



# DISABILITY MAINSTREAMING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI LIBRARY SYSTEMS

SERVICES AND FACILITIES  
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# DEFINITION OF TERMS

**Disability** :means a physical, sensory, mental or other impairment, including any visual, hearing, learning or physical incapability, which impacts adversely on social, economic or environmental participation – PDA 2003

**Discriminate** : means to accord different treatment to different persons solely or mainly as a result of their disabilities and includes using words, gestures or caricatures that demean, scandalize or embarrass a person with a disability;

**Disability mainstreaming** : Disability mainstreaming is the process of integrating formerly segregated and/ or stigmatized issues and people into 'mainstream' society and development programmes

# MAIN OBJECTIVE

- To sensitize the University community on library services and facilities available for Persons with disabilities at the University of Nairobi library systems.

# OVERVIEW ON DISABILITY

Population : WHO 10% of population PWDs Kenya approximately 4.4 Million PWDs

- Highest Mobility @1.16 M- 26.2 %
- Visual @0.84 M-19.09%
- Auditory @ 0.55 M-12.4%
- Speech @ 0.45M 10.6%
- Cognitive @ 0.36 M 08.2%
- Others @1.05M – 23.6 %

UoN : Working on current data but 2015 staff 50 and students 100

# CONTINUED . . . .

## Use of Terminology / disability etiquette

- A term can be acceptable in one place and not the other.
- General rule :Person first e.g Person with disability instead of disabled, Person with hearing disabilities instead of “deaf “ etc
- In Kiswahili avoid Kiwete kipofu kiziwi etc Use Mulemavu, asiyeona, asiyesikia
- Etiquette . Ask before you help, talk directly to the PWD

# OVERVIEW CONTINUED ...

## Myths

1. **Disability** is a consequence of deeds of previous lives ( karmas)
2. God or nature compensates a person with **disability** by giving them some other super-ability
3. Hearing impaired people can not speak
4. God will help us more if we serve a person with disabilities
5. Blind people have heightened sense of hearing
6. Persons with disabilities are not suppose to have leisure

# FACILITIES AND SERVICES

UoN Library system

- 14 branch libraries and 1 main lib
- All at one time have had PWD users
- No discrimination policy in service provision
- Though all branch libraries are not on the same page in disability mainstreaming,

Plans are underway to ensure

# FACILITIES

- Marked Parking space for PWDs
- Ramps
- Washrooms
- Disability friendly floors
- Adjustable furniture
- Modern technology – JAWS fusion / NVDA
- Accessible website with a widget
- Sections for PWDs
- Study carells
- Kenyan Sign language interpreters



# FACILITIES CONTINUED....

-Elevators

# SERVICES

- Staff on stand by to assist (fetching books from the shelves)
- Students orientation
- Proxy cards
- Adjustable time
- Reasonable accommodation on need basis
- Conversion of documents
- DMC sub-committee in place ( Advising management , monitoring implementation of library facilities and services and reporting to management, holding sessions with students with disabilities)

# AVAILABLE LIBRARY ONLINE SERVICES TO S.W.DS DURING COVID 19 PHYSICAL CLOSURE

- Answering library queries online email [librarian@uonbi.ac.ke](mailto:librarian@uonbi.ac.ke)
- Literature searches
- Access to e-resources training remotely via VPN and Remotex
- Student clearance
- Online individual/group orientation upon request

# CHALLENGES

- Negative attitude
- Finance
- Lack of enough sensitization
- After putting facilities in place , PWDs disappear

# RECOMMENDATION

1. Continuous Sensitization of staff
2. library disability guidelines to be adopted as policy and then shared with all branch libraries
3. Marketing library services to SWDs in schools i.e forth formers to increase their numbers in UoN

Thank you!

The image features the words "Thank you!" in a vibrant, hand-drawn style. The letters are thick and filled with various colors: 'T' is orange with red wavy lines; 'h' is orange with red wavy lines; 'a' is green with black dashed lines; 'n' is purple with black dashed lines; 'k' is orange with red wavy lines; 'y' is green with black dashed lines; 'o' is red with black dashed lines; 'u' is blue with purple wavy lines; and the exclamation point is blue with a green center. The text is surrounded by several stylized flowers: a large pink flower with a yellow center and white dashed lines is positioned in front of the 'y'; a blue flower is to its left; another blue flower is above the 'k'; and a small blue flower is above the 'u'. The entire illustration is set against a light blue background.