

“ UMOJA” / TOGETHERNESS; AN AFRICAN DISABILITY MODEL

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The “Umoja Disability Model”/ The Togetherness Disability Model.

Motto; *Sisi kwa Sisi kwa Maendeleo/ Us for us for sustainable Development.*

Disability;

A comparative term used to describe the dynamic, multifaceted, varied, diverse and contextualised effects of physical, intellectual and physiological impairment or and impairments on an individual or individuals.

Introduction;

Many models of disability have been presented over the years in an effort to draw closer to a disability model that is universally inclusive rather than accommodative.

The social model of disability ; came close to closing this gap since it had its roots in the disability movements and the non aligned groups. How ever, due to its tendency to apportion blame and point a finger at the environment and the society, the need for An impartial and universal model arose. The *umoja model of disability* has now become necessary.

The medical model; though with its benefits, for example the supply of important assistive devices and the surgical procedures that improved functional performances, this model centred its theory on **‘normality’** and the notion that disabled people are inherently **‘defective’** and in need of **‘cure’** Pfeiffer, (1998). The umoja disability model; is an African based model. It takes on board the African beliefs, fears and knowledge on disability.

The Umoja disability model ; is grounded on the *assumption* that disability in Africa is directly linked to poverty, Lusting, (2007 p 198) burden of disease, and a horde of other Occupational injustices that are exacerbated by bad policies and governance. It recognises the importance of the **‘spirit of togetherness’** Durlauf, (2003).(“*Together we can lift an elephant*”, “*one finger can not kill a louse*”, “*one finger can only point*” African proverbs).

References

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Spirit of togetherness.(2 disabled people sharing Transport within a city street.

