

The integration of disabled persons from institutions into the Tanzanian community: a case study of Yombo rehabilitation centre Dar es Salaam.

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This study is an attempt to explore the rehabilitation training programmes at Yombo Rehabilitation Centre, Dar es Salaam to see the extent to which they allow the disabled graduates to be socially and economically independent and integrated into the Tanzanian Community. I shall argue that although the rehabilitation training programmes given at Yombo to impart enough skills to enable the disabled graduates to be self-supporting, the practical reality of translating policy into meaningful programmes has not been dealt with adequately. Therefore the degree of socio-economic integration of the disabled persons into the Tanzanian Community is low and no significant impact on the Tanzania Society has been made to show that the disabled people in this country receive rehabilitation training to enable them lead a normal life. The study is divided into four chapters. Chapter one introduces the reader to the research problem as mentioned above and also to the expectations which are that 1) the disabled graduates do not acquire enough skills to enable them to fend for themselves, therefore their degree of socio-economic integration into the Tanzanian community is low. 2. The practical reality of translating policy into meaningful programmes has not been dealt with adequately, therefore no significant impact on the Tanzanian society has been made. Chapter two examines the historically social welfare, before and during colonialism, and after independence. It is established that before the influence of foreign culture in Tanzania the traditional social structure was so designed that the responsibility for social welfare was with the family. The need for the state's involvement in social welfare is a recent phenomenon in Tanzania. It arose during the colonial era and its intent was to appease the lower classes and to maintain class relations and order. The Tanzania post-colonial state inherited the colonial social welfare structures and perpetuates the interests of the dominant class. Social welfare services to the handicapped persons have continued to be remedial rather than developmental in character. Chapter three explores the rehabilitation training programmes at Yombo. It is found that five out of six courses offered conform to national standards. An examination into student's performance in exams revealed encouraging results. Chapter four explores the rehabilitation training programmes at Yombo. It is found that five out of six courses offered conform to national standards. An examination into student's performance in exams revealed encouraging results. Chapter four analyses the research findings and concludes that although the rehabilitation training programmes at Yombo equip, to some extent, the disabled students to be self-supporting, the resettlement of some is very inadequate. As much as the disabled graduates are not socially and economically integrated into the mainstream of their community. Therefore the practical reality of translating social welfare policy for the handicapped persons has not been made on the Tanzanian society. Social welfare

is a class issue; an effective solution to problems related to it would involve radical changes in the whole socio-economic system of Tanzania and the world in general. Several people have helped me in the preparation of this study, I wish to express my sincere gratitude's to Dr. G.E. Lewis, my supervisor, for his guidance and patience in reading my drafts and his helpful critical remarks, advice and suggestions. I should also like to thank the Commissioner for social welfare and the Principal of Yombo Rehabilitations. I should also like to thank the Commissioner for social welfare and the Principal of Yombo Rehabilitation Centre for enabling me to conduct this study and for all the help they gave me.