

## **EFFECTS OF COVID 19 SCHOOL CLOSURES ON LEARNERS WITH DISABILITIES IN KENYA**

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The presentation will report on a study that investigated some of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on learners with disabilities in Kenya. Specific focus was also laid on the application of digital technology to facilitate learning during the pandemic. The key finding was that the social distancing and other Covid19 restrictions made learners with disabilities more socially distanced and disadvantaged. There was significantly less learning occurring among them, they were more stressed, and their families were in more financial distress compared to their counterparts without disabilities. The study recommends measures that different stakeholders (parents, communities, non-state actors, governments, and especially the Ministry of Education) should put in place measures to avert further physical and psychological trauma on the learners with disabilities currently and in the future.

### **Autor:**

Martin Mwongela Kavua is passionate about Inclusive Education and her enablers namely digital literacy in education, the Universal Design for Learning, and capacity building. He is a member of the Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee (IACC) on implementation of government commitments during the Global Disability Summit and the National Technical Committee on the Digital Learning Programme. Currently, Martin is a Ph.D. student at Charles University in Prague. He holds a Joint Erasmus Mundus Masters degree in Special and Inclusive Education from Roehampton (England), Oslo (Norway) and Charles (Czech Republic) Universities, and a Bachelors degree in Special Education and Kiswahili from Kenyatta University, as well as a primary teacher certificate among other qualifications. Currently, he is a Principal Education Officer at the Ministry of Education. His experience includes drafting policy, capacity building, as well as designing and facilitating trainings with a focus on Special & Inclusive Education, Disability Studies, Universal Design for Learning, and Kenyan Sign Language. Martin has lectured at Kenya Institute of Special Education (KISE) in Nairobi, and various universities. He has done consultancy work for various government and non-governmental institutions in Kenya and abroad on Special and Inclusive Education, disability mainstreaming, and policy issues as well as Information Communication Technology (ICT) in Education. He has authored several publications and presented academic papers locally and internationally.

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