and intra-rater reliability in asymptomatic individual.

Keywords: Transversus abdominis (TrA), Pressure biofeedback unit (PBU), reliability
DYNAMIC POSTURAL CONTROL AND LEVEL OF FUNCTIONAL ABILITIES WITH AND WITHOUT ANKLE FOOT ORTHOSIS IN AMBULATORY CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY - A CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY

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\textsuperscript{1}Department of Physiotherapy, Kasturba Medical College, Manipal University, India

ABSTRACT

OBJECTIVE: To investigate the dynamic postural control and level of functional abilities with and without ankle foot orthosis in ambulatory children with cerebral palsy. DESIGN: A Cross Sectional study METHOD: 32 children with spastic cerebral palsy (CP) were selected based on the inclusion criteria in two groups (i) Children who were using DAFOs and (ii) Who had never used DAFOs. Two dynamic activities of sit to stand and forward reach were performed by children of both the groups on force platform for the assessment of dynamic postural control and their level of functional abilities were scored using Paediatric Evaluation of Disability Index (PEDI) by parental report. RESULTS: The dynamic postural control using force platform showed lesser COPE (Centre of Pressure Excursion) in children with CP who were using DAFOs compared to children in other group for sit to stand and forward reach activities respectively($p = 0.003$; $p = 0.423$). PEDI score was higher in children who were using DAFOs compared to children without DAFOs. The correlation of dynamic postural control with their level of functional abilities were non significant for both the groups. CONCLUSION: Children with spastic CP who are using DAFOs more than a year had better dynamic postural control and functional abilities compared to children without DAFOs.

Keywords: Dynamic postural control, cerebral palsy, ankle foot orthosis, level of functional abilities, PEDI
PARTICIPATORY ERGONOMICS: WORK RELATED MUSCULOSKELETAL DISORDERS AMONG CASHEW NUT FACTORY WORKERS IN KARKALA TALUKA

N. Ruchita¹ and A.J.O. Raj¹

¹Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bangalore, India

ABSTRACT

Background: Musculoskeletal disorders are the most common work related problems. Cashew nut factory workers have various works like cutting, peeling, grading, packing, and boiling. All these activities are more prone to risk factors for the musculoskeletal disorders, which include repetition, contact stress, forceful contraction, awkward and sustained postures. Objective of the study: formulation and implementation of participatory ergonomic program in order to prevent incidence of WRMSDs among cashew nut workers and to determine the effectiveness and benefits of the program in prevention of WRMSDs. Method: 160 subjects were taken, were assessed for WRMSD on the basis of WAQ after that 58 were selected on the basis of inclusion criteria and using Nordic pain chart further structured interview was done. Pre and Post NPRS were taken. Intervention of 3 months was given and again the follow up was taken. Result: using paired t-test it was seen that the mean value was 1.22 ± .795(SD) and the significance value was (p<0.001) which shows that there was a significant reduction in the pain intensity (NPRS) of the 58 subjects to whom the intervention was provided. Conclusion: Participatory Ergonomics (PE) is beneficial in reducing the risk as well as work related musculoskeletal disorders and their pain. As PE is low cost programmed it can be used in a very effective way to reduce the number of sick leaves and it also helps in increasing the work productivity of the workers.
EFFECT OF TRUNK STABILIZATION EXERCISES ON UPPER LIMB RECOVERY IN CHRONIC STROKE PATIENTS

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ABSTRACT

\textbf{Background:} The trunk being the central key point of the body, proximal trunk control is a prerequisite for distal limb movement control and functional activities. Sitting balance and selective trunk movements remain impaired along with limbs after stroke. Selective trunk muscle exercises are administered for rehabilitation of lower limb in relation to better trunk control, but so far an apparent relationship with that of upper limb functioning is not well established in clinical practice in patients with chronic stroke. \textbf{Purpose:} To check the effects of trunk stabilization exercises on upper extremity recovery in chronic stroke patients. \textbf{Method:} 30 subjects with chronic stroke were randomly divided into two groups (n= 15), group I was administered conventional therapy and group II, conventional therapy along with trunk stabilization exercises. For 5 days per week for 3 weeks. Fugl-Meyer Assessment Scale for upper extremity, Action Research Arm Test and Wolf Motor Function Test were used to assess changes between baseline and post intervention. \textbf{Results:} Trunk stabilization exercises were showing significantly greater change in upper limb motor recovery and functionality than only conventional therapy intervention. In the trunk stabilization exercise group, significant change in upper limb motor recovery (p<0.05) and functional status (p<0.05) with 95\% confidence interval were found. There was no change found on improvising strength of activity performance in WMFT scale. \textbf{Conclusion:} Trunk stabilization exercises along with conventional therapy enhance upper limb recovery in chronic stroke patients.

Keywords: Stroke, trunk stabilization exercises, upper limb rehabilitation, Fugl-Meyer assessment scale, action research arm test, wolf motor function test
PROGNOSIS OF AUTISTIC CHILDREN AND THEIR DEVELOPMENTAL AREAS: BASIS FOR BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION PROGRAM

N.A.S. Jose

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ABSTRACT

Children with Autism are diagnosed with significant delay in language, motor and social skills. Significant delay in developmental areas like socialization, self-help, language, cognition and motor development may mean significant loss in their interaction with the social world, particularly expressions, thinking, remembering, and storing information, and movement of muscles to help them walk, stand, and sit. The purpose of the study is to identify the level of autism and the developmental areas of sampled children with autism, with the end view of proposing a behavioral intervention program. Combined quantitative and qualitative approaches were employed to determine the developmental areas and characteristics of 15 children with autism, mostly male, aged 7 to 13, who were conveniently sampled. A local assessment tool to measure the developmental areas has been adopted aside from the interview guideline developed and validated specifically for this study. Frequency, percentage distribution, mean and Chi square test were adopted to interpret and present data. Findings revealed that subjects were found to have poor socialization skills, language development, self-help, and motors skills development. The study further reported that the levels of autism have a significant relationship towards their developmental areas, significantly on the self-help, cognition and motor area. The study concluded that while children with autism may seem to show delay in cognition in their early years, significant development can be achieved when they are properly provided with appropriate intervention. The behavioral intervention program developed for the study is recommended for adoption.

Keywords: children with autism, developmental areas, behavioral intervention
USING SOCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT ANALYSIS TO CALCULATE THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF MODIFIED VEHICLES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

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ABSTRACT

With vehicle modifications (VMs), it is possible for many people with acquired disability to return to driving as part of their rehabilitation goals. Modifications can range from simple to complex, and relatively inexpensive to costly. We present the findings of a social return on investment (SROI) analysis of VMs. SROI is an innovative methodology for measuring and valuing a wide range of personal, social and community outcomes. In addition to funders’ investment in VMs, people with disabilities also invest financially as well as with their time. We therefore adopted a co-investment model to estimate SROI and payback period for both parties. Five scenarios were developed to capture different levels of investment (low cost to high end technology). VMs were associated with a wide range of positive outcomes and greatly improved the quality of life of people with disabilities, as well as providing outcomes for carers and the community. For funders, an SROI of between $135.01 and $3.40 was estimated for every $1 invested and, for drivers, between $15.29 and $19.86 for every $1 invested. For consumers, payback periods were between 5.4 and 7.1 months. For funders, who bear a more substantial proportion of the investment in high end technology, payback for even the most complex scenario was 2 years 8.4 months. Though conducted in Australia, we believe this research is highly relevant to an international audience and is expected to be of interest to people with disabilities, their families, practitioners, funding bodies, policy makers, and disability advocacy groups.

Keywords: Vehicle modifications, drivers with disability, driver rehabilitation, social return on investment
EXPLORING OPPORTUNITY FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY THROUGH H.O.P.E. R.I.S.E.S.

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ABSTRACT

The main purpose of this study is to determine the challenges of family members or care providers of PWD and how these feedbacks can help in the development of the proposed independent living center. The study employed the descriptive exploratory method of which data were collected through researcher-designed and validated instrument responded by parents and special education teachers from selected secondary schools which has special accommodation for PWD. Thirty parents of PWD and 15 special education teachers in the secondary level form part of the respondents who were purposively sampled on the basis of a pre-set criteria. Experts were consulted on the design of the proposed independent living center. Frequency, percentage, weighted mean and ranking were applied to determine the challenges of handling PWD. Findings revealed on the following issues and concerns that are “evident” among family members or care providers: “appropriate health care support,” “assistance in self-help/ independent adult living skills” and “requires more socialization and recreation, all reported as “evident.” “Appropriate health care support,” “educational support for specific courses and services,” and “family and peer support system,” “comfortable living space,” and “assistance in self-help/independent adult living skills” ranked highest among needs of PWD. The study concluded that PWD require health and psych-social support from people who are recognized in this particular discipline. It is recommended that the local government, committed non-government sector, and private sectors adopt and implement the proposed independent living center, identified as HOPE RISES (Helping Opportunity for PWD Enhancement through Rest Intervention, Special Education and Socialization).

Keywords: Residential facility, PWD, transition program for adult living, independent living
ROLE OF THE FAMILY IN THE DISABLED PEOPLE LIFE IN THE LIGHT OF QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEYS: CASE IN POLAND

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this article is to identify the role of the family in the life among people with disabilities. It is hard to appreciate because family should guarantee the safety and encourage for action. What’s more the family should appoint cells and support the disabled person in action. Unfortunately the effect we get is a resultant of many variables interacting to themselves. Analysis presented in the article was conducted on the attempt of 223 members of community portals of people with disability from questionnaire surveys in Poland. The analysis was carried out on three levels: a disabled child, a disabled spouse, a disabled parent. The results of the study confirmed that the family in the life of a person with disability is the most important link in the process of rehabilitation and the most important element in the process of "opening to the world". Conducted examinations are confirming factors motivating disabled persons to take up work and the real family attitude to activity person with disability in polish reality. In the article are presented also the real examples of supporting carried out by the most immediate environment (family) which enabled disabled persons to assimilate into society.

Keywords: Person with disability, family, support, work, occupational activity
AWARENESS TOWARDS COGNITIVE DYSFUNCTIONS AMONG PEOPLE WITH BRAIN INJURIES

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ABSTRACT

[Introduction] The aim of this study was identifying the characteristics of awareness towards cognitive disorders among people with brain injuries.

[Methods] A questionnaire was distributed to people with brain injuries and their family members living in Tokyo, Japan and collected via Japanese postal system. The questions were age, types of cognitive dysfunctions, duration of their injuries, working circumstances, the date diagnosed having cognitive dysfunctions, who the health professionals informed, the degree of comprehension towards the informed contents, and social interactions.

[Results] Valid data from 108 people were analyzed. The major dysfunctions were short memory, attention deficit, aphasia, and performance disabilities. Among them 40% were 60 years old and older, 94% spent 2 years and longer after their onset before the data collection period, 24% quitted jobs, 73% had social interactions, 61% realized their problems after their discharging periods, and 45% were informed from their medical doctors during their hospitalization. A significant difference was observed in social interactions between the two groups that were divided based on attention deficit (r=.04), performance disabilities (r=.01), and apraxia (r=.00), respectively. A significant correlation was observed between the duration of informed period and the duration to have awareness (r=.31).

[Discussion] This study identified that many people obtained the awareness towards their cognitive dysfunctions during their community life. This study proposes that professionals working for people with cognitive dysfunctions have to provide necessary information to make the people understand strategies towards their cognitive dysfunctions.

Keywords: Cognitive dysfunctions, providing information of health professionals, self-awareness
IMPACT OF A CORPORATE DISABILITY MENTORING PROGRAM ON BARRIERS TO COLLEGE GRADUATION AND PROFESSIONAL COMPETITIVE EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED YOUNG ADULTS

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ABSTRACT

Nearly two thirds of college students with disabilities in the United States fail to graduate. Students who do graduate have an unemployment rate of almost 70%. Those who find employment are likely to be underemployed in jobs that do not require the college degree they have earned. The Pearson Corporate Disability Mentoring Program was established to address a primary barrier facing students: low expectations that have been internalized, a lack of ‘soft skills’ and absence of encouraging support to identify and pursue career paths that reflect true interests and aspirations. Employees in the Pearson corporate legal department were matched with young adults with disabilities in a 3-month virtual mentoring partnership that included “Super Mentors” i.e., professionals with disabilities working in careers similar to the mentee’s interest, and a partnership with disability advocacy organizations. Mentees identified new career goals, reported changed internal perceptions of capabilities, and participated in Pearson-sponsored internships. Mentors reported increased awareness of the needs, capabilities, and barriers facing young adults. The research methodology included pre and post questionnaires and spontaneous responses to open ended interview questions. Conclusion: Mentoring is an effective intervention strategy for increasing and improving professional employment, corporate employees are an untapped and willing resource, and the model can be disseminated for duplication.

Keywords: Mentoring, disability, corporations, employment, low expectations
ENHANCING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN RURAL AREAS BY CREATING COMMUNITY-BASED CONNECTING SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT

In recent years, businesses have started providing employment opportunities for persons with disabilities (PWDs). However, the large number of PWDs have limited access to recruiting information and face with traveling difficulties to work far from home. To deal with these barriers, a project to enhance accessibility to jobs and vocational training for PWDs was piloted in Quynh Phu district, Thai Binh province in 2015. A connecting system between business recruiting demand and PWDs was based in the community, including participation of community nurses who were supporting the PWDs, and the social workers who were connecting to business recruiting demand. To facilitate the communication between community nurses and social workers, an employment handbook was developed to include most businesses located in the district with essential recruiting information of businesses such as types of jobs or requirements, and an email communication mechanism was established. Social workers received information on employment and vocational training opportunities from local businesses through the email system and posted then recruiting information on the community bulletin board. Community nurses connected PWDs with opportunities posted on the bulletin board and were in the handbook. The project used the handbook to train 228 community nurses, 38 social workers and 38 head of community health stations (who monitored activities of community nurses). After 6 months, 932 disabled people were provided job counseling by community nurses. Both the employment handbook and the email communication supported community nurses in providing job counseling and helped PWDs have a chance to connect to employment opportunities.

Keywords: Persons with disabilities (PWDs), employment opportunities, business
EXPLORING INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IN THE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL AS BRIDGING PROGRAM TO TERTIARY CAREER PATHING

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ABSTRACT

The study uncovers the awareness, readiness and the perceived roles of senior high school teachers on special education where descriptive and exploratory research using a focused-group discussion approach was employed. The data were culled from the researcher developed and validated instruments responded by 30 senior high school teachers who were selected following snowball technique, considerations of which were their experiences in handling special learners. The data were qualitatively and quantitatively coded, analyzed, interpreted and presented. Findings revealed that respondents are “moderately aware” of special education, its philosophy, goals and mechanisms, and “somewhat ready” in handling LSN in their respective classes. “Academic coach,” “counselor” and “motivator” were ranked highest as perceived roles in the inclusion of special learners in regular education setting. The study concluded that respondents believed that attempt to include special learners in regular classes will truly help educate them and that inclusion is deemed necessary for these learners to be able to proceed to tertiary and eventually acquire a career after. Teachers handling special learners integrated with regular students must have knowledge and expertise on how to properly accommodate them in their classes. The study recommended that senior high school teachers should train themselves on special education, particularly understanding the nature and characteristics of learners with special needs, laws, ethics and special education and inclusive education modalities. Thus S.H.I.E.L.D. (Senior High School Inclusive Education for Learning and Development), a capacity building program for senior high school teachers, is proposed.

Keywords: Senior high school teachers, special learners, challenges, instruction
EMPLOYMENT TRENDS ACROSS JOB SECTORS FOR PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Vocational rehabilitation in terms of employment of adult persons with Intellectual Disabilities (ID) is a challenge in developing countries with limited employment opportunities and placement support. The present study charts employment trends in terms of vocational employment avenues present for adult persons with Intellectual Disabilities (PWIDs) in India based on thirteen years of retrospective data. The focus is on identifying job sectors and trades that adult PWIDs are employed and trained in, and also review changes over the years in terms of jobs sectors that have generated more jobs for PWIDs and generated higher remuneration. The study looked into demographic, employment-based trends among PWIDs from 2006 to 2018, which included 10 consecutive years of data during this period. The key demographic variables studied are: age, gender, region, level of severity of ID condition, type of employment and remuneration/salary per month for PWIDs. The sample comprised of 721 special employees (adult PWIDs) who participated in annual special employees meet at NIEPID, Secunderabad held annually. Participants comprised of adult persons with Intellectual Disabilities who are into one of the four types of employment: self, open, sheltered workshop and supported. All the participants were 18 and above, associated either with an NGO or a vocational training center. The participants came from different states of the country. Data were analyzed in SPSS. Statistical analyses included descriptive statistics, chi-square, one-way and factorial analysis of variance. The findings show that there is a significant difference between age-groups, level of severity of ID condition, Type of employment and various five-year time-periods with respect to remuneration of the PWIDs. The findings also point to the top ten job sectors with the highest level of participation as well as remuneration obtained by the PWIDs annually as well as for each five year period.

Keywords: Intellectual disabilities, employment trends, job sectors, vocational rehabilitation
COMPETENCIES, READINESS AND EMPLOYABILITY OF ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES: A LOOK AT TRANSITION OPPORTUNITIES

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ABSTRACT

The main purpose of this study is to identify competencies, readiness and employability of adults with disability (AwD). The study adopted the descriptive survey method where data were culled from a researcher-developed and validated questionnaire responded by special education teachers handling transition classes and automotive trainer/industry practitioners who were purposively sampled on the basis of a pre-set criteria. Frequency, percentage, weighted mean and t-test were applied as statistical tools to interpret data. Findings revealed strong agreement among respondents on the transition potential of AwD where they stressed that they “can be trained on transition that can enhance their community living skills,” and identified transition opportunities made available to AwD, particularly sheltered workshop activities (e.g. candle, rag and soap making), massage and spa and auto detailing and car wash. Respondents reported on the preparations to transition particularly “model or demonstrate assigned tasks, then apply teach and reteach method,” and the teaching of functional academics (communication, calculation, social interactions, etc.) are interventions geared at their employability. Industry respondents expect AwD to have competencies like “calculation (simple mathematics),” “grooming and hygiene,” “safety and security” as core requirements of employment. The study concluded special education teachers handling transition and industry practitioners share the same observation and sentiment on the employability of AwD. The study recommended that transition program in schools tie up with industry and undergo periodic evaluation to meet the challenges of the times and the transition needs of AwD. The Collaborative Modality for the readiness and employability of AwD is proposed.

Keywords: Transition, adults with disability, employment, readiness and employability of PWD
DEVELOPMENT AND ASSESSMENT OF AN ADAPTED PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR LEARNERS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

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ABSTRACT

Adapted Physical Education (APE) is a specially designed program intended for the inclusion of learners with intellectual disabilities (LID) in regular physical education (PE). The study’s purpose is to determine the challenges of special education (SPED) teachers in engaging LID in PE. It employed the descriptive survey method data of which were collected through researcher-developed and validated instrument responded by SPED teachers from 16 Silahis SPED Centers in the City Schools Division of Manila. Thirty-five SPED teachers handling PE were selected through snowball technique while curriculum experts were asked to assess proposed APE program. Descriptive statistics was applied to interpret data. Findings indicated varying modalities were “very often” utilized in engaging LID in PE (e.g. warm-up exercise, and gross motor exercise). Behavior of the learners (e.g attentiveness, non-compliance, completion, etc.) followed closely by “difficulty understanding and following instruction” were the challenges experienced in engaging LID in PE. The developed P.L.A.Y. (APE Program) for LID was found by SPED teachers and curriculum experts as “very suitable,” “very acceptable” and “very feasible.” The study concluded that LID are engaged by SPED teachers to varying modalities that recognize their limitations imposed by their disability. Physical education classes have been uncovered to help children reinforce the development of their fine and gross motor skills necessary to assist them in other academic endeavor. Based on the assessment of the proposed P.L.A.Y., the respondents and curriculum experts are in agreements that it will greatly help LID and other LSEN if adopted and implemented, thus recommended for adoption in special schools.

Keywords: adapted physical education, curriculum, learners with intellectual disability
REINFORCING THE ROLES OF SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS IN INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

The Philippine Education for All (EFA) 2015 reinforces the Philippines’ response to UNESCO’s call for inclusive education (IE) while DepEd Order No. 72, s. 2009 mandates its implementation in public school system. The study uncovers the actual and perceived roles of special education (SPED) teachers and the challenges encountered as well as the impressions of stakeholders in SPED and IE. Descriptive survey method was employed data of which were collected through a researcher-developed and validated instrument responded by 120 purposively selected SPED and receiving teachers, administrators and parents. Descriptive and inferential statistics were applied to interpret data. Findings revealed the following roles: “attend seminars and trainings on IE” (Initial Phase), “assist regular teachers in assessing behavioral characteristics and academic development of children with special needs” (Transition Phase) and “provide continuing support to the IE program” (Inclusion Phase) that ranked highest. SPED teachers consider themselves as coach to receiving teachers who see them as consultants while administrators see them as advocates and parents view them as aides to receiving teachers. Data imply that SPED teachers are seen as key to the success of IE implementation. The following challenges were encountered “readiness and preparedness of the academic community toward IE” (Initial Phase), “acceptance and assimilation of LSEN to regular students” (Transition Phase) and “competencies and skills of LSEN” (Inclusion Phase). SPED is viewed as “curriculum designed to meet LSEN’s education needs” while IE is perceived as “a practice in education where LSEN are extended equal rights to enjoy instruction in a regular education setting.” The study concluded that stakeholders recognize SPED teachers’ efforts in making inclusion work, however, there are still factors that hinder them to perform their maximum potential due to social stigma, adjustment problems of LSEN and regular students, capability of the receiving teachers for accommodation and the apprehensions of parents. The study recommended to revisit the legal bases of IE and other mandates to make inclusion work. The ROLES (Reinforcing Operative Learning Environment for SPED teachers, a capability building program for SPED teachers, is proposed.

Keywords: SPED teachers, receiving teachers, roles, learners with special education needs, inclusion
DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION OF A HOUSEKEEPING MODULE FOR LEARNERS WITH INTELECTUAL DISABILITY

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\textbf{ABSTRACT}

The study uncovers problems of special education (SPED) teachers in handling learners with intellectual disability (LID) in transition classes and their technical and vocational skills that meet transition placement where descriptive exploratory was employed using questionnaire, interview and observation. Researcher-developed, face and content validated instruments were used to collect data from 11 SPED teachers, from four SPED implementing secondary schools, who were purposively selected from pre-determined criteria. Another six SPED teachers and curriculum experts on housekeeping validated the module developed for the purpose of the study. Frequency, percentage, weighted mean and t-test were applied as statistical tools to determine the objective, clarity of instructions, relevance, usefulness, acceptability, suitability and feasibility of the housekeeping module. Findings revealed that LID, who are in transition classes, demonstrate cognitive skills, self-directedness, adaptive skills, and technical and vocational skills. The module is highly evaluated indicative as potential learning material for LID. The study revealed no significant difference in the evaluation of the respondents in the developed housekeeping module in terms of the cited indicators which means that the developed housekeeping module is acceptable. The study concluded that LID have potentials when placed under transition class since they are easy to handle, can sustain attention, can also follow instruction, can be taught life skills, capable of developing skills necessary for employment, and can be trained towards livelihood and vocational opportunities. The developed housekeeping module is proposed for adoption as learning or resource materials in the teaching of housekeeping course to LID.

Keywords: Special education, transition, housekeeping learners with intellectual disability
READINESS AND PREPARATION OF SPED TEACHERS IN TEACHING TRANSITION CLASSES

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ABSTRACT

The study determines the readiness and preparation of special education (SPED) teachers to teach transition classes where descriptive-exploratory research using the Focused-Group Discussion (FGD) approach was adopted to elicit significant information from 15 SPED teachers who were selected through a snowball technique, considerations of which were their experiences in handling transition classes. Researcher-made instrument were developed and validated where data collected were qualitatively analyzed through inductive approach where in it was coded, interpreted, and presented in themes to support the discussion. Quantitative data utilized frequencies percentage in presenting response and incidence. Findings revealed that respondents met the minimum requirements in handling transition program, particularly education, teaching experience, and training. TSNA were considered, together with the findings of the study, in the development of a teacher training program for special education teachers handling transition classes. Pre-vocational, vocational and TESDA training and certification were suggested for consideration. Respondents’ preparation and resolutions to problems encountered fall under six themes: personal preparation on curriculum preparing LSEN to transition program, program planning and preparing individualized transition plan, teachers’ training, parents and significant other’s support to LSEN in transition program and preparations and resolutions employed by SPED teachers to problems encountered while the challenges encountered fall under three themes: LSEN skills and interest, teachers skills and training, and support groups.

The study concluded that while SPED teachers are trained toward special education, they need specialized training on transition, particularly those that consider disability, capacity and interest of learners. Thus, CHART (Children’s Hope for Accessibility Response to Transition) is proposed.

Keywords: SPED teachers, learners with special education needs, transition, challenges
EFFECTIVENESS OF AUDIOLOGICAL REHABILITATION USING HEARING AID AMONG THE BENEFICIARIES OF A REHABILITATION PROJECT IN RURAL KARNATAKA

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ABSTRACT

Hearing is a fundamental sense of life and it is the very basis of human communication. Hearing also brings about psychosocial compromises, keeping the individual from having a healthy social life and playing his/her role in society. The objective was to assess the usage of hearing aid and the associated factors and level of satisfaction, quality of life among the beneficiaries of a hearing impairment project in a rural area. The study tools used were GHABP, IOI-HA and WHO-QOL Bref. 80 beneficiaries of the rural rehabilitation project were interviewed with predominantly moderate to severe hearing impairment. The duration of hearing aid use ranged from two to seven years with a median duration of 4 years. There was a significant reduction in the disability due to hearing impairment by using the hearing aid. Among the study group, 32.5% reported a usage of 1 to 4 hours per day followed 30% using it for 4 to 8 hours per day. A good proportion (35.0%) reported that the hearing aid was ‘moderately worth’ and 32.5% reported ‘quite a lot worth’ in important situations. 31.3% reported that their quality of life became ‘quite a lot better’ and after they started using hearing aid. There is a significant association (p<0.05) between usage of hearing aid and age, education, gender and occupation. The results of this study concluded that there is an impetus to further improve the quality of rehabilitation services for the target group in the community especially in the rural setting thereby achieving sustainability.

Keywords: Hearing aid, hearing impairment, satisfaction, GHABP, IOI-HA
BURDEN, BURNOUT AND DEPRESSION AMONG INFORMAL CAREGIVERS OF PERSONS WITH COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT: AN INDIAN STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The kind of illness is of great importance in determining the attitudes of society where the illness arouses fear, like cognitive illness (e.g. Dementia). In India, the family is charged with the responsibility of the care of such individuals, reasons being accessibility and affordability to the rehabilitation services. Alzheimer Disease International reports, most people with dementia live in developing countries with 60% in 2001 rising to 71% by 2040. Informal Care givers of PwD (Persons with Dementia) are also victims of disease for various reasons. The aim of this study is to understand the burden, depression and burnout among these care givers of PwD and their barriers to healthcare access. Study was conducted in coastal district of Southern India with 120 samples with ethical clearance. Personal interviews with informal caregivers visiting selected study settings was conducted with tested questionnaires. Mean age of PwD was 69.87 and care givers 48.9. 77.6% were from rural area 54.4% caregivers were children. 43.2% of the care givers experienced severe burden; 51%Emotional exhaustion; 23% depersonalization; 26% feeling of poor attainment; 29.6% in severe depression. Varies barriers of healthcare access was also discussed. In developing countries there is an urgent need to develop and implement an array of low-cost or no-cost government-supported services within an accessible infrastructure, so that even those with significant barriers to accessing services will be able to do so if motivated. Developing caregiver networks and mobile apps can be of great support for enhancing caregivers’ e- access to healthcare and peers.

Key words: PwD (persons with dementia), caregivers, burden, burnout, depression, healthcare access
THERAPEUTIC EFFECTIVENESS OF YOGA IN ANXIETY DISORDER - A RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL FROM INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Anxiety disorders are the most common of all mental health problems and often are chronic requiring ongoing medical or psychosocial and alternative therapies. In anxiety disorders functional impairment and disability has been discussed. It becomes important to reduce the level of anxiety as a prevention of disabilities and management of diseases. There has been a paucity of research on the role of yoga therapy in anxiety disorders. In the present paper the objectives are, decrease in anxiety symptoms, improvement in quality of life of anxiety patients. one hundred thirty two patients diagnosed as suffering from anxiety disorders according to ICD-10 aged between 20 to 50 years, both genders were recruited and assessed on anxiety severity scale and those who were of mild-moderate categories were considered. Patients were randomly assigned according to block randomization method to one of three groups; medication alone; medication with yoga; and yoga alone. Anxiety scales, physiological parameters were measured at base-line. A package of yoga practices designed to suit patients suffering from anxiety disorders was given and was reassessed at 2 weeks, 6 weeks and at 3 months. Results showed significant improvements in anxiety scores (0.03); quality of life scores (0.001) in medication with yoga group while comparing with medicine alone and yoga alone groups. Also significant improvements in physiological measures. A combination of medication and yoga therapy reduced anxiety symptoms indicating stabilization of mental balance and improving quality of life.

Keywords: Anxiety disorders, yoga intervention, quality of life, block randomization
MENTAL HEALTH FROM THE PERSPECTIVE AND EXPERIENCE OF VOLUNTEER CAREGIVERS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

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ABSTRACT

Mental health is an issue that should be regarded highly to assuage psychological problems that confront people today. The study dwells on the perception of volunteer caregivers of children with special needs (CWSN) on mental health, where they first heard of this, for whom it is intended for, their experience and how they are able to combat the sadness, anxiety and depression brought about by their engagement in Gabayan, a psycho-social rehabilitation camp. This also included strategies utilized in coping with mental health issues through volunteering. The study is qualitative with focused-group discussion and observer-participant research design employed to report data collected from forty-eight purposive selected respondents. The research instrument went through a validation exercise where experts on mental health and volunteers took part in. Data were analyzed, coded and thematically presented. The study revealed that volunteers have understanding what mental health is and for whom it is intended for. Volunteers reported to have experienced sadness, anxiety, and depression on their engagement as caregiver to CWSN. Volunteers averred that talking it out with more senior caregiver volunteers, engaging more time assisting children with special needs on their activity, as well asking help or assistance to keep away from feeling negative are coping strategies they employed to manage issues of mental health. While they are trained to handle special children, the realization that the scenario is overwhelming to them made it more difficult to resolve. They recommended that a program on mental health for volunteers should include topics on understanding and recognition of oneself, strengthening oneself, interpersonal relations and community engagement.

Keywords: mental health, caregivers, gabayan, coping, volunteering
EXPLORING ADOPTION OF AN ASSESSMENT INTERVENTION CENTER FOR LEARNERS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS AND CHILDREN AT RISK

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ABSTRACT

The study aims to identify the felt needs of special education teachers on the assessment of learners with special education needs (LSEN) and children at risk for special education (CRSE), and how these challenges are responded to. The study adopted the descriptive and exploratory method, data of which were collected through researcher-designed and validated survey questionnaire. Forty-two special education teachers, receiving teachers, school administrators and parents were purposively sampled on the basis of a pre-set criteria. Descriptive statistics was applied to interpret and present data. Findings indicated the “most felt need” of respondents on assessment of LSEN and CRSE pointed to “priority and financial capacity of families with children who are suspected to manifest special condition” and the “schedule of assessment professionals. “Encourage parents to be involved in various organizations for support group” and “help parents in identifying groups or organizations in the community that help LSEN in their assessment needs” are mostly utilized strategies to address felt needs. Respondents recognize the need of assessment because strategies that were employed to resolve these difficulties may not be enough to sustain the gap in the academic system. Absence of assessment of LSEN becomes a problem of teachers because children are not properly placed in appropriate programs that can meet their education needs. educational system. Adopting an assessment center for LSEN and CRSE is seen as a strategic response to felt needs of respondents.

AIDE (Assessment Intervention for Developmental Education), a development and an assessment center, is proposed.

Keywords: Assessment, learners with special education needs, children at risk, special education, academic placement
NEUROMUSCULAR TAPING APPLICATION TO REDUCE WORK RELATED TENSION NECK SYNDROME IN “BATIK” MANUAL LABOUR WORKERS: PILOT PROJECT

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ABSTRACT

NeuroMuscular Taping (NMT) is a rehabilitation treatment technique involving the application of elastic adhesive tape to the skin, providing eccentric and decompression action on muscles creating relaxation therapeutic effects, giving relief to Indonesian Batik workers who have tightness of neck muscles and tendons as a result of excessive workloads. The aim of the study was to evaluate the effectiveness of NMT in pain reduction and neck mobility reducing work related musculoskeletal stress and overload on workers. This study included 20 workers with tight of the neck muscles who work in the home industry “Batik Village” in Solo, Indonesia. The workers were randomly selected into two groups: real NMT and no tape application. The data collected covered patient history, NRS numerical rating scale assessment and neck disability index (NDI). The outcome parameters analyzed were pain and disability of neck. T0, T1, T2, T3 observations and evaluations were made covering before, after 3, 6 applications and follow-up at 15 days after the last (6th) application. Each taping application remained for 3 days. NMT treatment consisted in four tapes covering the cervical spine; each 1.25 cm width and 20 cm in length. The results showed statistically significant results on the neck pain using NRS (p = 0.000) and neck disability using NDI (p = 0.003) in the real NMT group in comparison to the no tape group after each 3, 6 application, and 15 days follow-up after removal of the tape. NMT therapy interventions to tightness and painful neck muscles in manual labour workers decreases their subjective sensation of pain, reduces neck disability while improving mobility and quality of life issues during and after working.

Keywords: NeuroMuscular Taping, tight of the neck muscles, pain, neck rehabilitation, batik manual labour workers
COMPLIANCE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION (SPED) CENTERS TO REPUBLIC ACT NUMBER 7277 (MAGNA CARTA FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY)

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ABSTRACT

The main purpose of the study is to look at the level of compliance of SPED Centers to RA 7277 (Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities), issues and concerns encountered and the interventions that meet the requirements of the law. The study adopted the descriptive method data of which were collected through research-designed and validated instruments responded by 163 stakeholders composed of SPED and receiving teachers (31%), school administrators (14%), parents (31%) and members of civic organizations (25%) who were purposively selected on the basis of their direct involvement in SPED Centers. Descriptive statistics was used to interpret findings. Findings revealed that SPED Centers are compliant on the following areas: Access to Appropriate and Quality Education (3.39); Accessibility and Mobility (3.29); Auxiliary Social Services (3.18); Employment (3.22); and Collaboration Work or Partnership with Focal Government Agencies (3.28) whereas Health was found to be fully compliant (3.52). Issues and concerns encountered were observed indicative that SPED Centers/Schools are taking actions to address them. SPED Centers utilize their linkages or partners particularly external stakeholders such as civic organizations and parents to help them resolve challenges that they find tough to overcome and use various resources to realize appropriate, efficient and effective approach to address such challenge. The study concluded that although SPED Centers/Schools initiated various interventions within their respective centers/schools to meet the requirements of RA 7277, certain issues and concerns, however, hinder full compliance, particularly in funding. A position paper as basis for SPED advocacy program is offered for adoption to help improve the compliance to RA 7277 (Magna Carta for Person with Disabilities).

Keywords: magna carta, PWD, compliance, stakeholders, special education centers
FOSTERING PROMOTION OF CHILD PROTECTION POLICY TO LEARNERS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS

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ABSTRACT

The study aims to uncover the awareness, compliance and challenges in the implementation of Child Protection Policy (CPP) in the inclusion of learners with special education needs (LSEN) in regular education setting where it adopted the descriptive method using combined survey and interview approaches. 150 subjects from public elementary schools who are SPED teachers, receiving teachers handling LSEN, school administrators, non-teaching staff, and parents were purposively selected following pre-set criteria. The data were collected through researcher–developed and validated instrument that highlighted on the awareness and impressions of respondents on CPP. Descriptive statistics was used to interpret and present findings. Findings indicated that stakeholders are aware of CPP but parents have poor understanding of its goals and principles. The schools demonstrate initiative to introduce CPP in public school system where respondents are involved in the inclusion of LSEN in promoting it in the school system. The “Contents,” “Mechanisms of Implementation,” and “Objectives” are attributes that scored highly among stakeholders. Although child’s right is espoused by CPP, there is no specific provisions that promote inclusion of LSEN in its implementation. The success of CPP lies in the mechanism utilized and initiated by schools. The study concluded that the creation of CPP increases the awareness and promotion in the safety and security of children in school and reduces or prevents threats, abuses and intimidation with the help of the stakeholders. An enhancement program for the promotion of CPP, where LSEN are actively included in its school-wide implementation, is proposed.

Keywords: Child Protection Policy, inclusion, learners with special education needs, special education
RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: ITS IMPLEMENTATION AS A CALL FOR GLOBAL CONCERN

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: Globally, there is a new international human rights treaty, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), enacted in 2006. The process of negotiating the treaty at the UN had 33% of the seats in the decision making experts reserved for disabled people. Hence, the slogan for the disability rights movement, “Nothing about us without us”. The CRPD was mandated to identify eligibility criteria for disability, and the capability of claiming disability rights. All persons with disabilities must have equal opportunities to contribute to sustainable development goals (S.D.G.) if S.D.G. must be realized. All States party members of CRPD make regular submissions of reports on disability right to the Committee, which examines the reports and develop questions (List of Issues) to send to the State Party for further information and recommendations (Concluding Observations) for strengthened implementation of the Convention.

PURPOSE: This paper is aimed at: Identifying eligibility criteria for disability and barriers/limitations and discriminations against the disabled.

Understanding the various right which disabled person wields and strategies to ensure enforcement of these fundamental rights.

METHODOLOGY: Relevant studies were assessed from medical journals, library search, Google search, textbooks and scientific publication on the internet. Data was analyzed using frequency distribution and percentages.

RESULT: 15 studies were assessed. Four strategies with equal impact were developed for driving a sustainable change in human rights and social justice among the disabled group. These include: Having and pursing a common goal (25%), Building and sustaining partnerships among member states (25%), Remaining focused and patient (25%), and ensuring full participation of disability groups in the decision making process (25%).

CONCLUSION: The early intervention efforts required to address the needs of people with, or at risk of disabilities in the world are: first, engraving best practice into national policies and programs for effective implementation in member countries. Second, convincing policy makers to earmark enough resources to implement best practice and quality. Therefore, dissemination and utilization of these intervention on rights of the disabled persons are recommended.

Keywords: Implementation, united nations rights, disabled persons, global society
POSTER PRESENTATIONS
PRAYER VIBRATING BRACELET: PRIEST MOVEMENT DETECTOR TO IMPROVE THE CONCENTRATION OF DEAF MUSLIMS IN CONGREGATION PRAYER

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ABSTRACT

Prayer is one of the main worships in Islam. Every muslim is commanded to do prayer at least 5 times a day. This command must be obtained by all muslims, included deaf people. But, the discrimination toward those deaf people still exists in many mosque community. One of problems that usually appears is difficult for them to accept the movement command of priest in congregation prayer. Because all of the commands will be sent by voice, they can’t really receive the message. In the end, this will disturb their concentration and prayer quality. Hence, Prayer Vibrating Bracelet is designed to help those deaf makmums to concentrate in praying. The applied methods are literature study, observing, designing, prototype creating, testing, and device improvement. The results of the PVB are bracelets equipped with proximity sensors and microcontrollers that are installed on priests and deaf people. When the priest changes the prayer movement, then the sensor contained in the priest’s bracelet will send the signal to the makmum bracelet and make it vibrates. Thus, the deaf people know that the priest has changed the position during prayer. In the end, this device will help the deaf people to experience the same holy moment with the non-deaf people. This project raises the innovation for disabilities in religion sector and increase the awareness of religious communities toward people with disabilities.

Keywords: Device, deaf, muslim, prayer, congregation
RETURNING TO WORK AFTER STROKE AND THE IMPACT OF CAREGIVER PRESENCE – A PILOT SURVEY STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Stroke is the third leading cause of disability worldwide. In Singapore, the median age of hospitalization due to stroke is decreasing, suggesting that more stroke survivors may seek re-employment. Caregiver support is considered a significant facilitator for return-to-work among stroke survivors. In this pilot study, we surveyed a group of stroke survivors in Singapore to explore the impact of caregiver presence on their re-employment status. We recruited 87 stroke survivors using our existing research database. All participants completed one telephone survey. In addition to demographic data, we collected information on pre- and post-stroke employment using an employment questionnaire. We performed multiple logistic regression analysis to estimate the association between caregiver presence and re-employment status. Sixty-three participants were gainfully employed prior to stroke onset. Of these, 75% (n=47) returned to work. Among participants who returned to work, 68% (n=32) reported not having a primary caregiver, compared to 13% (n=2) of participants who did not return to work. We found that participants with no caregivers were more likely to return to work (OR=20.0, CI=3.4 – 115.9) compared to those who reported having a caregiver. We discovered a higher proportion of stroke survivors returning to work compared to previous Singaporean reports. The absence of caregivers may indicate greater functional independence among our participants, enhancing successful re-employment post-stroke. More research is needed to better understand the nature and impact of caregiver presence on stroke survivors returning to work.

Keywords: Stroke, employment, return-to-work, caregiver, Singapore
PEOPLE, DISABILITY, AND STIGMA: HAS THE ROLE OF LANGUAGE BEEN DISCUSSED ENOUGH?

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ABSTRACT

Despite several fruitful attempts in destigmatization, disability is still associated with stigma. Controversies consist around applying the correct language when talking about people and disability. Both person first language (i.e., people with disability) to emphasize the ‘personhood’ and identity first language (i.e., “disabled person,”) have advocates and critics. The meanings attributed to the terms ‘disability’ and ‘disabled’ have been explored in the context of legal, individual, medical and sociological perspectives. Less weight, however, have been given to the psychological point of view, that is, the effects that both these terminologies may have on people’s self-esteem and self-perception. Either by defining disability as a privation, a pathology or a tragic problem (mostly emphasized by the three first models) or proposing that barriers in society has contributed in disabling the people (the social model), the focus is on the negation. The view that promote disability as a positive identity is not widespread and lacks empirical evidence. In this article, the authors discuss how the currently applied terms can influence the self-image and self-esteem of people with disabilities and whether there is the possibility to replace these terms.

Keywords: Disability, stigma, language, identity
A CONTROLLED STUDY OF BODY MASS INDEX IN KENyan CHILDREN WITH HEARING DISABILITY

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ABSTRACT

Poor nutritional status of hearing disabled children is of growing interest, as countries with high levels of malnutrition also often report higher rates of disability and developmental delay. The objective of this study was to determine the levels of hearing impairment among children aged 5-15 years, and compare the BMI of those children with and without disability. This was a descriptive cross-sectional study involving 162 children who had undergone audiometry tests. Half of these children had hearing as an isolated disability (hearing loss ≥ 31dB in the better ear). The rest had normal hearing (hearing loss ≤30dB in the better ear). The body mass index (BMI) for age was assessed according to the WHO reference standards, using a calibrated salter scale and a calibrated standard height board. Children with hearing disability who were found to be normal, underweight, overweight and obese were 56(69.1%), 18(22.2%), 6(7.4%) and 1(1.3%) respectively. Children without hearing disability who were normal, underweight, overweight and obese were 63(77.8%), 11(13.6%), 3(3.7%) and 4(4.9%) respectively. Children with hearing disability were 1.82 times more likely to be underweight (p=0.15), and two times more likely to be overweight (p=0.30) compared to the other children. However, the likelihood of obesity was lower among the disabled children (1.3%) compared to the non-disabled children (4.9%) (Odds ratio = 0.24). This study therefore concluded that though there was no significant difference between the two groups, the nutritional status of children with hearing disability was generally poorer compared to those with normal hearing.
VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS
AN INVESTIGATION OF CLOTHING RELATED BARRIERS AMONG WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

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ABSTRACT

Clothing becomes a means of communicating the equal life that promote the self-confidence and self-esteem of disabled women to enable them to be a part of the community. When considering the holistic approach in disability rehabilitation and implementation of the social model in disability care, addressing the clothing related barriers of women living with disability has become an unmet need which has become a timely need to be addressed. Main objective of the study was to identify the clothing related barriers faced by the women living with disabilities and to make recommendations for further research. Semi-structured face-to-face interviews were conducted to identify the clothing barriers. Ten respondents were selected according to the inclusion criteria. Purposive sampling technique was used for data collection. Content analysis technique was used for data analysis. Key needs for adaptive clothing were categorized under areas such as, convenient fastening methods, clothing to fit diverse body types and adaptive techniques for put on and put off. It was found that the Sri Lankan retail sector do not cater for most of these requirements and adaptive clothing brands did not cater for some of the major problems faced by the women with disabilities. Further studies are recommended related to the new product development of adaptive clothing.

Keywords: Physical disabilities, Women with disabilities, adaptive clothing
PRISONER AT HOME OR ACTIVE COMMUNITY PARTICIPANT: EXPLORING FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICE PROVISION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE ETHEKWINI DISTRICT, SOUTH AFRICA

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ABSTRACT

Transport is an occupation as well as a means to achieving other occupations, and therefore accessible transport is the passport to independence for persons with disabilities. Unfortunately however, for many individuals the structural, societal, political and economic barriers continue to limit persons with disabilities in achieving integration in society. This study explores the factors that influence public transport service provision for persons with disabilities in the eThekwini district, a municipal area in South Africa. A qualitative design was employed with purposive sampling of persons with mobility, visual and hearing impairments, transport operators, one transport (taxi) owner, two city officials, two consultants, one academic focusing on transport and one disability expert. The researcher used semi-structured interviews and focus groups within the design. The results indicate that persons with disabilities experience significant social injustices to participation in society. This is through inaccessibility, power dynamics, lack of compassion, safety concerns and the influence of money. Multi-sectoral collaboration is required to ensure improved transportation services for people with disabilities.

Keywords: transport, occupational participation, social justice
DESIGN EDUCATION THAT MATTERS: TEACHING INCLUSIVE DESIGN TO MAKE A BETTER SOCIETY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

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ABSTRACT

"Disability happens at the point of interaction between a person and a society. Physical, cognitive, and social exclusions are the result of mismatched interactions." This quote reframes disability as a design problem and not merely as a health issue. It suggests that the world was not designed for people with disabilities because social norms and behaviors have not been constructed based on inclusive design. Inclusive design consider the usability and accessibility of products, environments, services, and information to all people, regardless of their abilities. The purpose of the paper that will be presented is to show how inclusive design is taught at the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) in its graphic design degree program. Inclusive design was first taught in an advanced graphic design class at UMD in the spring semester of 2018. Students taking the class were assigned a semester-long project to design a handheld device or digital smart room that met the needs of underserved populations such as people who have disabilities. The project was broken down into three steps: research, ideation, and development. Each step required different tasks to be completed, which made the project manageable for the students to achieve the best results. The goal of introducing students to inclusive design was to have future designers become conscious of the fact that not all people have the same abilities or needs. The result of the project is that students now have an awareness that they can enhance the usability and accessibility of each project they undertake.

Keywords: Graphic Design, Interactive Design, Inclusive Design, (maximum 6 words)
Web link to Virtual Presentations

https://disabilityconference.co/conference-virtual-presentations/