Tanzania Education Network
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Mtando wa Elimu Tanzania
Education: access • equity • quality

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CHALLENGES AHEAD THE AFRICAN CHILD DAY

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FROM THE COORDINATOR'S DESK

Joseph Kisanji
Coordinator

On 16 June every year the African Child Day Commemoration is marked in Africa to honour the children who are living in appalling and vulnerable conditions.

The forum brings young people together providing them with the opportunity to explore and understand their connection to the environment, nature and community.

For example African Child Day is meant to encourage youth to show care and concern for the community, animals and environment through action oriented projects. It helps youth to build self respect, self confidence and develop hope for the future.

The theme for this years commemoration (2006) is **to stop violence against children** as a way forward to raise awareness among communities in Tanzania in an effort to stop such violence on children.

The celebrations drew participants from various stakeholders including non governmental organizations, the government, religious institutions, policy makers, implementers', members of the community and children to express their views suggestions and ideas in regard to this year's theme and suggest actions to be taken to reduce or eliminate the trauma facing innocent children.

On behalf of TEN-MET it was our pleasure to witness this grand event taking place with a number of activities being held by various groups in a bid to make the African Child Day a success. Lets join hands to put all the resolutions reached on this day into action by opening discussion on all important matters concerning children's wellbeing through our newsletter.

Joseph Kisanji
Coordinator

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The Plight of Disabled Children

This year 2006, TEN/MET members were in the forefront giving the national tone to the commemoration of the Day of the African Child.

Information Centre on Disability (ICD) built a case for giving disability some limelight during this event that is, setting a special day during the week specifically for children with disabilities and their parents to celebrate their own way.

ICD is a member of Tanzania Education Network [TEN/MET]. Basically, the latter brings together protagonists of educational rights to assert for equity in accessing quality education. More emphasis in this regard is on marginalized groups in the society. However, children with disabilities bear much of the brunt of exclusion.

Jovial children play peacefully together in a bid to understand and adapt to their environment .

The day set for the purpose was June 15th 2006 in the Mnazi Mmoja Grounds and over 380 children colourfully participated in the event.

The TEN-MET Secretariat and a number of members particularly Oxfam GB, Aide et Action contributed immensely towards this success.

While the TEN-MET Secretariat met the budget by 50%, the other two members provided 100 T-shirts each, paying for the media coverage as well as providing posters. Equally valuable contributions were the ideas and moral support extended by the rest of the organizing members. The event commemorates the Soweto Killings in South Africa, where thousands of black school children took to the streets in 1976, in a march more than half a mile long, to protest about the inferior quality of education offered then by the Boers and to demand their rights to be taught in their own language.

During the peaceful demonstrations hundreds of young boys and girls were shot down; and in the two weeks of protest that followed, more than a hundred people were killed and more than a thousand were injured.

To honour the memory of those killed and the courage of all those who marched, the Day of the African Child has been celebrated on 16 June every year since 1991, when it was first initiated by the Organization of African Unity.

The Day also draws attention to the lives of African children today. This day has also become an opportunity to examine progress towards health, education, equality and security for all African children and on the implementation of the regional African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. This year's theme is "Stop Violence Against Children".

The African Child Day celebrations are supposed to involve all children, but unfortunately children with disabilities so far have not been able to participate. This is due to lingering negative social attitudes which keep them in the fringes of social life even on grave matters.

As succinctly put by some schools of thought, "we live in a violent society". And people who for one reason or another are unable to assert their own needs or their rights, or protect themselves - many of whom have a disabling condition - are susceptible to violence. …they can't run away".

Project achievements

With a budget of TShs 2,696,000.00, ICD was able to facilitate a conducive venue, transport, refreshments, entertainment, sign language interpretation to 380 children with disabilities. Parents and children who participated in the Celebrations got a platform to relieve their hearts through theatre art, fine art, poems and songs performed by blind children, artifacts presented by deaf/blind children etc. These activities conveyed a vivid message on how this group is defenceless in the face of a violent world.

Parents of children with disabilities participated in the debate by giving out sentiments regarding their children's plight.

Children Conferences and Celebration of the African Child Day

This year from June 12th to 16th, TEN/MET staged Children Advocacy events namely Children Conferences and, Celebrations of the African Child Day. The children's conferences were held in June during the week that culminated in the Day Celebrations.

The children conferences week was held on 12th- 16th June 06, where 16th June is the climax of the Celebrations of the Day of the African Child.

The theme is *"Piga Vita Unyanyasaji Na Udhalilishwaji wa Watoto."* Stop Violence against children.

The children conferences and celebrations of the Day of African Child were held at Zonal level and drew 4-5 representatives from children committee in each Area Development Programs (ADP) within the World Vision Tanzania (WVT) zones

The facilitators of the conferences could be either external or internal to WVT.

Agenda

The Children Conference Agenda and Celebration of the Day of African Child was centre on the theme, "Piga Vita Unyanyasaji Na Udhalilishwaji wa Watoto," that includes:

- Children discussion on how to strengthen children committees in order to address abuse, and violence against children.
- Awareness raising on WVT Child participation guidelines and Child

Protection Policy, United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child (UN CRC) and African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children

- Highlight Issues that featured in the Voices of Children during and after elections
- Children Rights
- Education for Every Child
- F.G.M Eradication (This is emphased in the Northern and Central Zones)
- Fight against HIV/AIDS
- Eradicate poverty

Celebrations of the Day of the African Child are held on 16th June every year from the village to the District level. There is no doubt children will continue to participate in their ADPs and Districts all over the country.

ACTIVITIES

Many child activities focused on DAC commemoration, this year the main activities organized to mark the day included;

- Children's committees drawing refugee children from the camps in western Tanzania-Kigoma refugee camps i.e. members of the children voice OUT initiative. The conferences was the main forum where children and young people engaged in serious discussion about issues affecting their lives, and deliberated on possible actions.
- Children's procession, songs, dances, acrobat, football, music competition, and discos, radio talk shows and TV Programmes and many more were also part of activities to mark the Day of African Child.
- Each zone was at liberty of innovating other activities.

African child day

Emphasis was on initiating a special relief fund for children with disabilities, aid being misappropriated by self centered characters, the Social Welfare Department being sluggish in its operations, dismantling of environmental barriers so that all schools could be accessed by children with disabilities. The following was achieved:

A school choir presenting a song to mark the climax of the African Child Day

- The celebrations brought to light the talents of children with disabilities. A good example is that of one Miriam [Uhuru Mchanganyiko], a seven year visually impaired child who looks frail and stunted but sings marvelously to every ones surprise.
- Deriving from demonstrated talents, parents have started turning out in numbers to apply for enrolments of their children with disabilities in

special schools. This has posed a challenge in the sense that special schools around Dar es Salaam are already full to the brim.

- The occasion helped to prove that the government is still paying lip service to this constituency. As such, administrators are distancing themselves from it. Of all the fifteen invited government officials, none turned up at the event whereas the following day, the very ground was brimming with them.

Problems encountered

The supply of T-shirts was 200 whereas the request stood at 400. This raised complaints from those who missed their share.

Underestimation of the number of tents. At some point a number of participants had to endure burning sunshine because available tents were full.

The event was overshadowed by the Budget speech and the world Cup frenzy.

Children with disabilities were excluded from the climax celebrations organized by the government which denied them the opportunity to interact with peers i.e. June 16, 2006.

Change of schools closing dates interrupted the preparations

Opportunities

If optimally exploited, this annual event has proved to be a unique mouth piece for voiceless children with disabilities in and out of school and parents and specialist teachers.

Again, the very event seems to arouse the awareness of civil society on the importance of including citizens with disabilities in their programmes.

Appeals

This event being a sound board for voiceless children with disabilities needs to be celebrated more conspicuously at different levels particularly at district level where policies are implemented. Also Civil Society should put into place a mechanism of documenting children's concerns and channeling them to respective authorities.

The Day also draws attention to the lives of African children today. This day has also become an opportunity to examine progress towards health, education, equality and security for all African children and on the implementation of the regional African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. This year's theme is "Stop Violence Against Children".

Focus on Education for All:

Dar children with disabilities receive primary education

About 321 children with different types of disabilities (such as cerebral palsy, epilepsy, deafness, and hydrocephalus) will now be able to join Government schools with their fellow classmates from January 2007.

At present 89 children with physical impairments and 182 children who are deaf (or with severe hearing impairment) are already schooling in a total of 50 different primary schools. 50 more children with a physical impairment will start schooling this coming January.

Children with disabilities are almost all deprived of any education. Only 1-2 per cent of disabled children in developing countries attend any form of school (www.eenet.org). But all children and parents have the same dreams.

It is from this understanding that the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program from Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation (CCBRT) has started collaborating with the Municipal Education Officers, the head teachers and teachers of primary schools and parents, to make education possible for children with disabilities.

Right to be held: A child appealing to community members to send all children to school on the Day of the African Child

Some children need extra assistance (e.g. special desk and chair, wheelchairs or other mobility devices). Parents and CBR program try to take care of this in collaboration with each other. The teachers and head teachers have received teaching sessions on disabilities in the last two years, from CCBRT.

It is not always an easy task for teachers, classmates, children with disabilities, their parents and the persons around them to tackle their problems. But there are many positive outcomes: children with and without disabilities learn with and from each other.

Some parents of children with disability who were interviewed in school said:

"Last year (her first year in school) she had problems because some children were laughing at her. They thought she looked strange and they would stare at her. But the teacher talked to the pupils not to isolate her and I'm grateful that she is getting on well with other children now," a mother of a child with physical impairment attending regular class.

"She has become active now. She likes the other children, and she is so kind. If she is in a group of children, she will have a friend in one minute. She used to be afraid, but not anymore. When she was at home she was different, but now that she has started going to school she has become active," Mother of a child with hearing impairment in annex class, located at regular school.

'Education for All' is based on the fundamental principle that all should have the opportunity to learn. Inclusive education is the education framework for including children with disabilities in regular classes and was originally based on a principle stating that all should have the opportunity to learn together. Further information is available on the World Bank website.

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CHANGAMOTO ILIYOPO MBELE YA SIKU YA MTOTO WA AFRIKA

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KUTOKA DAWATI LA MRATIBU

Joseph Kisanji
Mratibu

Mnamo tarehe 16 Juni 2006 tamasha la siku ya Mtoto wa Afrika huadhimishwa Afrika kuleta matuamaini kwa watoto ambao wanaishi maisha duni na katika mazingira yenye kuhatarisha maisha yao.

Safu hii inawajumuisha vijana kwa kuwapa fursa ya kutafiti na kufahamu uhusiano uliyopo kati yao na mazingira na jamii.

Maudhui ya mwaka 2006 ni kukomesha unyanyasaji wa watoto kama njia ya kuendeleza kuhamasisha ufahamu katika jamii za watanzania kama njia moja ya kuzuia unyanyasaji huo.

Sherehe hizi zilijumuisha washiriki kutoka kwa wadau mbalimbali zikiwemo Asasi zisizo za kiserikali , serikali, Taasisi za kidini, wanasiasa, watendaji wakuu, wanajamii na watoto ambao waliweza kutoa maoni yao, ushauri na mawazo mbalimbali juu ya maudhui ya mwaka huu na kushauri hatua muafaka ambazo zingeweza kuchukuliwa kupunguza au kuondoa madhila yanayowakabili watoto wasio na hatia.

Kwa niaba ya TEN-MET ni furaha kwetu kushuhudia hafla kubwa kama hii ikifanyika ikiambatana na shughuli mbalimbali zilizoandaliwa na vikundi mbalimbali katika juhudi ya kufanya Tamasha la Siku ya Mtoto wa Afrika. Hivyo basi sote kwa pamoja tuungane kutekeleza maazimio yaliyoafikiwa katika siku hiyo kwa kufungua majadiliano juu ya mambo muhimu yanayohusu maisha bora kwa watoto kupitia jarida hili.

Joseph Kisanji
Mratibu

Yaliyomo **Ukarasa**

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Tabu Zinazowakabili Watoto Walemavu

Mwaka 2006, wanachama wa TEN-MET walikuwa mstari wa mbele katika kulipa Tamasha la Siku ya mtoto wa Afrika wito wa kitaifa.

Sio jingine bali ni kutenga siku maalumu katika wiki ya tamasha kwa ajili ya watoto walemavu na wazazi wao katika kuadhimisha siku hiyo kivyao. Kituo cha habari za walemavu (ICD) ni mwanachama wa TEN/MET. La msingi ni kuwa Mtandao wa elimu Tanzania unaunganisha juhudi za haki elimu katika kuleta uwiano wa kila mtu kuweza kupata elimu bora.

Watoto wenye bashasha wakiwa katika michezo ya kuongeza uelewa wao wa mazingira.

Siku hiyo iliadhimishwa mnamo June 15,2006 katika viwanja vya Mnazi Mmoja na zaidi ya watoto 380 walishiriki katika Tamasha hili. Secretarieti ya TEN/MET na baadhi ya wanachama hasa Oxfam GB, Aide et Action imechangia kwa kiwango kikubwa kufanikisha tamasha hili.

Wakati secretarieti ya TEN/MET ilichangia bajeti ya tamasha hili kwa asilimia 50, wanachama wengine wawili walitoa fulana 100 kila moja, wakalipia gharama za vyombo vya habari na utangazaji vikiwemo. Tamasha hili linakwenda sambamba na mauaji ya Soweto nchini Afrika ya Kusini,ambako maelfu ya watoto wa kiafrika waliandamana mwaka 1976 kwa zaidi ya nusu maili wakipinga elimu duni iliyokuwa ikitolewa na utawala wa Kibaguzi wa makaburu wa nchi hiyo.

Wakati wa maandamano hayo ya amani maelfu ya vijana wa kike na wakiume walipigwa risasi, na mauaji hayo yalifuatiwa na wiki mbili za maandamano yaliyopinga unyama huo ambapo zaidi ya mamia ya watu waliuwawa na wengine kwa maelfu kujeruhiwa na makaburu.Ili kuadhimisha kumbukumbu hiyo ya wale waliouliwa bila ya makosa yoyote, Siku ya tamasha la Mtoto wa Afrika limeandaliwa kusheherekewa tarehe 16 June kila mwaka tangu 1991 wakati ilipoanzishwa na Umoja wa Nchi za Afrika (AU).

Siku ya Tamasha la Siku ya Mtoto wa Afrika linapaswa kuwahu sisha watoto wote lakini la kusikitisha watoto wenye ulemavu hawajashirikishwa hadi hivi sasa. Hii ni kwa kuwa bado kuna aina Fulani ya unyanyapaaji.

Liliowazi kama baadhi ya wanafalsafa wanavyoelezea tunaishi katika jamii hatari. Na wale ambao hawawezi kwa njia moja au nyingine kudai au kutetea haki zao, au kujihami wengi wao ni vilema na aghlabu ndio wanaonyanyawa kwa kuwa hawawezi kukimbia.

Mafanikio ya mradi

Kwa bajeti ya Sh2,696,000.00 ICD imeweza kufanikisha kupatikan sehemu ya kufanyia tamasha hilo, usafiri, vinywaji, viburudisho, tafsiri ya lugha za alama kwa watoto 380 wenye ulemavu na wazazi wao ambao walishiriki katika tamasha hilo. Watoto wa shule walemavu waliweza kupata nafasi ya kuonyesha sanaa mbalimbali kwa kuigiza. Uchoraji ulifanywa na watoto viziwi, mashairi na nyimbo ziliandaliwa na watoto wasioona, sanaa nyingine toka kwa watoto hao ambazo ziliweza kufikisha ujumbe mzito juu ya walemavu hawa wasivyo weza kujihami dhidi ya dunia yenye udhalimu.

Wazazi wa watoto vilema walishiriki katika kongamano hilo kwa kuelezea masikitiko yao juu ya matatizo yanayowakabili watoto wao. Msisitizo ulikuwa katika kuanzisha mfuko maalumu wa watoto walemavu, wakidai kuwa misaada mingi inapotea katika mikono ya watu wenye tamaa. Kadhalika waliilaumu idara ya ustawi wa jamii kwa kususua katika shughuli zake, pia kuondosha vikwazo kwa kubadilisha mazingira ya mashule ilikwamba shule zote ziweze kutumiwa na watoto walemavu bila ya vijana hao kupata shida yoyote.

Kwa vigezo hivyo vilivyo onyeshwa na vipaji vya watoto walemavu wazazi tayari wameshaanza kujitokeza kwa wingi kuwaandikisha watoto wao katika shule maalumu zilisotengwa kwa ajili yao. - Tafrija hiyo iliweza kuthibisha kuwa serikali bado inalikabili suala hili kwa maneno matupu na sio kwa vitendo.

Makongamano ya watoto katika maadhimisho ya siku ya mtoto wa Afrika

Mtandao wa elimu Tanzania (TEN/MET) walidhamini Wiki ya kongamano la watoto mwaka 2006. Makongamano hayo yalifanyika kuanzia tarehe 12 mpaka 16 Juni. Kwa kawaida Juni 16 ni kilelele cha Tamasha la siku ya Mtoto wa Afrika.

Maudhui ya kongamano hilo ilikuwa :"Piga Vita Unyanyasaji Na Udhalilishwaji wa watoto." Makongamano hayo yalifanyika katika ngazi ya kanda na kushirikisha wawakilishi 4-5 katika kamati za watoto katika kanda hizo.

Agenda

Agenda ya Kongamano hilo katika kuadhimisha Tamasha la Siku ya mototo wa Afrika ilikita katika suala muhimu la "Piga Vita Unyanyasaji Na Udhalilishwaji wa watoto. Lilihusisha jinsi gani watoto wanaweza kujadili namna ya kuimarisha kamati zao katika kukabiliana na unyanyaswaji na udhalilishwaji wa watoto;

- Kuhamasisha watoto walioshiriki kufahamu vielezo na sera za kuwalinda watoto.
- Kudokeza mambo yaliyojitokeza katika sauti za watoto kabla na baada ya uchaguzi
- Haki za watoto
- Elimu kwa kila mtoto

- Kuondosha kabisa mila za ukeketaji wa wanawake.

- Kukabili janga la UKIMWI

- Kuondoa umaskini.

Sherehe hizi hufanyika kila tarehe 16 ya kila mwaka kutoka katika ngazi ya kijiji mpaka wilaya. Hakuna shaka kwamba watoto wataendelea kushiriki katika ngazi zote kote nchini. Watoto wanategemea mafanikio yao kutokana na juhudi za wazazi wao.

Shughuli mbalimbali

Shughuli mbali mbali za vijana zilizingatia kumbukumbu ya siku hii ya DAC. Mwaka huu (2006) maandalizi ya vijana yalihusisha mambo yafuatayo:

- Kamati za watoto zilishirikisha watoto wakimbizi kutoka katika kambi za Magharibi ya Tanzania (Kigoma).

- Makongamano hayo yalikuwa na vitu muhimu na nyeti vya kuzungumzia na kujadili hasa yale mambo yanayowaathiri maisha yao na kutizama jinsi maazimio hayo yanavyo weza kutekelezwa.

- Watoto walifanya maandamano, waliimba, walicheza ngoma, sarakasi, mpira wa miguu, mashindano ya kuimba, kucheza disco, maonyesho ya mazungumzo ya radio na programu za televisheni na mengi mengineyo yalifanyika.

- Kila kanda inauhuru wa kubuni shughuli zake.

Sherehe hizi kwa kuwa ni kipaza sauti cha watoto walemavu wasiosikika ingefaa:

Sherehe zake zifanyike kwa kishindo kikubwa hasa katika ngazi za wilaya ambako sera zinatekelezwa. Jumuia za kiraia ziweke utaratibu wa kurikodi kero zote za watoto walemavu na kuzifikisha kwa vyombo husika.

Matatizo yaliyojitokeza

Kulikuwa na uhaba wa fulana kwani zilitakiwa fulana 400 na zilizopatikana ni 200 tu. Hili liliwafanya wale waliokosa fulana kulalamika.

Makadirio ya mahema yalikuwa pungufu. Katika nyakati fulani washiriki wengi ilibidi wachomwe na jua kali kwa sababu mahema yalikuwa hayatoshi.

Kwaya ya shule ikiimba katika kilele cha Siku ya Mtoto wa Afrika

Shamrashamra hizo zilifunikwa zaidi na hotuba za bajeti na hamasa la mpira wa kombe la dunia.

Watoto walemavu hawakushirikishwa kwenye kilelele cha sherehe hizi zilizoandaliwa na serikali, ambapo walinyimwa haki yao ya msingi ya kupata nafasi ya kushiriki sawa sawa na watoto wenzao.

Pia mabadiliko ya mihula ambapo shule hufungwa iliingiliana na matayarisho hayo.

Fursa

Kama fursa hii itatumiwa ipasavyo, Tukio hili la kila mwaka limethibitisha kuwa ni fursa ya namna ya pekee kuziwezesha sauti za watoto wenye ulemavu wasio na wakuwasemea nje na ndani ya mashule, ikiwa pamoja na wazazi na waalimu maalumu.

Vivutio

Sherehe hizi kwa kuwa ni kipaza sauti cha watoto walemavu wasiosikika ingefaa sherehe zake zifanyika kwa kishindo kikubwa hasa katika ngazi za wilaya ambako sera zinatekelezwa. Jumuia za kiraia ziweke utraratibu wa kurikodi kero zote za watoto walemavu na kuzifikisha kwa vyombo husika.

Mafanikio

Maadhimisho hayo pia yaliweza kufichua vipaji mbalimbali vya watoto vilema. Mfano mzuri ni ule wa kijana Mariam (Uhuru Mchanganyiko) mtoto wa miaka saba asiyeweza kuona, ambaye alionekana dhaifu lakini ghafla aliwashangaza watu kwa uwezo wake mkubwa wa kuimba.

MTIZAMO WA ELIMU KWA WOTE

Watoto walemavu wajiunga na shule za msingi

Takribani watoto 321 wenye ulemavu wa aina mbalimbali sasa wataweza kujiunga na shule za msingi za serikali wakijumuika na watoto wenzao kuanzia Januari 2007.

Kwa wakati huu watoto 89 wenye matatizo katika maumbile yao wakiwemo viziwi tiyari wamejiunga na jumla ya shule 50 mbalimbali.

Watoto wenye ulemavu karibuni wote wananyimwa fursa ya kujielimisha. Kati ya asilimia 1-2 ya watoto walemavu katika nchi zinazoendelea ndio tu wanaohudhuria aina Fulani yamafunzo. Lakini wazazi na watoto wao wote wanaota kwamba siku moja na wao watapata fursa hii.

Kutokana na kadhia hii ndio shirika la CCBRT chini ya mradi wake wa kurekebisha jamii wameanza kushirikiana na Afisa Elimu wa manispaa, waalimu wakuu na walimu wa shule za msingi na wazazi, kuwawezesha watoto walemavu kupata elimu.

Haki ya kusikilizwa: Mtoto akiwahimiza wanajamii kupaleka watoto wote shule katika kilele cha Siku ya Mtoto wa Afrika

Baadhi ya wanafunzi wanahitaji msaada wa ziada kama vile madawati maalumu, viti venye matairi na nyenzo nyingine. Wazazi na mradi wa CBR wanajaribu kushirikiana kukabiliana na masuala haya.

Waalimu wakuu na walimu wa shule za msingi tiyari wamepata mafunzo maalumu juu ya kuwafundisha walemavu kwa kipindi hiki cha miaka miwili kutoka CCBRT.

Maandalizi haya ni juu ya kuwafundisha walemavu kwa kipindi hiki cha miaka miwili kwa msaada wa CCBRT.

Hata hivyo sio jambo rahisi kwa walimu, wanafunzi wasio walemavu na walemavu, wazazi wao na jamii kwa ujumla kutatua matatizo yao mara nyingi. Lakini kuna dalili nzuri na chanya katika kushirikiana wanafunzi wasio walemavu na wale walemavu hasa hasa katika kujifunza baina yao.

Baadhi ya wazazi waliohojiwa wamesema: watoto wao wenye ulemavu wamekuwa wakipata tatizo la unyapaaji hasa kuchekwa. Wengi wanawaona ni kama vioja na huwakodolea macho. Lakini walimu wamefanya kazi nzuri ya kuwaelimisha wanafunzi kwamba wasiwe wanawatenga wanafunzi walemavu, na hivi sasa wengi wanaendelea vizuri na masomo.

Watoto wenye ulemavu karibuni wote wananyimwa fursa ya kujielimisha. Kati ya asilimia 1-2 ya watoto walemavu katika nchi zinazoendelea ndio tu wanaohudhuria aina fulani ya mafunzo.