



RECOUP


The logo for RECOUP, featuring the word "RECOUP" in white capital letters on a dark blue background. The letter "O" is replaced by a white globe icon. To the right of the logo is a photograph showing a close-up of a person's face, possibly a child, looking towards the camera.

Education and Women with Disabilities

Disability, Education and Poverty Project

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The logo of the University of Cambridge, featuring a red shield with a white cross and four smaller red shields in the quadrants.

UNIVERSITY OF
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Faculty of Education

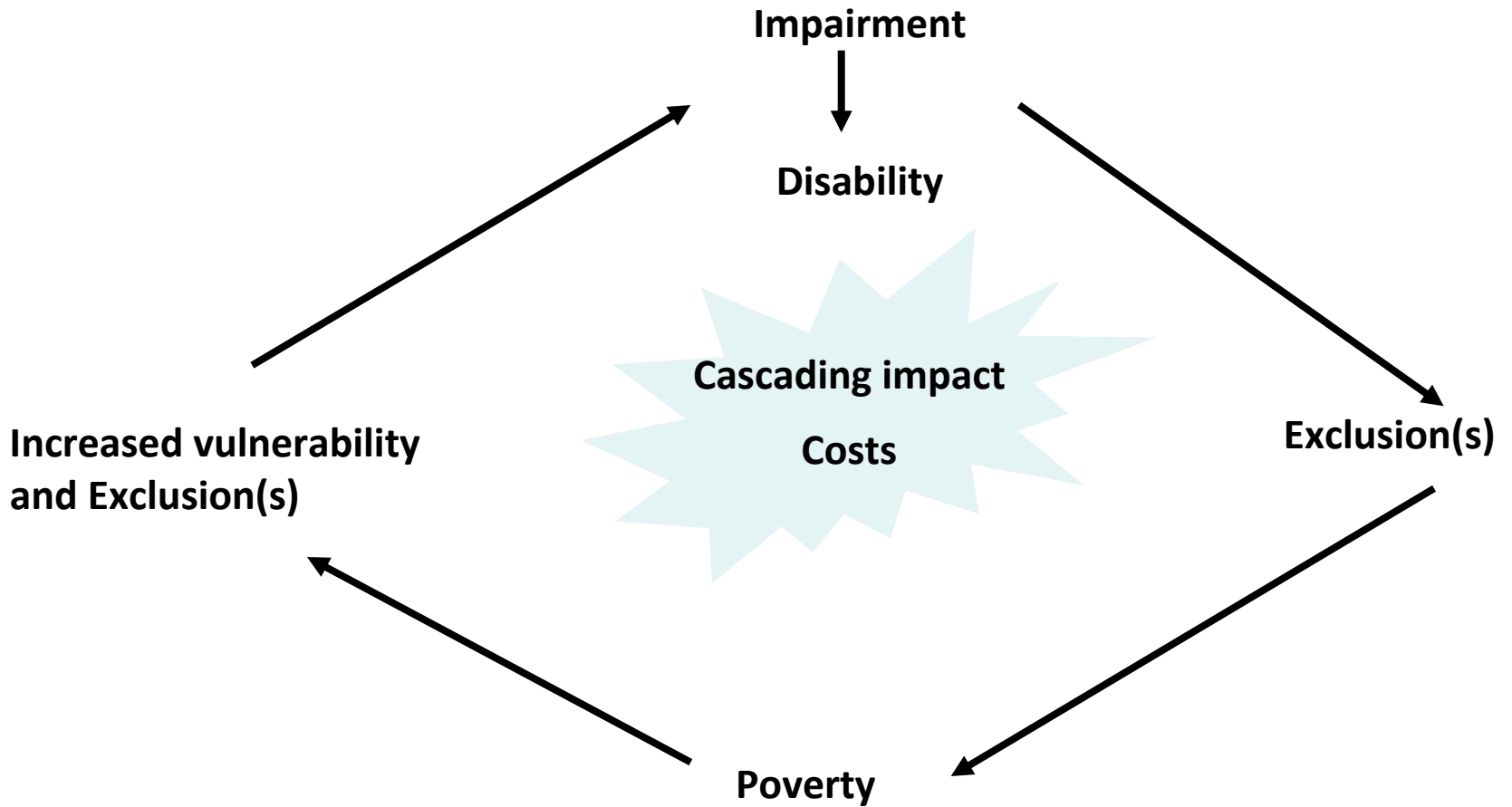
Disability and education: Ghana

“There is very limited information about the incidence of children with special needs around the country”

(GMoESS, 2008)

- Approx. 2.3 million people with disabilities
- Disability Rights Act (2006)
- Low enrolment rates (Tetteh, 2008)
 - Two track system
 - Current emphasis on mainstreaming

Disability and poverty



The big questions

- Does education, as currently experienced by young people with disabilities, enhance their ability:
 - to develop valuable functional skills?
 - to become aware of available resources and also convert them into usable opportunities?

Overview of the sample

	Visual Impairment		Hearing Impairment		Physical Impairment	
	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
Non schooled	3	2	2	0	1	1
Basic Schooled (JHS)	1	0	3	2	1	1
Post Basic (SHS and Vocational)	1	0	0	0	2	1
Tertiary	1	0	0	0	1	0
Total	6	2	5	2	5	3

Difficulties in Entry and Engagement

- **Difficulties** (not gender specific)
 - In accessing school:
 - commuting to school
 - inability/reluctance to pay fee
 - education undervalued by family
 - religious education (Koranic schools preferred amongst Dagombas)
 - When in school:
 - following lessons
 - corporal punishment
 - lack of trained teachers/ specialist support

- Not just disability, but **poverty** too

Adisa Shaha, who had grown up in a foster home narrated:

...when I was fostered by my aunt, she enrolled her children and I followed them to school but the teachers told me to tell my guardian to come and register me. When I told my aunt she said I was brought to work for her and not to enroll me in school.... I was then running errands, doing farm work and harvesting groundnuts.

Education: promise of a better life

Perceived benefits: Increased self confidence, higher economic status, better standard of living

... our colleague blind people who are educated do not come out (on the streets for begging). Some of them are teachers and others are working. So because they are educated and working and earning salaries do they come out to beg? And life is good for them. But because we are not educated that is why we come out to go round and beg. Schooling is actually good.

(Adisa Shaha)

Heightened invisibility

Economic sphere

I do a bit of petty trading, I have been trading for about 10 years but no progress. I rely on begging. Begging is my main business. I do it to support myself. (Inusah Muhib)

Social sphere

Muna cannot do anything, or take part in activities outside the home as people cannot communicate with her. (Harila Lansa)

Intersection of Gender and Disability

- Men:
 - women can always get men to support them
 - some acknowledgement of harsh childcare responsibilities
 - patriarchal society, so men are better placed
- Women:
 - men unable to feed their family

The pain and challenges of disability are not gender sensitive; it dehumanizes the affected individual physically and socially without measure. They (men and women with disabilities) are both socially excluded and continuously discriminated against, so no one is better.

(Adamu_ unschooled)

Striving for recognition and responsibility

...education (speaking specifically in relation to people with disabilities) should be directed towards helping them know their rights, acquire employment and management skills, and all other relevant skills required to enable them play active roles in their communities. Aziz
Matinu_educated up to polytechnic level.

Striving for recognition and responsibility

... society's attitude towards disability is not all that good because sometimes she would like to do something and what they say is no, no, no, she can't do it so people should help her....not knowing that if they allow her, she can equally do the same. And this is the problem.

(Husband of Adisa Saha)

National Youth Policy of Ghana (2010)

Youth with disabilities: “uphold society’s responsibility towards youth with disability and difficult health circumstances”

Female Youth: “advocate(s) the elimination of all forms of discrimination and fortify protection from sexual harassment, physical violence and abuse, labour exploitation as well as other negative attitudes and cultural practices....equal partners in the national development agenda”

Need to move beyond responsibility to equal partnership

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