

## DSD/JICA Project on Disability



Department of Social Development (DSD) / Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)  
Project for the Promotion of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Disability Mainstreaming

### Disability Awareness Activity and Access Check were conducted in the High school in Limpopo!

The project team conducted disability awareness activity and access check at Hlalukweni high school in Collins Chabane municipality, Limpopo province on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2019. The activity was coordinated and realised by the members of Self-Help Groups of persons with disabilities which were established with the support of the project.



[Photo] Facilitator asked "Where is disability?"

Around 100 students participated in disability awareness activities. 7 persons with disabilities trained by the project facilitated the session to consider "What is disability?", "Where is disability?" and "How to remove disability?" with students. In the exercise to consider "Where is disability" by using the drawing where there are steps in front of a boy using wheelchair who cannot enter the classroom, students put a post-it where they thought there is disability. When a student put a post-it on a teacher in the drawing, students laughed and got

excited. The teachers who participated in the exercise said that if there were students with disabilities, teachers, students and everyone should support him/her. The classroom was wrapped in the round of applause when teacher put post-it on both teacher and student of the drawing. While students are enjoying, they seemed to notice that disability is in the environment and people's attitude.



[Photo] Person with disability explained the necessity of the ramp at the entrance

Then, members of Self-Help Groups, some students and teachers conducted accessibility check of the school. Through the access check, the following points were identified: there is no ramp, there is a toilet for wheelchair user but it is locked and cannot use, there is no accessible parking, information on the signage are too small and unclear, etc. Those findings were shared to the principle and school stakeholders. The principle welcomed the visitation of the members of Self-Help Groups and promised to improve accessibility of the school.

## Access auditor training was conducted in KwaZulu Natal!

The project team conducted the access auditor training targeting working group members from 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> October 2019 in KwaZulu Natal province. On the 1<sup>st</sup> day, the programme is on the legislative framework of South Africa including the White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (WPRPD) and the concepts on accessibility such as reasonable accommodation, universal design, etc. presented by the official of the Department of Social Development (DSD). After that, participants considered practical examples of barriers on accessibility such as attitude, information and communication, transportation, etc. through video analysis and sharing experiences of persons with disabilities and discussed how to improve the situations in their community.



[Photo] Ms Manthipi, Director (Centre front) presented on the legislative framework.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> day, participants learnt accessibility on the built environment through the lecture on the accessibility standard of South Africa and practice of access check. As a result of the access check, participants identified that there is no accessible parking space and no door handle installed to the accessible toilet, etc. at the training venue, DSD Mandeni office.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, participants were divided into 2 groups and conducted access check in community, the one group visited Mthiyane special school and the

other group visited the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) Mandeni office. Through the programme containing theory and practice of accessibility, participants learnt how to check accessibility with diverse perspectives.



[Photo] Participants checked the accessibility of toilet at the training venue.

## What was changed after the training!

DSD Mandeni took actions to improve accessibility of their office after the training immediately. They installed accessible parking and replaced the signage with large font by a small budget. The DSD staff painted parking lines to make accessible parking. An NGO which has a color printer supported the DSD to print new signage. Participants continue to conduct access check in community by utilising knowledge obtained in the training.



[Photo] Accessible parking painted by office staff

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