

Economic Empowerment of People with Disabilities

Undere Deglon

Child, Youth & Family Development
Human Sciences Research Council

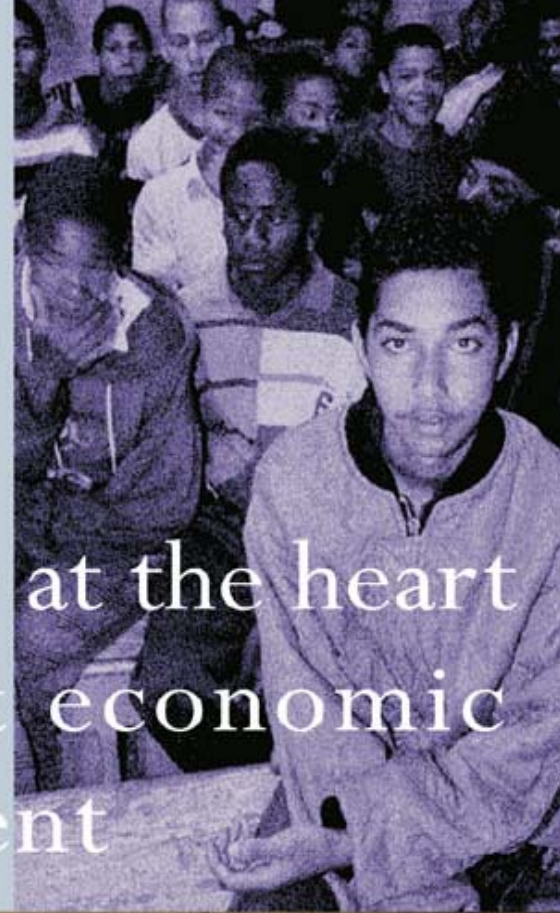
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Child, Youth & Family Development

AN HSRC NATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMME

The people at the heart of social & economic development



Overview

- Background
- The prevalence of disability
- Inequalities in education
- Inequalities in employment status
- Government's proposal
- The key objectives of today's meeting
- The role of IPDM
- The membership of IPDM
- Conclusion



Background

- High and growing rates of general unemployment in South Africa.
- 1990's has been the first decade of sustained growth.
- Unemployment has steadily been rising by 2% each year.
- 41.8% of South Africa's population is currently unemployed. (Altman & Mayer, 2003).



The prevalence rate of Disability

- 5% of total population reported a disability
- The prevalence of sight disability was 32%, physical disability (30%), hearing (20%), emotional disability (16%), intellectual disability (12%) and communication (7%)
- Provincial prevalence rate showed that Free State reported the highest 6,8% and Gauteng the lowest (3,8%)



Comparison by education

Education Levels	Disabled People	Non Disabled People
None	30%	15%
Primary	36%	38%
Secondary	30%	42%
Higher	2%	3%



Age Group	Disabled People	Non Disabled People	Total
25 - 29	21, 0	39,6	38,9
30 - 34	25, 2	49, 0	47, 9
35 - 39	25, 9	52, 2	50, 8
40 -44	25, 7	53, 5	51, 7
45 - 49	24, 8	51, 7	49, 5
50 - 54	21, 2	46, 8	44, 3
55 - 59	16, 6	37, 9	35, 5

Cumulative figures indicated that 81% of disabled people were unemployed



State of the Nation address, 2003

“ government is perfectly conscious of the fact that there are many in our society who are unable to benefit directly from whatever our economy is able to offer. It includes people who are unskilled and those with low levels of education in general. This reflects the structural fault in our economy and society as a result of which we have a dual economy and society. The one is modern and relatively well developed. The other is characterised by underdevelopment and an entrenched crisis of poverty. We have to respond to the needs of fellow South Africans trapped in the latter society in a focused and dedicated manner, to extricate them from their condition”



The key objectives of today's meeting

- government to translate its obligations into concrete accessible programmes.
- Clear understanding of how these programmes, strategies and endeavours can be aligned to the disability sector in ways that stimulate sustainable economic activity.
- Plans on delivery of initiatives that will redress inequalities which result in poverty and deprivation for disabled people.



The role of IPDM

- Sustainability and a virtuous circle of growth, programmes and initiatives will require understanding of the dynamics of the targeted industries.
- The Institute for the Promotion of Disabled Manpower (IPDM), is well – positioned to provide the deeper linkages needed if government is serious about unlocking meaningful ways of addressing poverty.



LSEN Schools	Hospitals	Workshops	Organisations
Athlone	Alexandra	Astra	APD (WC)
Astra	Lentegeur	Care Craft	Altitude
Dominican	Stikland	Chris Steytler	B f Good
Dorothea	Valkenberg	Emmaus	CTSB
Pioneer		Ikamva Labantu	Employability
UCT		KwaNothuzelo	Lewensruimte
		KwaNothemba	St. Dunstans
		Miracles	Oasis
		Stellenbosch	Orion
		Training W U	Momentum



Conclusion

- The number of organisations represented here today account for a large proportion of the disability sector.
- It is imperative that we focus our efforts on finding a clear vision for the sustainable economic empowerment in the process of implementing government's commitment to meeting the basic needs of all South Africans.







Population Distribution

Population Group	Male	Female	Total
African	879 680	974 696	1 854 376
Coloured	88 583	80 095	168 678
Indian/Asian	21 550	19 685	41 235
White	92 230	99 463	191 693
Total	1 082 043	1 173 939	2 255 982



