Ensuring participation of young people with disabilities

HLM on Youth

The International Disability Alliance
Where are young people with disabilities?
Are they powerless and voiceless in special institutions?
Or worst, are they neglected and abandoned by society?
Or are they participating in youth and disability movement...
embracing the power?
Or are they sheltered and secluded?
Or in inclusive education?
Or holding a job?
Or having a family?
The typical path of a young person with disability

- Transition gaps
- Barriers/Facilitators
The path of a young person with disability if supported

- Transition Interventions
- Barriers/Facilitators

Primary school → Secondary school → University/Higher Ed → Employment

Supports, services, transition programs, participation in disability organizations, political participation
Today more on:

- Mainstreaming youth with disabilities in youth and disability movements

Supports, services, transition programs, participation in disability organizations, political participation
Mainstreaming YWD in youth and disability movements

• **Why is it important?**
  
  ◦ Understand and Advocate for Human Rights
    - Becoming empowered
  
  ◦ Sense of identity
  
  ◦ Understanding histories and legacies
    - Shaping their community
    - Local, national, regional, global
  
  ◦ Connecting to others and appreciating diversity, celebrating difference!
Why care?

- Young people with disabilities are the NOW of the disability movement
- Young people with disabilities are the NOW of a more inclusive youth movement
- Investment in social inclusion decrease dependency on social protection social services – increases employment outcomes
- Promote, protect and ensure equal participation is A HUMAN RIGHT
Four key goals

1. Full and equal participation of YWD in all youth programs
2. Participation in disability movement
3. Inclusive education, vocational training for YWD (building capacity)
4. Cross sector engagement for building awareness and eliminating stigma on disability (campaigns)
How to achieve these goals

- NGOs, DPOs
- Government Programs, Supports and Services
How to achieve these goals

- Support capacity building
- **Foster leadership of YWD in national umbrella organizations of PWD**
  - Youth representatives on boards of DPOs (and through youth committees)
- Investment in organizations of YWD
- Youth participation in youth NGOs at national, regional and global level
- Peer support structures
- Social communication networks
How to achieve these goals

- Establish channels for participation of YWD in ministries: youth, education, sports, human rights etc.
- Investing in young persons with disabilities to participate on an equal basis in:
  - National strategies and programs
- Supports in education processes
- Supports in employment
Support youth to support wider structures

- Ensure that youth initiatives complement and strengthen what exists instead of establishing potentially competing structures
- YWD (co)represent the wider movements in the issues that are particularly relevant for young people
- Always ensure that the youth dimension is adequately considered
The key points

1. Full and equal participation of YW/D in all youth programs
2. Participation in disability movement
3. Investing in capacity building through inclusive education and vocational training
4. Invest in youth led campaigns
5. Support youth to support wider structures
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