Fostering Social Inclusion

Promoting Social Inclusion for Persons with Intellectual Disability and other Neurological or Developmental Disorders in Albania

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Who are we?
Why are we here?

To Encourage Persons with Disabilities to Share their Life Experiences
Our Project Goal

Document and assess the current state of social inclusion of persons with disabilities through several stakeholders

Suggest recommendations which promote social inclusion for persons with ID, ASD, and DD
Context from Literature: Social Inclusion and Stigma

Social Inclusion
- Community Involvement
- Satisfying Social Relationships
- Satisfaction with Social Role in Society

Stigma
- Stems from Lack of Information
- Involves Negative Perceptions
- Results in Discriminatory Behavior

Results in Discriminatory Behavior
Stems from Lack of Information
Involves Negative Perceptions
Satisfaction with Social Role in Society
Satisfying Social Relationships
Community Involvement
Social Inclusion
Methods

Interviews:

➔ People with Disabilities
➔ Parents of Persons with Disabilities
➔ Service Providers
➔ Disability Experts
➔ Government Officials

Interviews Conducted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number of Interviews</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Persons with Disabilities</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Providers</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability Experts</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government Officials</td>
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Findings: Negative School Experiences

“The teachers say they cannot work with him because they are not specialized for his disability”

“The school has not provided any help, she only went for the first year”

“School life was terrible for [my son]... they were not qualified to provide services for him”
Findings: Stigma and Discrimination

- Stigma and discrimination of persons with disabilities
- Teasing in the Neighborhood
- Lack of Friendships Outside Service Providers
- Mistreatment in Schools
Findings: Supports are Insufficient

Parents Provide Immense Support

External Supports are Insufficient

“Law has indicated what should be done, but no one is implementing the law”

“There is nothing. I have asked for services at the local service office and at the municipality, but none of them gave information”

“The public centers do not offer the correct process of therapy. When my son starts crying, they send him out”
Recommendation 1: Future Research

Autism Spectrum Disorder

Up to Date Disability Demographics

Interviewing Persons with Disabilities
Recommendation 2: Information Sessions

Service Providers

Parents

Educators
Recommendation 3: Community Interventions

- Organized Friendships
- Internship Opportunities for University Students
- Vocational and Social Skills Trainings for Persons with Disabilities at Universities

Universities
Service Providers
Public Schools
Reflections
Faleminderit!
Pyetjet?