

Classification of Disabilities

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Social Inclusion and Equity

Introduction and Purpose

- ▶ The Bill of Rights speaks of equality, which includes the enjoyment of all rights and freedoms
- ▶ No one should be discriminated against on the basis of their.... Disability.
- ▶ This means that the PSET system should strive to be as inclusive as possible.
- ▶ The purpose of this presentation is to introduce the new classification of disabilities and outline its advantages and benefits for the inclusion of People with Disabilities

Background and rationale

- ▶ White Paper on PSET (2014) mandated us to develop the Disability Policy Framework
- ▶ According to the Strategic Policy Framework on Disability in the PSET System (2018), the Department and PSET institutions are expected to:
- ▶ Standardise, adopt and implement a common classification framework that will assist in identifying and supporting students and staff with disabilities; and
- ▶ Correctly capture disability related statistics within the PSET system.

Disadvantages of the Old Model of Classification

- ▶ The old model **classified disabilities into big categories** that made it difficult to disaggregate the information.
- ▶ Example: When all **sensory disabilities are classified into one code**, it is difficult to know at face value what **kind of disability you are referring to**.
- ▶ The old model **made it difficult to provide for the needs of people with disabilities** because frontline staff were never sure what they were dealing with.
- ▶ It made **declaring your disability difficult** and brought hopelessness to students.
- ▶ It was always **difficult to understand** the statistics coming from institutions/entities and **answers were not readily available**.
- ▶ Huge amounts budgeted for people with disabilities were returned because they were not used for their benefit.

Benefits

- ▶ One of the strategic objectives of the Disability Policy Framework is to create an enabling environment for people with disabilities.
- ▶ It will allow the use of correct data and identification of people with disabilities
- ▶ The new classification will enable planning for and inclusion of people with disabilities in terms of the following:
 - ✓ Projections for the following year/s;
 - ✓ Marketing;
 - ✓ Budgets;
 - ✓ Reasonable accommodation needs (e.g. assistive devices);
 - ✓ Access to the physical environment by adhering to the Universal Design Principles and Guidelines for new and renovated infrastructure in the PSET system;
 - ✓ Access to inclusive teaching and learning methods; etc.

Advantages

- ▶ No student with a disability will be turned away;
- ▶ An **inclusive PSET system** will be created for PWDs;
- ▶ Spending on PWDs will be accounted for;
- ▶ The **right to education/employment** for PWDs will not be violated by PSET institutions and the Department;
- ▶ The PSET system will **comply** with all policies and conventions on the rights of people with disabilities;
- ▶ PWDs will be **empowered to live independent and sustainable lives.**

Sensory Disabilities

Sensory disabilities are classified into **6 categories** with different codes:

- ▶ Code 01: Blind
- ▶ Code 02: Partially sighted
- ▶ Code 03: Deaf (Capital D). No hearing at all. SASL/Deaf Culture
- ▶ Code 04: Deaf (lower case d). Little or no hearing, does not use SASL
- ▶ Code 05: Hearing impaired/ Hard of hearing/Deafened. None, little or some hearing, generally makes use of appropriate hearing technology e.g. cochlear implants, hearing aids, and other assistive listening/living devices and typically uses verbal communication/lip reading.
- ▶ Code 06: Deaf-Blind. No functional hearing or vision.

Deaf Culture

- ▶ *Deaf culture* is the set of social beliefs, behaviours, art, literary traditions, history, values, and shared institutions of communities that are influenced by deafness and which use sign languages as the main means of communication.

Code 07: Specific Learning/ Developmental Disability

Neurodevelopmental Disabilities/ Intellectual disabilities

- ▶ 7.1. Head injuries;
- ▶ 7.2. Epilepsy;
- ▶ 7.3. Multiple sclerosis;
- ▶ 7.4. Communication disabilities;
- ▶ 7.5. Language and speech disability (e.g. stuttering);
- ▶ 7.6. Autism spectrum disorder;
- ▶ 7.7. Attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD);
- ▶ 7.8. Attention deficient disorder (ADD);
- ▶ 7.9. Dyslexia;
- ▶ 7.10. Specific learning disabilities, etc.

Code 08: Psychosocial/ Psychiatric Disabilities

Psycho-social Disability

- ▶ 8.1. Depression;
- ▶ 8.2. Schizophrenia;
- ▶ 8.3. Bipolar disorder;
- ▶ 8.4. Dementia;
- ▶ 8.5. Anxiety; etc.

Code 09: Physical Disability

Physical Disability(ies)

- ▶ 9.1. Loss of a limb;
- ▶ 9.2. Make use of crutches;
- ▶ 9.3. Wheelchair user;
- ▶ 9.4. Spinal Cord Injury;
- ▶ 9.5. Person with cerebral palsy; and
- ▶ 9.6. Short stature

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Thank You!