Subject related partnership between Pwani University and the Technical University of Munich; Supported by The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Financed by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

and Pwani University in Kenya

Introduction

The project, "Joint Undertaking to Multiply Powers – research and teaching in CBR and related fields (JUMP - CBResearch) focuses on the development of study modules in the area of (dis)ability, participation and inclusive development. Within this process, the CBR matrix is used as a guiding framework to generate and structure the contents. The project is carried out by Pwani University (PU - Kenya) and Technische Universität München (TUM - Germany) and supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and financed by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development. In the course of the project, expanding knowledge on (dis)ability, participation and inclusive development will go hand in hand with enhancing and broadening teaching and research in this field.

Background of the project

According to World Health Organization (WHO), 10% of the world population lives with a disability. Living conditions for many persons with disabilities in developing countries are however much more challenging and often directly linked to the connection between poverty and disability. This is one of the results of the first World Report on Disability published in 2011 by WHO[1]. At the same time stakeholders all over the world try to find strategies to enhance the participation of persons with disabilities in the community.

In May 2008 the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) came into force. This convention marked a significant paradigm shift. Today, persons with disabilities are first seen in a human rights perspective and no longer as objects of either diagnostics and therapies or charity and social protection. They are now recognized as subjects making decisions on their own lives and claiming their right for active participation in society. According to the UNCRPD all persons with disabilities must be able to enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms individually. This encompasses rights such as the right to live in the community, the right to health care, the right to work, the right to an adequate standard of living, the respect for home and the family, the right to participate in political, public and cultural life, and the right to education. Contextual factors have a substantial influence on equal participation of persons with disabilities. This is highlighted in the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (WHO[2]), but also in the preamble of the UNCRPD. In the

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[1]   World Health Organization; International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (2011): World report on disability. Geneva: World Health Organisation.

[2]   World Health Organization (2001): International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health. Geneva: World Health Organization.

preamble is stated that *disability is an evolving concept and that disability results from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinders their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others".*

To implement the UNCRPD, Governmental and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) in all parts of the world are called upon to take measures to *"promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities"* (UNCRPD, Article 1). To make development inclusive, a twin-track approach is needed, which on the one hand provides special support services for persons with disabilities (e.g. assistive devices), and on the other hand, mainstreams (dis)ability in the development processes of each and every country. This applies to the so-called developed and developing countries. Although political, economic, social, technical, environmental and legal conditions vary in different countries, the exchange of knowledge and ideas is crucial to a successful implementation of the UNCRPD.

This is also highlighted in Article 32 of the UNCRPD: Measures on international level should include the *"cooperation in research and access to scientific and technical knowledge"* as an important step towards the inclusion of persons with disabilities. Considering the needs of persons with disabilities as well as the interests of other marginalized groups will be an important aspect in the post-2015 agenda. Inclusive development in our understanding does not only take into account (dis)ability, but also aspects of diversity in general.

Aims and focus of the project
The project CBResearch aims at contributing to the implementation of Article (32) into practice: Pwani University and Technische Universität München are intensify their cooperation to exchange and to expand knowledge on (dis)ability, participation and inclusive development. The main goals of the project are to:
- **building capacity** at PU and TUM in teaching and research in the field of (dis)ability, participation and inclusive development;
- enhancing the **cooperation and exchange with other higher education and research institutions;**
- **building local human resources and scientific knowledge** in the area of (dis)ability, participation and inclusive development involving students and researchers in different disciplines**;**
- **providing access to** this **knowledge** via an online platform;
- **developing local solutions and ideas** on how to implement the UNCRPD and on how to make development inclusive;
- **exchanging ideas** about (dis)ability, participation and the role of community/society to broaden one's own (socio-culturally influenced) perspective and get an insight into global developments that also have an influence on the lives of persons with disabilities and their families;
- **strengthening international cooperation in research and teaching** research and higher education institutions by building a network on (dis)ability, participation and community

Achievements of the Project

A. Cooperation and exchange with other higher education and Research Institutions;

(i) Conferences
(ii) Opening Conference

The project started with a kick off conference on 2nd - 3rd December, 2014; Theme: (Dis)ability, Participation and Community Involvement – Community Based Rehabilitation(CBR) as a Strategy for Inclusive Development: Tracing the Roots of CBR which brought together practitioners in the area of (Dis)ability and CBR. The presenters addressed the following topical thematic areas;

(a). What is (dis)ability" in the Kenyan and German perspective
(b). Participation in the context of disability and development
(c). Research outcomes/projects in the area of CBR/Community care
(d). Emerging issues relevant to CBR

The second conference to end the project activities will be held on 28th - 30th November, 2016 at Pwani University in Kilifi, Kenya.

The Project team has also participated in other three International conferences held in Kenya (Nairobi), London (United Kingdom), and Munich (Germany).

Closing conference: Final international Conference in Kilifi, Kenya on 28th to 30th November, 2016

Thematic Areas
JUMP CBR Project is intending to host a final international conference at Pwani University – Kilifi. The main aim of this conference is to share with participants the outputs in form of modules in the following sub-themes;

Block A: (Dis)ability and Inclusive Development-Global agendas and their impacts on national and local stakeholders

Block B: Areas of research and Practice I
Disability and health
Disability and education
Disability and livelihood

Block C: Areas of Research and practice II
Disability and empowerment
Disability and social participation
Accessibility

(ii).   Exchange of staff and students.
Since the inception of the project the two institutions have exchanged a total of 32 students and eight members of staff. This has been possible through Summer School Programmes that were conducted during these exchange visists. Prof. Dr. Halimu Shauri from Pwani University, Department of Social Sciences has also participated twice in the Visiting Professor Programme hosted by TUM and funded by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

B.   Building capacity and p**roviding access to knowledge** via an online platform
   (a) Development of Modules on Disability, Education, Livelihood and Empowerment
between 2013 and 2016, CBResearch focuses on the development of 4 modules based on the CBR Guidelines as follows:
-   Module I: (Basic module) on (Dis)ability, Participation and Community
-   Module II: Education and (Dis)ability
-   Module III: Livelihood and (Dis)ability
-   Module IV: Empowerment and (Dis)ability

The first module is a basic module introducing students to the topics of (dis)ability, participation and community. The other modules build upon the basic module and focus on inter alia the fields of "education and (dis)ability", "livelihood and (dis)ability" and "empowerment and (dis)ability". Ideally, the project will continue after the DAAD-funded project duration of 4 years to also develop modules for the areas of "health and (dis)ability" and "social participation and (dis)ability". Due to the importance of environmental factors, an additional module on "accessibility", which is one of the core principles in CBR as well as in the UNCRPD, would also be a meaningful element, especially for students in areas such as architecture, spatial planning, construction, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and engineering.

The learning and teaching material for these modules developed within the first 4 years are jointly tested by Kenyan and German students from different disciplines in common workshops. After receiving the students' feedback the modules are refined in preparation to upload them to an online platform (www.canvas.instructure.com). At the end of the project, the modules will be made accessible to other interested institutions via an online-platform. Existing modules can be updated as well as extended and new modules can be added to this platform. PU and TUM plan to introduce the modules as optional courses into the existing curricula of different study programmes. By using the platform as well as by organizing a final conference, further research activities in the area of (dis)ability, participation and inclusive development will be initiated, in addition to chatting a way forward for the remaining three modules which hitherto are not part of the current project financing.

	Main topic(s)	Output	
1st year	(dis)ability, participation and community	basic module	Online learning and exchange platform
2nd year	Education and (dis)ability	in-depth module	
3rd year	Livelihood and (dis)ability	in-depth module	
4th year	Empowerment and (dis)ability	in-depth module	
	Health and (dis)ability	*in-depth module*	
	Social participation and (dis)ability	*in-depth module*	
	Accessibility	*in-depth module*	

Research

Thus far, the modules on "(dis)ability, participation and community" and "education and (dis)ability" have been developed and tested by German and Kenyan students. Some contents, such as higher education and (dis)ability", still have to be added to the module on education. Currently, the CBResearch team is working on the module on "livelihood and (dis)ability", which will be tested by Kenyan and German students in a common workshop in Kenya in September 2015. The students' feedback shows that they are very keen on learning about issues of (dis)ability and inclusion and appreciate the opportunity to add the knowledge delivered by the modules to the contents of their main study programmes.

From the project team's point of view, higher education and research institutions are one of the pillars needed when constructing *"a Bridge to Inclusive Society Beyond the 2015 Development Framework"* – and this requires collaboration and knowledge exchange between stakeholders all over the world.

(b) Book Collections on Disability Studies

The project has developed a collection of more than 100 titles on disability issues. It is expected that these resources will be handed over to the university library once the project activities end.