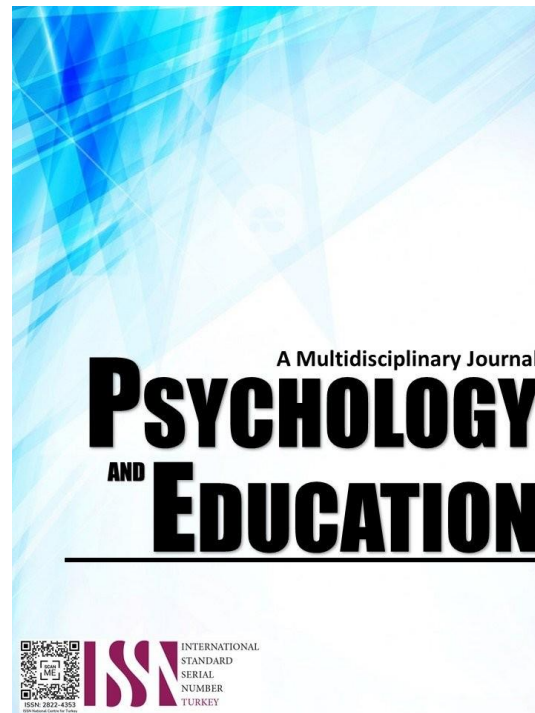


INCLUSIVE POLICIES, SOCIAL SUPPORT, AND ACCESSIBILITY INFRASTRUCTURE ON THE SOCIOECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF PWDS IN TAFT, EASTERN SAMAR: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF URBAN AND RURAL AREAS



PSYCHOLOGY AND EDUCATION: A MULTIDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL

Volume: 28

Issue 8

Pages: 846-858

Document ID: 2024PEMJ2710

DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.14414856

Manuscript Accepted: 11-14-2024

Inclusive Policies, Social Support, and Accessibility Infrastructure on the Socioeconomic Integration of PWDs in Taft, Eastern Samar: A Comparative Study of Urban and Rural Areas

Hendrick A. Dacuyan, * Lelanie D. Perido

For affiliations and correspondence, see the last page.

Abstract

The study focuses on assessing the demographic profile of respondents in terms of age, sex, educational attainment, and employment status. It provides detailed insights into the distribution of these demographics among individuals with disabilities in Taft, Eastern Samar. The findings reveal that individuals aged between 26 to 33 years old constitute the largest segment, representing 46% of the total respondents. This demographic trend highlights the significance of understanding the unique challenges and needs of young to mid-aged adults within the PWD community. Additionally, individuals aged 34 to 41 years old closely follow, comprising 50% of the sample population, indicating the importance of long-term support and inclusive policies for this age group. In terms of sex, the study shows an equal representation of male and female respondents, each comprising 50% of the sample population. This balanced gender distribution emphasizes the importance of gender-sensitive approaches to disability inclusion and policymaking. Recognizing the intersectionality of gender and disability is crucial for understanding how societal norms and cultural expectations shape the experiences of individuals with disabilities. Regarding educational attainment, the majority of respondents reported having a high school education or below, highlighting the prevalence of educational disparities among PWDs. The study also indicates that vocational education and bachelor's degrees were attained by a segment of the sample population, emphasizing the need for targeted interventions to improve educational opportunities for individuals with disabilities. The absence of postgraduate degrees suggests a potential gap in access to advanced education for PWDs in Taft, Eastern Samar. In terms of employment status, the data reveal that the majority of respondents reported being unemployed, indicating significant challenges in accessing and maintaining employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. The study underscores the importance of creating inclusive workplaces and promoting equal employment opportunities for PWDs to enhance their socioeconomic integration. Overall, the study underscores the importance of age-specific dynamics, gender-sensitive approaches, educational opportunities, and inclusive employment policies in promoting the socioeconomic integration of individuals with disabilities in Taft, Eastern Samar. By addressing these demographic factors and implementing targeted interventions, policymakers and stakeholders can work towards creating more inclusive and equitable societies for all individuals, regardless of their demographic background or disability status.

Keywords: *policies, social support, accessibility, integration*

Introduction

In a world that aspires to inclusivity and equity, the socio-economic integration of persons with disabilities remains an essential yet challenging goal. Disabilities, whether physical or cognitive, should not be barriers to full participation in society. To this end, governments, organizations, and communities have implemented various policies, established social support systems, and improved accessibility infrastructure. These initiatives aim to foster inclusion, empower individuals with disabilities, and bridge the socio-economic gaps that persist (Velasco et al., 2021). However, the effectiveness of these measures can vary significantly across different contexts.

This thesis embarks on a comprehensive exploration of the impact of inclusive policies, social support mechanisms, and accessibility infrastructure on the socio-economic integration of persons with disabilities. It presents a comparative study that investigates how these factors operate in urban and rural settings, acknowledging the diverse challenges and opportunities that these environments offer. By examining these variables in both urban and rural contexts, this research seeks to shed light on the complex interplay between policy implementation, social support systems, and physical accessibility within distinct socio-geographical landscapes.

The significance of this study lies in its potential to inform policymakers, practitioners, and advocates about the efficacy of existing initiatives and the need for tailored strategies to enhance the socio-economic integration of persons with disabilities. By analyzing the urban-rural divide, we aim to contribute to a nuanced understanding of the disparities and commonalities in the lived experiences of individuals with disabilities, thereby fostering more targeted and effective interventions. Ultimately, this research aspires to drive forward the dialogue on disability inclusion and contribute to the creation of a more equitable society where everyone, regardless of their abilities or geographical location, can fully participate and thrive.

In the quest for a more inclusive and equitable society, the integration of persons with disabilities into the socio-economic fabric stands as a paramount challenge and a fundamental aspiration. Across the globe, nations grapple with the imperative of dismantling barriers that hinder the full participation of individuals with disabilities in various aspects of life (Salvio, 2020). The Philippines, a nation celebrated for its diverse cultural heritage and breathtaking landscapes, is no exception to this global pursuit. With a growing emphasis

on fostering inclusivity, the Philippines has implemented a range of policies, established social support systems, and invested in accessibility infrastructure. These initiatives are designed to empower individuals with disabilities and bridge the socio-economic gaps that persist in society (Imbong & Pielago, 2021). However, the effectiveness of these measures is shaped by a complex interplay of factors that can vary significantly between urban and rural contexts.

This research embarks on a comprehensive and timely exploration of the impact of inclusive policies, social support mechanisms, and accessibility infrastructure on the socio-economic integration of persons with disabilities in the Philippines. It does so through a comparative study that meticulously examines the experiences of individuals living with disabilities in both urban and rural areas. Such a dual-focus approach recognizes the unique challenges and opportunities presented by these distinct geographical and socio-cultural contexts.

The Philippines' socio-economic landscape is marked by its diversity, with urban centers representing vibrant hubs of economic activity and rural areas showcasing the nation's agrarian heritage (Dela Cruz, 2023). Yet, beneath this diversity lies a common goal—to ensure that individuals with disabilities have the opportunity to lead fulfilling lives, access education, secure meaningful employment, and participate actively in their communities. To this end, the policies enacted, the support systems established, and the accessibility infrastructure developed in urban and rural areas play pivotal roles in shaping the experiences and opportunities available to persons with disabilities (Cruz, 2018)

The significance of this study lies in its potential to inform policy formulation, guide practice, and foster greater understanding of the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities in the Philippines. By examining the urban-rural divide, we aim to uncover the nuances and disparities that exist within this diverse nation, shedding light on what works and what needs improvement in different contexts. Through this research, we hope to contribute to the ongoing dialogue on disability inclusion in the Philippines, ultimately striving for a society where the potential of every individual, regardless of their abilities or geographical location, can be fully realized, celebrated, and integrated into the social and economic fabric of the nation.

Research Questions

The study aims to determine the impact of inclusive policies, social support, and accessibility infrastructure on the socioeconomic integration of PWDs in Taft, Eastern Samar. Specifically, this study seeks to answer the following questions:

1. What is the effectiveness of inclusive policies on socioeconomic integration of the respondents in terms of:
 - 1.1. accessibility; and
 - 1.2. implementation?
2. What is the level of social support of the respondents in the selected areas?
3. What is the degree of accessibility infrastructures within the within the selected areas of the respondents?
4. Is there a significant relationship between the inclusive policies in terms of accessibility and implementation and implementation and the level of social support in the selected areas of the respondents?
5. Is there a significant relationship between the inclusive policies in terms of accessibility and implementation and the degree of accessibility infrastructures within the within the selected areas of the respondents?
6. Is there a significant relationship between the level of social support and the degree of accessibility infrastructures within the selected areas of the respondents?
7. Are there any significant differences between the socioeconomic integration of the respondents within rural and urban areas?

Methodology

Research Design

This research employed descriptive and correlational research methods, utilizing a survey instrument to assess the impact of inclusive policies, social support, and accessibility infrastructure on socioeconomic integration of persons with disabilities within the chosen areas in Taft, Eastern Samar. The quantitative approach will be chosen to quantify the gathered data and effectively depict the responses provided by the participants. By employing this method, the study aimed to systematically capture the relationships and interactions among the variables of interest, offering a comprehensive understanding of how these elements interplay in the educational context under investigation.

Respondents

The research will center its attention on the population of persons with disabilities in carefully selected rural and urban areas located in Taft, Eastern Samar. Utilizing Slovin's formula, the study determined 200 PWDs residing in Taft, Eastern Samar, which is an appropriate sample size for investigation. To constitute this sample, the research will employ a straightforward random sampling technique, guaranteeing unbiased representation across the chosen locations. It is important to note that the selected areas encompass both urban and rural regions, including Dasmariñas City, Silang, Tagaytay City, and Alfonso. The precise determination of the population size is contingent upon the formal approval of the researcher's request.

The research aims to capture a meaningful cross-section of the administrative landscape within Taft, Eastern Samar. The meticulous

calculation of the sample size, combined with the randomness inherent in the selection process, ensures that the study maintains statistical validity and accurately reflects the broader population. Additionally, the inclusion of prominent educational institutions within the study's scope enhances its potential to provide insights that are pertinent to the educational context of the region.

Instrument

The research will employ a custom-designed questionnaire created by the researcher to assess the Impact of Inclusive Policies, Social Support, and Accessibility Infrastructure on the Socioeconomic Integration of Persons with Disabilities. This questionnaire will be submitted to a panel of experts for their approval and validation.

The questionnaire developed by the researcher consists of statements rated on a 5-point Likert Scale. It is structured into three distinct categories: inclusive policies, which would focus on accessibility and implementation. Accessibility and implementation are essential sub-variables in the context of inclusive policies for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Taft, Eastern Samar's urban and rural areas. In terms of accessibility, physical accessibility focuses on removing physical barriers like ramps and tactile pathways, while digital accessibility ensures that information technologies are usable by PWDs. In terms of policy implementation, it would examine the effectiveness of inclusive policies, from resource allocation to enforcement. Service delivery assesses the quality and availability of healthcare, education, and employment support. Community awareness and engagement involve local efforts to promote PWD inclusion. The study will provide nuanced insights into how these sub-variables operate in diverse environments, aiding policymakers and advocates in advancing inclusion.

Also, the study would also distinguish the extent of social support and the level of accessibility infrastructure. Expert professionals from the relevant field will conduct a validity test on the questionnaire to ensure its accuracy and reliability.

Procedure

In quantitative research, the data collection process typically entails direct interactions with individuals, either individually or in group settings. The researcher personally administered the survey tool in face-to-face sessions. Participants were allocated a time window of 10 to 15 minutes to complete the questionnaire, and they were encouraged to seek clarification on any questions if necessary. Data collection began immediately after participants finished the questionnaire, ensuring a thorough capture of their responses. This approach highlights the researcher's active role in facilitating data collection and creating an environment conducive to participants' understanding and participation.

Data Analysis

To measure the impact of inclusive policies, social support, and accessibility infrastructure on the socioeconomic integration of persons with disabilities, the following options, scale range, categorical response and verbal interpretation will be utilized.

The scale range of 4.21 - 5.00 is interpreted as "Always" with a Highly Positive response and will be marked by the respondents as "5", 3.41 - 4.20 is interpreted as "Often" with a Very Positive response and will be marked by the respondents as "4", 2.61 - 3.40 is interpreted as "Sometimes" with a Neutral response and will be marked by the respondents as "3", 1.81 - 2.60 is interpreted as "Rarely" with a less positive response as "2", and lastly. 1.0 - 1.80 is interpreted as "Never" with the least positive response as "1".

To interpret the data effectively, the researcher will be employed the following statistical treatment. The Slovin's Formula, descriptive statistics, and Pearson's r will be utilized to interpret the data.

To determine the number of samples, the researcher will utilize the Slovin's Formula

To assess the effectiveness of inclusive policies in terms of accessibility and implementation, the level of social support, and the degree of accessibility infrastructures, mean, median, and standard deviation might provide insights into the respondents' perceptions.

To investigate the relationship between the inclusive policies on socioeconomic integration of the respondents in terms of accessibility and implementation and the level of social support, and the degree of accessibility infrastructures in the selected areas, the researcher would use a correlational analysis, such as Pearson's correlation coefficient.

To determine the significant differences between the socioeconomic integration of the respondents within rural and urban areas, the researcher would utilize inferential statistics, such as an independent samples t-test.

Results and Discussion

This section presents all the results of the data gathering procedures including their corresponding analysis, interpretation, and discussion. The results are presented based on the logical sequence of the stated problems or questions of this study and are shown below.

Demographic Profile of the Respondents

The first problem of this study focuses on the assessment of the demographic profile of the respondents in terms of their age, sex, educational attainment, and employment status and the results are as follows.

Age

The table illustrates a comprehensive picture of the age distribution among individuals with disabilities (PWDs) who participated in the research, offering insights into the composition of the sample population.

Table 1. *Demographic Profile of the Respondents in terms of Age*

| Age Brackets | Frequency | Percentage | Ranking |
|--------------|-----------|------------|---------|
| 18-25 | 0 | 0% | 4 |
| 26-33 | 23 | 46% | 2 |
| 34-41 | 25 | 50% | 1 |
| 42-49 | 2 | 4% | 3 |
| 50 and above | 0 | 0% | 4 |
| Total | 50 | 100% | |

Among the respondents, individuals aged between 26 to 33 years old constitute the largest segment, representing 46% of the total. This finding suggests that the study primarily engaged with young to mid-aged adults within the PWD community in Taft, Eastern Samar. This demographic trend could potentially influence the interpretation of results, as the perspectives and experiences of younger PWDs may differ from those of older age groups. Furthermore, respondents aged 34 to 41 years old closely follow, comprising 50% of the sample population. This age group's significant representation implies that the study's findings are likely reflective of the experiences and needs of individuals in their late 30s to early 40s within the PWD community. Understanding the challenges and opportunities faced by this demographic cohort is crucial for developing effective inclusive policies and support systems.

In contrast, individuals aged 42 to 49 years old account for a smaller proportion of the respondents, constituting only 4% of the sample. While this age group is relatively underrepresented in the study, their inclusion remains essential for capturing the diverse range of experiences and perspectives among PWDs in Taft, Eastern Samar. Exploring the unique challenges and socioeconomic integration patterns of older adults with disabilities can provide valuable insights for designing targeted interventions and support services. Notably, there are no respondents aged 50 and above in the study sample, indicating a potential gap in the representation of older PWDs. This absence raises questions about the accessibility and inclusivity of the research methodology for engaging with older individuals with disabilities. Future studies may benefit from employing strategies to reach and involve a more diverse age range within the PWD community to ensure comprehensive insights into their socioeconomic integration experiences.

The demographic profile of respondents based on age underscores the importance of considering age-specific dynamics and needs within the PWD population in Taft, Easter Samar. By acknowledging and addressing the unique challenges faced by different age groups, policymakers, advocates, and service providers can develop more targeted and inclusive approaches to support the socioeconomic integration of individuals with disabilities across urban and rural areas in the region. These findings carry several implications for policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders involved in disability rights and inclusive development initiatives. Firstly, the predominance of younger adults aged 26 to 33 among the respondents highlights the significance of catering to the unique needs and challenges faced by this demographic group. As young adults with disabilities navigate the transition into adulthood, they encounter distinct barriers related to education, employment, and independent living. By understanding and addressing these challenges early on, policymakers can implement targeted interventions and support programs to facilitate the socioeconomic integration of young PWDs in Taft, Eastern Samar.

Secondly, the substantial representation of individuals aged 34 to 41 underscores the importance of long-term support and inclusive policies that address the evolving needs of adults with disabilities as they progress through different life stages. This age group may encounter barriers related to career advancement, accessibility, and healthcare, which require tailored interventions to promote sustained socioeconomic participation and well-being. Additionally, the underrepresentation of respondents aged 42 to 49 highlights a potential gap in research and support services targeting older adults with disabilities in Taft, Eastern Samar. As the population ages, there is a growing need to address the unique challenges faced by older individuals with disabilities, including access to age-appropriate healthcare, social inclusion, and retirement planning. Policymakers and service providers should prioritize initiatives that promote the active participation and dignity of older PWDs in the community.

Furthermore, the absence of respondents aged 50 and above underscores the need for inclusive research methodologies that ensure the meaningful participation of older adults with disabilities. Researchers should employ strategies such as accessible survey formats, community outreach, and partnerships with disability advocacy organizations to engage diverse age groups within the PWD community effectively. By including older individuals in research studies, policymakers can gain valuable insights into their experiences and needs, informing the development of age-sensitive policies and programs.

Sex

The table shows an equal representation of male and female respondents, each comprising 50% of the sample population. This balanced gender distribution is significant as it reflects the inclusive nature of the research, ensuring that the perspectives and experiences of both male and female individuals with disabilities are adequately represented and considered in the analysis. The parity in male and female representation among respondents highlights the importance of gender-sensitive approaches to disability inclusion and

policymaking.

Table 2. *Demographic Profile of the Respondents in terms of Sex*

| <i>Sex</i> | <i>Frequency</i> | <i>Percentage</i> | <i>Ranking</i> |
|------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Male | 25 | 50% | 1 |
| Female | 25 | 50% | 1 |
| Total | 50 | 100% | |

Recognizing the intersectionality of gender and disability is crucial for understanding how factors such as societal norms, access to resources, and cultural expectations shape the experiences and opportunities of individuals with disabilities. By acknowledging and addressing gender-specific barriers and disparities, policymakers can develop more effective strategies to promote the socioeconomic integration of both male and female PWDs in Taft, Eastern Samar.

Moreover, the equal participation of male and female respondents underscores the need for gender-responsive support services and interventions tailored to the distinct needs and priorities of each gender. While individuals with disabilities may face common challenges related to accessibility, employment, and social inclusion, there are often gender-specific barriers that require targeted approaches. For example, women with disabilities may experience additional challenges related to reproductive health, caregiving responsibilities, and gender-based violence, which must be addressed through comprehensive and inclusive policies and programs. Additionally, the gender balance in the sample population enables researchers to explore the intersectional dynamics between gender and other demographic factors, such as age, socioeconomic status, and geographical location. By analyzing how gender interacts with other identity markers, policymakers and stakeholders can gain deeper insights into the multifaceted experiences of individuals with disabilities and develop more nuanced and inclusive interventions that account for intersecting forms of discrimination and marginalization.

Furthermore, the equal representation of male and female respondents facilitates comparative analyses to identify gender-specific patterns and disparities in access to resources, participation in decision-making processes, and outcomes related to socioeconomic integration. Understanding these gender dynamics is essential for promoting gender equality and social justice within the disability rights movement and advancing inclusive development agendas in Taft, Eastern Samar and beyond. The balanced gender distribution among respondents underscores the importance of adopting a gender-sensitive and intersectional approach to disability inclusion and research. By recognizing the diverse needs, experiences, and perspectives of male and female individuals with disabilities, policymakers and stakeholders can work towards creating more inclusive and equitable societies where all individuals, regardless of gender or disability status, can fully participate and thrive.

The equal representation of male and female respondents in the study on the socioeconomic integration of PWDs in Taft, Eastern Samar holds several implications for policymakers, researchers, and advocates involved in disability rights and inclusive development efforts. Firstly, the gender balance among respondents highlights the importance of gender mainstreaming in disability policies and programs. Recognizing the distinct experiences and needs of male and female individuals with disabilities is essential for developing targeted interventions that address gender-specific barriers to socioeconomic integration. By adopting a gender-responsive approach, policymakers can ensure that support services and resources are equitably distributed and effectively address the diverse challenges faced by both male and female PWDs in Taft, Eastern Samar.

Secondly, the gender parity in the sample population enables researchers to explore gender dynamics within the disability community and identify intersectional disparities that may exacerbate inequalities in access to opportunities and resources. Analyzing how gender intersects with other identity markers, such as age, socioeconomic status, and geographic location, can provide valuable insights into the complex interplay of factors shaping the lives of individuals with disabilities. This intersectional lens is crucial for developing holistic and inclusive policies that address the diverse needs of marginalized groups within the PWD population. Additionally, the equal participation of male and female respondents facilitates comparative analyses to assess gender-specific outcomes and disparities in socioeconomic integration. By examining differences in employment rates, educational attainment, access to healthcare, and social participation between male and female PWDs, policymakers can identify areas where targeted interventions are needed to promote gender equality and empower marginalized groups. These comparative insights can inform the design of evidence-based policies and programs that advance the rights and well-being of all individuals with disabilities in Taft, Eastern Samar.

Furthermore, the gender balance in the study sample underscores the importance of fostering inclusive research methodologies that prioritize the meaningful participation of diverse voices within the disability community. Engaging male and female respondents equally in research studies ensures that their perspectives, experiences, and priorities are accurately represented in the data, leading to more robust and nuanced findings. This inclusive approach to research can help challenge stereotypes and biases, amplify marginalized voices, and drive more inclusive policy agendas that prioritize the needs of all individuals with disabilities, regardless of gender.

Education Attainment

The table reveals a diverse range of educational backgrounds among individuals with disabilities in Taft, Eastern Samar. The majority of respondents, comprising 66% of the sample population, reported having a high school education or below. This finding underscores the prevalence of educational disparities and barriers faced by PWDs in accessing higher levels of education in Taft, Eastern Samar.

Table 3. *Demographic Profile of the Respondents in terms of Educational Attainment*

| <i>Educational Attainment</i> | <i>Frequency</i> | <i>Percentage</i> | <i>Ranking</i> |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| High School or Below | 33 | 66% | 1 |
| Vocational Education | 10 | 20% | 2 |
| Bachelor's Degree | 7 | 14% | 3 |
| Postgraduate Degree | 0 | 0% | 4 |
| Total | 50 | 100% | |

The high proportion of respondents with a high school education or below highlights the urgent need for targeted interventions and inclusive policies aimed at improving educational opportunities and outcomes for individuals with disabilities, particularly those from marginalized communities and rural areas.

Furthermore, 20% of respondents reported having received vocational education, indicating a significant segment of the sample population with specialized skills training and practical knowledge. Vocational education plays a crucial role in providing individuals with disabilities with the necessary skills and competencies to enter the workforce and pursue meaningful employment opportunities. However, disparities may exist in access to vocational training programs and support services, particularly for individuals from low-income backgrounds or those facing multiple forms of discrimination. Addressing these disparities requires comprehensive strategies that prioritize inclusive vocational education initiatives and provide adequate support to enable individuals with disabilities to fully participate and succeed in the labor market.

Moreover, 14% of respondents reported having attained a bachelor's degree, suggesting a smaller yet notable proportion of individuals with disabilities in Taft Eastern Samar who have pursued higher education. While this represents a positive trend towards greater educational attainment among PWDs, challenges may persist in accessing and completing tertiary education programs, including physical barriers, lack of accommodations, and stigma. Encouraging the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in higher education institutions and providing targeted support services, such as assistive technologies and accessible learning materials, are essential steps towards ensuring equal educational opportunities and promoting the socioeconomic integration of PWDs in Taft, Eastern Samar.

It is noteworthy that no respondents reported having attained a postgraduate degree, highlighting a potential gap in access to advanced education and professional development opportunities for individuals with disabilities in Taft, Eastern Samar. Accessing postgraduate education can significantly enhance the employment prospects and socioeconomic mobility of PWDs by equipping them with specialized knowledge and skills. Addressing barriers to postgraduate education, such as financial constraints, inaccessible learning environments, and limited academic support, is critical for fostering greater inclusivity and diversity within higher education institutions and promoting the full participation of individuals with disabilities in academic and professional spheres. The educational attainment profile of respondents underscores the complex interplay of socioeconomic factors, structural barriers, and systemic inequalities that shape the educational experiences and outcomes of individuals with disabilities in Taft, Eastern Samar. Achieving meaningful progress towards inclusive education requires concerted efforts from policymakers, educators, advocates, and stakeholders to dismantle barriers, expand opportunities, and promote a culture of accessibility, equity, and empowerment within the education system. By prioritizing inclusive education initiatives and investing in the academic success and lifelong learning of individuals with disabilities, Taft, Eastern Samar can build a more inclusive and equitable society where all individuals have the opportunity to reach their full potential, regardless of their educational background or disability status.

Employment Status

Table 4. *Demographic Profile of the Respondents in terms of Employment Status*

| <i>Educational Attainment</i> | <i>Frequency</i> | <i>Percentage</i> | <i>Ranking</i> |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Employed | 3 | 6% | 3 |
| Unemployed | 42 | 84% | 1 |
| Student | 0 | 0% | 4 |
| Retired | 5 | 10% | 2 |
| Others (please specify) | 0 | 0% | 4 |
| Total | 50 | 100% | |

The employment status profile of respondents in the study on the socioeconomic integration of PWDs in Taft, Eastern Samar reflects significant challenges and disparities in accessing and maintaining employment opportunities among individuals with disabilities in the region. The data reveal that the majority of respondents, constituting 84% of the sample population, reported being unemployed. This high proportion of unemployed individuals underscores the pervasive barriers and discrimination faced by PWDs in the labor market, including limited access to education and skills training, inaccessible workplaces, and stigma.

Furthermore, only 6% of respondents reported being employed, indicating a stark disparity between the demand for employment opportunities and the availability of jobs suitable for individuals with disabilities in Taft, Eastern Samar. Despite efforts to promote inclusive hiring practices and create supportive work environments, many PWDs continue to face systemic barriers, such as discriminatory attitudes from employers, lack of accommodations, and inadequate vocational rehabilitation services. Addressing these

barriers requires coordinated action from policymakers, employers, and civil society organizations to promote equal employment opportunities and foster inclusive workplaces that value diversity and inclusion.

Additionally, 10% of respondents reported being retired, suggesting a smaller yet notable proportion of individuals with disabilities in Taft, Eastern Samar who have exited the workforce due to age or disability-related reasons. Retirement among PWDs may be influenced by factors such as limited access to employment opportunities, workplace discrimination, and health-related challenges. Ensuring adequate social protection and support services for retired PWDs, including access to pensions, healthcare, and community-based care, is essential for promoting their socioeconomic well-being and preventing further marginalization.

The absence of respondents who identified as students or categorized themselves under "Others" indicates potential gaps in the representation of certain employment statuses among individuals with disabilities in Taft, Eastern Samar. While the reasons for these gaps are not explicitly stated in the data, possible explanations may include limited educational opportunities, lack of access to vocational training programs, or social and cultural barriers that discourage PWDs from pursuing education or alternative forms of employment. Addressing these gaps requires a multifaceted approach that combines efforts to improve educational access, expand vocational training opportunities, and challenge societal stereotypes and misconceptions about disability and employment.

The employment status profile of respondents highlights the need for comprehensive strategies to promote the socioeconomic inclusion of individuals with disabilities in Taft, Eastern Samar. This includes initiatives to improve access to education and vocational training, enhance employment support services, combat discrimination and stigma, and create inclusive workplaces that accommodate diverse abilities and talents. By addressing the systemic barriers that hinder the full participation of PWDs in the labor market, Taft, Eastern Samar can unlock the untapped potential of this diverse population and build a more inclusive and equitable society for all. Moreover, the high percentage of unemployed respondents underscores the urgency of implementing targeted interventions to address the root causes of unemployment among individuals with disabilities in Taft, Eastern Samar. Such interventions could include the development of vocational training programs tailored to the specific needs and skills of PWDs, the provision of assistive technologies and accommodations in the workplace, and the implementation of anti-discrimination laws and policies that promote inclusive hiring practices. Additionally, fostering partnerships between government agencies, private sector employers, disability organizations, and vocational rehabilitation service providers can facilitate the creation of employment opportunities and support networks for PWDs, ultimately contributing to their economic empowerment and social inclusion.

Furthermore, it is crucial to recognize the diversity within the unemployed population of PWDs and to adopt a holistic approach to address their varied needs and aspirations. For instance, some unemployed individuals with disabilities may require additional support to overcome barriers to employment, such as transportation assistance, job coaching, or financial incentives for employers who hire PWDs. Others may benefit from access to entrepreneurship training and microfinance initiatives to start their own businesses and pursue self-employment opportunities. By tailoring interventions to the unique circumstances and preferences of unemployed PWDs, Taft, Eastern Samar can foster a more inclusive and diverse workforce that harnesses the talents and contributions of individuals with disabilities to drive sustainable economic growth and social development.

The second problem of the study focuses on the assessment of the impact of inclusive policies on the socioeconomic integration of persons with disabilities.

The table below shows a significant finding regarding the impact of inclusive policies on the socioeconomic integration of persons with disabilities (PWDs), with a weighted mean of 4.01, indicating a high impact. This verbal description of "high impact" suggests that inclusive policies have played a substantial role in positively influencing the socioeconomic outcomes and overall well-being of PWDs in Taft, Eastern Samar. It implies that these policies have been effective in breaking down barriers, promoting equal opportunities, and fostering greater inclusion and participation for individuals with disabilities across various spheres of life.

One key aspect of the high impact attributed to inclusive policies is their role in facilitating greater access to education for PWDs. Inclusive education policies aim to ensure that all students, regardless of disability, have equal access to quality education in mainstream settings. By providing necessary accommodations, support services, and specialized instruction, these policies empower PWDs to acquire knowledge, skills, and qualifications necessary for personal and professional development. As education serves as a fundamental pathway to socioeconomic integration, the high impact of inclusive education policies suggests that they have been successful in promoting educational equity and enhancing the educational outcomes of PWDs in Taft, Eastern Samar.

Moreover, the high impact of inclusive policies extends to the realm of employment, where these policies have played a pivotal role in promoting greater workforce participation and economic empowerment among individuals with disabilities. Inclusive employment policies, such as affirmative action measures, reasonable accommodations, and vocational training programs, aim to create a more inclusive labor market where PWDs have equal opportunities to secure and maintain gainful employment. By incentivizing employers to hire PWDs, providing support for workplace accommodations, and offering vocational rehabilitation services, these policies help to address barriers to employment and promote greater economic independence among PWDs in Taft, Eastern Samar. Furthermore, the high impact of inclusive policies suggests that they have contributed to enhancing access to healthcare and social services for PWDs in Taft, Eastern Samar. Inclusive healthcare policies aim to ensure that individuals with disabilities have equitable access to healthcare services, including preventive care, treatment, and rehabilitation. Similarly, inclusive social policies seek to address the diverse needs



of PWDs by providing support for independent living, community participation, and social inclusion. By removing financial, physical, and attitudinal barriers to accessing healthcare and social services, inclusive policies play a crucial role in promoting the health, well-being, and social integration of PWDs in Taft, Eastern Samar.

Table 5. *Impact of Inclusive Policies on the Socioeconomic Integration of Persons with Disabilities*

| Statement Indicators | | Weighted Mean | Verbal Description |
|----------------------|--|---------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Inclusive policies are effectively implemented to accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities in our community. (Ang mga kalakip na polisiya ay maayos na isinasakatuparan upang matugunan ang mga pangangailangan ng mga taong may kapansanan sa ating komunidad.) | 3.58 | High Impact |
| 2. | Inclusive policies ensure that public transportation is accessible for persons with disabilities. (Ang mga kalakip na polisiya ay nagtitiyak na ang pampublikong transportasyon ay accessible para sa mga taong may kapansanan.) | 4.12 | High Impact |
| 3. | Inclusive policies provide accessible public spaces (e.g., parks, government buildings) for persons with disabilities. (Ang mga kalakip na polisiya ay nagbibigay ng mga lugar sa pampublikong espasyo na may aksesibilidad (halimbawa, mga parke, gusali ng gobyerno) para sa mga taong may kapansanan.) | 3.90 | High Impact |
| 4. | Inclusive policies promote equal opportunities for persons with disabilities in education. (Ang mga kalakip na polisiya ay nagtataguyod ng pantay-pantay na mga pagkakataon para sa mga taong may kapansanan sa edukasyon.) | 3.77 | High Impact |
| 5. | Inclusive policies facilitate the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the workforce. (Ang mga kalakip na polisiya ay nagpapadali ng pagsasama ng mga taong may kapansanan sa hanapbuhay.) | 4.72 | High Impact |
| Total Mean | | 4.01 | High Impact |

Additionally, the high impact of inclusive policies may also reflect their broader influence on fostering a culture of inclusivity, diversity, and respect for human rights in society. Inclusive policies not only address the specific needs and rights of PWDs but also contribute to promoting a more inclusive and equitable society for all. By challenging discriminatory attitudes, promoting awareness and understanding of disability issues, and upholding the principles of equality and non-discrimination, inclusive policies help to create a more welcoming and supportive environment for PWDs and contribute to building a more just and inclusive society in Taft, Eastern Samar.

Furthermore, the high impact attributed to inclusive policies underscores the importance of continued efforts to strengthen and expand these policies to further enhance the socioeconomic integration of PWDs in Taft, Eastern Samar. While progress has been made in implementing inclusive policies, challenges and gaps remain in ensuring their effective implementation and enforcement. It is essential for policymakers, stakeholders, and advocates to work collaboratively to address these challenges, identify areas for improvement, and develop strategies to enhance the impact and reach of inclusive policies in promoting the rights and well-being of PWDs in Taft, Eastern Samar.

The high impact of inclusive policies on the socioeconomic integration of PWDs in Taft, Eastern Samar signifies their transformative potential in promoting equality, inclusion, and empowerment for individuals with disabilities. By addressing systemic barriers, fostering greater access to education, employment, healthcare, and social services, and promoting a culture of inclusivity and respect, inclusive policies play a critical role in advancing the rights and dignity of PWDs and building a more inclusive and equitable society for all.

The third problem of the study focuses on the assessment of the impact of social support on the socioeconomic integration of persons with disabilities.

The table above shows a significant finding regarding the impact of social support on the socioeconomic integration of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Taft, Eastern Samar, with a weighted mean of 3.95, indicating a high impact. This suggests that social support mechanisms play a crucial role in facilitating the integration of PWDs into various aspects of society in the region. This verbal description of "high impact" underscores the significant influence that social support networks and services have on the lives of PWDs, contributing to their overall well-being, access to opportunities, and participation in community life.

One notable aspect of the high impact attributed to social support is its role in promoting mental health and emotional well-being among PWDs. Social support networks, including family, friends, peers, and support groups, provide a vital source of emotional encouragement, validation, and companionship for individuals with disabilities. By offering empathy, understanding, and solidarity, social support helps to mitigate the negative effects of stigma, discrimination, and isolation often experienced by PWDs, thereby promoting their mental health resilience and overall psychological well-being. Moreover, social support plays a crucial role in facilitating access to information, resources, and services for PWDs in Taft, Eastern Samar. Supportive networks serve as valuable sources of information about available supports, entitlements, and opportunities, helping PWDs navigate complex systems and access essential services, such as healthcare, education, employment, and community-based programs. By providing guidance, advocacy, and

practical assistance, social support networks empower PWDs to overcome barriers, make informed decisions, and achieve their goals, thus enhancing their socioeconomic integration and quality of life.

Table 6. *Impact of Social Support on the Socioeconomic Integration of Persons with Disabilities*

| <i>Statement Indicators</i> | | <i>Weighted Mean</i> | <i>Verbal Description</i> |
|-----------------------------|---|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 6. | I receive adequate emotional support from my family and friends. (Nakakatanggap ako ng sapat na emosyonal na suporta mula sa aking pamilya at mga kaibigan.) | 4.44 | High Impact |
| 7. | My community is welcoming and inclusive towards persons with disabilities. (Ang aking komunidad ay malugod at bukas-palad sa mga taong may kapansanan.) | 4.18 | High Impact |
| 8. | There are support groups or organizations that assist persons with disabilities in our community. (May mga grupo ng suporta o organisasyon na tumutulong sa mga taong may kapansanan sa aming komunidad.) | 3.92 | High Impact |
| 9. | I feel respected and valued by my peers and neighbors. (Ako ay kinikilala at pinahalalagan ng aking mga kasamahan at mga kapitbahay.) | 3.50 | High Impact |
| 10. | I can rely on others for practical help when needed (e.g., transportation, daily tasks). (Maaari akong umasa sa iba para sa praktikal na tulong kapag kinakailangan (halimbawa, sa transportasyon, pang-araw-araw na gawain).) | 3.71 | High Impact |
| Total Mean | | 3.95 | High Impact |

Furthermore, social support networks serve as important platforms for peer learning, skill-building, and empowerment among PWDs in Taft, Eastern Samar. Through interactions with peers who share similar experiences and challenges, individuals with disabilities can gain valuable insights, knowledge, and strategies for overcoming barriers and achieving their goals. Peer support groups, mentoring programs, and self-help networks provide opportunities for PWDs to learn from each other, develop new skills, build confidence, and foster a sense of empowerment and self-efficacy, all of which contribute to their socioeconomic integration and success. Additionally, social support networks play a vital role in fostering social inclusion and community participation among PWDs in Taft, Eastern Samar. By providing opportunities for socialization, recreation, and engagement in community activities, supportive networks help PWDs build meaningful relationships, develop social connections, and contribute to the social fabric of their communities. Through participation in social, cultural, and recreational activities, PWDs can break down stereotypes, challenge stigma, and promote greater acceptance and understanding of disability, thus fostering a more inclusive and cohesive society.

Moreover, the high impact of social support suggests that these networks can serve as a buffer against the negative effects of socioeconomic disadvantage and adversity experienced by PWDs in Taft, Eastern Samar. Supportive relationships and networks offer a source of resilience, strength, and hope in the face of challenges, helping PWDs cope with stress, adversity, and uncertainty. By providing emotional, instrumental, and informational support, social support networks empower PWDs to navigate difficult circumstances, access resources, and pursue their goals, thus promoting their socioeconomic integration and well-being.

Furthermore, the high impact of social support underscores the importance of investing in and strengthening supportive networks and services for PWDs in Taft, Eastern Samar. This includes initiatives to promote peer support programs, family-centered services, community-based organizations, and accessible social and recreational opportunities that facilitate social connections and inclusion for PWDs. By enhancing the availability, accessibility, and quality of social support networks, Taft, Eastern Samar can foster a more supportive and inclusive environment that empowers PWDs to thrive and contribute to their communities. The high impact of social support on the socioeconomic integration of persons with disabilities in Taft, Eastern Samar underscores the pivotal role of supportive networks and services in fostering inclusion, empowerment, and well-being. Social support mechanisms provide vital emotional, informational, and practical assistance to individuals with disabilities, helping them navigate barriers, access resources, and participate fully in society. By promoting mental health resilience, facilitating access to information and services, fostering peer learning and empowerment, and enhancing social inclusion and community participation, social support networks contribute significantly to the socioeconomic integration and quality of life of persons with disabilities in Taft, Eastern Samar.

The second problem of the study focuses on the assessment of the impact of accessibility infrastructure on the socioeconomic integration of persons with disabilities.

The table above shows a significant finding regarding the impact of accessibility infrastructure on the socioeconomic integration of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Taft, Eastern Samar, with a weighted mean of 3.85, indicating a high impact. This verbal description of "high impact" suggests that accessibility infrastructure plays a crucial role in facilitating the integration of PWDs into various aspects of society in the region. It implies that investments in accessible infrastructure have a substantial influence on the ability of PWDs to access opportunities, participate in community life, and achieve meaningful socioeconomic outcomes.

One key aspect of the high impact attributed to accessibility infrastructure is its role in promoting physical accessibility and mobility for PWDs. Accessible infrastructure, including ramps, curb cuts, accessible public transportation, and barrier-free buildings, helps to remove physical barriers and obstacles that hinder the mobility and independence of PWDs. By providing accessible pathways,



transportation options, and facilities, accessible infrastructure enables PWDs to navigate their environments safely, efficiently, and independently, thereby enhancing their ability to access education, employment, healthcare, and social services. Moreover, accessibility infrastructure contributes to fostering greater social inclusion and participation among PWDs in Taft, Eastern Samar. Accessible public spaces, recreational facilities, and cultural venues create opportunities for PWDs to engage in social, cultural, and recreational activities, thereby promoting their social connections, community involvement, and sense of belonging. By ensuring that public spaces and facilities are inclusive and welcoming to all, accessible infrastructure helps to break down social barriers, challenge stigma, and promote greater acceptance and understanding of disability, fostering a more inclusive and cohesive society.

Table 7. *Impact of Accessibility Infrastructure on the Socioeconomic Integration of Persons with Disabilities*

| <i>Statement Indicators</i> | <i>Weighted Mean</i> | <i>Verbal Description</i> |
|---|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 11. Public buildings and facilities in our area have accessible ramps and entrances. (Ang mga pampublikong gusali at pasilidad sa aming lugar ay may mga rampa at mga pasilidad para sa mga taong may kapansanan.) | 4.09 | High Impact |
| 12. Sidewalks and pedestrian paths are wheelchair-friendly and safe for persons with disabilities. (Ang mga bangketa at mga daanan para sa mga pedestrian ay kaaya-aya at ligtas para sa mga taong may kapansanan at mga gumagamit ng wheelchair.) | 4.56 | High Impact |
| 13. Public restrooms are equipped with facilities for persons with disabilities. (Ang mga pampublikong restroom ay may mga pasilidad para sa mga taong may kapansanan.) | 3.85 | High Impact |
| 14. There are accessible parking spaces designated for persons with disabilities. (May mga espasyo para sa mga taong may kapansanan sa mga parking lot.) | 3.42 | High Impact |
| 15. Public transportation is equipped with features to assist persons with disabilities (e.g., ramps, priority seating). (Ang pampublikong transportasyon ay may mga tampok na tumutulong sa mga taong may kapansanan (halimbawa, mga rampa, priority seating).) | 3.33 | High Impact |
| Total Mean | 3.85 | High Impact |

Furthermore, accessible infrastructure plays a crucial role in promoting economic opportunities and participation for PWDs in Taft, Eastern Samar. Accessible workplaces, business establishments, and commercial areas enable PWDs to access employment opportunities, goods, and services, thereby promoting their economic independence and self-sufficiency. Additionally, accessible transportation infrastructure, such as accessible public transportation and transportation hubs, facilitates the commuting and mobility of PWDs to and from work, school, and other destinations, enhancing their access to employment, education, and community resources.

Additionally, the high impact of accessibility infrastructure suggests that these investments can yield significant societal benefits beyond the disability community. Accessible infrastructure not only benefits PWDs but also older adults, parents with young children, and individuals with temporary injuries or mobility impairments. By creating environments that are accessible and inclusive to all, accessible infrastructure promotes universal design principles and contributes to building more livable, equitable, and resilient communities for everyone. Moreover, the high impact of accessibility infrastructure underscores the importance of continued investments and efforts to enhance accessibility in taft, Eastern Samar. This includes initiatives to improve the accessibility of public spaces, transportation systems, buildings, and facilities, as well as promoting awareness and understanding of accessibility issues among policymakers, planners, architects, and the general public. By prioritizing accessibility and adopting universal design principles in urban planning and development, Taft, Eastern Samar can create more inclusive and accessible environments that empower PWDs to fully participate and contribute to society.

Conclusions

The demographic profile of respondents reveals a diverse representation of age groups, educational backgrounds, and employment statuses among PWDs, highlighting the varied experiences and challenges faced by individuals with disabilities in the region. Despite these challenges, the study demonstrates the significant impact of inclusive policies, social support mechanisms, and accessibility infrastructure on the socioeconomic outcomes and quality of life for PWDs in Taft, Eastern Samar.

The high impact of inclusive policies underscores the importance of promoting equal rights, access, and participation for PWDs through legislative, regulatory, and programmatic measures. Inclusive policies have been instrumental in improving access to education, employment, healthcare, and social services for PWDs, thus fostering greater inclusion and empowerment in the region. Similarly, the high impact of social support mechanisms highlights the vital role of supportive networks and services in promoting mental health resilience, access to resources, peer learning, social inclusion, and community participation for PWDs in Taft, Eastern Samar. Investments in social support programs, family-centered services, and community-based organizations are essential for strengthening supportive networks and fostering greater well-being and empowerment among PWDs.

Furthermore, the high impact of accessibility infrastructure underscores the importance of creating environments that are accessible, inclusive, and welcoming to all individuals, regardless of ability. Investments in accessible infrastructure, including ramps, curb cuts,

accessible transportation, and barrier-free buildings, promote physical accessibility and mobility, social inclusion, economic opportunities, and universal design principles, thus creating more livable, equitable, and resilient communities for PWDs and the broader community. Addressing the multifaceted challenges facing PWDs in Taft, Eastern Samar requires comprehensive strategies that prioritize inclusive policies, strengthen social support networks, and enhance accessibility infrastructure to foster greater inclusion, empowerment, and well-being for individuals with disabilities in the region. By promoting equal rights, access, and participation and creating environments that are accessible and supportive, Taft, Eastern Samar can build a more inclusive and equitable society where all individuals, regardless of ability, have the opportunity to thrive and contribute fully to their communities.

Based on the conclusions drawn above, the following are the recommendations of this study.

Implement policies and initiatives to ensure equal access to quality education for PWDs at all levels. This includes providing accommodations, support services, and specialized instruction to meet the diverse learning needs of PWDs and promote their educational attainment.

Expand vocational training programs and employment support services tailored to the specific needs and skills of PWDs. Provide opportunities for skills development, job training, and job placement assistance to facilitate greater workforce participation and economic empowerment among PWDs.

Invest in the development and improvement of accessibility infrastructure, including ramps, curb cuts, accessible transportation, and barrier-free buildings, to promote physical accessibility and mobility for PWDs in public spaces, workplaces, educational institutions, and community facilities.

Promote the development of supportive networks and services, including peer support groups, family-centered services, and community-based organizations, to provide emotional encouragement, practical assistance, and social inclusion for PWDs.

Conduct awareness campaigns and educational initiatives to challenge stigma, dispel misconceptions, and promote understanding and acceptance of disability issues among policymakers, employers, service providers, and the general public.

Strengthen the implementation and enforcement of inclusive policies, including disability rights laws, accessibility standards, and employment quotas, to ensure that PWDs have equal rights, access, and opportunities in all aspects of life.

Foster collaboration and partnership among government agencies, civil society organizations, disability advocacy groups, and private sector stakeholders to coordinate efforts, share resources, and leverage expertise in advancing the rights and well-being of PWDs in Taft, Eastern Samar.

References

- Bevelander, P., & Veenman, J. (2006). Naturalization and socioeconomic integration: The case of the Netherlands.
- Bezyak, J., Sabella, S., Hammel, J., McDonald, K., Jones, R., & Barton, D. (2020). Community participation and public transportation barriers experienced by people with disabilities. *Disability and Rehabilitation*, 42, 3275 - 3283. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09638288.2019.1590469>.
- Billote, W. J. S., Ponce, R., Ponce, T. E., Arca, J. M., Cabrito, Ma. K. C., Candel, C. J., Dasig, C., Gato, L. J., Regidor, I. N., & Zabala, V. J. (2022). Issues and Challenges Faced by Persons with Disabilities in Basco, Batanes. *JPAIR Multidisciplinary Research*, 48(1), 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.7719/jpair.v48i1.401>
- Brears, R.C. (2022). Rural Areas. In *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Urban and Regional Futures*. Palgrave Macmillan. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-030-87745-3_300579
- Bronfenbrenner, U. (1994). Ecological models of human development. *International encyclopedia of education*, 3(2), 37-43.
- Campillay-Campillay, M., Calle-Carrasco, A., Dubó, P., Moraga-Rodríguez, J., Coss-Mandiola, J., Vanegas-López, J., Rojas, A., & Carrasco, R. (2022). Accessibility in People with Disabilities in Primary Healthcare Centers: A Dimension of the Quality of Care. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 19. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph191912439>
- Cruz, J. P. P. (2018). Disability-inclusive electoral systems: analyzing the Philippine electoral policy using the disability convention (DisCo) policy framework. *Bandung: Journal of the Global South*, 2(1), 1–17. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40728-015-0020-z>
- Dela Cruz, J. M. M. (2023). Human Resource Management Practices on Inclusive Employment for Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) in the Philippines. *International Journal of Multidisciplinary: Applied Business and Education Research*, 4(1), 263–270. <https://doi.org/10.11594/ijmaber.04.01.24>
- DeMatthews, D., Billingsley, B., McLeskey, J., & Sharma, U. (2020). Principal leadership for students with disabilities in effective inclusive schools. *Journal of Educational Administration*, 58, 539-554. <https://doi.org/10.1108/jea-10-2019-0177>.
- Destyani, A., Ghazali, A., Harizta, A., & Nashori, H. (2020). Social Support, Gratitude and Psychological Well-Being of Persons with

Disabilities. Proceedings of the 1st International Conference on Religion and Mental Health, ICRMH 2019, 18 - 19 September 2019, Jakarta, Indonesia. <https://doi.org/10.4108/eai.18-9-2019.2293369>

Ebuenyi, I., Ham, A., Bunders-Aelen, J., & Regeer, B. (2019). Expectations management; employer perspectives on opportunities for improved employment of persons with mental disabilities in Kenya*. *Disability and Rehabilitation*, 42, 1687 - 1696. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09638288.2018.1534006>.

Egorov, E. E., Semakhin, E. A., Romanovskaya, E. V., Smirnova, Z. V., Andryashina, N. S., Semenov, S. V., & Provalenova, N. V. (2019). Ensuring the accessibility of hospitality services and public catering for persons with disabilities of health. *International Journal of Innovative Technology and Exploring Engineering*, 8(12), 1746-1750.

House, J. S., Umberson, D., & Landis, K. R. (1988). Structures and processes of social support. *Annual review of sociology*, 14(1), 293-318.

Hunt, X., Bradshaw, M., Vogel, S. L., Encalada, A. V., Eksteen, S., Schneider, M., Chunga, K., & Swartz, L. (2022). Community Support for Persons with Disabilities in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A Scoping Review. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 19(14), 8269. <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/19/14/8269/pdf?version=1657112630>

Imbong, M. F., & Pielago, M. (2021). Lived Experiences on Employment of Persons with Disability in Mandaue City, Cebu, Philippines. [URL]

Inui, Y., Ogawa, T., Tanaka, Y., Hayashida, K., & Morioka, S. (2022). Relationship between exercise motivation and social support in a support facility for persons with disabilities in Japan. *Annals of Medicine*, 54(1), 820–829. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07853890.2022.2049860>

Järnhammer, A., Andersson, B., Wagle, P., & Magnusson, L. (2018). Living as a person using a lower-limb prosthesis in Nepal. *Disability and Rehabilitation*, 40, 1426 - 1433. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09638288.2017.1300331>.

Jespersen, L., Michelsen, S., Tjørnhøj-Thomsen, T., Svensson, M., Holstein, B., & Due, P. (2019). Living with a disability: a qualitative study of associations between social relations, social participation and quality of life. *Disability and Rehabilitation*, 41, 1275 - 1286. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09638288.2018.1424949>.

Khayatzadeh-Mahani, A., Wittevrongel, K., Nicholas, D., & Zwicker, J. (2020). Prioritizing barriers and solutions to improve employment for persons with developmental disabilities. *Disability and Rehabilitation*, 42, 2696 - 2706. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09638288.2019.1570356>.

Kondratenko, V., Manzhula, A., & Sobol, Y. (2020). The Current Factors of Ensuring the Activities of Public Administration Regarding the System of Social Adaptation of Children with Disabilities. *Türk-Alman-Kazak Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi*, 9(1).

Labbé, D., Mortenson, W., Rushton, P., Demers, L., & Miller, W. (2018). Mobility and participation among ageing powered wheelchair users: using a lifecourse approach. *Ageing and Society*, 40, 626 - 642. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0144686X18001228>.

Maebara, K., Yaeda, J., Imai, A., & Yamada, Y. (2022). Support Needs and Service Provision for Social Participation of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities. *Journal of Intellectual Disability - Diagnosis and Treatment*, 10(6), 283–292. <https://doi.org/10.6000/2292-2598.2022.10.06.2>

Mayordomo-Martínez, D., Carrillo-de-Gea, J., García-Mateos, G., García-Berná, J., Fernández-Alemán, J., Rosero-López, S., Parada-Sarabia, S., & García-Hernández, M. (2019). Sustainable Accessibility: A Mobile App for Helping People with Disabilities to Search Accessible Shops. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 16. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph16040620>.

Mela, A. (2014). Urban Areas. In: Michalos, A.C. (eds) *Encyclopedia of Quality of Life and Well-Being Research*. Springer, Dordrecht. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-007-0753-5_3122

Michalos, A.C. (2014). Impact Assessment. In *Encyclopedia of Quality of Life and Well-Being Research*. Springer. DOI: 10.1007/978-94-007-0753-5_101929

Oliver, M. (2013). The social model of disability: Thirty years on. *Disability & society*, 28(7), 1024-1026.

Pagán, R. (2020). Gender and Age Differences in Loneliness: Evidence for People without and with Disabilities. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 17. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph17249176>.

Pal, J., Chandra, P., O'Neill, T., Youngman, M., Jones, J., Song, J. H., ... & Ferrari, L. (2016). An accessibility infrastructure for the Global South. In *Proceedings of the Eighth International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development* (pp. 1-11).

Peters, M.A. (2017). *Community Engagement*. *Encyclopedia of Educational Philosophy and Theory*. Springer.

Polack, S., Scherer, N., Yonso, H., Volkan, S., Pivato, I., Shaikhani, A., Boggs, D., Beck, A., Atijosan-Ayodele, O., Deniz, G., Örüci,

- A., Akinci, İ., Hameed, S., Acarturk, C., & Patterson, A. (2021). Disability among Syrian refugees living in Sultanbeyli, Istanbul: Results from a population-based survey. *PLoS ONE*, 16. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0259249>.
- Ramli, R., Yaacob N., & Zainol, R. (2022). Walkability Assessment of First Mile Last Mile Public Transport System of Neighborhood in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and Singapore for Persons with Disabilities: A Comparative Study. *Journal of Design and Built Environment*, 22(3), 1–22. <https://doi.org/10.22452/jdbe.vol22no3.1>
- Rector, K. (2018). Enhancing Accessibility and Engagement for Those with Disabilities. *IEEE Pervasive Computing*, 17, 9-12. <https://doi.org/10.1109/MPRV.2018.011591056>.
- Rotas, E. E., & Cahapay, M. (2021). Managing the Mental Health of Persons with Disabilities amid the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Philippines: Specific Factors and Key Actions. *European Journal of Environment and Public Health*, 5(2), em0077. <https://doi.org/10.21601/ejeph/10954>
- Salvio, K. B. V. (2020). Extending the Evaluation on Philippine E-Government Services on its Accessibility for Disabled Person. In 2020 Fourth World Conference on Smart Trends in Systems, Security and Sustainability (WorldS4) (pp. 10.1109/WorldS450073.2020.9210374). <https://doi.org/10.1109/WorldS450073.2020.9210374>
- Stetten, N., LeBeau, K., Aguirre, M., Vogt, A., Quintana, J., Jennings, A., & Hart, M. (2019). Analyzing the Communication Interchange of Individuals With Disabilities Utilizing Facebook, Discussion Forums, and Chat Rooms: Qualitative Content Analysis of Online Disabilities Support Groups. *JMIR Rehabilitation and Assistive Technologies*, 6. <https://doi.org/10.2196/12667>.
- Stjernborg, V. (2019). Accessibility for All in Public Transport and the Overlooked (Social) Dimension—A Case Study of Stockholm. *Sustainability*. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su11184902>.
- Stolerman, I.P., & Price, L.H. (2015). Quality of Life. In *Encyclopedia of Psychopharmacology*. Springer, Berlin, Heidelberg. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-642-36172-2_200573
- Teramura, A., Hamada, K., & Yamamoto, S. (2021). Social Participation of People with Intellectual Disabilities in Rural Areas of the Philippines. *Asian Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 17(1), 83. <https://doi.org/10.11596/asiajot.17.83>
- United Nations. (2007). Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2007). Available <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/rights/convtexte.htm> (accessed 30th Dec 2014)
- Vega, R., Molton, I., Miró, J., Smith, A., & Jensen, M. (2019). Changes in perceived social support predict changes in depressive symptoms in adults with physical disability. *Disability and health journal*, 12 2, 214-219. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dhjo.2018.09.005>.
- Velasco, J. V., Obnial, J. C., Pastrana, A., Ang, H. K., Viacrusis, P. M., & Lucero-Prisno III, D. E. (2021). COVID-19 and persons with disabilities in the Philippines: A policy analysis. *Health Promotion Perspectives*, 11(3), 299–306. <https://doi.org/10.34172/hpp.2021.38>
- Velasco, J. V., Obnial, J. C., Pastrana, A., Ang, H. K., Viacrusis, P. M., & Lucero-Prisno III, D. E. (2021). COVID-19 and persons with disabilities in the Philippines: A policy analysis. *Health Promotion Perspectives*, 11(3), 299–306. <https://doi.org/10.34172/hpp.2021.38>
- Viktorovich, D. V. (2021). Problems of physical accessibility of components of a tourism product for persons with disabilities. *Journal For Educators, Teachers and Trainers*, 12(01), 007. <https://doi.org/10.47750/jett.2021.12.01.007>
- Villamero, R., & Kamenopoulou, L. (2018). Teachers' Assessment Strategies for Children with Disabilities: A Constructivist Study in Mainstream Primary Schools in Negros Oriental, Philippines., 81-107. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-72829-2_4.
- Vlachou, A. (2004). Education and inclusive policy-making: Implications for research and practice. *International Journal of Inclusive Education*, 8(1), 3-21.
- Кучер, Г. (2020). PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS AND UNIONS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AS SUBJECTS OF PROVIDING SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES MEANS OF INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY TOURISM. *Social work and social education*, 5(2020). <http://srso.udpu.edu.ua/article/download/220819/220465>

Affiliations and Corresponding Information

Hendrick A. Dacuyan

Lipa City Colleges – Philippines

Dr. Lelanie D. Perido

Lipa City Colleges – Philippines