



Press Release

Embargoed 4 November 2014

Half of all Tanzanians witnessed job discrimination against people with disabilities Communities and individuals also admit to not respecting people with disabilities

4 November 2014, Dar es Salaam: Almost half of citizens (46%) report to have witnessed discrimination in employment against people with disabilities. At the same time only two out of ten (17%) know of any organisations that give preferential treatment in terms of employing people with disabilities. Among these, citizens reported that 38% are governmental institutions. Similarly citizens report knowing of school age children with disabilities who are not in school; one out of three claim this for primary school age children and two out of ten for secondary school age children.

These findings were released by Twaweza in a research brief titled *Protecting the rights of everyone: citizens' views on disabilities*. The brief is based on data from *Sauti za Wananchi*, Africa's first nationally representative high-frequency mobile phone survey that interviews households across Mainland Tanzania. Data were collected in July 2014.

The findings, based on citizens' perceptions, reveal deep rooted discrimination against people with disabilities either directly or through not making services and jobs accessible. Citizens hold patronizing attitudes towards people with disabilities. A large majority (91%) see people with disabilities as needing to be 'cared for'. Similarly one out of three citizens report viewing people with disabilities awkwardly (33%) or as getting in the way (32%). Almost half of the respondents (46%) view people with disabilities as a financial burden for their families and four out of ten (39%) view them as less productive than people without disabilities.

Despite these problematic views, a significant majority of citizens claim to view people with disabilities as the same as everyone else (62%). Citizens report that people with disabilities can hold leadership positions including in religion (88%), business (87%) and the community (85%). Moreover, six out of ten citizens (58%) believe that people with disabilities have equal opportunities.

Citizens also support proactive measures to ensure opportunities for people with disabilities. When asked about allocating seats in the National Assembly specifically reserved for people with disabilities, almost all citizens (97%) think the number should be increased, as proposed in the proposed second draft of the Constitution (29%) or increased even further (68%).

Rakesh Rajani, Head of Twaweza, noted: *"Many citizens see people with disabilities as less than complete human beings needing help. This doesn't help. We need to move away from a view of people with disabilities as victims or burdens and instead see them as differently abled, deserving of respect and entitled to the same opportunities as other citizens. That needs action on at least two fronts: One a comprehensive legal framework that reflects equal opportunity across government services and business. Second, for disability rights organizations, media and others to emphasize the capabilities of people with disabilities, highlighting what they are able to do and deserve opportunities to do, rather than their limitations."*

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Notes to Editors

- This brief and the data contained can be accessed at www.twaweza.org, or www.twaweza.org/sauti
- Twaweza is a ten year citizen-centered initiative, focusing on large-scale change in East Africa. Twaweza believes that lasting change requires bottom-up action, and seeks to foster conditions and expand opportunities through which millions of people can get information and make change happen in their own communities directly and by holding government to account.
- You can follow Twaweza's work

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