

Disability and Technology in Uganda from Local and Global Perspectives

Background

One billion people experience disability worldwide, most of them living in low-income countries. And: the rates of people with disabilities are increasing (WHO/World Bank 2011). The strong link between disability and poverty, seeing disability as a reason for and consequence of poverty, is rendered explicit in the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the only human rights instrument with a development dimension.

Technologies are regarded as important tools to improve the lives of people with disabilities. At the same time local contexts and processes of appropriation and innovation of technologies are insufficient and often inappropriate. This led to the situation that competences of people with disabilities are disregarded, while technologies are insufficient embedded and inappropriate.

Our project fills in this gap with a special focus on three interrelated subthemes: transport, rehabilitation, and communication.

Research Objectives

Objective 1: To produce knowledge about how different kinds of technologies are appropriated or rejected and affect the social, economic and personal opportunities of people with disabilities in Uganda.

Objective 2: To develop new theoretical and applicable concepts and models of local technology integration for global development strategies.

Objective 3: To enhance the competences of people with disabilities in using technologies to their full potential and develop an accessible environment.

Expected Scientific Contribution

Theoretical and applicable approaches and models for local technology integration based on empirical analyses and results.

Deeper understanding of the complex relations between disability and poverty.

Development of data base/pool of assistive technologies and services for people with disabilities.



Academic Stakeholders

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Non-Academic Stakeholders

- Research Partners
- Advisory Board
- Stakeholder Dialogues
- Research Partnerships

- People with Disabilities
- Disabled Persons Organizations
- National and international organizations for /with focus on PwD
- Governmental institutions