

PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
Building a Disability Inclusive, Accessible and Sustainable Post Covid-19 World

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IMPACT of COVID-19: DEATH, VIOLENCE and INCOME LOSS

UK Office of National Statistics (ONS) estimated:

- **6 out of 10 people who have died from COVID-19 are disabled.**
- As of today, **4.25 million** people *globally* have *died* of Covid-19. If we consider the UK statistics as a sample, 2.55 million persons with disabilities have been died globally due to Covid -19. It is a massive loss of the disability community.

Gender-Based Violence, GBV:

- UNFPA reported 31 million women faced GBV in early pandemic. It must have gone higher.
- *There is no disability data. Absence of evidence isn't an evidence of absence.*
- According to 15% formula, 4.65 million women and girls with disabilities faced GBV.

Economic Loss:

In a survey, OPDs revealed an average monthly household income loss is 64% in Uganda and 52% in Cambodia. In Bangladesh it was 65% - in absolute from monthly average £167 a month to £58.

Participation:

Robert Chamber's participation has 3 uses and meaning

- - Cosmetic labelling look good.
- - Co-opting practice secure local action and resources
- - Empowering process enable people to take command and do things themselves.

Where is leadership of persons with disabilities in Covid-19 response?

UNITE THE IGNITE: PROCESS OF PARTICIPATION

- Organization => Empowerment => Participation

People w/d wanted change should be united under an organization or umbrella; they need platform and structure.

That's why role and role of OPDs are curtail at every level for inclusive Covid-19 response:

- Grassroots OPDs District level OPDs
- National/regional OPDs Global/international OPDs.

UNITE THE IGNITE: PROCESS OF PARTICIPATION

- The **current structure is comparatively weaker** than they should be; so, they are invisible.
- We are **asking performance without giving right skills** and knowledge.
- **Capacity building programme** for OPDs are mostly **ineffective!!**
- **DPOs don't have access to donor funds**; allies - intermediaries - control the resources!!

Undo:

- OD (organization development of OPDs)
- Leadership of OPD leaders- high level executive courses, mentoring, coaching.
- Democratization of disability development by DPOs/OPDs.
- Donors should learn how to resource OPDs directly – intermediaries are expensive!!

CHALLENGE OF PARTICIPATION

- **Technical Challenges:** which need pragmatic actions for cosmetic participation

1. Lack of information – people with disabilities are not invited
2. Lack of resources
3. Lack of reasonable accommodation

- **Societal Challenges:** which need transformative actions for sustainable change

1. Ableism
2. Unconscious bias towards persons with disabilities
3. Intersectionality of disability and other factors of exclusion – gender, age, race, ethnicity

How to increase participation and leadership of people with disabilities

1. **Implement principles of CRPD** Art 3 (a) – (h) in any discussion and decision from the grassroots to the global level; empower people with disabilities to claim participation.
2. **Disclose disability disaggregated data** of participants in any report of events, discussions on issues, and opinion pole.
3. **Allocation of resources** for participants of low-income status.
4. **Ensure Reasonable Accommodation**, which is a legal requirement in some countries, but obligation of countries that ratified CRPD.
5. **Enhance skills, knowledge and information** base in the areas of subject matter, analytics and presentations.