

# Welcome to the Webinar

A joint Initiative of the Inclusion Club and International Federation of Adapted Physical Activity (IFAPA).

# Challenges confronting individuals with disabilities in Nigeria: Practical viewpoint on APA



Peter Downs  
Host



Prof Okey Charles Ogu  
Presenter



Presented by

**Ogu Okey Charles Ph.D.**

Professor, Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education  
Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra, Nigeria.

**African Representative in the Executive Board of  
International Federation of Adapted Physical Activity  
(IFAPA).**



# Introduction

- Out of a population of 156million Nigerians, the bulk of the estimated 22million are Individuals with Disabilities.
- Report of the National baseline survey 2009-2010 on Individuals with disabilities in Nigeria by Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development stated; Northwest geopolitical zone recorded the highest number of individuals with disabilities (2,069) and Southeast had the lowest number (1,449).



## Types of disabilities existing in the Nigerian society:

- Sight- Visual impairment/degrees of blindness
- Hearing – Hearing impairment/degrees of deafness
- Speech – Speech impairment/degrees of dumbness
- Mobility – Physical challenges (quite wide range)
- Learning – Mental Retardation
- Psychiatric Problems – Mental disorder
- Autism – Nervous disorder
- Albinism – Colour abnormality



# National Disability Bill

- Still awaiting Presidential assent
- The content of the Bill did not take care of regular organized physical activity, sport and recreation for people with disabilities



## State Disability Bill

- Few states had established and passed Special Peoples' Law e.g. Lagos, Plateau and Ondo States and still not emphasize sport and recreation for People With Disabilities (PWDs).
- Individuals with disabilities in Nigeria have an association.
- The Organization of PWDs in Nigeria continues to seek for equal right due to discrimination, marginalization and harmful practices meted out to them in the Nigerian society.



## Specific Areas of Concerns Posing as Challenges to PWDs in Nigeria

- PWDs in Nigeria did not receive rehabilitation.
- PWDs were found on the streets begging for alms and that is the most prominent source of their subsistence.
- More than half of them eat in open spaces, whilst a majority did not have access to private or public toilets and relied on open spaces or bush for their toilet facilities, even though they found them not convenient.



## Specific Areas of Concerns Posing as Challenges to PWDs in Nigeria (contd.)

- The problem they face in the streets included the risk of reckless driving and harassment from hoodlums, colleagues and enforcement agencies.
- The greatest source of discrimination for PWDs in schools was found to be their friends/peer groups, followed by their classmates, family members, then other disabled students/pupils and their teachers.
- Education and psychosocial support to PWDs were inadequate.



## Specific Areas of Concerns Posing as Challenges to PWDs in Nigeria (contd.)

- General inadequacy of education funding . Nigeria education is not adequately funded and this also has effects on the education of the students with disabilities.
- High cost of materials and equipment.
- Lack of adequate specialists and para-professionals such as the physiotherapists, adapted physical educators, nurses etc.
- The architectural designs of most institutions did not take into consideration the disability nature of these people.

# Discourse on Children with Disabilities Housed in Some Private Rehabilitation Centers/ Schools





# Categories of Children with Disabilities Housed in these Centers/Schools are:

- Down Syndrome
- Hearing impaired
- Cerebral palsy and those who have mild palsy graduate from the school successfully.
- Emotionally challenged persons.
- Autistic children

# Funding

- Funded by missionaries/catholic dioceses and some spirited individuals.
- Foreign assistance from Germany – “the Kinder Missio”.
- No government support of any kind.





# Parental Attitude

- Parents abandon their children with disabilities in the homes and never come back to take care of them.
- Parents see homes as a place to relief their pains.

# Practical Viewpoint on Adapted Physical Activity





# How People with Disabilities Access Sport and Recreation in Nigeria

- People with disabilities cannot participate fully in any regular organized physical activity at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education in Nigeria.
- There is no center for disability sports where people with disabilities can have access to sports and recreational activities.
- The regular physical education, which forms the basis for acquisition of sports skills and all forms of information needed for cultivation of physical culture, are structurally designed and organized to exclude people with disabilities.



## How Service Providers have Addressed the Challenges Facing PWDs in Nigeria Accessing Sport and Recreation.

- Individuals with disabilities who improved themselves and win medals during competitions are recognized by the government.
- Government does not pay them salary until they win medals in major competitions.
- Without medals, no help, no employment or any form of support from the government.



## How Service Providers have Addressed the Challenges Facing PWDs in Nigeria Accessing Sport and Recreation.

- The only thing the government knows is to go and win us medals but there is no support at all to make that happen.
- Individuals with disabilities participating in wheel chair racing do not have access to customized wheel chairs for training and competition at international levels.



## How Service Providers have Addressed the Challenges Facing PWDs in Nigeria Accessing Sport and Recreation. (Contd.)

- It is even difficult to have access to wheel chairs for sports and recreation because they are very expensive.
- The absence of centers for disability sports poses a very big challenge to adapted physical activities and make it more difficult for people with disabilities to participate in regular sport and recreation.



## How Service Providers have Addressed the Challenges Facing PWDs in Nigeria Accessing Sport and Recreation. (Contd.)

- Government need to rise up to these challenges by establishing center for disability sport, equip it with facilities, equipment and adapted physical activity programs to cater for individuals with disabilities.
- All levels of government in Nigeria ought to legislate on the introduction of adapted physical education at all level of Nigerian educational system.



# Conclusion

- Inclusive physical activities have a strong and positive impact on cognitive and psychosocial wellbeing
- Sport and physical activity offer a motivating setting for people with disabilities.
- The psychosocial benefits of adapted physical activity are at least as important as the more conventional physical health.
- There is great value in its potential to include everyone, irrespective of abilities.

# Questions / Discussion



# Thanks for listening and watch out for the next webinar



Peter Downs  
Host



Prof Okey Charles Ogu  
Presenter