

COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS TOWARDS INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN SPORTS: A CASE STUDY OF TEMEKE MUNICIPALITY

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ABSTRACT

The main objective of the study is to examine the community perceptions towards inclusion of people with disabilities in sports. Specifically, the study examines the negative perceptions towards participation of people with disabilities in sports; assessing the constraints facing people with disabilities in participating in sports and to find out the role/awareness of the community in promoting people with disabilities in sports. The study employed a case study design with questionnaires and documentation as the main data collection methods. This study used both Qualitative and Quantitative approaches. According to the recent statistics of World Health Organization, the disabled people accounts for 10 percent of the world's total population. The attitude to the disabled people is one of the standards to measure the progress of social civilization. Along with the development of the society, the education, employment, medical treatment and social security for the disabled have gradually become concerned in the whole world. Discrimination for people with disabilities in sports is a worldwide phenomenon and there is hardly any society without one form of discrimination or the other. Limited access to sport services, sports information and the issue of doping are becoming increasingly problematic for people with disabilities in participating in competitive sports. Developing countries also face a range of social and cultural barriers that impact on sport participation for people with disabilities including religion, culture, language, and the lingering influence of colonialism in many parts of the world. Despite, the effort done by the Government and stakeholders in promoting the people with disabilities to participate in sports activities still there are many challenges in reaching this goal. The challenges contribute to low levels of participation in sports for people with disabilities in Tanzania. These includes the following: negative school experiences; low expectations from families and peers; poor community facilities and lack of access to facilities and programmes; ad hoc structures and approaches; transport difficulties; lack of coverage of a wide range of sports in the media; lack of experience of the benefits of sports; lack of companions who can facilitate/assist people with disabilities to access facilities and programmes when required; inadequate sponsorship and coaching; and a lack of a culture of general participation in sport in Tanzania. Field data indicates that about 90 respondents argued that the community perceptions had had great impact for the people with disabilities to participate in sports. However, about 30 respondents' sees that, community perceptions had no any impacts for the people with disabilities on participate in sports, they believed that there are other factors rather than community perception