

People with disabilities (PWDs) continue to face challenges in accessing reproductive health services despite the provision in the constitution under article 43 that every person has a right to the highest attainable level of health including reproductive health. Because of their impairments, disabled people have more complex and additional health needs which exposes them to particular barriers when accessing health services. Many at times they are stigmatized and discriminated against by service providers who have not been trained on how to interact and attend to the disabled, they also assume disabled people to be asexual. Poor physical structures at the health centers such as lack of ramps and high examination and delivery beds have equally limited the disabled access and utilization of health services. Additionally, disabled women are discouraged from having children as they are considered incapable of providing for the child or risk passing the impairment to the child. These factors consequently create an enabling environment for PWDs to suffer ill health ranging from mental illnesses, gender based violence and even death.

Being impaired should not be translated to poor health, rather, the disabled should enjoy quality health care and live fully. It is then important that interventions and solutions offered should address the complexity of their needs; this accounts for review of reproductive health policy to include the disabled as a vulnerable group, inclusion of interpreters and other support persons in health centers, improved physical infrastructure, autonomy of reproductive rights to protect women from forced sterilization and measures to safeguard their privacy and consent. There is also need for collection of disaggregated data to help in monitoring and evaluating the disabled needs and the health interventions that are tailored for them.

Nonetheless, contemporary dancing has been used to create awareness, informing the disabled on their reproductive and social rights, advocating for partnerships between the community members, legislators and service providers in tailoring services according to the PWDs needs and providing necessary guidelines on interactions. This intervention amongst others will ensure the 10% that PWDs form have their well-being taken care of, as a result participate in the development agendas.

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