Need for Effective Disability Services in Nigeria: The Case for Open Doors for Special Learners, Jos
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Abstract

In Nigeria, the majority of families who have children with intellectual and developmental disabilities do not have access to professional services. Acute shortage of special educators, coupled with social, economic and cultural problems, negatively impact the development of specialized services. In this article, the authors document the evidences and information gathered from a focus group of parents at the Open Doors for Special Learners, Jos, Nigeria. Comments and discussions revealed, among other things, superstitions participants held regarding disabilities, how families shopped for a “cure” for their children’s disabilities, and excessive caregiver burden. Recommendations are advanced to empower families and their children with disabilities.

Full Text:
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Open Doors Special Education Centre is dedicated to providing quality special education, vocational training, speech and language therapy and physiotherapy for children and youths with learning handicaps at the open doors special education centre. Patrick Speech and Languages Centre. Benny Child Care Services is concerned about children with special needs with communication difficulties, problem with handwriting skills, behavioral problems and delayed eating, toileting and dressing skills. Centre for Autism and Developmental Disabilities. MAARDEC is a reach-out center for Nigerians with disabilities to meet and network to overcome obstacles that hinder their true socio-economic rehabilitation. Step One Special Care. The Open Doors School located in Jos, Nigeria. Find it in your heart. This school was founded by an amazing lady, Joanne Umulo, and many others that help her along the way. The Centre has provided “open doors” for learning and opportunity for individuals who have been excluded from formal education and, in many cases, rejected by society. The students thrive in the positive environment provided by Open Doors, and the more able individuals eventually become productive members of society. That is not the case anymore. Nobody bargains for the way or manner he would come into this world. A wise saying goes thus: If life throws lemons at you, then go ahead and make lemonade. This is exactly what is going on at Open Doors Special Education Centre.