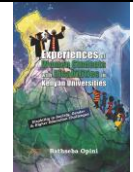


Women with Disabilities in Kenyan Universities

ISBN: 978-1-926906-17-1

Toronto, Canada/Nairobi, Kenya, February 8th, 2012



[Nsemia Inc. Publishers](#) announces the publication of **Experiences of Women with Disabilities in Kenyan Universities** by Bathseba Opini.

This work is a systematic analysis of the subject of disability and society as encountered in institutions of higher learning in Kenya. The experiences of women students with disabilities in Kenyan universities demonstrates that marginalization of people with disabilities is an insidious reality in virtually all societies. Across Africa, dialogue on discrimination against individuals with disability has for a long time been silenced resulting into minimal participation and representation of this population in the political, social, cultural, and economic and development initiatives in the continent. Only a few texts have examined the question of disability and the status of people with disabilities in Africa and more so, with reference to gender and higher education. Filling this gap, this book discusses the experiences of women students with disabilities in university education in Kenya. It analyzes the challenges these women face and how they deal with those challenges. There is evidence of ableism in Kenyan higher education institutions and in the society as a whole. Individuals, government and societal institutions should work together to address ableism and promote an inclusive society.

2063: Kenya @ 100 Short Story & Essay Contest; closes on March 31st, 2012

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What others say

Disability is not inability. This cutting edge text reveals that although women students with disabilities in Kenyan universities face numerous challenges, they are determined to succeed. The desire to lead a better life is the glue that gives these women the determination to challenge their subjugated positions in society. This book provides important recommendations for policy, practice and research which Kenya and other African nations can learn from to change things for the better. It is an important and timely read to be enjoyed by everyone. - **Chris Atuti, Toronto, Canada.**

"Access to education for people living with disabilities is often overlooked or at best considered as an afterthought. A number of factors which include societal attitudes and ableist policies are responsible for the marginalization and poor access to education for people with disabilities. In this volume, Bathseba provides an in-depth analysis of the challenges encountered by disabled women in accessing and participating in university education in Kenya. Her inferences and recommendations for improvement are derived from well-grounded research data obtained from the very people affected by this phenomenon. This rich, timely and informative publication is an excellent piece for general reading as well as an important guide for policy formulations relating to access for students with disabilities

to higher education. It is a key starting point for further discussions on education for people with disabilities in Africa. The book is a "must read" for students, academics, policy makers and the general public." - **Energy L Manyimo, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto.**

This book brings us in touch with the lives of women, and their struggles, so as to inspire the collective need to address disability in more thought provoking ways. Skilfully, Bathseba depicts the complexity of living with disability through her ethnographic account of twenty women students in Kenyan universities. Through this unique research and analysis, the reader comes to know that every experience of disability needs to be understood as a fully social, political, and historical, not to mention valid, way of being-in-the-world. Bathseba has produced a book that is a must read for anyone interested in exploring education as it is interwoven with the meanings of race, gender, class and disability in and through the Kenyan context - **Dr. Tanya Titchkosky Associate Professor, Associate Chair, and Graduate Coordinator, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto.**

Bathseba's book focuses on key scholarship on female students with disability within the Kenyan university system. This significant work challenges everyone to think about what it means to make education and learning environments truly inclusive and all encompassing. The research narratives dispel stereotypical ideas and misrepresentations of women living with a disability. The fundamental question addressed by this book is the notion of what it means to have a disability. This book is critical, powerful, and insightful. Bathseba reminds individuals and institutions alike that it is indeed time to listen and act if education is to be made accessible to everyone not just in postsecondary institutions in Kenya but also in global contexts - **Dr. Erica Neeganagwedgin, Toronto.**

This book is an outstanding sociological exploration of gender, disability and higher education in the African context. The women's stories come alive in this brilliant and sensitive interpretation of challenges and accomplishments of women students with disabilities in Kenyan universities. By giving voice to those who are rarely heard, Bathseba contributes to a comprehensive understanding of the student experience. - **Dr. Sandra Acker, Professor Emeritus, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto**

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About the Author

Bathseba Opini teaches at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education and the African Studies Program, University of Toronto. She is the author of the Children's Book "Africans Thought of It: Amazing Innovations" (with Richard Lee). Her other published works can be found in the *International Journal of Inclusive Education* the *Scandinavian Journal of Disability Research* and the *Journal of Postsecondary Education and Disability*.

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About us

Nsemia Inc. Publishers is a Canadian-based publisher with owners of Kenyan origin. We focus is on African-related stories and how they impact African peoples on the continent and in the Diaspora. We aim at bringing to the fore the many *untold stories* that enrich African lives; stories that have a bearing on Africans and contribution to the global village. The African focus is important to us for we believe that there is a lot of rich culture on the continent and among its people in the Diaspora that could enrich the world's cultural mosaic. As well, in a region and communities that faces substantial cultural onslaught from especially the West, there is a need to preserve the rich cultural heritage for posterity.

Our focus is summed up by the motto: *Bringing You Untold Stories*, with a key objective being nurturing artistic talent to express themselves through story-telling, poetry, drama, music and any artistic expression.

We offer insightful guidance in the writing process, editing and (eventually) publication. In addition, there is active marketing and promotion of published works to ensure they reach desirable audiences.

The partnership with the writer aims at mutual growth in an attempt to enrich authors' lives, encourage writing and reading culture of African peoples, and leave the written word for future generations. Below are the key focus areas:

- **The African Creative Arts & Language Project:** this project focuses on works of fiction (novels, poetry, plays, musicals) written (mainly) in English and other African languages such as Kiswahili.
- The **African Heroes Project:** this seeks works that depict African heroes from various African people both on the continent and in the Diaspora.
- **Biography Series:** the objective here is to capture the personal stories of personalities that have played various roles in shaping nations' destiny in Africa.
- **Theses Project:** aims at publishing academic theses pertaining to the African continent and its issues.

Writers choose to work with **Nsemia Inc. Publishers** due to the caring and nurturing that comes with the relationship. This is partially based on the understanding of the challenges of getting published as an African, in Africa or in the Diaspora. Despite its richness in culture on the African continent and its Diaspora, published works relating to the continent remain small relative to the size and population of its people, its history and cultural and linguistic diversity.

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