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Title: Disabled youth and their ability to sustain their livelihoods

Theme: Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

Abstract:

This presentation will focus on the research findings of a qualitative study done to explore ways in which disabled youth in the Molweni District of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, sustain their livelihoods. It incorporates the obstacles and barriers influencing the implementation of existing policy and legislation and the youth's perceptions about availability and accessibility of resources. Amongst others, findings included: inaccessibility, discrimination, marginalization and exploitation, inadequate support systems, attitudes of disabled youth themselves and the lack of awareness of their rights and legislation by youth with disabilities and implementation by government. This suggests that the focus of government, society and community (which includes Occupational Therapist working in the community), should be on raising awareness and proper implementation of relevant policy and legislation. In turn, this will contribute to ensuring that disabled youth *can* sustain their own livelihoods, and hence reduce poverty and hunger.

Format: Paper presentation