



—AEJ—
NEXTGEN
INNOVATIONS
Inspire | Innovate | Nurture

TECHNOLOGY
FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH
DISABILITIES INDEPENDENCE



A Collective Responsibility of Innovators

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Founder & CEO, AEJ NextGen Innovations

5th NATIONAL YOUTH WORKING GROUP MEETING (NYWG),

DATE : 26th July, 2018

VENUE : Innovation Village



About AEJ NextGen Innovations



- Interdisciplinary Research and Training NGO;
- Main aim is to create and establish fruitful cooperation between culturally-diverse public entities;
- And has an objective of coordinating the effort in spreading the research, innovation and technologies (RITs) wide implementation and use.

Brief Background

- Formerly “**Consortium of Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Initiative**” or CREATECHi (June, 2015);
- Renamed following the Young African Leaders Initiative Regional Leadership Center, East Africa (YALI RLCEA) empowerment transformation (November 2016);
- **AEJ** Stands for **A**ndrew **E**botu **J**unior, the founder's names.

The Concept of Disability and Inclusion Evolution



Biomedical Model

Invisible Disabilities: identifying and bringing to light hidden disabilities like hydrocephalus, downs syndrome, epilepsy, autism spectrum disorder cystic fibrosis etc.



Our Intervention

- Revealing children with hidden disabilities – EmbraceCulture Center, Entebbe (Wakiso) as an Ambassador;
- Investigate how recurring medical problems, new/changing disabilities, and social or emotional issues can be reduced;
- Create awareness and sensitization of the existence of hidden children with disabilities amongst teachers, parents and stakeholders – **Inclusive Computer Skilling Project**



The Concept of Disability and Inclusion Evolution

Social Model

Deaf Cultural Model: building a society around deaf or Hard of Hearing who learn and speak sign language (SL) – Soroti District Deaf Association (SODDA)



Our Intervention

- Sign Language and Advocacy projects to enhance communication skills for the deaf and hard of hearing including Sign Language Interpreters;
- Enhancing participation, inclusion and promote access to services by PWDs through empowerment transformation including service providers and family members;
- Implement advocacy and lobby for PWDs friendly programmes and policies in building the capacities of local disabled leaders;



The Concept of Disability and Inclusion Evolution

Functional Autonomy Model

Inclusion obstacles:

inaccessible features, limited learning opportunities, unemployment in mainstream settings, technology



Our Intervention

- Rehabilitation Engineering (Universal Design and Access) modeling and promotion;
- Professional Executive Training in mainstream setting which has simulated a PWDs user-friendly environment;
- ICT-based Inclusive Education and Training (INET) program – first and high priority sphere of AEJNGI concerns
- Technology-driven Rehabilitation and Accessibility (TEDRA) program – second priority sphere of AEJNGI concern



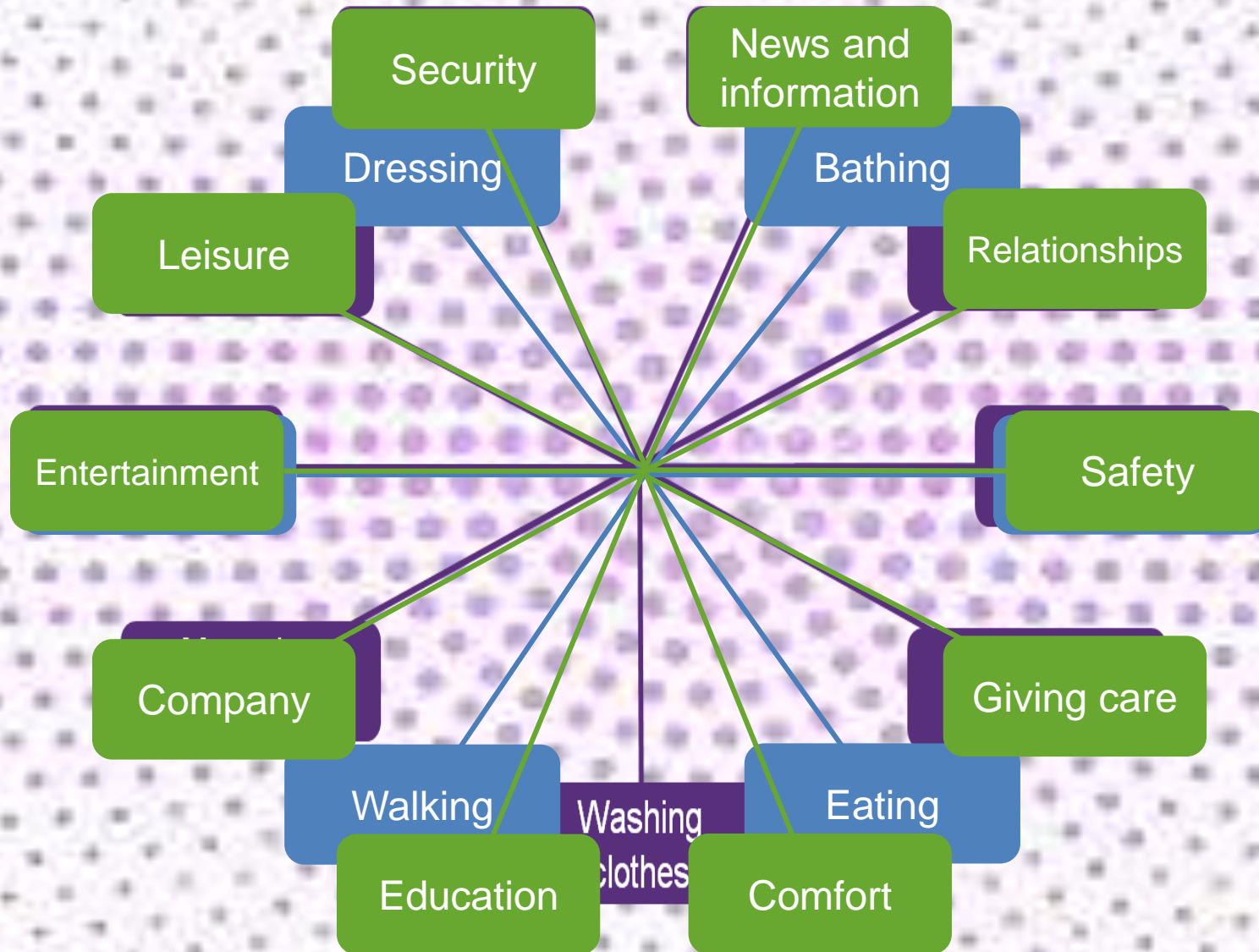
Learning Objectives



- Realise that technology is all around us and used to make life safer and easier for **everyone** including PWDs;
- Understand why we need to consider the use of technology to help PWDs to live fulfilling lives;
- Be inspired by the ways that different services and products can be used to support independent living;
- Be able to recognise different options for support using technology based on a person-centred approach;
- Find out about local service provision and referral routes;
- Be aware of future developments and how to keep up to date with the latest developments.



Independent Living – The Key Aspects



Evidence Basis



● **Assistive Technology**; devices or systems that help people to get on with their lives by helping them to:

- Perform tasks more easily, make tasks or activities safer, help carers provide care at a needed, reduce anxiety for PWDs and their carers, improve independence and enhance quality of life, give individuals the confidence to get on with their lives;

● **Smart Homes** was coined to include control and automation of lighting, heating, ventilation, air conditioning and security as well as home appliances.

● **Our Design Experience**

- As a StartUp trying to gain momentum, AEJNGI with an existing entrepreneurial management there is still lack of entrepreneurial skills among some company members;
- With a sustainable strategic plan there is still lack of access to technological based facilities including funding and sponsorship opportunities from the public sector;



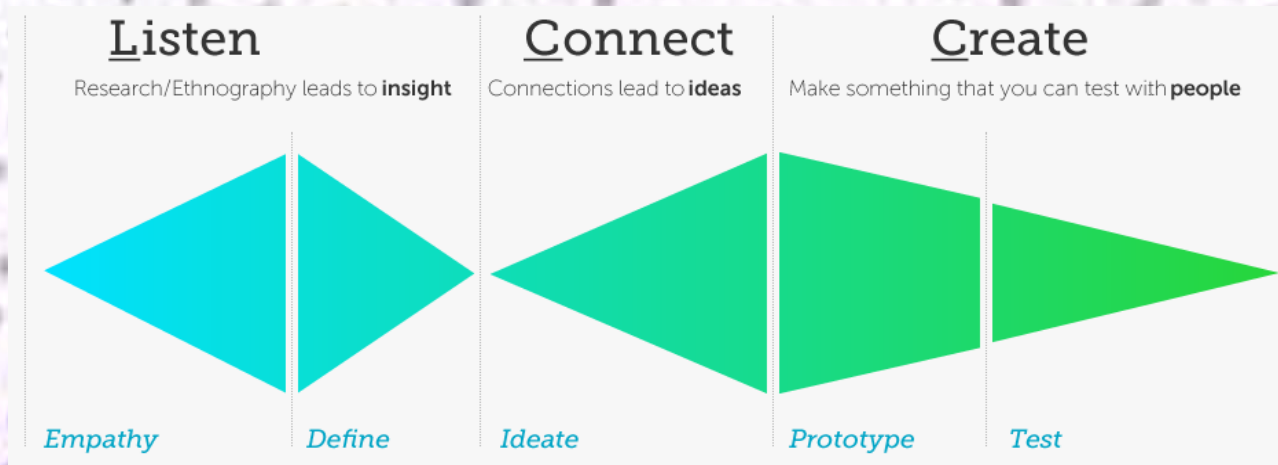
The Innovator's Perspective



- “The enterprise that does not innovate ages and declines. And in a period of rapid change such as the present – the decline will be fast.” – **Peter Drucker**
- **Our Approach – AEJNGI Enterprise Architecture**
- **Human-Centred Design** (Design Driven Entrepreneurship) generated our innovative and inclusive **Business Model**.
- Social innovations as new **strategies, concepts, ideas** and **organizations** aimed to meet **social** needs of all kinds – from **working conditions** and **education** to **community development** and **health** – to extend and strengthen **civil society**.
- Create **affordable access to quality products/services** and **ability to create livelihood opportunities** for the excluded population, primarily at the base of the pyramid, and on a long term sustainable basis with a significant outreach.



The Design Process



- To cater for everyone effectively, support their ability to live independently, derive equal opportunities can be accomplished;
- AEJNGI Enterprise Architecture is field-specific, interoperable, inclusive and innovative;
- Participatory Action Research - the heart of the process and in mainstream settings is part of the incubation;



Research Findings



● The Case Studies

AEJNGI projections for addressing inclusive ecosystem issues:

- ICT Capacity Building Program (ICT-P);
- NextGen Business Learning Ecosystem (NBLE), INET program;

● Key Facts

- 43% hidden disabled children in Uganda, source: E3Africa; what are we doing to end this prevalence?
- 2/3 constitutes unemployed PWDs in Uganda; estimate; what criteria do we have in place to curb it?
- Most outdated business model are not inclusive or innovative for PWDs, inaccessibility is rampant and organizations not design-driven; what can we do about it?





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Thank You Very Much!!



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