

PROJECT AWARENESS NIGERIA

P.A.N SOCIAL ISSUES: AN INTRODUCTION

DISABILITY - GENDER REFORM - MENTAL HEALTH

DISABILITY

WITH OVER 25 MILLION PEOPLE CLASSIFIED AS DISABLED, PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs) ARE THE LARGEST MINORITY GROUP IN NIGERIA

PWDs are one of the most economically disadvantaged groups in Nigeria with considerably lower chances of employment, access to education and health care. These challenges along with the stigma attached to being disabled serves to isolate and exclude PWDs from actively participating in society.

0%

Participation and Representation rates of PWDs at law making level.

CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION

The Nigerian Disability Rights Bill currently awaits the assent of the President to become law. Outside of the bill, legislation on disability exists in some states; however full implementation remains a slow process.

50%

of out of school youth in Nigeria are estimated to be disabled.



EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Special schools in place for disabled children encourage marginalisation due to poor (or no) interaction with more able bodied counterparts. Regular schools do not have systems that are inclusive of, or accessible to disabled students.



Public buildings (e.g. offices and banks) offer limited adapted accessible facilities.



Access to public information such as road crossings and signs can be a challenge for those with sight or hearing impairments.

ACCESSIBILITY

There are limited or non-existent adapted infrastructure (wheelchair ramps, lifts, public transport) in place to facilitate 'normalised' activity for PWD's.

How important is legislation in driving the disability agenda?

ILLNESSES AND ACCIDENTS ARE THE LEADING CAUSES OF DISABILITY IN NIGERIA.

GENDER REFORM

WHILE MAKING UP ALMOST HALF OF THE POPULATION, NIGERIAN WOMEN OWN ONLY 20% OF BUSINESSES IN THE FORMAL SECTOR. THEY ARE MOSTLY REPRESENTED IN INFORMAL SECTORS DUE TO LACK OF OPPORTUNITIES.

The Nigerian society operates on very rigid gender roles, much to the detriment of the people. Women are regarded as unequal and men don't have a support group to fall upon in difficult times.

DECISION EMPOWERMENT

Women are typically under-represented in decision-making at all levels. This is facilitated by male dominated patronage networks, lack of gender quotas and cultural bias.

4% Parliament seats



6% Ministerial positions

ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Access to economic opportunities are largely determined by land ownership, education and availability of finance. Women are at a disadvantage in all three areas.

80%



Literacy rates Ages 15 - 24

65%

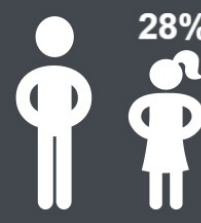


Men are twice as likely as women to get access to finance

SOCIAL EQUALITY

Gender roles mostly determined by culture and religion means women are regarded as inferior to men; underserving of independence and power.

43%



Percentage of population who believe that violence against women is justifiable.

28%

18

recorded rape convictions in Nigeria's legal history.



The pressure of conforming to societal expectations has led to poor self-esteem, work-related stress and alcohol abuse in men.

HOW DO WE:

Socialise young boys and girls to view each other as equals?

NIGERIA HAS THE LOWEST FEMALE PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATIVES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

MENTAL HEALTH

WHILE AN ESTIMATED 20% OF NIGERIANS SUFFER FROM MENTAL DISORDER, OVER 70% OF THE AFFECTED DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO TREATMENT

In Nigeria, mental health issues are characterised by stigma and prejudice with minimal facilities in place to provide support and treatment. An overwhelming majority receive no treatment primarily due to poor knowledge and understanding, cultural influences, lack of resources and systems.

DID YOU KNOW?

A 2003 bill for the establishment of the Mental Health Act introduced to the Nigerian National Assembly (and reintroduced in 2013) is YET to be passed into law.



90%

reported suicide cases in Nigeria can be traced to depression

CAUSAL FACTORS

A large percentage of Nigerians believe mental disorder is due to supernatural causes or possession by evil spirits thereby perpetuating stigma and isolation of the individual.



There are various factors that can contribute to mental disorder

Environmental
Biological
Genetic
Psychological

TOOLS AND SERVICES

There is a shortage of professionals and primary care hospitals providing patients with limited access to reliable and effective medical care. Patient data is largely non-existent; indicating poor practice of onward referrals and follow ups.



0.06 Psychiatrists
0.02 Psychologists
0.19 Nurses

per 100,000 Nigerians



HOW DO WE:

Incorporate mental health into primary healthcare systems

ONLY 4.17% OF THE 2017 FEDERAL BUDGET IS ALLOCATED TO THE HEALTH SECTOR (THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION (WHO) RECOMMENDS 15%)



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Research and compiled by:

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