Inclusive Approaches for Engaging Youth with Disabilities

YouthPower Learning

Youth Engagement
Community of Practice

August 28, 2018

Advancing solutions to transform the lives of young people

YouthPower Learning
Advancing solutions to improve young lives

- **YouthPower Learning** advances solutions through integrated research and development programs to improve the capacity of youth-led and youth-serving institutions.

- *By engaging youth, their families, communities, and governments in innovative programs, we build young people's skills, assets, and competencies; foster healthy relationships; strengthen the enabling environment; and transform systems.*

What is Positive Youth Development (PYD)?

PYD programs recognize youth's inherent rights and result in youth who have **assets**, the ability to leverage those assets (**agency**), and the ability to **contribute** to positive change for themselves and their communities, surrounded by an **enabling environment** that supports them

http://www.youthpower.org/positive-youth-development

How can we partner together?

- Sharing Resources, Events, Information, and What Works: Learning Hub YouthPower.org

- Identifying What Works

- Measuring PYD: Indicators

- Contributing to the PYD Learning Agenda

- Engaging with the Communities of Practice:
  - Youth in Peace and Security
  - Gender and PYD
  - Youth Engagement
  - Cross-Sectoral Skills for Youth

Send resources, events, "what works" to info@youthpower.org, to be shared on the Learning Hub.

Youth Engagement Community of Practice (CoP)

Aims to provide a community where youth and youth-serving practitioners can come together to share ideas, resources, and experiences in order to promote meaningful youth engagement in all aspects of programming.

Co-champions

- Sarah Sladen, Director, Youth Economic Opportunities Network (YEO Network), Making Cents International
- Mike Sweigart, independent consultant, formerly Program Officer for Youth Participation, National Democratic Institute

Leonard Cheshire

Engaging youth with disabilities in development programmes

Phil Hanks
International Partnerships Manager
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About us

Leonard Cheshire supports individuals to live, learn and work as independently as they choose, whatever their ability.

More than **one billion** people with disabilities, 15% of the world's population, make up one of the most disadvantaged and marginalised groups within society.

Estimates suggest there are 220 million **youth with disabilities** worldwide and nearly 80% live in developing countries, and they are among some of the most marginalised in communities.

Our International Work

Programmes We deliver Inclusive Education and Economic Empowerment projects. Our projects focus on what the individual wants to achieve.

Influencing We empower people with disabilities to advocate for their rights and influence key decision makers to bring about policy change.

Research Our Leonard Cheshire Research Centre at University College London (UCL) provides us with an evidence base to improve disability policy, practice and programmes.

Influencing

2030 and Counting is Leonard Cheshire's initiative to place youth with disabilities at the **centre of development**

It brings together youth with disabilities and Disabled Persons Organisations (DPOs), starting in Kenya, the Philippines and Zambia to lead on **citizen generated data**.

This will build the evidence base for youth and DPOs to effectively **advocate for their rights** in relation to SDG 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing), SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 8 (Decent Work).

The project has three phases:

1) **Leadership and reporter training:** A centralised training for lead youth with disabilities and DPOs on leadership and citizen reporting. Followed by the recruitment and cascaded training of additional teams of youth with disabilities.

2) **Monitoring through technology:** The trained youth with disabilities will use their mobile phones to report their experiences and those of their peers and submit them to an online reporting hub.

3) **Advocacy activities**: DPOs and youth with disabilities will share their stories and data trends with duty bearers. This will be done through social media and global/national advocacy events in order to ensure disability-inclusive policies are implemented.

Economic Empowerment

In developing countries, between **80-90%** of working age people with disabilities are unemployed.

Youth with disabilities are a **key target group** of Leonard Cheshire's flagship economic empowerment programme, Access to Livelihoods, delivered with Accenture.

The programme has supported over **18,000** people with disabilities access waged of self-employment across India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan, South Africa and the Philippines.

Key features of programming

Involve youth with disabilities

Globally, one of the greatest impediments to youth with disabilities is stigma which leads to social isolation and discrimination. Our programmes are youth-led and encourage youth with disabilities to identify issues important to them and play a leading role.

Provide tailored support

Livelihoods Resource Centres empower youth with disabilities to map out their career pathways and put bespoke plans in place. There is no one size fits all solution. Different disabilities require different approaches.

Budget for Inclusion

Funding has to be an integral part of programme design. This includes costs to develop accessible materials or include personal assistants. A good estimate is 3-5% for programme costs and 1-3% for administrative costs.

Key features of programming (page 2)

Maximise digital technologies

Technology can break down barriers of participation for youth with disabilities, and through youth with disabilities increased use of social media, can influence how citizens voice their concerns.

The potential of technology is huge and will continue to increase – almost limitless reach of online technologies means people that physically can't get to a livelihoods resource centre access support.

Develop Partnerships

Working with training institutions to develop accessible vocational routes for non-academic youth with disabilities. Myth-busting with a range of employers help creates a wider pool to support stronger matches.

Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) exist in all countries and have been responsible for designing and implementing our advocacy programme.

Q&A

What can you do next?

- Contribute to the Twitter stream and spread the message of #PositiveYouthDevelopment.

- Join a YouthPower Community of Practice.

- Visit the YouthPower Learning Hub at www.YouthPower.org and use the resources, best practices, and knowledge shared.

- Send materials to post such as reports, studies, and other resources to us at info@youthpower.org.

www.YouthPower.org

Grants Under Contract

- Ten grants have been awarded to:
  - assess, evaluate, document and disseminate innovative work in **positive youth development (PYD) and cross-sectoral youth programming**.
  - advance the evidence base for **gender-transformative positive youth development**.
  - advance the evidence base for **youth civic engagement in effective peacebuilding** or in countering / prevention of violent extremism.
- **Coming soon:** Young Women Transform Prize awardees
  - www.youthpower.org/2018-prize

Thank you!

Thank you for participating in this YouthPower Learning event hosted by the Youth Engagement CoP. The recording of today's event will be shared with all registrants.

Please visit www.YouthPower.org for more.

@YPLearning   YouthPower Learning