



THE NIGERIA DISABILITY RESEARCH PROJECT

ACTION RESEARCH

THE DOMESTICATION OF THE
“DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PERSONS WITH DISABILITY ACT”, 2018

DECEMBER 2021

Supported by



FORD
FOUNDATION

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Nigeria Disability Research Project - Report [December 2021]

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Our mission is to promote the produce and dissemination of credible Africa-led and Africa-owned opinion polls, surveys, social research and evaluation studies to inform better decisions, public policy, practice and advocacy.

FOREWORD

Globally, it has been realized that the full inclusion of everyone, and the reduction in all forms of discrimination, especially against persons with disabilities are of extreme importance in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In the first quarter of 2019, Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari signed into law the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018, following almost a decade of persistent struggle and advocacy by disability rights groups and activists. This commitment by the Federal Government of Nigeria is significant and has been praised as a practical necessity in upholding the rights and full inclusion of the estimated more than 25 million Nigerians with disabilities as well as ensuring significant prospects to improve their living conditions.

Despite this, persons with disabilities continue to face significant challenges in their day-to-day activities and deprive them of full participation in society. I welcome this Action Research study report on persons with disabilities in Nigeria. This study report, a first of its kind in the Nigerian disability community makes a major contribution to our understanding of the state of persons with disabilities across Nigeria. It highlights the present realities and different challenges facing persons with disabilities in Nigeria. It also highlights barriers hindering the domestication of the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018 in some states. In addressing these challenges, this report recommends action on what needs to be done by the Nigerian government, civil society groups and Nigerian citizens towards ensuring full inclusion and full participation of persons with disabilities in the society.

I commend this report to everyone as a vital tool for policy-makers, researchers, practitioners, advocates and volunteers involved in disability in their ongoing work to design evidence-based policies. Thank you and I hope you will find this report an enjoyable read.



James David Lalu NPOM
Executive Secretary
National Commission for Persons with Disability (NCPWD)



PREFACE

This Action Research study on the state of persons with disabilities is the first to be conducted across the six geo-political zones in Nigeria. It is a key component of the Nigeria Disability Research Project. This study was designed to assess the challenges faced by persons with disabilities, the state of the domestication of the discrimination against persons with disabilities (prohibition) act, 2018, as well as the factors hindering the domestication of the act.

The passage of the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018 into law, by President Muhammadu Buhari, provided a giant leap and the foundational policy for promoting the inclusion of PWDs in the country. Based on this stride by the federal government, the 36 states, including the F.C.T are expected to domesticate the Act to create a more inclusive society across the country.



More than 3 years after the passage of the Disability Rights Act, findings show that not more than 13 states across Nigeria including the FCT had domesticated the act as of the last quarter of 2021. This implies that a significant number of states (more than 50 percent) are yet to domesticate the act. There are various factors that contribute to the lack of enthusiasm of state governments in domesticating the act. It is in a bid to ascertain these factors among other issues that the Africa Polling Institute (API), in collaboration with the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD) and support from Ford Foundation embarked on this study.

As a leading opinion research think-tank in Africa, providing credible evidence-based data to support decision-making, this study sheds some light on the challenges faced by persons with disabilities as well as unearthing some of the challenges in domesticating the disability rights act. We consider this action research study a veritable and practical resource to help state governments, policymakers, civil groups and others in the disability community with the required information in addressing key issues of disability in their states.

Professor Bell Ihua (PhD Kent)

Executive Director, Africa Polling Institute (API)

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This Action Research study was led by Africa Polling Institute (API) and supported by Ford Foundation.

I would like to thank the technical team of researchers drawn from the academia across the six geopolitical zones of the country, in no particular order – Prof. Elias Wahab, Prof. Uzoma Okoye, Dr. Oluseyi Dada, Dr. Grace Bila, Dr. Umar Kari and Dr. Adaka Terfa for their excellent input and effort in producing this document.

In addition, I wish to express further appreciation to all participants of this study, the various state representatives of the Joint National Association for Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD), state government officials and key stakeholders across the 36 states and the FCT. Still, under this category, I must thank the research team of the institute: Dr Feyishola Kadiri, Senior Research Fellow, API, Mr. Olajonrin Segun, Senior Research Manager, API, Mr. Ekene Okonkwo, Senior Research Associate, API, and Ms. Amarachi Charles, Manager, Corporate Services for doing a marvelous job.

The institute is also grateful to Dr. Israel Balogun, a disability expert for his quality input and guidance in ensuring this study meets the required standard.

Finally, I want to sincerely appreciate our funders, Ford Foundation, for providing the commitment and resources to implement this study.

Signed

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This report was led by Africa Polling Institute (API). Special gratitude is extended to the following team members drawn across the six geopolitical zones of the country. They worked assiduously toward the output of this study.

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CONTENT

Foreword	3
Preface	4
Acknowledgements	5
Acronyms and Abbreviations	10
Executive Summary	11
1.0 Introduction	16
2.0 Literature Review	19
2.1 Conceptualizing Disability	20
2.2 Forms of Disability Approaches	21
2.3 Disability in Nigeria: Challenges and government response	22
2.3.1 Disability challenges facing PWDs in Nigeria	22
2.3.2 Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018	23
3.0 Survey Objectives and Research Question	26
3.1 Objectives of the Study	27
3.2 Research questions	27
4.0 Survey Methodology	28
4.1 National Demography of Respondent	29
5.0 Survey Results and Findings from the South-South Region	31
5.1 Social Demography	32
5.2 Disability Identification and Experience	32
5.2.1 Category of respondents	32
5.2.2 Realities of Persons with Disability in South-South	33
5.2.3 Public perception of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)	34
5.2.4 Challenges of Persons with Disability in South-South	36
5.3 Inclusion of Persons with Disability in South-South	36
5.3.1 Conditions of Persons with Disability	36
5.3.2 Job discrimination among Persons with Disability	37
5.3.3 Accessibility of physical facilities in South-South	38
5.3.4 Common forms of abuse among Persons with Disability in South-South	39
5.3.5 General Perception of Persons with Disability in South-South	40
5.4 Support Services and Intervention Programmes for Persons with Disability	40
5.4.1 Knowledge of support services/intervention programmes by state governments	41
5.4.2 Beneficiaries of state governments' intervention programmes for Persons with Disability	42
5.4.3 Type of support received from the state government	43
5.4.4 Category of Persons with Disability with the most support from state governments	43
5.5 The Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act	44
5.5.1 Awareness of the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition)	44
5.5.2 Gauging respondent's knowledge about the content of the Act	45
5.5.3 Determining the Domestication of the Act	46
5.5.4 Perceived barriers hindering the domestication of the Act in South-South states	47
5.5.5 What can be done to mitigate barriers hindering domestication of the Act	48
5.5.6 Perception of state government effort towards domestication of the Act	48
5.5.7 South-Southerner's suggestions for legislation of the Domestication of the Act at State Houses of Assembly	49
6.0 Survey Results and Findings from the South-East Region	50
6.1 Social Demography	51
6.2 Disability Identification and Experience	51
6.2.1 Category of respondent	51
6.2.2 Realities of Persons with Disability in South-East	52
6.2.3 Challenges of persons with disability in South-East	54
6.3 Inclusion of Persons with Disability in South-East	55
6.3.1 Conditions of Persons with Disability	55
6.3.2 Job discrimination among Persons with Disability	56
6.3.3 Accessibility of physical facilities in South-East	57
6.3.4 Facilities with poor access for PWD in South-East	57
6.3.5 Common forms of abuse among Persons with Disability in South-East	58
6.3.6 General Perception of Persons with Disability in South East	58

6.4	Support Services / Intervention Programmes for Persons with Disability	59
6.4.1	Knowledge of support services/intervention programmes by the state government s.....	59
6.4.2	Beneficiaries of state governments’ intervention programmes for Persons with Disability	60
6.4.3	Type of support received from the state government	61
6.4.4	Category of Persons with Disability with the most support from the state government s	62
6.5	The Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act	63
6.5.1	Awareness of the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act	63
6.5.2	Gauging respondent’s knowledge about the content of the Act	64
6.5.3	Determining the Domestication of the Act	65
6.5.4	Perceived barriers hindering the domestication of the Act in South-East states	66
6.5.5	What can be done to mitigate barriers hindering domestication of the Act	66
6.5.6	Perception of state government effort towards domestication of the Act	67
6.5.7	South-Easterner’s suggestion for legislation s of the Domestication of the Act at State Houses of Assembly	68
7.0	Survey Results and Findings from the South -West Region	69
7.1	Social Demography	70
7.2	Disability Identification and Experience	71
7.2.1	Category of respondent	71
7.2.2	Realities of Persons with Disability in South-West	71
7.2.3	Public perception of Person with Disabilities	72
7.2.4	Challenges facing persons with disability	73
7.3	Inclusion of Persons with Disability in South-West	74
7.3.1	Conditions of Persons with Disability	74
7.3.2	Job discrimination among Persons with Disability	75
7.3.3	Accessibility of physical facilities in South-West	75
7.3.4	Facilities with poor access for PWD in South-West	76
7.3.5	Common forms of abuse among Persons with Disability	76
7.3.6	General Perception of Persons with Disability	77
7.4	Support Services / Intervention Programmes for Persons with Disability	78
7.4.1	Knowledge of support services/intervention programmes by the state g overnments.....	78
7.4.2	Beneficiaries of state governments’ intervention programmes for Persons with Disability	79
7.4.3	Category of Persons with Disability with the most support from the state government s	80
7.5	The Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act	81
7.5.1	Awareness of the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act	81
7.5.2	Gauging respondent’s knowledge about the content of the Act	82
7.5.3	Determining the Domestication of the Act	83
7.5.4	Perceived barriers hindering the domestication of the Act in South-West states	84
7.5.5	What can be done to mitigate barriers hindering domestication of the Act	85
7.5.6	Perception of state government effort towards domestication of the Act	85
7.5.7	South-Westerner’s suggestion for legislation of the Domestication of the Act at State Houses of Assembly	86
8.0	Survey Results and Findings from the North-Central Region	87
8.1	Socio Demography	88
8.2	Disability Identification and Experience	88
8.2.1	Category of respondent	88
8.2.2	Realities of Persons with Disability in North-Central.....	89
8.2.3	Public perception of Person with Disabilities	90
8.2.4	Challenges of persons with disability	91
8.3	Inclusion of Persons with Disability in North-Central.....	92
8.3.1	Job discrimination among Persons with Disability	92
8.3.2	Accessibility of physical facilities in North-Central	93
8.3.3	Common forms of abuse among Persons with Disability	94
8.3.4	General Perception of Persons with Disability	95
8.4	Support Services and Intervention Programmes for Persons with Disability	96
8.4.1	Knowledge of support services/intervention programmes by state government s.....	96
8.4.2	Beneficiaries of state governments’ intervention programmes for Persons with Disability	97
8.4.3	Category of Persons with Disability with the most support from state government s	98
8.5	The Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act	98
8.5.1	Awareness of the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act	98
8.5.2	Gauging respondent’s knowledge about the content of the Act	100



8.5.3	Determining the Domestication of the Act	100
8.5.4	Perceived barriers hindering the domestication of the Act in North Central states	101
8.5.5	What can be done to mitigate barriers hindering domestication of the Act	102
8.5.6	Suggestions from North-Central respondents for legislations of the Domestication of the Act at State Houses of Assembly.....	102
9.0	Survey Results and Findings from the North-East	104
9.1	Social Demography	105
9.2	Disability Identification and Experience	105
9.2.1	Category of respondent	105
9.2.2	Realities of Persons with Disability in North-East.....	106
9.2.3	Challenges of persons with disability	107
9.3	Inclusion of Persons with Disability in North-East.....	109
9.3.1	Conditions of Persons with Disability	109
9.3.2	Job discrimination among Persons with Disability	110
9.3.3	Accessibility of physical facilities in North-East	111
9.3.4	Common forms of abuse among Persons with Disability	111
9.3.5	General Perception of Persons with Disability	112
9.4	Support Services and Intervention Programmes for Persons with Disability.....	113
9.4.1	Knowledge of support services/intervention programmes by state government s.....	113
9.4.2	Beneficiaries of state governments’ intervention programmes for Persons with Disability	114
9.4.3	Type of support received from the state government	115
9.4.4	Category of Persons with Disability with the most support from state government s	115
9.5	The Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act	116
9.5.1	Awareness of the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act	116
9.5.2	Gauging respondent’s knowledge about the content of the Act	117
9.5.3	Determining the Domestication of the Act	118
9.5.4	Perceived barriers hindering the domestication of the Act in North-East states	119
9.5.5	What can be done to mitigate barriers hindering domestication of the Act	119
9.5.6	Perception of state government effort towards domestication of the Act	120
10.0	Key Findings from North-West Region	122
10.1	Socio Demography	123
10.2	Disability Identification and Experience	124
10.2.1	Category of respondent.....	124
10.2.2	Realities of Persons with Disability in North-West	124
10.2.3	Challenges of persons with disability	126
10.3	Inclusion of Persons with Disability in North-West	126
10.3.1	Conditions of Persons with Disability	126
10.3.2	Job discrimination among Persons with Disability	127
10.3.3	Accessibility of physical facilities in North-West	128
10.3.4	Facilities with poor access for PWD in North-West	128
10.3.5	Common forms of abuse among Persons with Disability	129
10.3.6	General Perception of Persons with Disability	130
10.4	Support Services and Intervention Programmes for Persons with Disability	130
10.4.1	Knowledge of support services/intervention programmes by state government s.....	130
10.4.2	Beneficiaries of state governments’ intervention programmes for Persons with Disability	131
10.4.3	Type of support received from the state government	132
10.4.4	Category of Persons with Disability with the most support from state government s.....	132
10.5	The Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act	133
10.5.1	Awareness of the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act	133
10.5.2	Gauging respondent’s knowledge about the content of the Act	133
10.5.3	Determining the Domestication of the Act	134
10.5.4	Perceived barriers hindering the domestication of the Act in North-West states	134
10.5.5	What can be done to mitigate barriers hindering domestication of the Act	135
10.5.6	Perception of state government effort towards domestication of the Act	136
10.5.7	North-Westerner’s Suggestion for legislations of the Domestication of the Act at State Houses of Assembly	136
11.0	Summary of Findings, Recommendation, and Conclusion	137
11.1	Summary of Key findings.....	138
11.2	Recommendations	138
11.3	Conclusion	140

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

API	Africa Polling Institute
COVID-19	The Coronavirus Disease 2019
COREN	Council For The Regulation Of Engineering In Nigeria
CSO	Civil Society of Nigeria
FBO	Fiath Based Organizations
FCT	Federal Capital Territory
FRCN	Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria
JONAPWD	Joint National Association for Persons with Disabilities
LASODA	Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs
LLSPL	Lagos State Special People's Law
NCPWD	National Commission for Persons with Disability
NDRP	Nigeria Disability Research Project
NOA	National Orientation Agency
NTA	Nigerian Television Authority
OPD	Organizations for Persons with Disabilities
PWD	Persons with Disabilities
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
UN	United Nations
WHO	World Health Organization





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Africa Polling Institute with support from Ford Foundation is currently leading the Nigeria Disability Research Project (NDRP), which seeks to conduct research and generate data on persons with disabilities in Nigeria; and monitor progress on the domestication of the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018 in the 36 states of the federation and the Federal Capital Territory.

This Action Research study is one of the major components of the Nigeria Disability Research Project (NDRP). The study sought to assess the state of persons with disabilities across the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria. This survey was founded on the belief that if the reality of persons with disabilities is to count, then their views must be sought on critical issues about their overall well-being. We consider this report quite germane as persons with disabilities continue to grapple with the fundamentals of livelihood amidst their daunting predicaments.

Key Objectives

This survey was designed to assess the state of persons with disabilities in Nigeria with special reference to issues bordering on: the challenges facing persons with disabilities, the state of support services currently available and enjoyed by PWD, the level of interventions and support services available for PWDs, the state of domestication of 'The Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018', as well as the factors hindering the domestication of Discrimination Act 2018.

Methodology

The action research study was led by Africa Polling Institute (API) in consortium with Nigeria University scholars. The study was carried out across Nigeria's six (6) regions between June to December 2021. Each region was led by an academic scholar, making a total of six (6) scholars for the study. The initial phase of the action

research entailed desk research and stakeholders' engagement. The second phase focused on data collection through mixed methods, which involved quantitative and qualitative techniques. Below further explain the phases.

Phase 1: Desk Research and Stakeholders' engagement

Desk Research - The scholars commenced the study with an extensive review of the extant literature on the state of persons with disabilities in Nigeria; the Discrimination against persons with disabilities (prohibition) act, 2018; and barriers hindering domestication of the act.

Stakeholders' Engagement – After the action review of the literature, regional stakeholders' meeting was organized by the scholars. They brought together key stakeholders from the disability community across the states in their region; disability-focused civil groups; public office holders and officials from state ministries, departments and agencies to discuss issues on persons with disabilities. The engagement focused on: The State of persons with disabilities in the states and the current most pressing challenges facing persons with disabilities; the state Government's conceptual understanding of disability; the existing challenges or barriers hindering the domestication of the Disabilities Act in states; and what can be done to mitigate them.

Phase 2: Data Collection

The second phase focused on data collection through mixed methods, which involved quantitative and qualitative techniques

For the quantitative data, 50 questionnaires were administered in each of the 36 states and the FCT, making a total of 1,850 to various clusters of persons with disabilities identified in each of the states. All interviews were conducted via Face-to-face, using a convenient sampling technique. The survey instrument was designed in collaboration with academic scholars and a PWD expert.

In addition to the quantitative approach, focus group discussions, and in-depth interviews were conducted with relevant stakeholders using a

convenient sampling method with a semi-structured survey protocol. Information derived from the in-depth interviews was transcribed and content-analyzed under different headings depicting the various aspects of the discussion to complement the quantitative data.

Key Findings

Overall, the findings suggest that the welfare of PWDs has not been given utmost priority by the Federal government, as well as the state governments across the six geopolitical zones in the country. This lack of attention and care contributes to social exclusion and plausibly explains why many persons with disabilities across the country feel neglected and alienated. The legal frameworks to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities such as the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018, were still not domesticated across most states in the country. To maximize the well-being of PWDs and to facilitate the domestication of the Act, concerted efforts are needed in the areas of disability advocacy, social integration, and stakeholders' engagement. Instructively, the survey's findings identified several areas that the government needs to improve upon to ameliorate the plights of persons with disabilities in the country. Presented below are some of the key findings and recommendations from the study.

On the state of disability in Nigeria

With regards to the perception of persons with disability across the geopolitical zones, on average, slightly more than half of the respondents (50%) see themselves as normal persons in society. This opinion was stronger in North East (57%) and South-South (56%). On the other hand, respondents residing in North West (48%) and South East (42%) were highest amongst those who considered themselves as different from others.

Again, the survey found seemingly negative public perceptions of PWDs. Across the geopolitical zones, PWDs were mostly being 'discriminated' and perceived as 'helpless' persons. South-South (90%) topped those who perceived persons with disability as 'helpless'; while the perception of being 'discriminated' was highest in South West (47%) and North Central (46%).

On the challenges facing persons with disability in Nigeria

Across the geopolitical zones, lack of finance, social exclusion, unemployment and discrimination were found to be the 4 biggest challenges faced by persons with disability. Lack of finance was highest in North West (43%), followed by South East (37%); social exclusion was considered more a challenge in North East (28%), discrimination was more widespread in North Central (30%), while unemployment was more prevalent in North West (34%).

On job discrimination among persons with disability, the survey found widespread job discrimination across the geopolitical zones. On average, more than half (50%) of the respondents have suffered job discrimination. This trend was highest amongst respondents in South East (69%) and least in North West (51%). Further disaggregation showed that, on average, more Southern (63%) than Northern (55%) respondents were likely to suffer from job discrimination.

While 'Discrimination by members of the public/workplace' constituted the dominant type of abuse across the geopolitical zones, 'Social exclusion', 'Victimisation', and 'Physical abuse' are equally widespread. Respondents found to experience 'Discrimination by members of the public/work place', were highest amongst those in North East (52%) and least in North Central (36%).

On support services available for PWDs in Nigeria

Majority of the respondents across the geopolitical zones are aware of state governments' support/intervention programmes. The rate of awareness was highest in North West (84%) and lowest in South East (30%).

With regards to benefiting from state government intervention programmes, on average, about 6 in 10 respondents (60%) were found to have benefitted across the geopolitical zones. However, respondents residing in South East (84%) and North West (73%) constituted the highest beneficiaries, as against South-South (57%) with the least proportion of beneficiaries.

Probing further the type of support service respondents benefited from the state government, the result showed that 'Financial support' topped the list, followed by 'Medical support'. On average, 60% of respondents across the geopolitical zones seemed to have been beneficiaries of financial support.

On the extent to which the Act has been domesticated

Interestingly, there appeared to be widespread awareness of the 'Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018'. On average, nearly 7 in 10 respondents (70%) across the geopolitical zones claimed awareness.

In addition to the widespread awareness of the Act, the majority of the respondents (70%) across the geopolitical zones were also found to know their rights as enshrined in the Act. Surprisingly, respondents based in the South West (66%) were shown to be unaware of their rights under the Act.

Despite the widespread awareness of the Act by the majority of the respondents, findings suggest that the Act has not been fully domesticated across the geopolitical zones. In particular, this sentiment was expressed by the majority of respondents from the South West (81%), South-South (80%), and South East (78%). Equally, the majority of respondents from North Central (72%) and North East (57%) do not know whether the Act has been domesticated. However, respondents from North West (34%) were more likely to believe that the Act has been domesticated.

In furtherance of the above, respondents identified 'Lack of willingness on the part of the State Governor', 'Lack of willingness by State House of Assembly Members' and 'Lack of fund' as the top 3 barriers hindering the domestication of the Act, across the geopolitical zones.

On the interventions required to facilitate the domestication of the Act

On what could be done to mitigate barriers hindering the domestication of the Act, urgent need for increased advocacy, more stakeholders' collaboration, protest action by persons with disabilities and lobbying were strongly recommended by respondents across the geopolitical zones.

With regards to suggestions to push for legislation at State Houses of Assembly for the Act to be domesticated, again the result showed that 'Public enlightenment by CSOs and DPOs', 'Increased advocacy' 'Public support' and 'Lobbying' were highly advocated across the geopolitical zones.

Recommendations

In conclusion, key findings from the survey indicated that the Nigerian government has not given priority attention to alleviating the plights of persons with disabilities; as they continued to struggle with myriads of challenges. To this end, the study argues that the Government at all levels, CSOs and Citizens in general, must rise up to their respective responsibilities of making society socially, physically and economically inclusive for persons with disabilities. It is believed that the following recommendations will be useful in addressing the enormous challenges confronting persons with disabilities.

Nigerian Government

As the survey findings showed, increasing financial challenges was one of the key challenges facing persons with disabilities. The empowerment of persons with disability and funding of disability inclusion programmes become critical. It is principal for government at all levels to make special budgetary allocations for ministries and

agencies in charge of disability, to cater for the plights of persons with disabilities.

Majority of persons with disabilities had expressed bitterness over the difficulties in accessing private and public facilities. Hence government at all levels need to put up the required support structure that will aid easy accessibility by PWDs. Providing the enabling environment that fosters the inclusion of economically marginalized groups such as persons with disabilities is important for national unity and social cohesion.

Considering the strong link between disability and poverty, excluding persons with disabilities from employment opportunities make them more vulnerable and further reinforces the likelihood of poverty. In this wise, there is a crucial need to strengthen the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities, to ensure that violations of the rights of persons with disabilities, especially with regard to job discrimination are duly prosecuted and properly sanctioned.

Despite the importance of the Disability Act to persons with disability, many states across the geopolitical zones are yet to fully domesticate the Act. Against this backdrop, the Federal Government needs to commit itself to the domestication of the Act by enforcing punitive sanctions on states that are unwilling or refused to domesticate the Act.

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

CSOs need to strengthen the advocacy for persons with disabilities and provide the enabling platform for bringing together government officials, MDAs, advocates and relevant stakeholders to brainstorm on the challenges and prospects of persons with disabilities

Policy makers and relevant stakeholders such as CSOs, the Ministry of Information, National Orientation Agency (NOA), Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN), Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), etc. have increasing roles to play in shaping and amplifying positive narratives that promote anti-discrimination, discourage abuse and victimization of persons with disabilities.

CSOs need to be more proactive by holding the government to account with regard to funding disability inclusion projects; while pushing for the domestication of the Act across the states of the Federation.

Strong collaboration between CSOs and the Joint National Association of Persons with Disability (JONAPWD) is required in engaging the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities on critical issues and laws pertaining to disability wellbeing and inclusion.

Nigerian Citizens

In order to build a just and inclusive society, the citizens need to have a positive mindset regarding persons with disabilities. The traditional institutions, religious leaders, community leaders and the media have an ever-increasing role to play in this area.

The public perception of persons with disabilities across the country is often framed around the misconception that they are helpless people in need of assistance rather than valuable man powers in the society capable of contributing to national development. In this wise, society is encouraged to focus on the potential and ability of persons with disabilities rather than focusing on their disabilities.

Stigmatization and discrimination remain widespread challenges affecting persons with disabilities across the geopolitical zones in the country. This negative attitude of society is worrisome, given that true social inclusion happens when citizens and society develop positive attitudes towards persons with disability. Hence the perceptions and dispositions of most Nigerians regarding persons with disabilities need to change.

Citizens are further encouraged to desist from statements and actions that can stir negative emotions and ill-feeling amongst persons with disabilities. Negative comments and unguided utterances could contribute not only to low self-esteem amongst persons with disabilities but also harbour a feeling of disaffection from society.





01

INTRODUCTION



Photo Credit: Edouard Dropsy / Human Rights Watch



Disability is an internationally recognized physical and non-physical challenge facing people irrespective of the national border, gender, religion, class and race. According to WHO (2014), there are six broad areas of disability, and these are people with impaired sight or difficulty in seeing; impaired hearing or difficulty in hearing; difficulty in communicating; difficulty in walking; mind or mental impairment or difficulty in concentration/remembering; and difficulty with self-care. Globally, 1 billion people or 15 percent of the world's population live with at least one disability out of which one-fifth (that is 110 million – 190 million people) of the disability population experience significant disabilities and cannot manage daily lives without assistance especially in developing countries.

In Nigeria, there is an established community of Persons with Disabilities (PWD) whose population cannot be officially estimated because no census has been conducted to determine the exact population of PWDs in the country. Although there are existing estimates and the data do not represent the actual statistics of PWDs in Nigeria, however, the projections often inform Civil Societies, NGOs, the Development Institutes programme and advocacy and the Nigerian government's policy action, unfortunately. While the World Health Organization (2018) estimates that about 28 million Nigerians live with a disability, data from the 2018 Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey estimates that 7% of Nigerian household members of age five and above, 9% of the aged population experience at least one form of disability such as walking, communication and seeing and 1% have more than one disability difficulty. However, we presume that the population of persons living

with a disability may surpass the above statistics due to existing and rising cases of violence, accidents, ageing, forced displacements etc.

Persons living with disabilities are reportedly more likely to experience adverse socioeconomic outcomes and face higher rates of multi-dimensional poverty than the general population. The report shows that PWDs are oppressed and discriminated against in employment opportunities, education, and other socio-economic engagements in Nigeria. Furthermore, PWDs face the challenge of mass illiteracy as some of them do not attend formal education due to the lack of special education centres within their locations. Fatal accidents from bad roads and the absence of access to good health care are other contributory factors to disability such as brain damage, paralysis, blindness in Nigeria. Disability is, therefore, considered a human right issue in the society where PWD's are often subjected to multiple human rights violations of violence, disrespect, abuse, stigmatization and discrimination at all levels.

PWDs generally have poorer health, lower education achievements, fewer economic opportunities and higher rates of poverty as compared to those without visible disabilities. According to the WHO (2020), those who survive impairment (or disability) experience increasing difficulties in functioning that requires other individuals and government at all levels to take responsibility for supporting and caring for their relatives and friends with disabilities. This is largely due to the lack of poor-quality service delivery made available to them and other obstacles they face in their daily lives.

¹Onalu, C. & Nwafor, N. (2021). Social supports available to persons with Disabilities in Nigeria. Intech Open Book Series. Available here: <https://www.intechopen.com/chapters/76704>

²WHO (2014). *Visual impairment and blindness*. Fact Sheet No 282.

³<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/disability#1>

⁴<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/34073>

⁵World Bank Group (2020). *Disability Inclusion in Nigeria: A rapid Assessment*. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/World Bank

⁶Ibid

⁷Agbo, C. (2020). *Covid-19 and persons with disabilities in Nigeria*. Retrieved from <http://www.qualitative magazine/com/?p=4179>.

⁸WHO (2020) *Disability and Health*. Available here: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/disability-and-health>

⁹Etieyibo, E. & Omiegbe, O. (2016). Religion, culture, and discrimination against persons with disabilities in Nigeria. *African Journal of Disability*, 5(1), 192-197.



Disability can therefore be said to be not just a health problem but a complex phenomenon that touches on the features of a person's body, interpersonal relationships and features of the society where a person lives. The effects might lead to total or partial dependency on other people to help with carrying out tasks that ordinarily such individuals can accomplish as evidenced in extant literature.

Although the lack of data on persons with disabilities in Nigeria limits the ability of the government to target the population with the right policy and strategy to address their needs, however, the Nigerian government signed into law the Nigeria Disability Act 2018 to curtail the challenges facing people with disability. The Act prohibits discrimination based on disability and imposes sanctions including fines and prison sentences on those who contravene it. The Act also stipulates a five-year transitional period for modifying public buildings, structures, and automobiles to make them accessible and usable for people with disabilities. Since the government signed and ratified the United Nations Convention

on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities [UNCRPD] in 2007 and President Muhammadu Buhari signed into law the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018 on January 17, 2019, report shows that there has been no concrete plan to domesticate the convention.

The Act makes it the first step towards Nigeria's obligations fulfilment of the UNCRPD. Despite the enactment of the 2018 Act into law, only 13 states - Lagos, Ekiti, Ondo, Anambra, Kano, Kogi, Kwara, Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Niger, Plateau and Bauchi - out of the 36 states in Nigeria have state-level disability laws. It is against the backdrop that this study empirically investigates disability issues and domestication of people with disability act in the six geopolitical regions of Nigeria. Specifically, the study examines the disability experiences and identification, inclusions of persons with disabilities, support services and intervention programmes for persons with disabilities and domestication and implementations of the disability act.



¹⁰See Claiborne, Cornforth, Gibson & Smith (2011); Correa-Torres, Conroy, Rundle-Kahn & Brown-Ogilvie (2018); Okoye & Adirika (2019); Okoye (2010) Yssel, Pak & Belike (2016); Zaid & Zaid (2017)

¹¹Institutes of Development Studies (2020). Nigeria situational analysis: Inclusive futures promoting disability inclusion; cited in Ewang, A. (2019). Nigeria passes disability rights law.

¹²Christian Blind Mission (2019). *Lessons from disability audit of Northeast Nigeria Transition to Development (NENTAD) humanitarian response*.

¹³<https://guardian.ng/news/31-million-plwds-suffer-as-23-states-neglect-disability-rights/>



02

LITERATURE REVIEW



Photo Credit: africaarguments.org

2.1 Conceptualizing Disability

The absence of a generally accepted definition of the term 'disability' has informed different ideas, postulations and approaches brought forward by individuals, governments, and organizations with aim of creating an acceptable interpretation of the concept. According to WHO (1980), disability is

“An impairment is any loss or abnormality of a psychological, physiological or anatomical structure or function” (p.47).

Theorists such as Oliver (1990) however criticize WHO (1980) definition because it focuses more on medical or individual approach to disability, hence limited to cognitive or physical limitations that an individual may have as a person and their lack of ability. It is therefore argued that the above definition is explaining individual tragedies.

Following from the limitations of WHO's (1980) conceptualization of disability, DFID (2000) confirms that disability is the result of a complex interaction between the functional limitations that arise from a person's intellectual, mental, or physical condition with their physical and social environment. The dimension of disability thus extends beyond medical or health problems of individuals, with this, DFID (2000) concluded that disability is “long-term impairment leading to social and economic disadvantages, denial of rights, and limited opportunities to play an equal part in the life of the community” (p.2).

By incorporating environmental factors to widen the scope of the definition, WHO (2001) acknowledges that

“Disability is an umbrella term for impairments, activity, limitations, and participation restrictions. It denotes the negative aspects of the interaction between an individual (with a health condition) and the individual's contextual factors (environmental and personal factors)” (p.10)

To date, the meaning of disability is still contested even though institutions now adopt/adapt WHO's (2001) definition. During the 2006 UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the UN body recognized disability as a concept under evolution and adapts WHO's (2001) definition to define disability as an outcome of

“Interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinders their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others” (p.2).

UN's definition transcends beyond medical or physical challenges to capture the effects of disability on their environment, most especially, people without disability.

Similarly, the Nigeria Disability Act (2018) in Section 57 define disability as

“Long term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment which in the interaction with various barriers may hinder full and effective participation in society on equal basis with others” (p.15).

¹⁴WHO (1980) International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps: A manual of classification relating to the consequences of the Disease. Available here:

https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/41003/9241541261_eng.pdf;jsessionid

¹⁵WHO (2001) [International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health \(ICF\)](#). WHO. Geneva.

¹⁶UN (2006) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and optional Protocol. Available here:

<https://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convoptprot-e.pdf>

¹⁷[https://placbillstrack.org/8th/upload/Discrimination%20Against%20Persons%20with%20Disabilities%20\(Prohibition\)%20Act,%202018.pdf](https://placbillstrack.org/8th/upload/Discrimination%20Against%20Persons%20with%20Disabilities%20(Prohibition)%20Act,%202018.pdf)

Presently, the World Health Organization (WHO) in the US Department of Health & Human Services (2020) views the concept of disability from three perspectives:

- i. Impairment refers to loss of a person's body part or function or mental malfunctioning
- ii. Activity limitations like difficulty in seeing, hearing, walking among other activities
- iii. Participation restrictions in routine activities like gainful employment, engagement in social and recreational activities and access to preventive and medical service delivery

The above definitions reveal some common themes of 'impairments', 'limitations', 'interactions' and 'environment' which are imperative for the understanding of disability. As such, we will adopt the Nigeria Disability Act (2018) disability definition to fit the scope of this study.

2.2 Forms of Disability Approaches

This section presents the disability approaches to better understand the disability concept. There are four disability approaches which are:

- i. Charity Approach: People with disabilities are considered as passive objects who survive on welfare payment or kind acts rather than considering them as individuals with equal right to participate in the cultural and political life of their environment to contribute to overall development. That is people with disabilities cannot provide for themselves because of their impairment or disabilities. To this end, disability is considered as an individual or personal problem and people with disabilities depend on charity houses, churches, Foundations, homes for their survival. They are ultimately considered a burden to any society where they exist.

II. Medical Approach: considers disability as a physical, mental, sensorial and psychological deficiency found in an individual that limits a person's activities. This approach focuses on an individual's impairment that determines the nature of their inequality in society. It sees individuals from the angle of the medical treatment imposed or provided for them as patients, so they are treated and fixed through rehabilitation or medication to fit back into their societies. To be able to provide for themselves, people with disabilities must be cured or their impairment must be greatly reduced with the aid of medical treatment. Their environment is not considered and just like the charity approach, disability is the problem of the individual and some sick people need treatment to be normal in society.

III. Social Approach: This approach introduced a very different idea to the issue of disability. Disability is viewed from the angle of individuals as they interact with their environment where their differences cannot be accommodated. The approach sees disability as a social construct and the lack of accommodation of disabled people impede or limit the level of their participation in societal activities. To this end, inequality is not because of their impairment, but the inability of society to get rid of different barriers or obstacles that are challenging the integration of people with disabilities into society.

IV. Human Right Approach: This approach is premised on fundamental human rights principles. It is underpinned by the social model and acknowledges disability as a natural part of human diversity that must be respected and supported. To this end, people with disabilities are not mere objects but subjects of right and the State



¹⁸Guardian Newspaper (2019). *Beyond establishing disability commission*. December 27.

¹⁹Longmore, P. & Umansky, L. (2001). *The new disability history*. New York: New.

²⁰Daruwalla, P. S., & Darcy, S. (2005). Personal and Societal Attitudes to Disability. *Annals of Tourism Research*, 32(3), 549-570.

have the responsibility to protect and respect these individuals. For example, just like every other person, someone with visual impairment also has the right to vote, but if the voting materials are not made to be accessible to him and he does not have a trusted person to take him to the voting unit, such a person may not be able to vote. The lack of accessible voting materials to those visually impaired persons is to this end considered discriminatory and State must take decisive actions to see that those barriers are removed (UN, 2014).

Drawing from the above approaches, we suggest that disability generalization based on the four approaches can be misleading because PWDs are faced with various personal factors that are premised on their age, gender, sexuality, socioeconomic status, religion, cultural heritage, or ethnicity. Those individuals have their personal preferences and responses to their disability. It should also be noted that disability may correlate with disadvantage, but not all disabled people are equally disadvantaged. The level of individual disadvantages is anchored on the nature of their disability and structural factors inhibiting their ability to function in society.

2.3 Disability in Nigeria: Challenges and government response

2.3.1 Challenges facing PWDs in Nigeria

Significant challenges facing PWDs are directly or indirectly caused by the society and its institutional agents through their actions, inactions, policies and programmes in the society. According to Okon (2018), society has deliberately

created a circumstance that imposes challenges on persons with disabilities to exclude them from the mainstream of socio-economic and political activities that will lead to inclusive growth and development. Lang and Upah (2008) and Orim (2017) summarize PWDs challenges into political exclusion and economic, legal, social, psychological, environmental and assistive technology challenges. It is important to state here that persons with disabilities may not experience all the challenges at the same time as each person is unique in his/her demographic variables and other circumstances of life.

The public perception around disability in Nigeria is often built around the misconception that persons with disabilities are people in need rather than valuable members of the society with the capabilities to contribute to national discourse and development. Baffoe (2013) and Uromi and Mazagwa (2014) referred to the societal misconceptions of disability as “ill-mindset” and noted that PWDs lack access to structural buildings, live under extreme poverty, have a high unemployment rate, and experience poor provisions of education facilities and health services. Extant literature has proven the connection between poverty and disability and many PWDs in Nigeria live under the worst living conditions with no basic income, housing or gainful employment (see Krahn, 2011; WHO, 2011; Uromi & Mazagwa, 2014).

Challenges faced by PWDs in Nigeria have been reported in studies and various media platforms with emphasis placed largely on lack of domestication of legal frameworks, implementation of policies, lack of accessibility,

²¹Okon, E. O. (2018). The path to inclusive in Nigeria: Are persons with disabilities carried along? *America Economic & Social Review*, 2(1), 6-19.

²²See Lang, R. & Upah, I. (2008). *Disability issues in Nigeria*.

²³See Orim, S. O. (2017). Legislative provisions as strategies for attaining sustainable development goals for persons with disabilities in Cross River State. *The Exceptional Child*, 18(2), 146-156

²⁴Baffoe, M. (2013). Stigma, discrimination & marginalization: Gateways to oppression of persons with disabilities in Ghana, West Africa. *Journal of Educational and Social Research*, 3(1), 187-198. pp. 187

²⁵Uromi, S. M. & Mazagwa, M. I. (2014). Challenges facing people with disabilities and possible solutions in Tanzania. *Journal of Educational Policy and Entrepreneurial Research*, 1(2), 158-165

²⁶Krahn, G. L. (2011). WHO world report on disability: A review. *Disability and Health Journal*, 4(3), 141-142

²⁷WHO (2011). *World Report on Disability*. WHO Publications.

²⁸Uromi, S. M. & Mazagwa, M. I. (2014). Challenges facing people with disabilities and possible solutions in Tanzania. *Journal of Educational Policy and Entrepreneurial Research*, 1(2), 158-165

poor health care service delivery, unavailability of educational training facilities for PWDs, exclusion and lack of an institutional framework to address the plight of PWDs. These challenges have reportedly been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak that revealed the need for support services from both public and private sectors in the different geopolitical zones in Nigeria.

PWDs are reportedly victims of several social issues like prejudice, discrimination, segregation, abuse, and molestation and cuts across gender, age, and social status. Extant literature further reveals that social stigma for women with disabilities is a daily reality for most of the women who are not able to fit into society because of discrimination and stereotypes they face daily and have no power to control or choice to make. On sexuality, Ajuyah (2016) noted that women with disability are usually not regarded as sexual beings, sexual rights are severely violated and the right to determine their sexuality is taken from them. Furthermore, women living with disabilities are often vulnerable to rape and sexual assault especially in their adolescent ages and men abuse women with disabilities as though they were doing them a favour and even when they try to raise alarms, they are not taken too seriously

Other visible challenges are difficulties in accessing structural buildings because most of the public buildings do not have access ways for PWDs. Most public buildings in Nigeria such as schools, hospitals, government buildings, company buildings, shopping malls even churches/mosques do not have facilities that would enable access for PWDs such as ramps. With a lack of access to public buildings and

facilities because of the physical impediments, PWDs are structurally excluded from benefiting from public utilities. For instance, many PWDs in tertiary institutions are reportedly inaccessible to lecture halls, offices, supportive services like braille examination question papers and the absence of sign language services affect their performance in school.

2.3.2 Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018

To date, the continuous threats to humans, particularly their inalienable rights, informed the establishment of the United Nations Charter on Human Rights in 1948 which formed the legal springboard from where all legislative instruments for the protection of rights of all humans including those with disabilities. At international, Regional and National levels, efforts are made to guarantee and protect the rights of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), typical of these efforts is the United Nations Convention on Rights of PWDs (UNCRPD), 2006 and OAU now African Union Charter, 1981 on Human Rights. This was a swift response to the global phenomenon of stigmatization and discrimination against PWDs.

In Nigeria, existing legislations are supporting PWDs such as Plateau State handicap Education Law of 1981, the Nigerians with Disability Decree of 1993 and the Disability Discrimination Act 2001 (see Adeyemi, 2008). In addition, the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria as amended provided for the equal right of all citizens and the sanctity of human persons. Section 33(1) of the Nigeria Constitution explicitly state that

²⁹see Abudullhi (2018); Agbo (2020a); Amucheazi & Nwankwo (2020); Anyale (2021); Bunma et al (2020); Ewepu (2020); Kanu (2020); Obiora (2020); Onuigbo, et al, (2019); Okoye (2010); Nnama-Okechukwu et al (2020)

³⁰see Agbo (2020); Kanu (2020); Obi (2021)

³¹Ajuyah, E. (2016). *Challenges of living with disabilities in Nigeria*. Retrieved from <https://www.worldpulse.com/en/community/users/ese-ajuyah/posts/69215>.

³²Ibid

³³Ibid

³⁴Akande, A. (2019). The need for Access: Is Nigeria failing persons living with Disabilities? Nigeria Health Watch. Available here: <https://nigeriahealthwatch.com/the-need-for-access-is-nigeria-failing-persons-living-with-disabilities/>

³⁵Bumma, F. N., Ayagere, S. A., Amakiri-Whyte, B. H., & Ubani, P. (2020). Urban Public Buildings and Accessibility Challenges in Nigeria. *International Journal of Research and Scientific Innovation*, 7(5), 209-215.

³⁶Obi, F. B. Orim, S. O. & Egaga, P. I. (2014). *Assessment challenges faced by students with special needs in Nigerian Universities*. Proceedings of World Congress on Special Needs Education, DOI.10.20556/WCSNE.2014.006, 262-265

³⁷Adeyemi, C. K (2008). Legislation for persons with disabilities in Nigeria: A critical Review. *Special Needs Child*, 10(1), 94-102.



“Every person has a right to life, and no one shall be deprived intentionally of his life, save in execution of the sentence of a court in respect of a criminal offence of which he has been found guilty in Nigeria”.

Section 34(1) of the Nigeria 1999 Constitution further state that

“Every individual is entitled to respect for the dignity of his person”

Unfortunately, the 1999 Constitution is limited in scope as it applies to Nigerian citizens alone and does not make provision for those circumstances that restrict access of people with disabilities to certain opportunities, privileges and services and they are ought to be recognized and protected. To correct the errors and omissions in the 1999 Constitution, both the Lower and Upper Chamber passed Disability Act in 2018 which was assented to by the President on 23rd of January 2019. This and other efforts were aimed at demonstrating the seemingly positive effort of the government to provide equal opportunities to PWDs to enjoy rights similar to those without disabilities and domesticate international legislation on Rights of PWDs for inclusiveness and equalization

The Prohibition Act, 2018 precede several inconclusive attempts by National Assembly to pass the following bills into law:

- Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition Bill), 2008
- A Bill for an Act to prohibit all forms of discrimination against persons with disability, giving them equal opportunities in all aspects of life in the society and related matters, 2009,
- A Bill for an Act to provide special facilities for the use of handicapped persons in public buildings,

- A Bill for an Act to establish the National Social Security Board and vest with it (sic) responsibility for the control and administration of benefits and assistance to enhance the welfare of citizens, especially disadvantaged persons, particularly children, women, the handicapped, the sick, the aged and the unemployed, 2000 (Adeyemi 2008).

The 2018 Prohibition Act is unique in its provisions for five years transitory period, certificate of disability and the establishment of the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities which for the past decade gained prominence among academia, policymakers, students, professional Associations, civil society organizations and persons with disabilities due to its perceived contribution to special education and its clients in Nigeria. More succinctly, the 2018 prohibition Act is structured into 10 parts with various sections as outlined below:

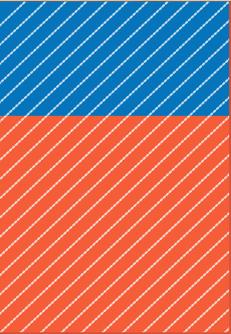
- Part 1 is the concern with the prohibition of discrimination, awareness programmes
- Part 2 deals with accessibility of physical structure
- Part 3 focused on the road transport system
- Part 4 dowels on seaports, railways and airport facilities
- Part 5 talks about liberty, rights education, health, the first consideration in queues, accommodation and emergencies
- Part 6 covers opportunities for employment and participation in politics and public life
- Part 7 emphasizes the establishment of the national commission for persons with disabilities

³⁸Imam, I & AbdulRaheem-Mustapha, M. A. (2016). Rights of People with Disability in Nigeria: Attitude and Commitment. *African Journal of International and Comparative Law* 24(3), 439–459.

- Part 8 deals with the appointment and duties of the Executive secretary and other staff
- Part 9 is on miscellaneous provisions
- Part 10 deals with the interpretation of terms in the provisions.

Despite the importance of the Disability Act, many states in different geopolitical regions in Nigeria are yet to put in place strategies for the domestication, implementation, and awareness of the Act hence the need to further explore the current realities of the state of disability in different geopolitical regions in Nigeria. In specific, this study presents the Prohibition Act, 2018, the relevance of legislation to clients of special needs education, challenges to effective implementation of legislation for PWDs in Nigeria and sustainable strategies for implementation of the discrimination against persons with disabilities prohibition Act, 2018 at regional level in Nigeria.





03

SURVEY OBJECTIVES AND RESEARCH QUESTION



Photo Credit: Able Child Africa



3.1 Objectives of the Study

This study seeks to investigate the challenges facing PWDs and the state of the domestication of the disability act in the six geo-political regions in Nigeria. In the six geo-political regions, it

1. Assesses the state of disability in Nigeria
2. Examines the challenges facing persons with disabilities
3. Explores and identifies the needs of persons with disabilities
4. Discovers the support services currently available and enjoyed by PWD.
5. Appraises the state of domestication of Discrimination Act 2018.
6. Detect interventions services and ways to appropriately domesticate the discrimination prohibition Act of 2018

3.2 Research questions

Within the six geo-political zones,

1. What is the state of disability in Nigeria?
2. What are the challenges facing persons with disability in Nigeria?
3. What are the needs and coping strategies of persons with disabilities in Nigeria?
4. What support services are available for PWDs in Nigeria?
5. To what extent has each region domesticated the discrimination Act 2018?
6. What interventions and services are required to assist PWD?





04

SURVEY METHODOLOGY



Photo Credit: KATE HOLT / Humanity & Inclusion

The action research study was led by Africa Polling Institute (API) in consortium with Nigeria University scholars. The study was carried out across Nigeria's six (6) regions between June and December 2021. Each region was led by an academic scholar, making a total of six (6) scholars for the study. The initial phase of the action research entailed desk research and stakeholders' engagement. The second phase focused on data collection through mixed methods, which involved quantitative and qualitative techniques. Below further explain the phases.

Phase 1: Desk Research and Stakeholders' engagement

Desk Research - The scholars commenced the study with an extensive review of the extant literature on the state of persons with disabilities in Nigeria; the Discrimination against persons with disabilities (prohibition) act, 2018; and barriers hindering domestication of the act.

Stakeholders' Engagement – After the action review of the literature, regional stakeholders' meeting was organized by the scholars. They brought together key stakeholders from the disability community across the states in their region; disability-focused civil groups; public office holders and officials from state ministries, departments and agencies to discuss issues on persons with disabilities. The engagement focused on: The State of persons with disabilities in the states and the current most pressing challenges facing persons with disabilities; the state Government's conceptual understanding of disability; the existing challenges or barriers hindering the domestication of the Disabilities Act in states; and what can be done to mitigate them.

Phase 2: Data Collection

The second phase focused on data collection through mixed methods, which involved quantitative and qualitative techniques

For the quantitative data, 50 questionnaires were administered in each of the 36 states and the FCT, making a total of 1,850 to various clusters of

persons with disabilities identified in each of the states. All interviews were conducted via Face-to-face, using a convenient sampling technique. The survey instrument was designed in collaboration with academic scholars and a PWD expert.

In addition to the quantitative approach, focus group discussions, and in-depth interviews were conducted with relevant stakeholders using a convenient sampling method with a semi-structured survey protocol. Information derived from the in-depth interviews was transcribed and content-analyzed under different headings depicting the various aspects of the discussion to complement the quantitative data.

4.1 National Demography of Respondent

A total of 1,738 respondents across Nigeria participated in the survey, of which 59% were Male, and 41% were Female. More of the respondents (49%) were aged 18 to 35 years. This was closely followed by those aged 36 to 60 years (47%) while only 5% of the respondents were aged 61 and above. In terms of educational qualification, the survey had more respondents with Secondary Education and above (54%), compared to respondents who had No Formal Education/Completed Primary School (48%)

More participants are Urban respondents (56%), compared to Rural respondents (44%). With regards to Geo-political zones, the highest number of respondents are North-West (20%), followed by North-East (17%), South-South (17%), and South-West (17%). In addition, North-Central and South-East were 15% and 14% respectively.

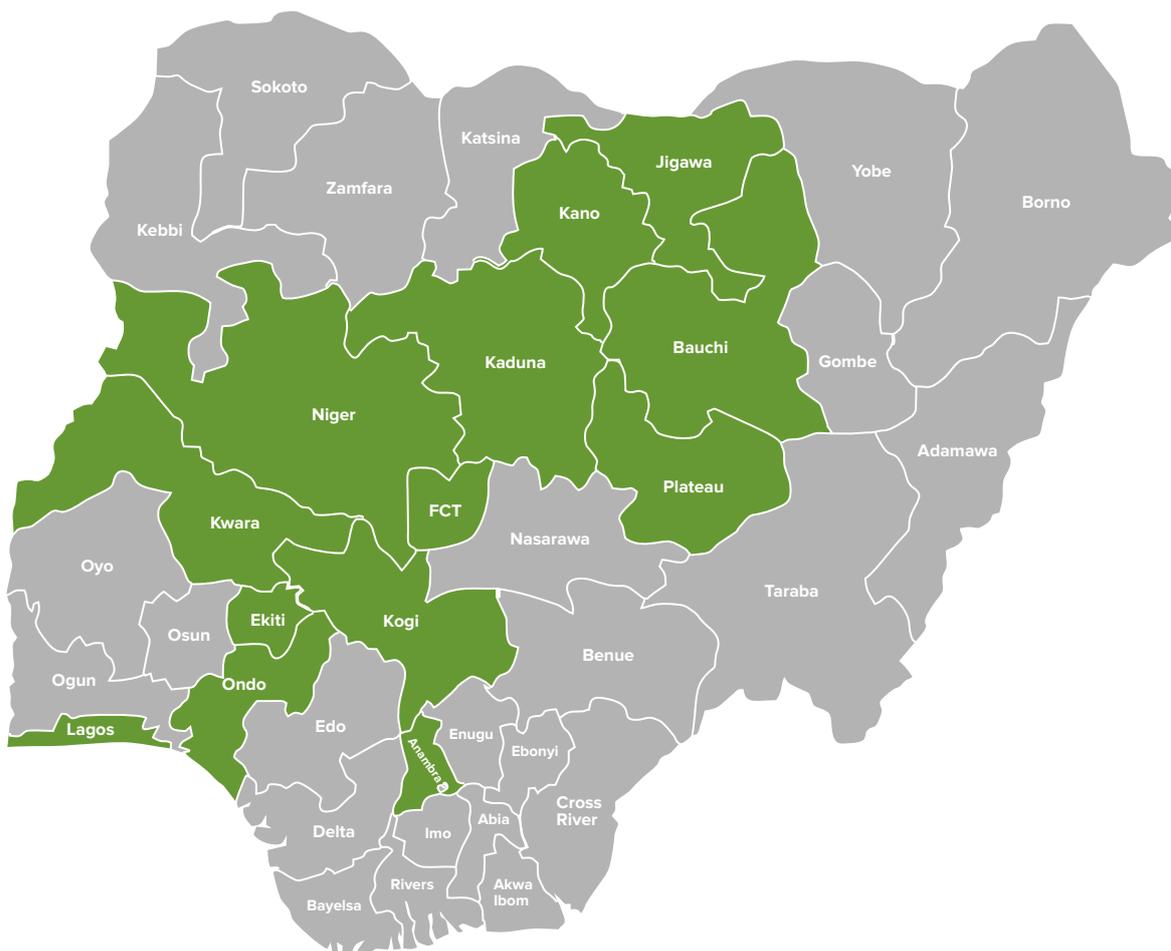
We believe that a critical assessment of the state of disability in Nigeria requires a regional understanding of the needs and challenges of persons with disability. In this wise, the survey was disaggregated and the findings were regionally analyzed across the six geo-political zones of the country.

³⁹The various clusters targeted include: the Blind, the physically disabled, the deaf, the intellectually impaired, albinism, those with spinal cord injuries, and leprosy victims among others



Figure 4.1: National Demographic Profile of the Respondents

Variable Name	Variable Label	N = 1,738	% = 100
Gender	Male	1025	59%
	Female	713	41%
Age Category	18-35 years	849	49%
	36-60 years	798	46%
	61 and above	91	5%
Highest Education	No Formal Education / Completed Primary School	837	48%
	Completed Secondary & Above	901	52%
Urbanization	Rural	767	44%
	Urban	971	56%
Geo-Political Zone	North Central	256	15%
	North East	297	17%
	North West	348	20%
	South East	250	14%
	South South	287	17%
	South West	300	17%



- States that have domesticated the “Discrimination against Persons with Disability Act”, 2018
- States yet to domesticated the “Discrimination against Persons with Disability Act”, 2018

05

SURVEY RESULTS
AND FINDINGS
FROM THE
SOUTH-SOUTH
REGION



5.1 Social Demography

In the South-South Geo-political zone, a total of 287 respondents, constituting 17% of the national respondents, participated in the survey, of which 56% were Male and 44% were Female. The respondents consist of youths between 18-35years (52%); middle-aged between 36-60years (45%); and aged - 61 years & above (3%). The sample was dominated by respondents with Secondary Education and above (74%), compared to those who had No Formal Education/Completed Primary School (26%). Again, more of the respondents are based in the Urban (64%) area, compared to Rural (36%) residents. In particular, excluding Edo State with 15% respondents, all the states in the region had an equal number of respondents (17% each) including Bayelsa, Delta, Rivers, Cross River and Akwa Ibom.

Figure 5.1: Demographic Profile of Respondents in the South-South Region

Variable Name	Variable Label	N = 287	% = 100
Gender	Male	162	56%
	Female	125	44%
Age Category	18-35 years	150	52%
	36-60 years	130	45%
	61 and above	7	3%
Highest Education	No Formal Education / Completed Primary School	75	26%
	Completed Secondary & Above	212	74%
Urbanization	Rural	104	36%
	Urban	183	64%
South-South States	Bayelsa	50	17%
	Delta	50	17%
	Rivers	50	17%
	Edo	40	15%
	Cross River	49	17%
	Akwa Ibom	48	17%

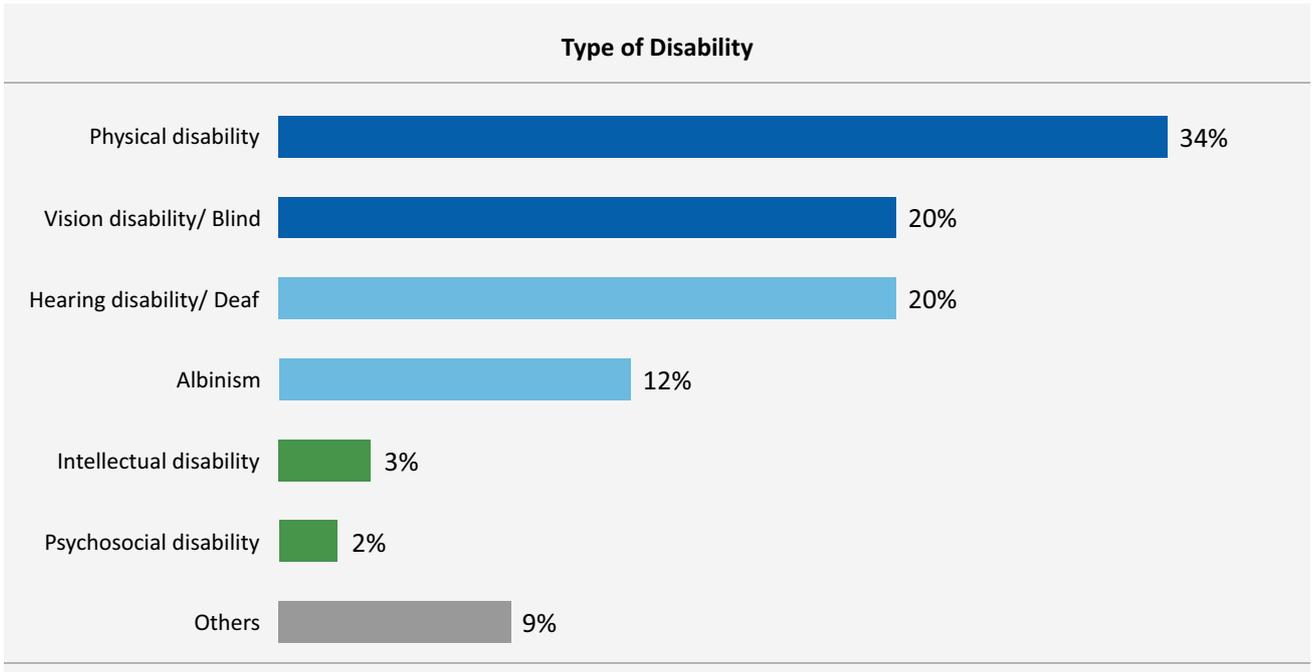
5.2 Disability Identification and Experience

The following sub-sections provide the disability profile of the respondents in the South-South region.

5.2.1 Category of respondents

The survey investigated the nature of respondents' disabilities. From the survey findings, respondents with Physical disability (34%) were more. This was closely followed by respondents with Visual impairment (20%), Hearing disability (20%), and Albinism (12%). Other category of respondents identified were those with: Intellectual disability (3%), Psycho-social disability (2%), amongst others. While probing further, we discovered that some of the respondents who suffer from physical disability, have reduced ability to easily perform body movement such as sitting and standing, walking, moving their hands etc; thereby making it difficult for them to perform daily task without support.

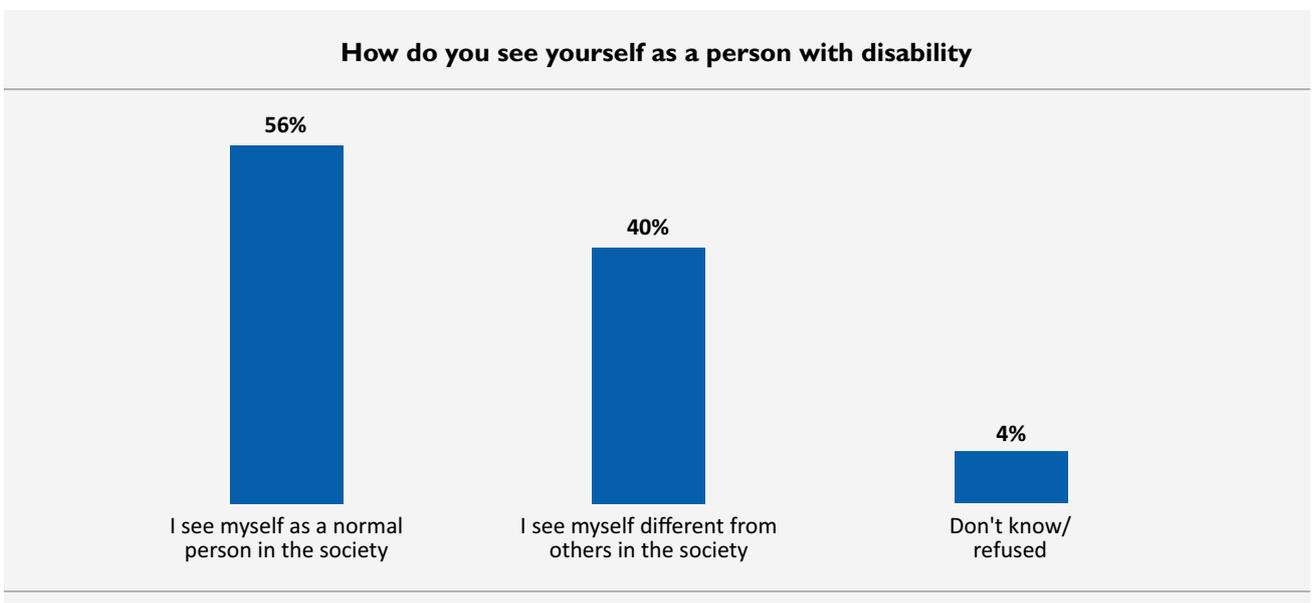
Figure 5.2: Forms of Disability in the South-South Region



5.2.2 Realities of Persons with Disability in South-South

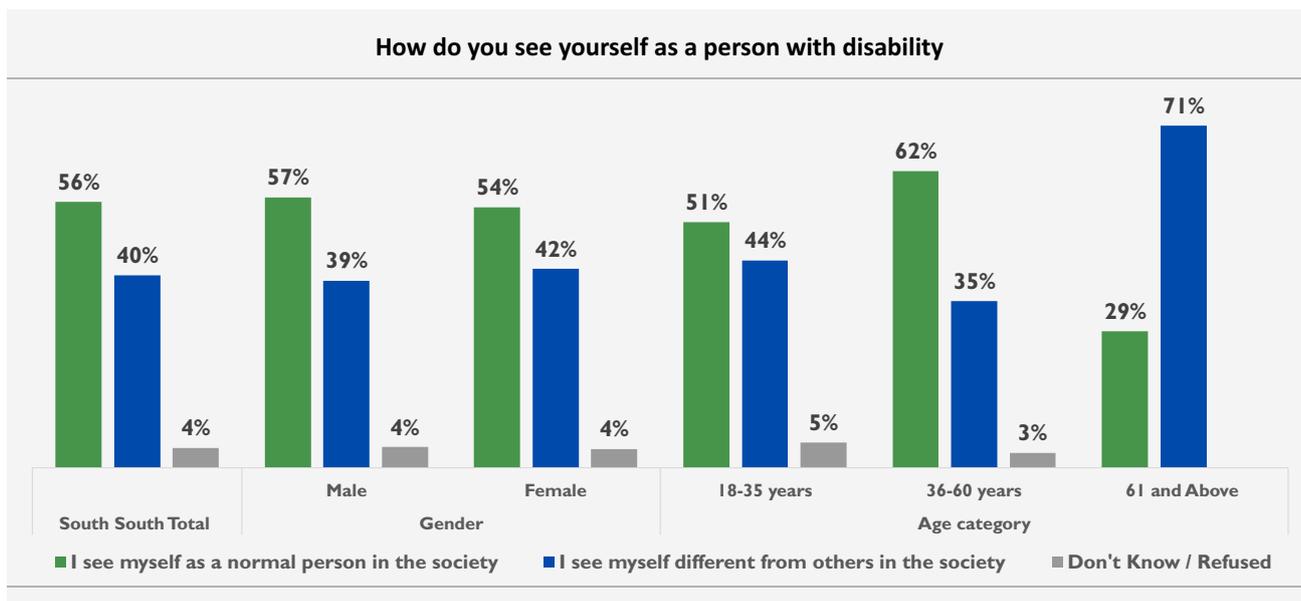
Understanding the perception of Persons with Disability regarding their realities is important for effective interventions. From the findings, a slight majority of the respondents (56%) consider themselves normal people in the society; compared to 4 in 10 (40%) respondents that feel otherwise. The seemingly negative perception expressed by respondents that see themselves differently from others may stem from real-life experiences and or psychological effects from the feeling of vulnerability, alienation, and social exclusion in the society.

Figure 5.3: Feelings on personal Disability



Furthermore, cross-tabulations across gender and age category shows that Male respondents with disability (57%) often consider themselves normal person in society; compared to Female (54%). On the other hand, Female respondents (42%) have a higher tendency to see themselves as different from others; compared to Male respondents (39%). Correspondingly, respondents aged 36 to 60 years (62%) and aged 18-35years (51%) were also more likely to see themselves as normal person in society, compared to those aged 61 and above (29%). On the reverse, respondents who considered themselves as different from others were highest amongst those aged 61 and above (71%).

Figure 5.4: Disaggregation of feelings about personal Disability



5.2.3 Public perception of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)

Surprisingly, the overwhelming majority of respondents in South-South (90%) perceive persons with disability as helpless; compared to only a few (7%) who consider them as part of society. These findings were further validated by responses from key informants and focus group participants across states in the region. For instance, key stakeholders such as JONAPWD as well as members of the Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) acknowledged the widespread negative public perception of persons with disabilities. Here are a few quotes from the KIIs and FGDs to buttress this point.

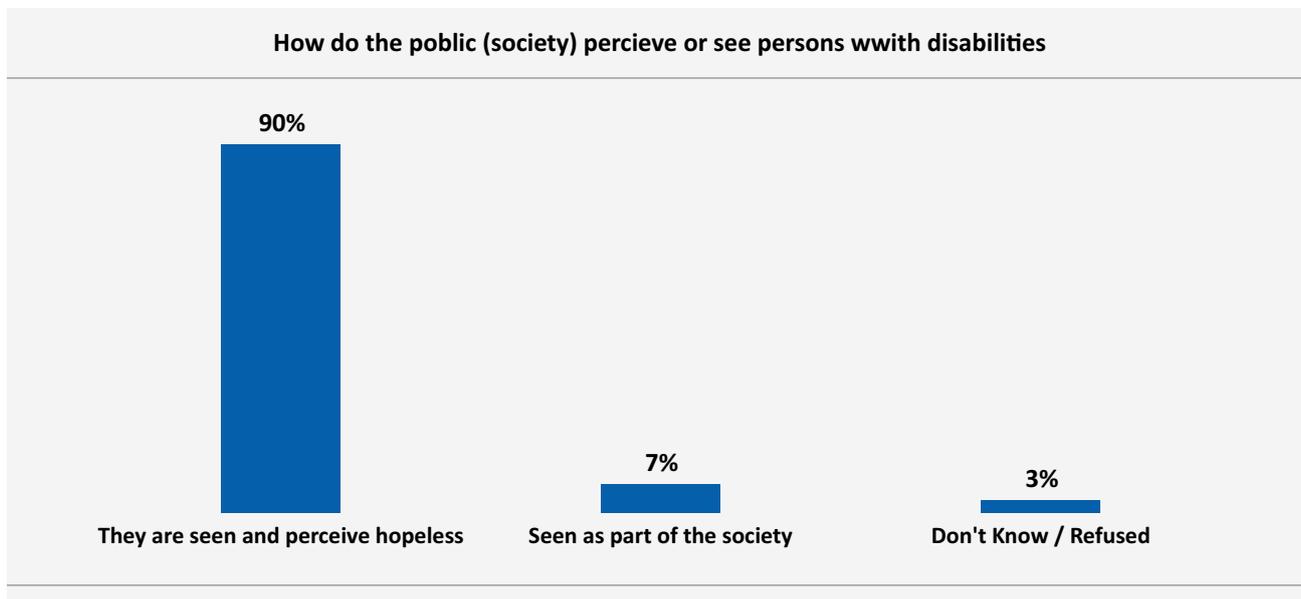
“Public perception of persons with disability in the state is still poor as they look at them with negative impression and attitudes, in churches and other social places, they are used as an opportunity to show moral uprightness by giving them gifts/ money. In addition, in shopping malls, it is noticed that persons with disabilities witness exclusion, discrimination and negative attitude.” **FGD Extract**

“We are still abused and discriminated against as people don't accept to rent their houses to persons with disabilities. I was thrown out of a house and I became homeless until I find a place in the church. Other cases of threats from landlords are common in the state.” **KII Extract**

“There is a high level of rejection for marriage partnership, especially by the parents. There is gender disparity in acceptance for marriage, men with disability are more accepted as a husband by non-disabled women than females being accepted by non-disabled men. Women with disability face more discrimination when searching for marriage partners.” **KII Extract**

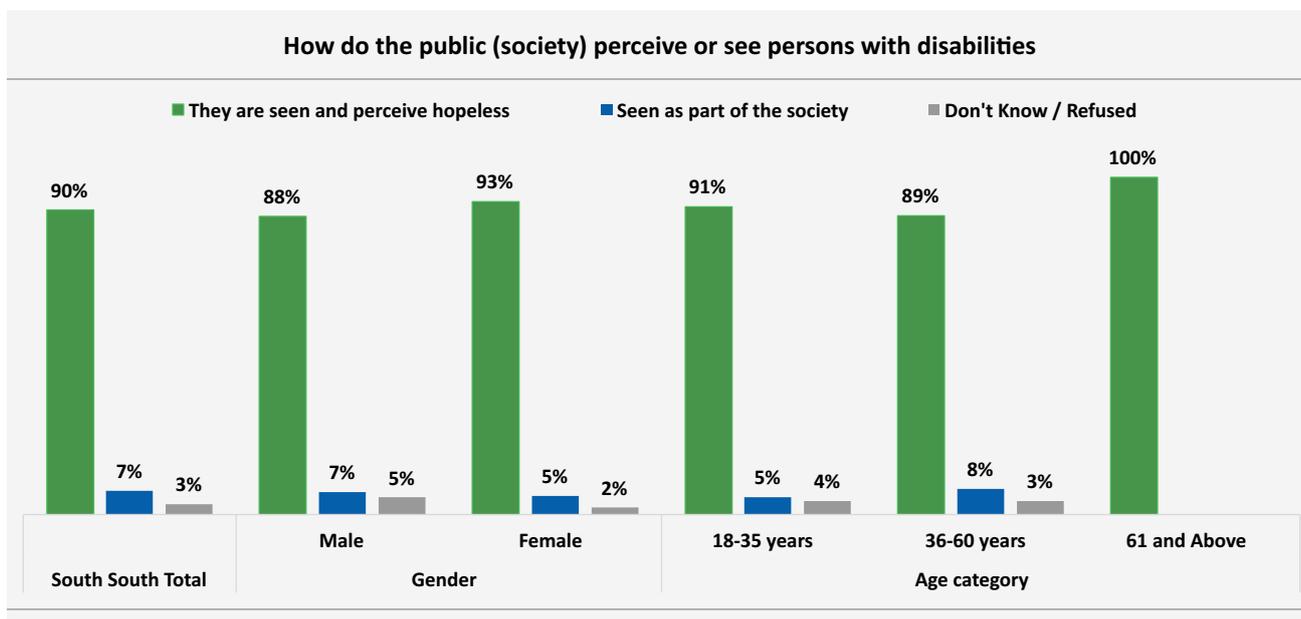
This finding raises an important concern for persons with disability in the country, given that public perception of disability is an important factor affecting not only the well-being of persons with disability but also influences societal attitudes and dispositions towards them.

Figure 5.5: How members of the public perceive PWDs



Further disaggregation of the findings below shows that the negative perception about persons with disability in South-South geo-political zone is widespread and cut across gender and age category. All respondents aged 61 years and above (100%) and Female respondents (93%) mostly shared this negative perception.

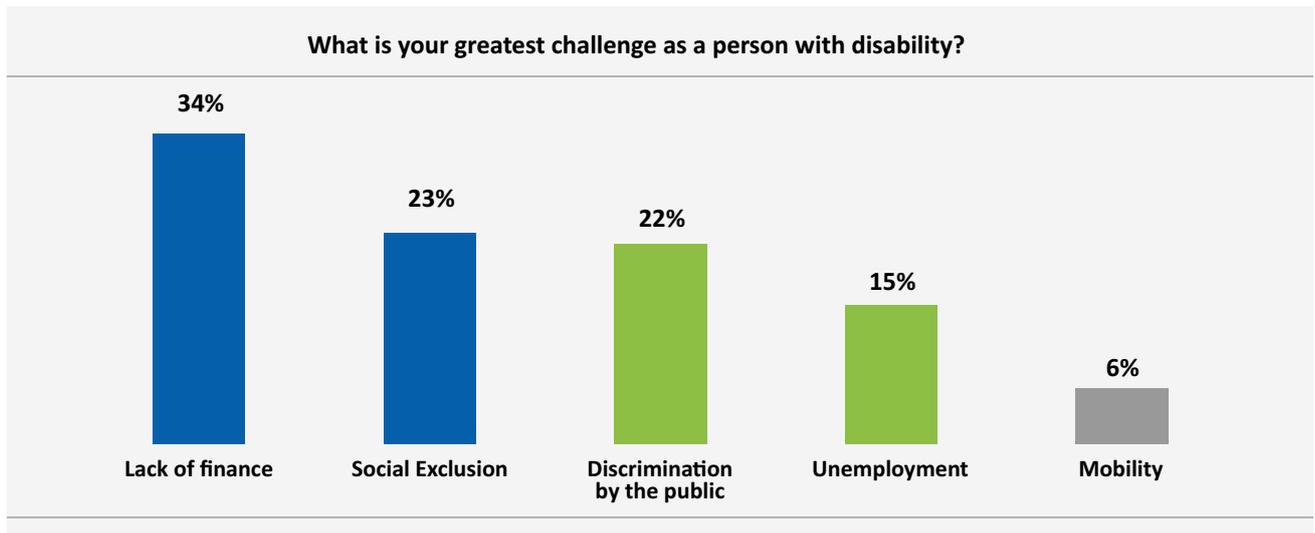
Figure 5.6: Disaggregation of Public perception of PWDs



5.2.4 Challenges of Persons with Disability in South-South

It is imperative to assess the forms of challenges facing PWDs to inform policy and initiative design. Following the survey finding, we found that the greatest challenge facing PWDs is 'Lack of finance' (34%), followed by 'Social Exclusion' (23%), 'Discrimination by the Public' (22%), and 'Unemployment' (15%). Only a few respondents (6%) indicated the 'Mobility' challenge. This finding suggests that persons with disability in the South-South geographical zone are facing multidimensional challenges that are preventing them from attaining their full potential and enjoying their full social, civic, national, and economic benefits in Nigeria.

Figure 5.7: Identification of the worst challenges facing PWDs



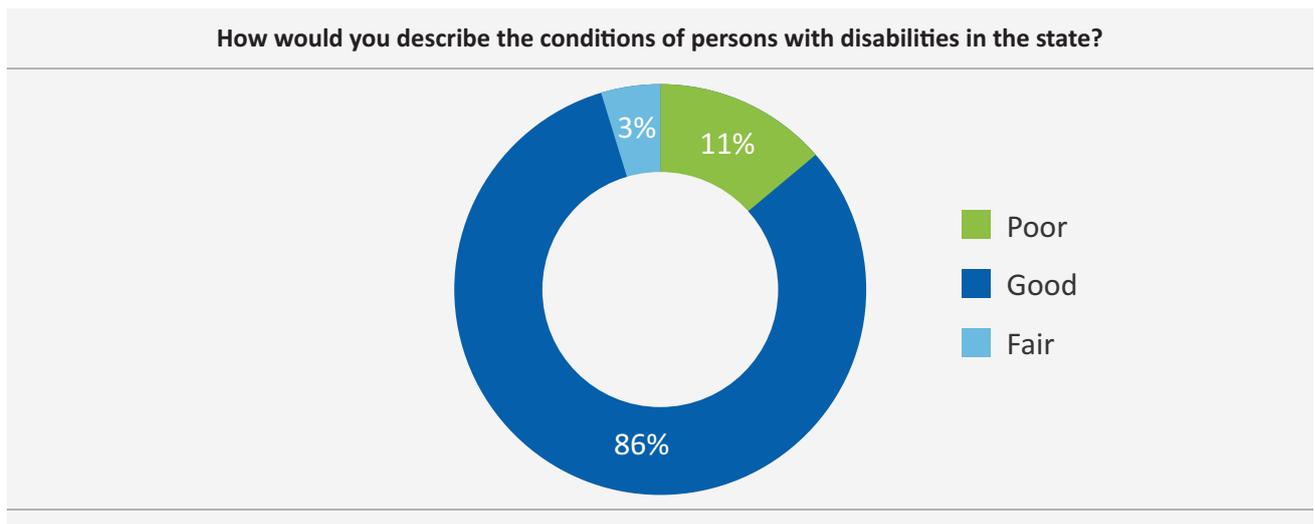
5.3 Inclusion of Persons with Disability in South-South

Here, we presented the findings on social inclusion challenges facing PWDs in the South-South region.

5.3.1 Conditions of Persons with Disability

While ascertaining the conditions of persons with disability in the South-South region, we discovered that majority of the respondents are optimistic about their condition which they consider 'Good' (86%), and a few respondents consider it 'Poor' (11%), and the remaining 3% rated it fairly.

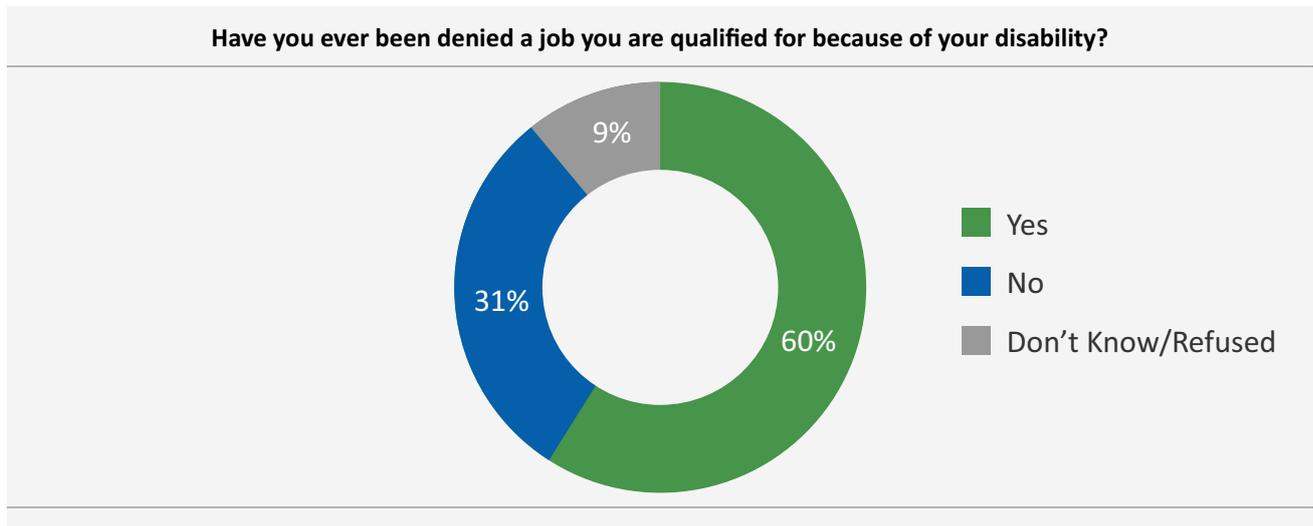
Figure 5.8: Rating the conditions of PWDs



5.3.2 Job discrimination among Persons with Disability

To further assess the extent of inclusion in the region, we asked the respondents if they have ever been denied a job as a result of their disability. The findings show that 6 in 10 PWDs (60%) have experienced job discrimination despite that job discrimination against PWDs violates Part VI, section (I) of the Nigeria Disabilities Prohibition Act 2018. Increased job discrimination against PWD may worsen their standard of living considering that there is a connection between poverty and disability and many PWDs in Nigeria live under the worst living conditions with no basic income, housing, or gainful employment (Krahn, 2011; WHO, 2011; Uromi & Mazagwa, 2014).

Figure 5.9: Job Discrimination among PWDs



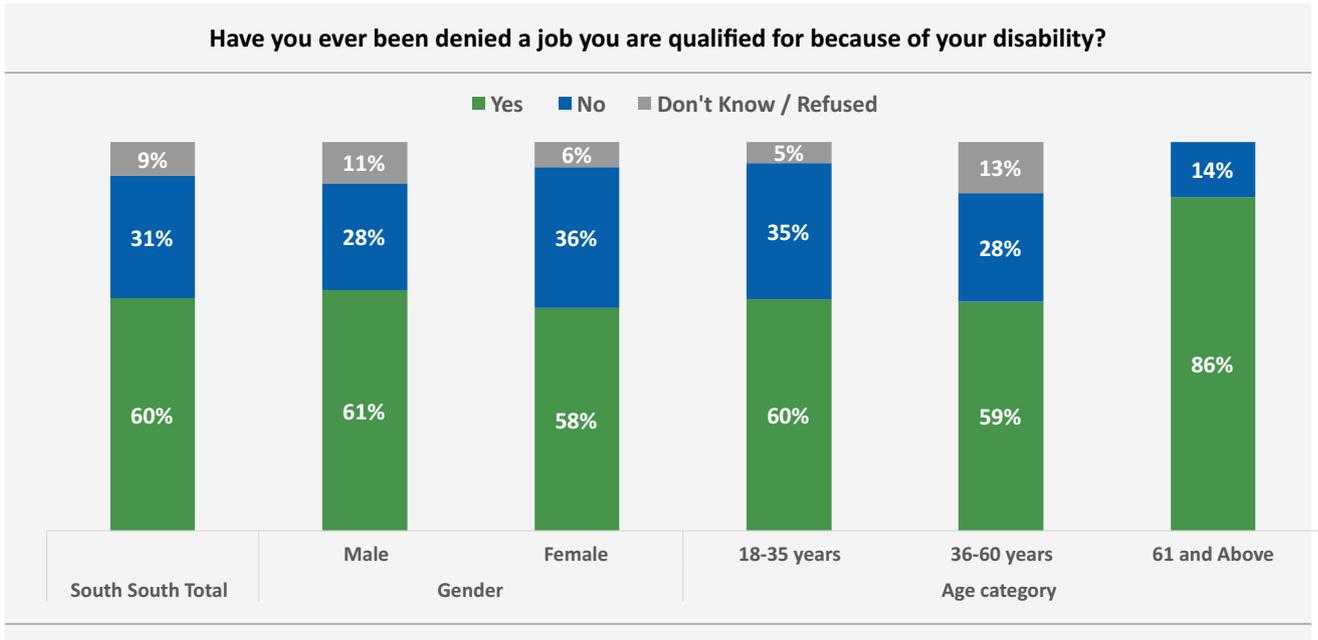
Further disaggregation of the data shows that the elderly aged 61 and above (86%) have mostly suffered from job discrimination compared to other age categories. In addition, Male respondents with disability (61%) suffer job discrimination more than Female (58%) respondents with disability.

⁴⁰Krahn, G. L. (2011). WHO world report on disability: A review. *Disability and Health Journal*, 4(3), 141-142

⁴¹WHO (2011). *World Report on Disability*. WHO Publications.

⁴²Uromi, S. M. & Mazagwa, M. I. (2014). Challenges facing people with disabilities and possible solutions in Tanzania. *Journal of Educational Policy and Entrepreneurial Research*, 1(2), 158-165.

Figure 5.10: Disaggregation of Job Discrimination Findings



5.3.3 Accessibility of physical facilities in South-South

On the ease of movement among PWD, the finding shows that roughly 6 in 10 PWDs (61%) 'find it difficult to access public and private facilities'; compared to 35% who 'stated otherwise'. No doubt, movement can present a serious challenges for persons with disability, especially in Nigeria where the plights of PWDs have not been captured in the design of access routes. It could further be inferred from the result that this difficulty in movement could also dampen their chances of getting employment, education, and accessing health facilities, and other services. In the words of a key informant:



“Among other needs such as quality inclusive education, and establishing special schools in LGA, persons with a disability find it difficult interacting with their physical environment, public / private structures, getting employment, etc. They are deprived of access to health care services, assistive technologies/mobility aids, social insurance policy, scholarship, accessible transport system, financial inclusion, and tax exemption.” **KII Extract**

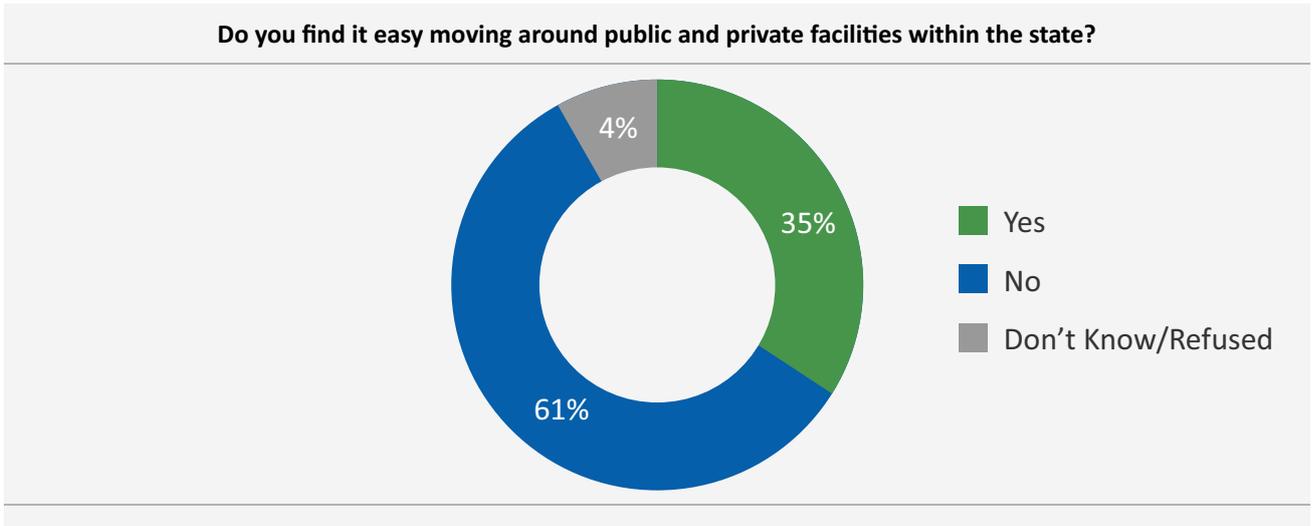
Still, on access to physical facilities within the state, a participant from Bayelsa state narrated his personal experience:



“Private and public buildings such as secretariats, hospitals, and churches are not accessible for persons with disabilities. I am currently facing a challenge accessing the ministry of Justice where I work. It is a story building without a lift... at some point due to stress in getting into my office, I was advised to stay at home. This is not acceptable! The government needs to look into this quickly.”



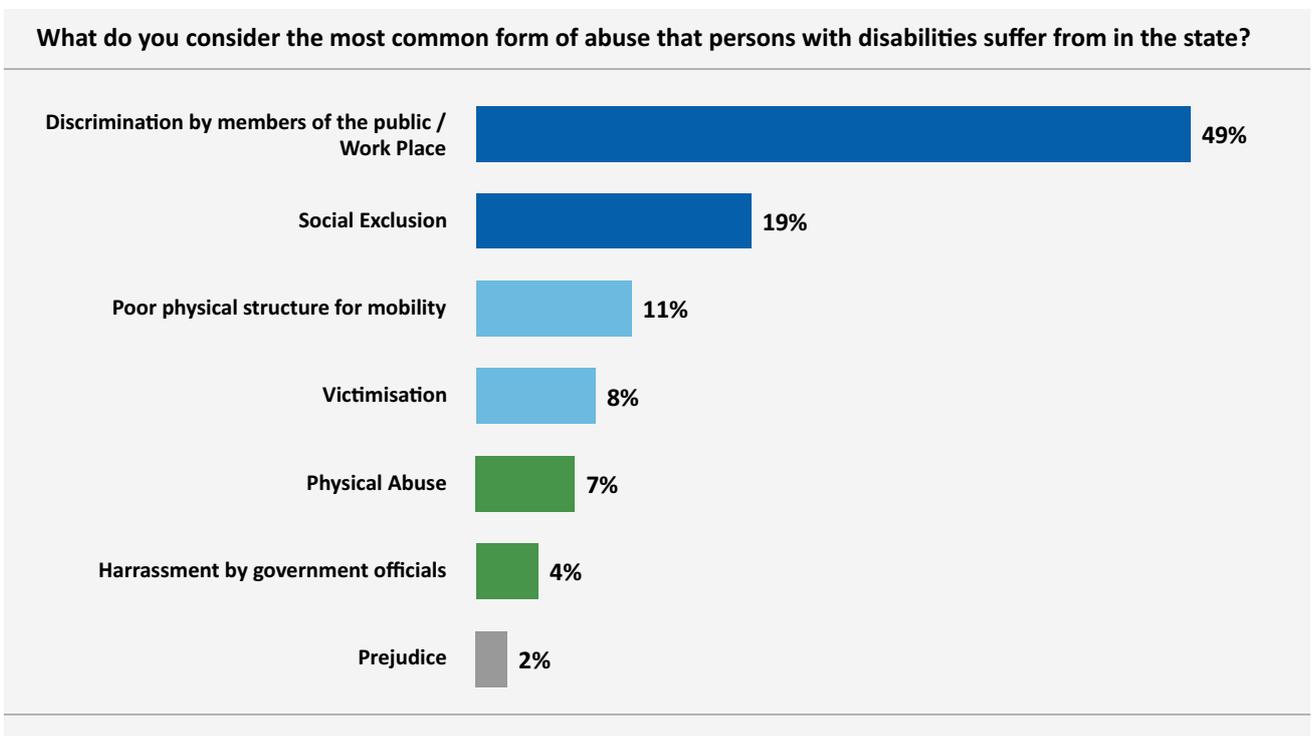
Figure 5.11: Ease of movement among PWD



5.3.4 Common forms of abuse among Persons with Disability in South-South

Abuse and discrimination are common experiences of persons with disability. To this end, the survey sought to ascertain the common type of abuse faced by PWDs. The findings showed that PWD mostly suffers from 'Discrimination by members of the public/workplace' (49%) despite the passing of the Disability Act (2018) into law. This is followed by: 'Social Exclusion' (19%), 'poor physical structure for mobility' (11%), 'Victimisation' (8%), and 'Physical Abuse' (7%). In addition, other abuses identified were 'Harassment by government officials' (4%) and Prejudice (2%). This finding is thus an indication of poor monitoring, checks, and balances at the workplace against PWDs.

Figure 5.12: Most common form of Abuse suffered by PWD



5.3.5 General Perception of Persons with Disability in South-South

On the general perception of persons with disability, results indicated that 7 in 10 respondents (72%) strongly believe that 'Many persons with disability are well educated, productively engaged in different employment and contributing to national development. A larger percentage of respondents (79%) strongly believe that 'Only family members of persons with disability should be responsible in catering for their wellbeing'. Concerning the right of persons with disability, the survey also found that roughly 8 in 10 respondents (82%) opine that 'the rights of persons with disability are well protected by their state government and another 87% said 'persons with disabilities are included in key decision-making processes in their state'.

However, the majority of the respondents (71%) strongly objected that 'Most of the programmes that support and promote the wellbeing of PWDs are usually carried out by CSOs, NGOs, and FBOs. Further findings revealed that the majority of the respondents (61%), as against (39%) believed that 'Most of the programmes that support and promote the wellbeing of PWDs are usually carried out by state government'. It could be deduced from this finding that the state governments across the states in South-South geo-political zone, are more supportive of the well-being of PWDs compared to CSOs, NGOs, and FBOs.

Figure 5.13: Perception of PWD

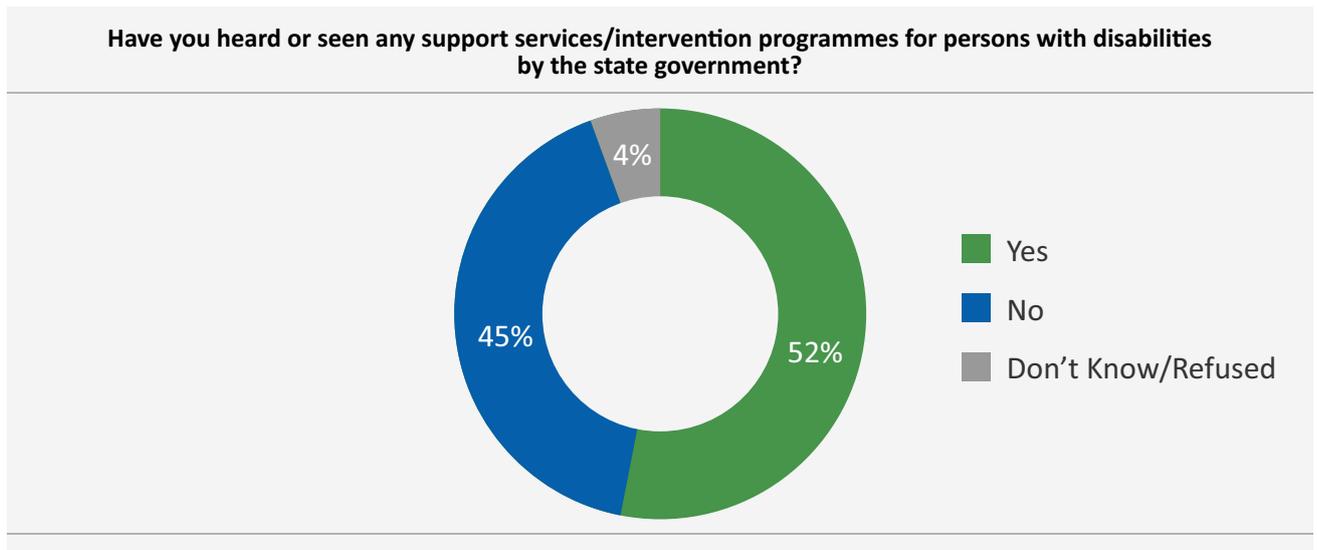
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Many persons with disabilities in this state are well educated and engages in different employment opportunities where they contribute to national growth and development	51%	21%	15%	13%
Only family members of persons with disabilities should be responsible in catering for their wellbeing	61%	18%	9%	12%
The rights of persons with disabilities are well protected by the government of this state.	49%	33%	11%	7%
Persons with disabilities are included in key decision-making processes in this state	58%	29%	5%	8%
Most of the programmes that support and promote the wellbeing of persons with disabilities are usually carried out by CSOs, NGOs, and FBOs	5%	24%	31%	40%
Most of the programmes that support and promote the wellbeing of persons with disabilities are usually carried out by state governments	24%	37%	15%	24%

5.4 Support Services and Intervention Programmes for Persons with Disability

5.4.1 Knowledge of support services/intervention programmes by state governments

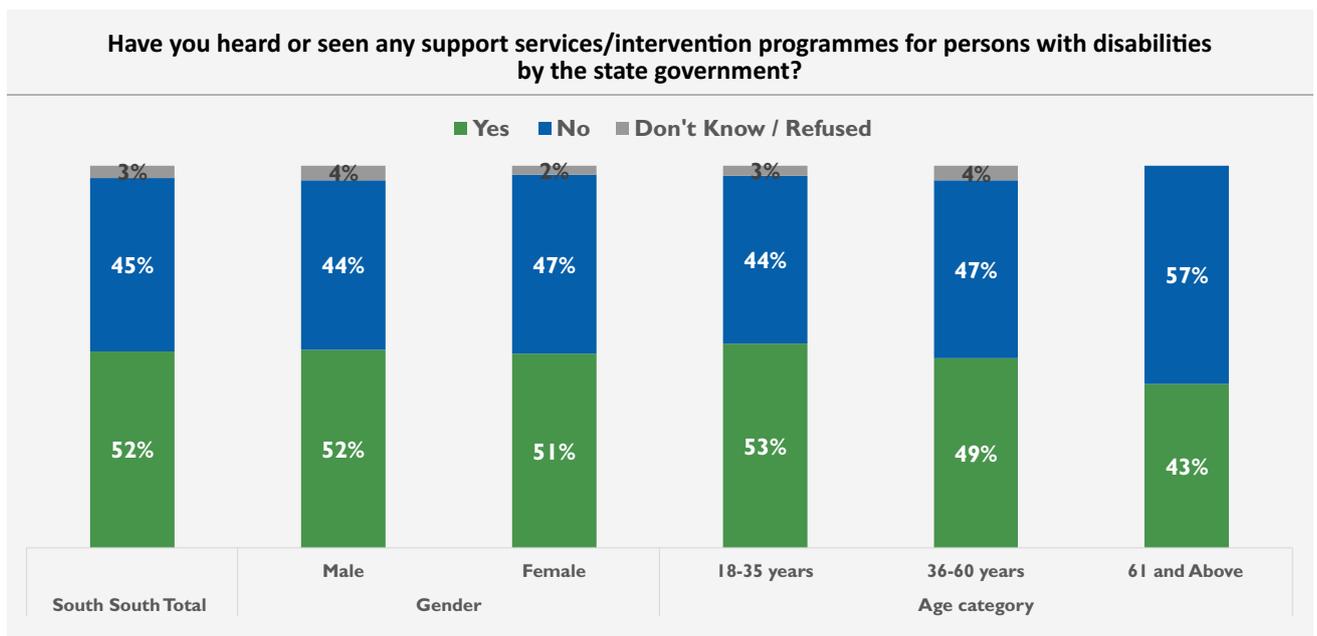
Following the popular opinion regarding state governments' support of PWDs, respondents were asked if they have any knowledge of support services/intervention programmes by state governments. A slight majority of respondents (52%) said 'yes'; compared to those (45%) who said 'No'. On the other hand, only very few respondents opted for 'Don't know/Refused'. The findings indicate that government intervention programmes for PWD are unpopular among the people.

Figure 5.14: Perception of Government Support Services and Programmes



Further disaggregation of the data revealed that of the 52% of respondents who know about support services/intervention programmes by the state governments, a slightly higher proportion were found amongst the youthful aged 18-35years (53%) and Male respondents (52%). On the other hand, the elderly aged 61 and above (57%) are not aware of state governments' intervention programmes/supporting services.

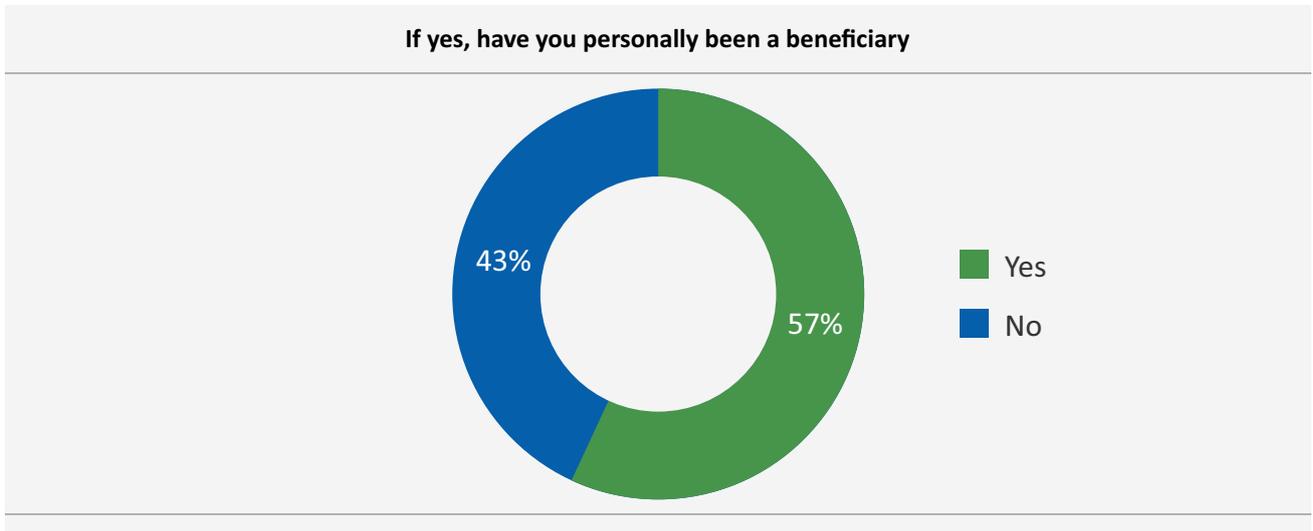
Figure 5.15: Disaggregation of Perception of Government Support Services and Programmes



5.4.2 Beneficiaries of state governments' intervention programmes for Persons with Disability

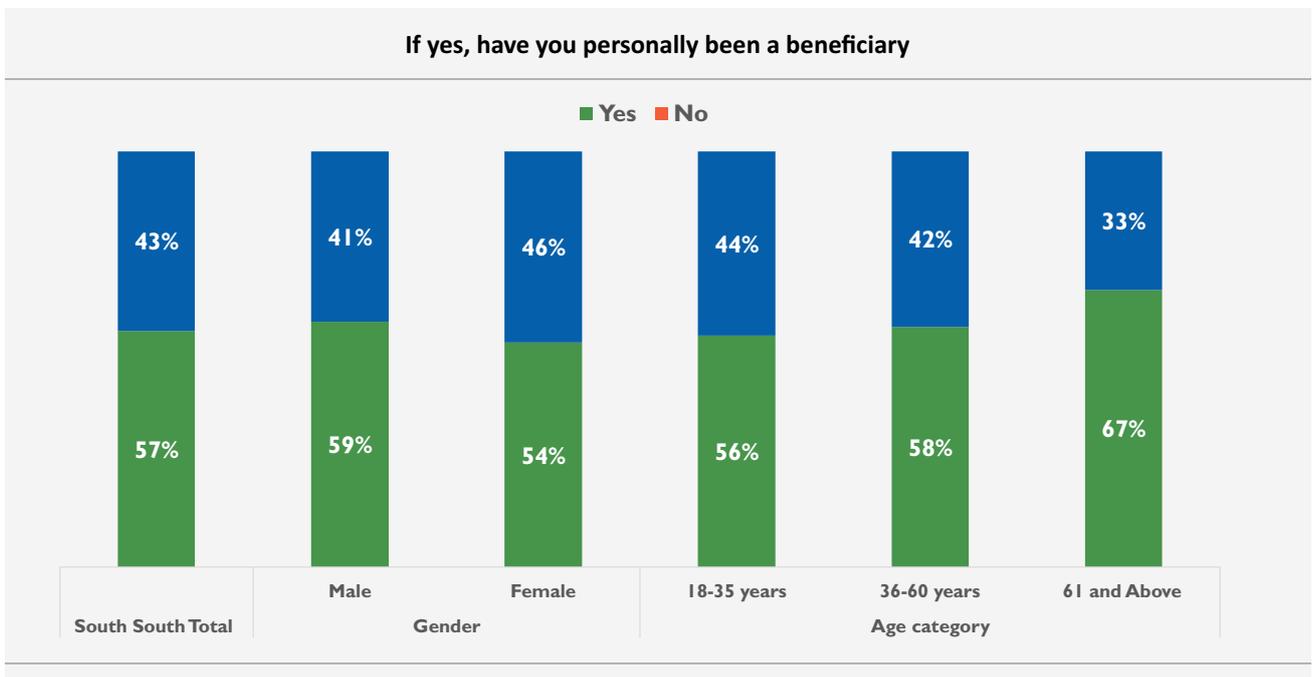
Persons with disability usually experience financial hardship and would require government financial support. In most countries, these people are entitled to one or more government benefits. Given this, respondents were asked if they have been beneficiaries of government support programmes. The result showed that almost 6 in 10 respondents (57%) have benefited, as against roughly 4 in 10 (43%) who opposed.

Figure 5.16: Estimating beneficiaries of Government Intervention Programmes



For the age demography, the majority of those who have benefitted the most were the elderly aged 61 years and above (67%), followed by those aged 36-60years (58%) and then youth aged 18-35 years (56%). Again, Male respondents (59%) were revealed to benefit more than Female (54%) respondents.

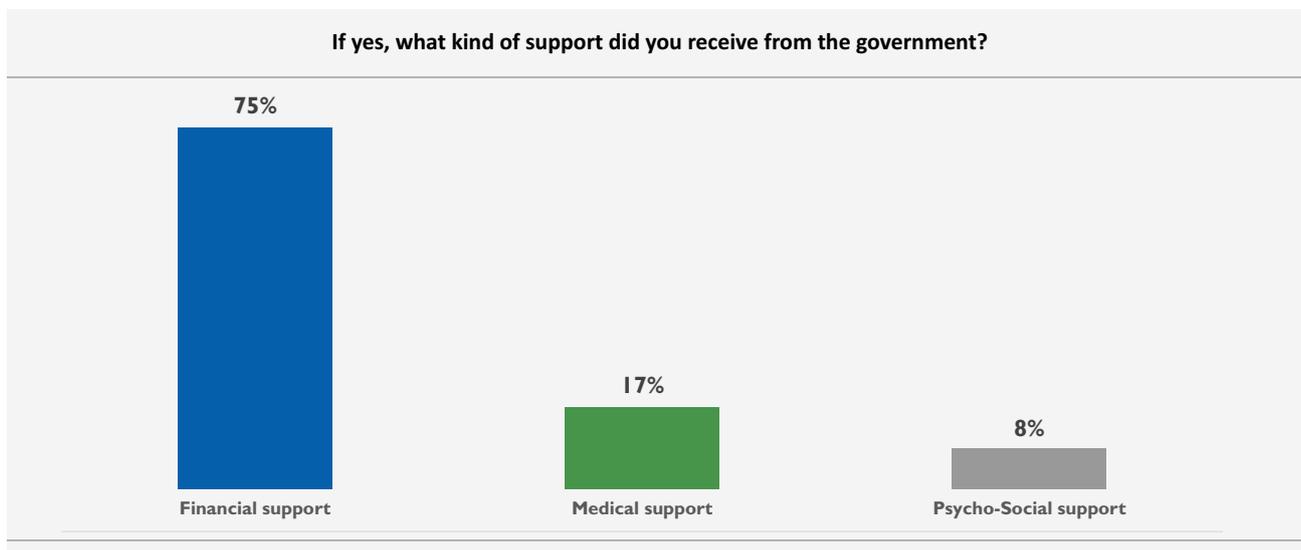
Figure 5.17: Disaggregation of Government Intervention Programme Beneficiaries



5.4.3 Type of support received from the state government

Digging further, the survey sought to ascertain the type of support persons with disability receive from the state government. From the result, 'Financial Support' (75%) constituted the widespread support received by the respondents. This was followed by 'Medical support' (17%). However, a few respondents identified 'Psycho-Social Support' (8%). Again, this result no doubt mirrors earlier findings that the state governments across the states in South-South geo-political zone, have been supportive of the wellbeing of PWDs.

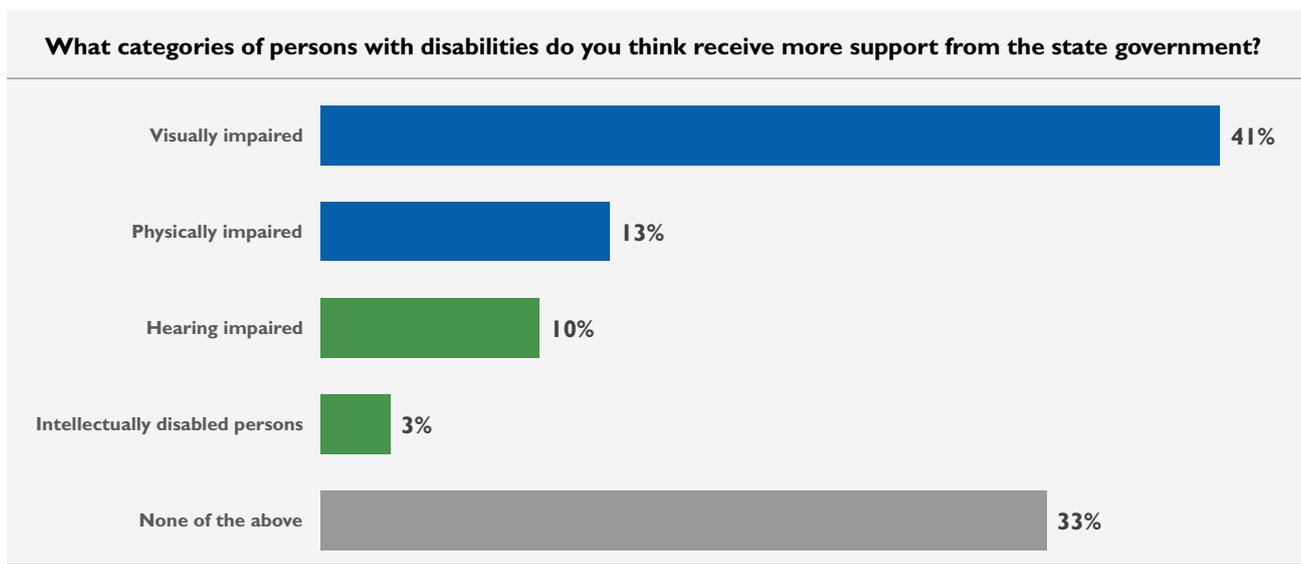
Figure 5.18: Establishing the forms of Government Support for PWD



5.4.4 Category of Persons with Disability with the most support from state governments

From the results, 'Visually impaired' disability (41%) appeared to receive the highest support and attention from the state government. In addition, other disabilities that receive more support from the government include 'Physically Impaired' (13%), 'Hearing Impaired' (10%), and 'Intellectually disabled persons' (3%). On the contrary, 33% of respondents believe that PWDs do not receive support from the state government.

Figure 5.19: Identifying PWD-beneficiaries of Government Support

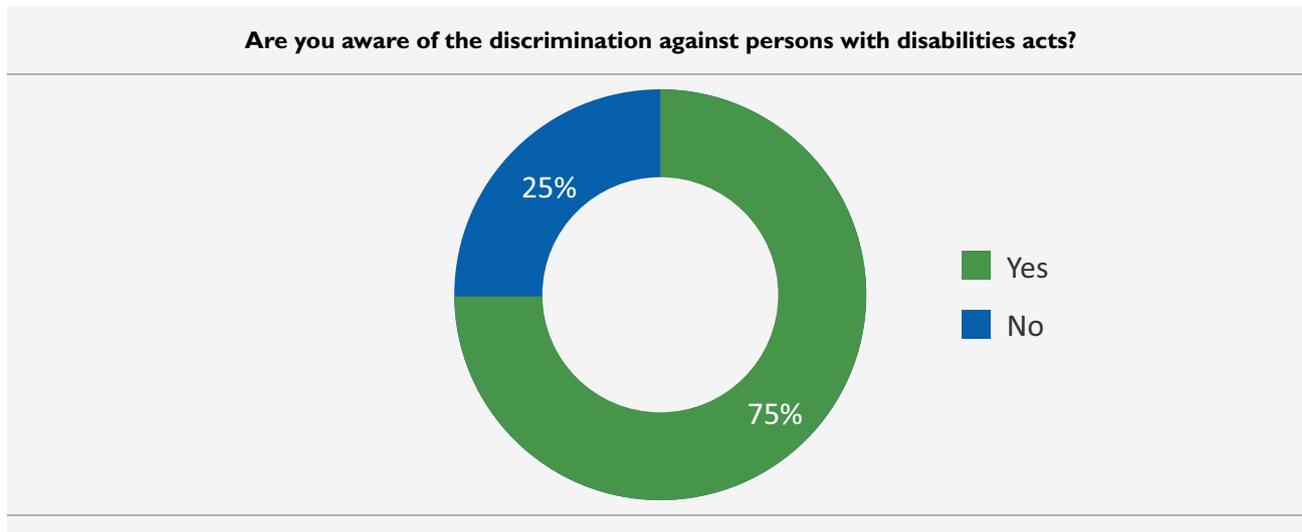


5.5 The Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act

5.5.1 Awareness of the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition)

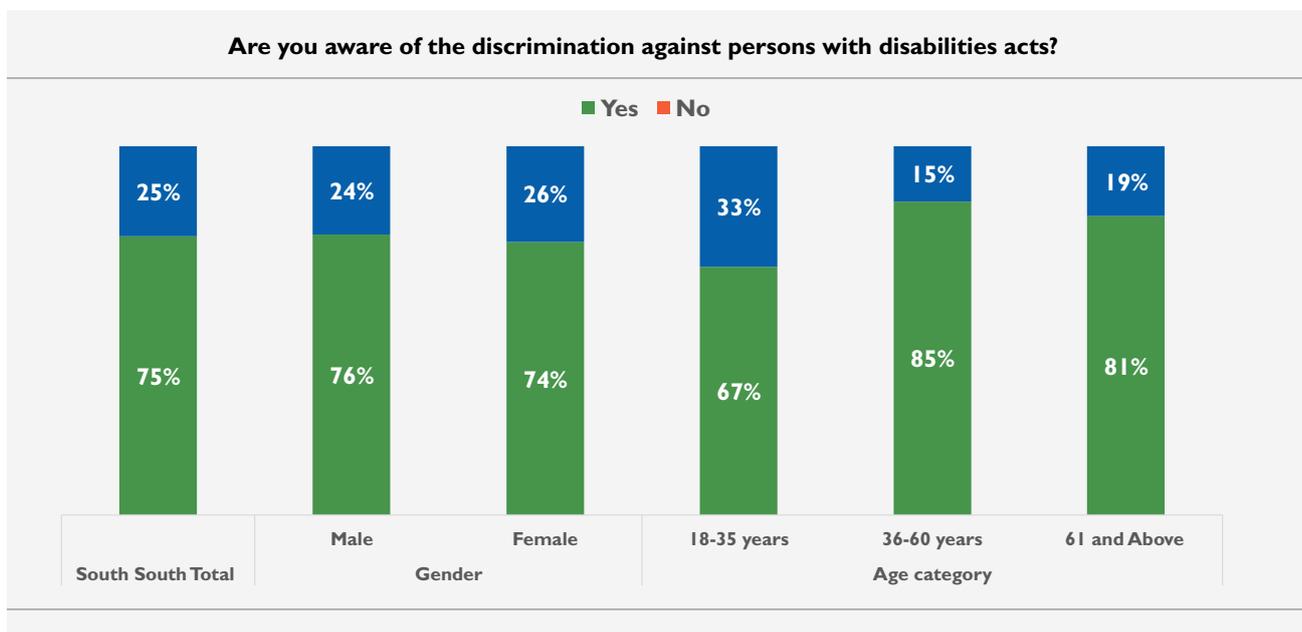
Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act constitutes the legal springboard for the protection of the rights of PWDs. Despite the non-domestication of the act by many states, 75% of respondents claimed awareness of the Act. On the contrary, only a few respondents (25%) are unaware.

Figure 5.20: Awareness of the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act



Disaggregation of awareness of discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, cut across Gender and Age category. In specifics, the awareness rate was highest amongst respondents aged 36-6years (85%) and aged 61 & above (81%). Also, slightly more males (76%) than females (74%) claimed awareness.

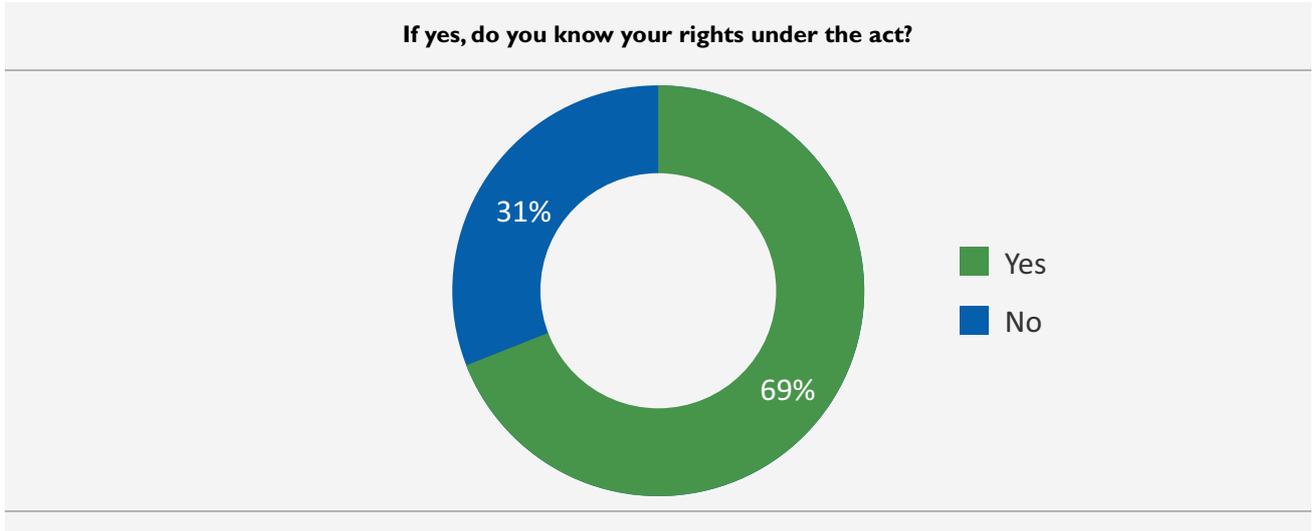
Figure 5.21: Disaggregation of the level of awareness of the Act



5.5.2 Gauging respondent's knowledge about the content of the Act

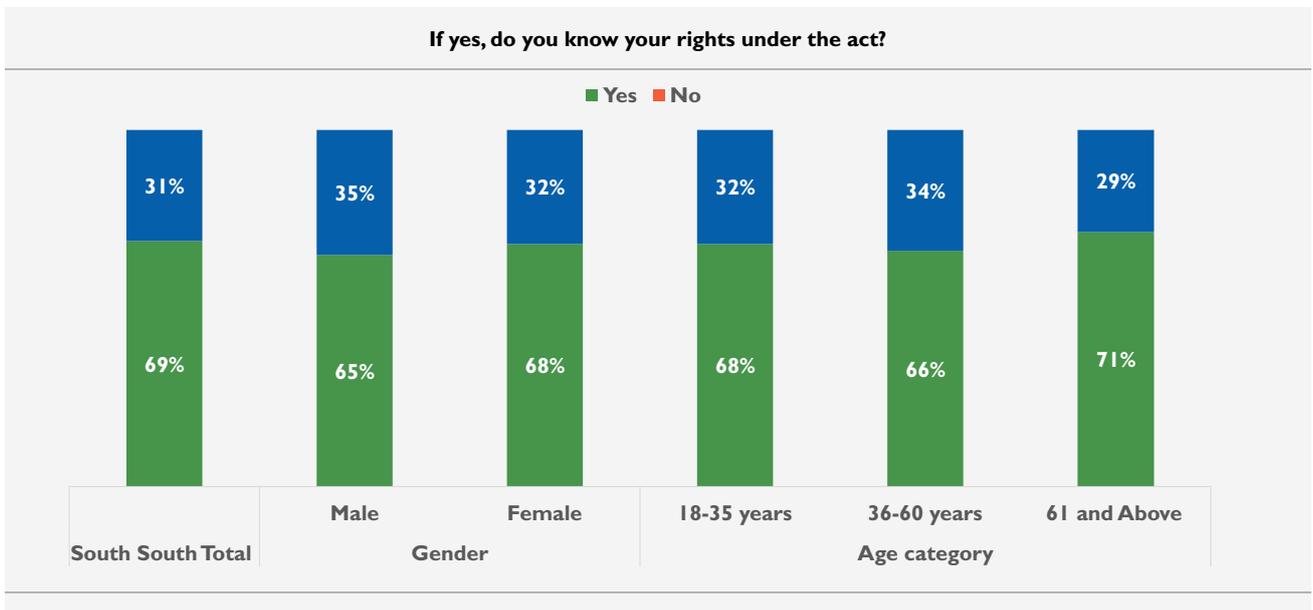
Furthermore, respondents were also asked if they know their rights as stated in the Act. The result clearly showed that the majority of the respondents (69%) were well-informed of their rights; compared to 31% who claimed ignorantly. This finding suggests that respondents' awareness of their rights will go a long way to reducing the spate of human rights violations, disrespect, abuse, and discrimination against PWDs.

Figure 5.22: Knowledge about the content of the Act



Also, the majority of respondents who claimed to know their rights under the Act cut across the Gender and Age category. From the data, awareness of the rights under the Act was more prevalent amongst the elderly aged 61 & above (71%), followed by the youth aged 18-35 years (68%) and then aged 36-60years (66%). In addition, Female respondents (68%) appeared to know their rights more than Male respondents (65%).

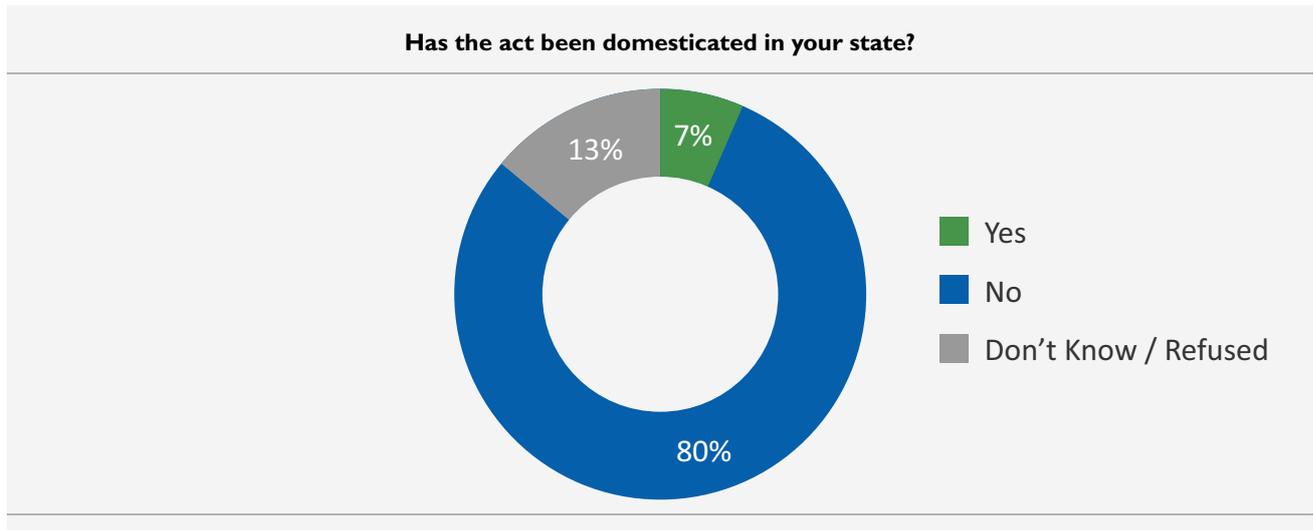
Figure 5.23: Disaggregation of participants Knowledge about the content of the Act



5.5.3 Determining the Domestication of the Act

Despite the enactment of the 2018 Act into law, only a few states in the country have reportedly domesticated the Act. Based on the survey findings, 8 in 10 respondents (80%) believe that the act has not been domesticated. On the other hand, only a few (7%) believe the Act has been domesticated while (13%) 'Don't Know/Refused'. This result is not surprising, considering that since establishing the Act, the report shows that no concrete plan has been designed to domesticate the convention.⁴³ Unfortunately, none of the states in the South-South geopolitical zone was included amongst the few 13 states that have state-level disability laws in the country.⁴⁴

Figure 5.24: Knowledge about Domestication of the Act



Again, the widely held opinion that the act has not been domesticated did not change even across the states in the South-South geopolitical zone. Remarkably, all the respondents in Delta State (100%) strongly held this opinion; followed by nearly all respondents in Cross River State (98%). Equally, the proportion of respondents who strongly share this view was equally high in Bayelsa State (86%) and Edo State (82%). However, respondents from Akwa Ibom State (16%) and Rivers State (14%) were more likely to believe that the Act has been domesticated in the state. The widespread opinion of non-domestication of the Act could stem from the lack of enforcement by the Federal Government or lack of sanction on erring states.

⁴³Christian Blind Mission (2019). *Lessons from disability audit of Northeast Nigeria Transition to Development (NENTAD) humanitarian response*.

⁴⁴<https://guardian.ng/news/31-million-plwds-suffer-as-23-states-neglect-disability-rights/>

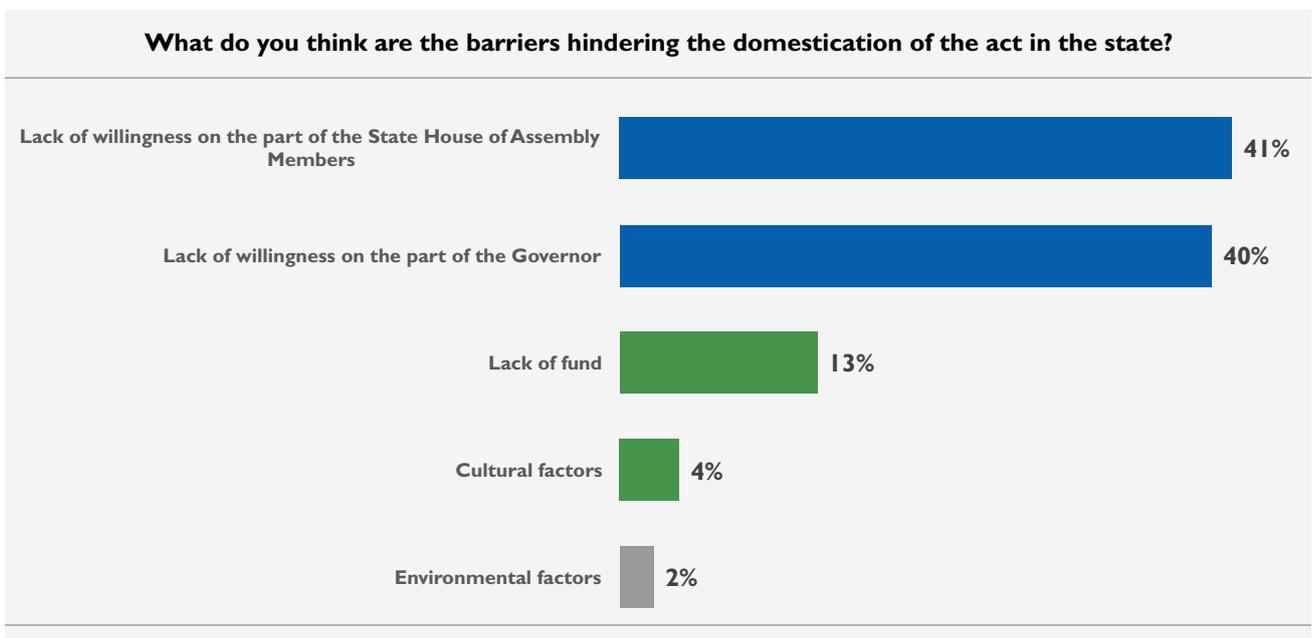
Figure 5.25: Disaggregation of Knowledge about Domestication of the Act

South-South States						
	Bayelsa State	Delta State	Rivers State	Edo State	Cross River state	Akwa-Ibom State
Yes	6%	0%	14%	3%	2%	16%
No	86%	100%	50%	82%	98%	61%
Don't Know / Refused	8%	0%	36%	15%	0%	23%

5.5.4 Perceived barriers hindering the domestication of the Act in South-South states

The survey further sought opinions on the key reasons mitigating against the domestication of the Act in South-South states. From the results, 'Lack of willingness by State House of Assembly Members, (41%) and 'Lack of willingness on the part of the State Governor' (40%) topped the reasons. Other possible reasons identified by respondents included 'Lack of funds' (13%), 'Cultural factors' (4%), and 'Environmental factors' (2%). The lack of willingness by these states to domesticate the Act intensifies the humongous challenges faced by people with disabilities.

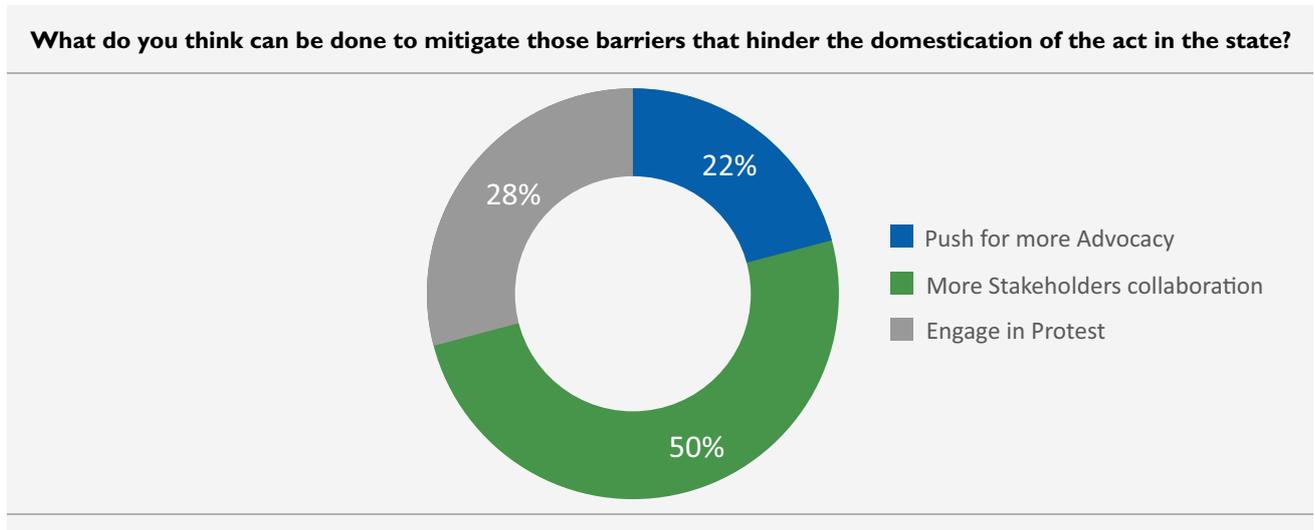
Figure 5.26: Barriers impeding the Domestication of the Act



5.5.5 What can be done to mitigate barriers hindering domestication of the Act

To remove the mitigating barriers hindering the domestication of the Act, respondents suggested the need for 'More Stakeholders Collaboration' (50%), 'Engage in protest action' (28%), and lastly 'Push for more advocacy' (22%).

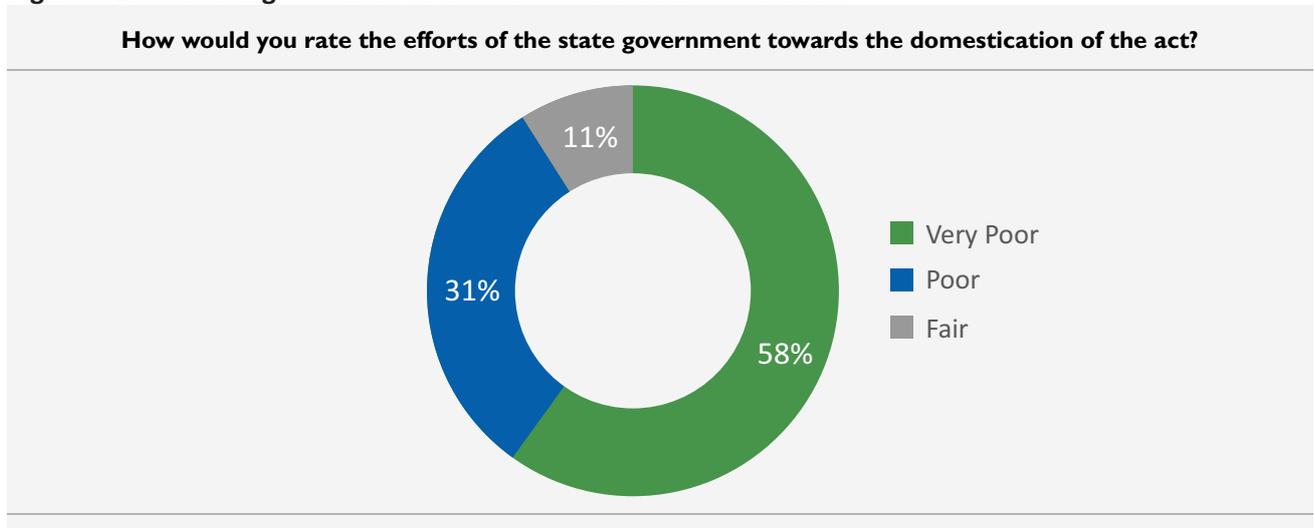
Figure 5.27: Suggestions to remove the mitigating barriers hindering the Domestication of the Act



5.5.6 Perception of state government effort towards domestication of the Act

Based on the foregoing, roughly 9 in 10 respondents (89%) rated state government effort towards domestication of the Act 'Poorly', as against only a few respondents (11%) who rated government effort 'Fairly'.

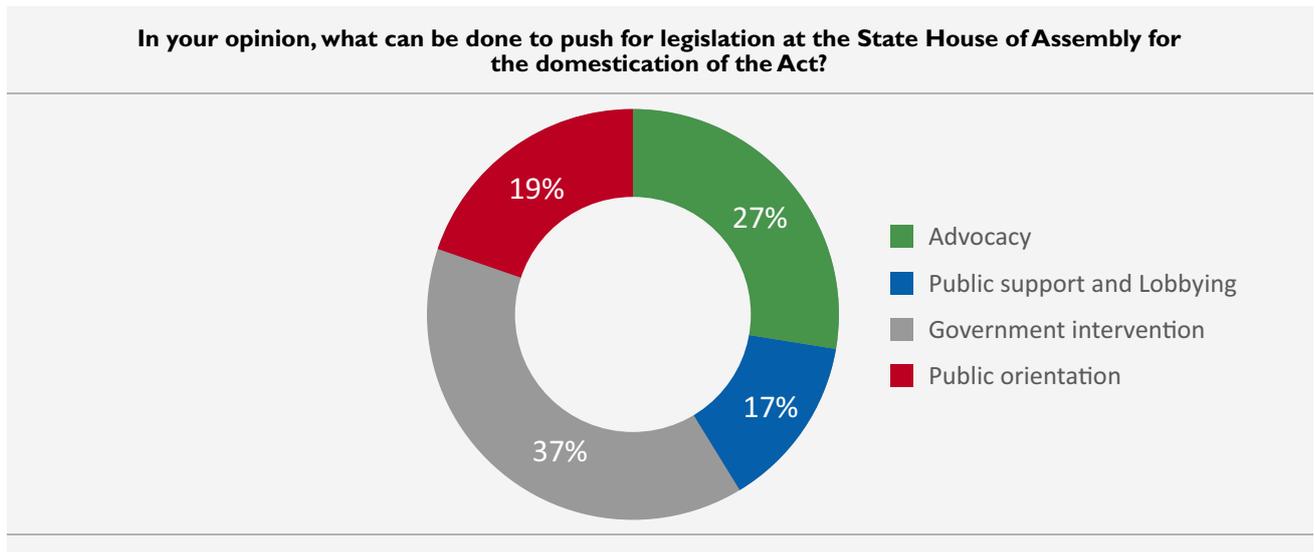
Figure 5.27: Assessing the effort of the State Government on the Act



5.5.7 South-Southerner's suggestions for legislation of the Domestication of the Act at State Houses of Assembly

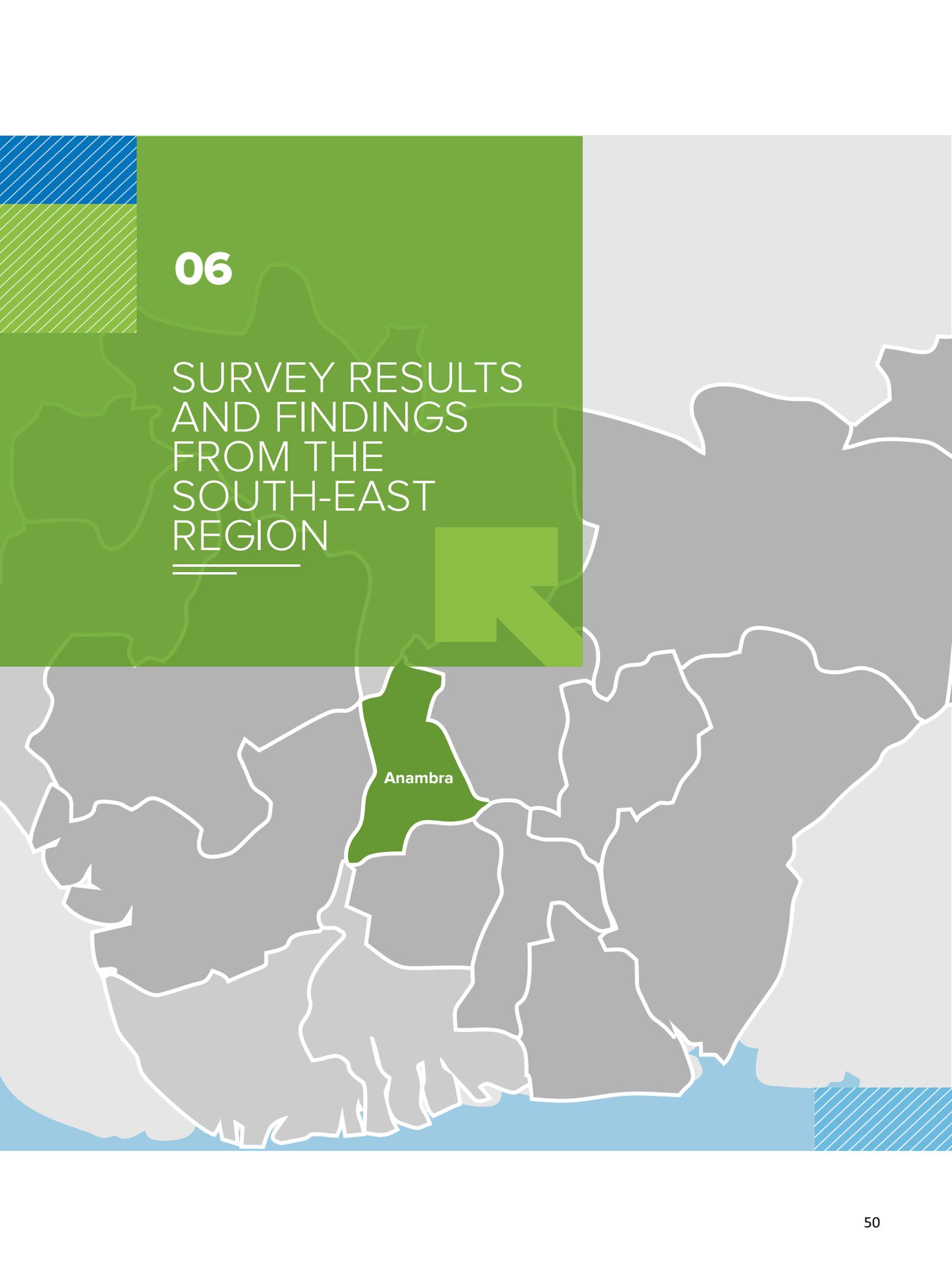
The views shared by respondents on how to push for the domestication of the Act at the State House of Assembly were subjected to further analysis. The result shows that 'Government intervention' (37%), 'Advocacy' (27%), 'Public orientation' (19%), and 'Public support and lobbying' (17%) were highly advocated. Overall, respondents vehemently opine that Government intervention and increased advocacy by NGOs, CSOs, and key stakeholders as the most suitable approach to eliminate the barriers to mitigating the domestication of the Act.

Figure 5.28: Legislation of Domestication of the Act at State House of Assembly



06

SURVEY RESULTS
AND FINDINGS
FROM THE
SOUTH-EAST
REGION



Anambra

6.1 Social Demography

In the South-East region, a total of 250 respondents participated in the survey. This constitute 14% of the national respondents. Male respondents (52%) were slightly higher than Female respondents (48%). The survey was dominated by respondents aged 36-60years (62%), compared to those aged 18-35years (38%). In addition, the majority of the respondents (69%) have completed Secondary Education & above; compared to respondents (31%) with No Formal Education/Completed Primary School. Again, the sample mostly consists of Urban respondents (62%) than Rural (38%). An equal proportion of respondents (20% each) were surveyed in each of the five (5) states in the region namely: Imo, Anambra, Abia, Enugu, and Ebonyi State.

Figure 6.1: Demographic Profile of Respondents in the South-East Region

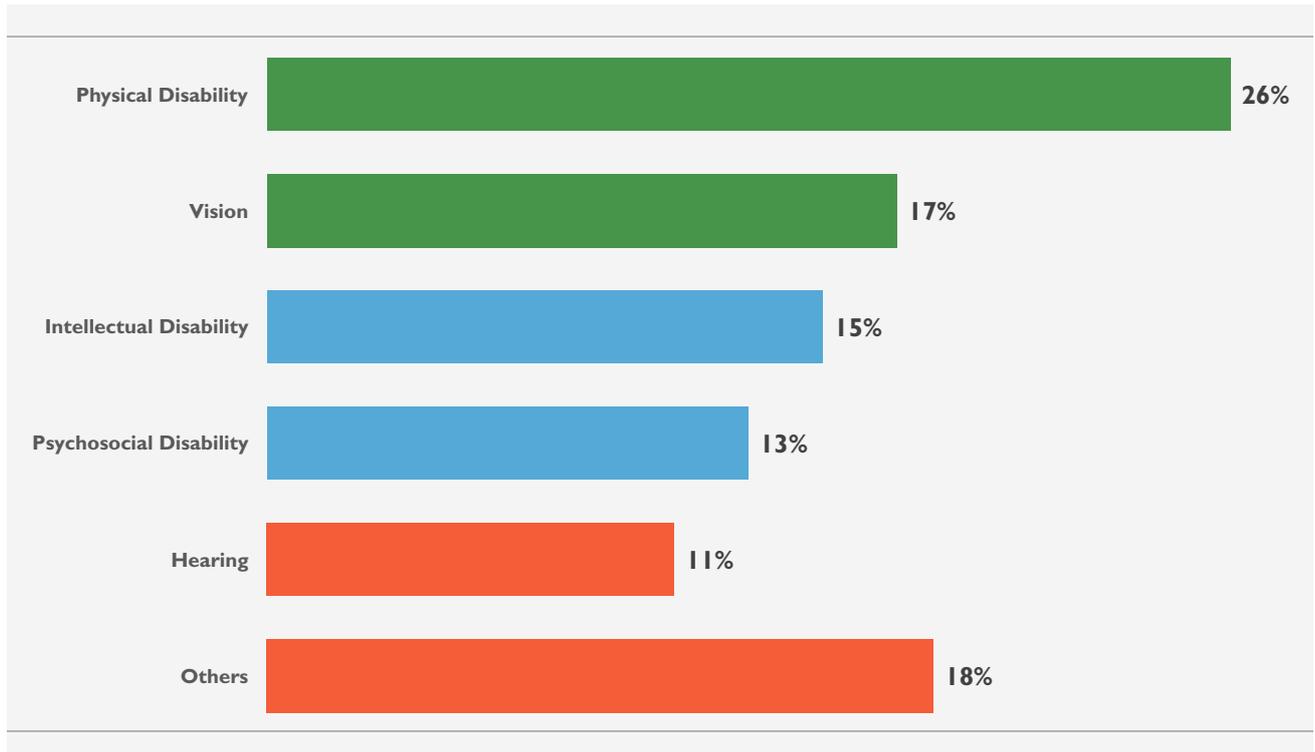
Variable Name	Variable Label	N = 250	% = 100
Gender	Male	129	52%
	Female	121	48%
Age category	18-35 years	96	38%
	36-60 years	154	62%
Highest Education	No Formal Education / Completed Primary School	77	31%
	Completed Secondary & Above	173	69%
Urbanization	Rural	96	38%
	Urban	154	62%
South East States	Imo	50	20%
	Anambra	50	20%
	Abia	50	20%
	Enugu	50	20%
	Ebonyi	50	20%

6.2 Disability Identification and Experience

6.2.1 Category of respondent

From the survey, various types of isabilities were identified. They include respondents with Physical disabilities (26%), followed by Visually impaired (17%), Intellectual disability (15%), Psychosocial disability (13%), Hearing impaired (11%), and Others (18%) which constitutes persons with albinism, spinal cord disabilities amongst others.

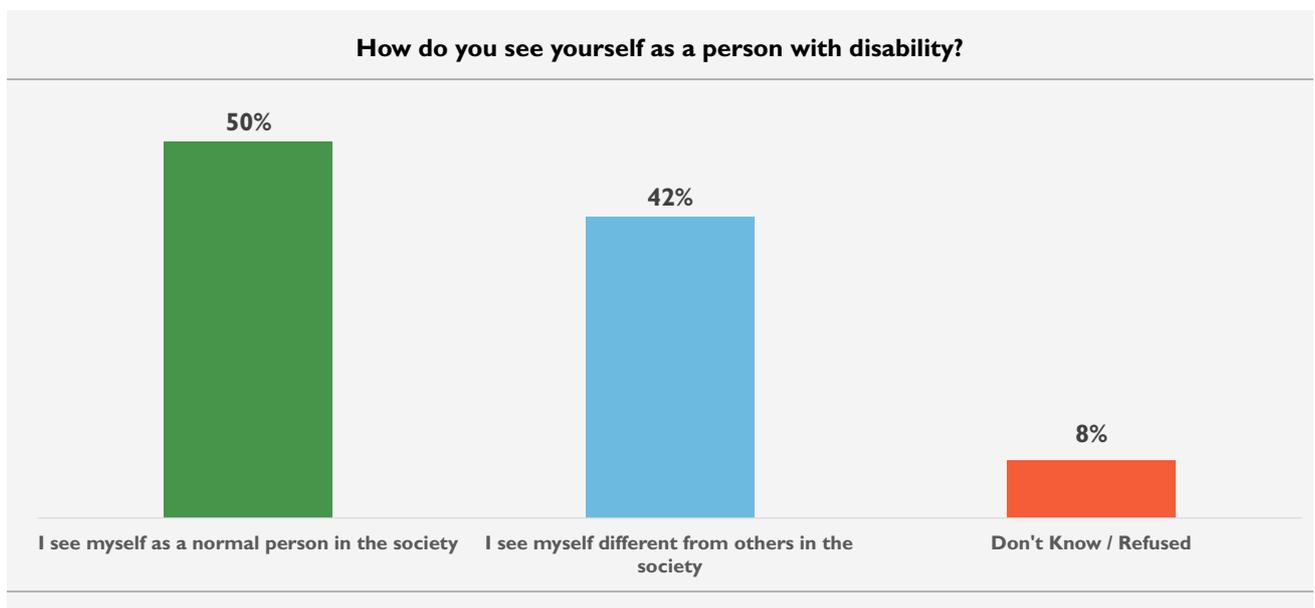
Figure 6.2: Forms of Disability



6.2.2 Realities of Persons with Disability in South-East

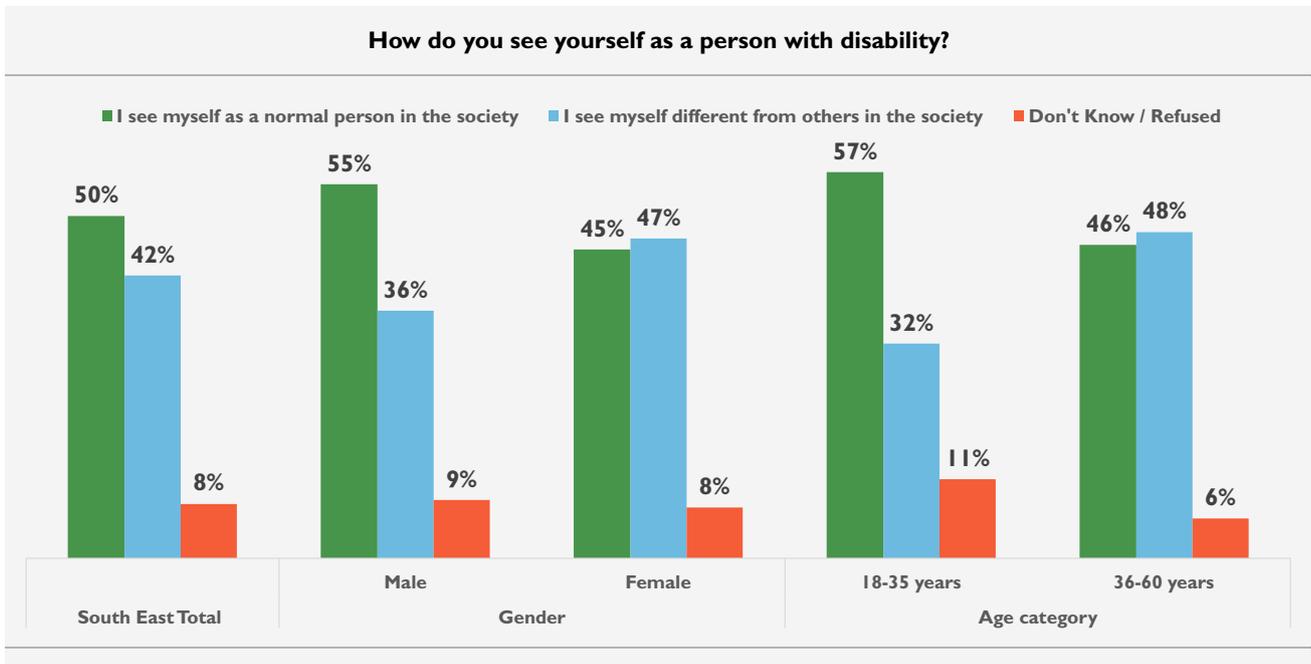
Following the previous question, respondents were asked whether they see themselves as a person with disabilities. From the responses, half of the respondents (50%) 'see themselves as a normal person in the society', while 4 in 10 persons consider 'themselves as different from others in the society' (42%). The opinions expressed by those that see themselves as different from others is may stir from low self-esteem or feeling of disaffection from the society.

Figure 6.3: Feeling about personal Disability



Further disaggregation of the data shows that respondents that consider themselves as normal people in the society were highest among males (55%) than females (45%). On the reverse, slightly more Female respondents (47%) than males (36%) considered themselves as different from others. Across the age category, respondents aged 18-35years (57%) topped those that consider themselves as normal persons in the society, while respondents aged 36-60 years (48%) mostly see themselves as different from others.

Figure 6.4: Disaggregation of Respondent's Feelings about their Disability



Probing further how members of the public perceive persons with disabilities, it was gathered that the general views from interviews and focus group discussions revealed a negative public perception of disability and persons with disabilities. Findings from states across the South East region show that the public sees persons with disabilities as unfortunate members of society who cannot contribute anything meaningful to society. In simple terms based on findings from the region, the public sees PWDs as people that should be ignored. To buttress this point, see below a few quotes from the interview with key informants and group discussions:

“The public see persons with disabilities in this state as beggars and burden to their families and society. They see PWDs as cursed and wicked people who found themselves in such miserable conditions because of their evil doing and therefore should not be pitied or helped.” **KII Extract**

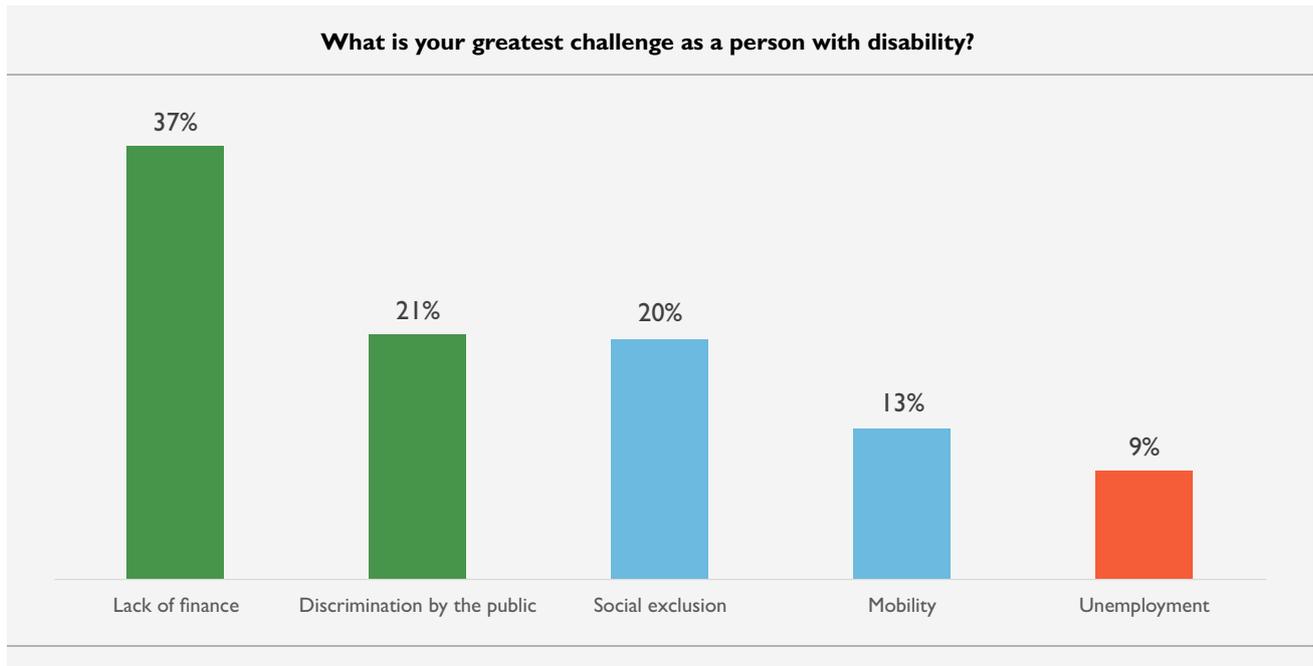
“They are discriminated against and even ambushed. For instance, in a family with five children with one of the children disabled, they hide them and hide their talents and they don't allow them to come out and exhibit their skills. This can be because the community is always laughing at them. The community, churches, and others don't regard them because they believe they are nobody and don't see them as help worth. The community molests them at times and they are called all sorts of names.” **KII Extract**

“Some members of the public see persons with disabilities as people who are not normal and should not be associated with. Some people even believe that PWDs are disabled because of their wickedness or because they are cursed by God.” **FGD Extract**

6.2.3 Challenges of persons with disability in South-East

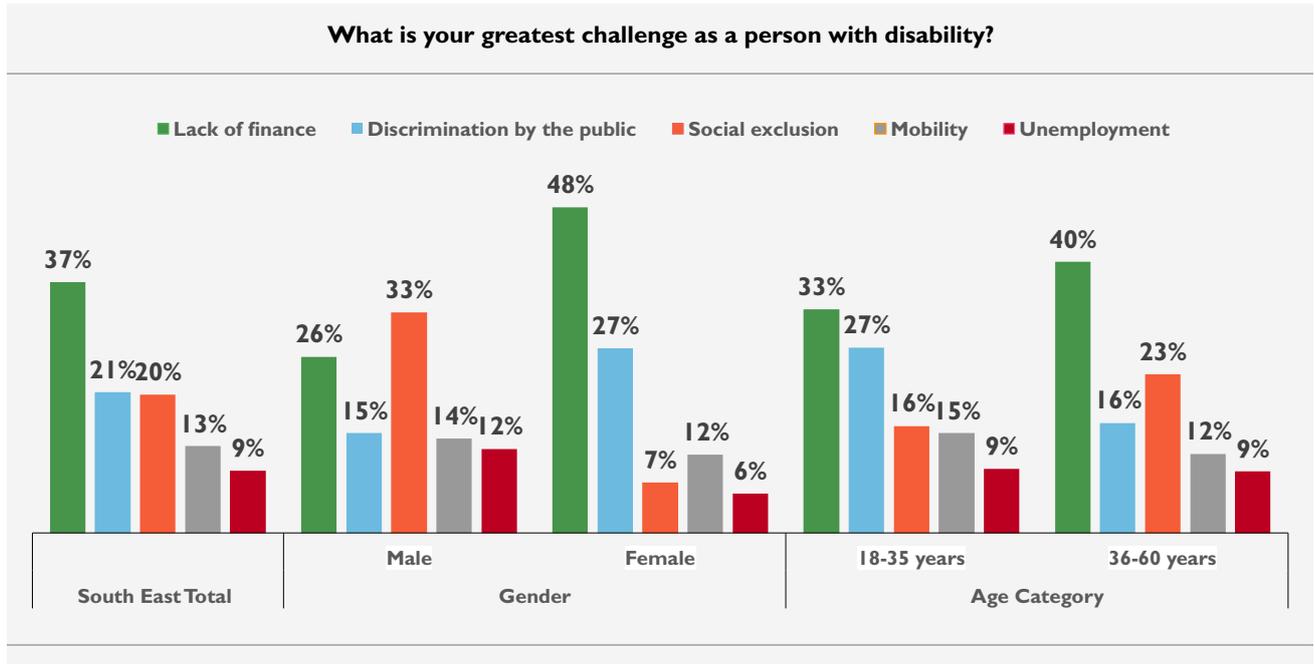
It is imperative to identify the challenges facing PWDs to confirm if the Act covers their challenges to inform the area of improvement in the Act. As such, we asked the respondents to identify the most significant challenges they face on a day-to-day basis. Unsurprisingly, 'Lack of finance' (37%) is considered the most significant problem facing PWDs. Other challenges are discrimination (21%) and social exclusion (20%) which should have been eliminated in the society since the enactment of the Act. As the survey found, the obvious lack of finance expressed by the majority of respondents may stem from a lack of job opportunities in the formal and informal sectors which directly has a negative consequence on wellbeing and livelihoods. Hence, there is a need for financial inclusion to address the financial needs of people with disabilities, especially for respondents who opined that they see themselves as different from others in the society.

Figure 6.5: Challenges facing PWD



The responses on the greatest challenges faced by persons with disabilities were further disaggregated by Gender and Age category. The findings show that 'Lack of finance' was widespread and cut across socio-demographics. In specifics, female respondents suffer worse financial challenges compared with male respondents. In addition, respondents aged 36-60 years experience worse financial challenges than those aged 18-35 years. On discrimination challenge, more Female respondents (27%) and respondents aged 18-35 years (27%) suffer the most from public discrimination. With regards to 'Social exclusion', the male respondents (33%) were found to be more socially excluded than females (7%).

Figure 6.6: Disaggregation of challenges facing PWD



6.3 Inclusion of Persons with Disability in South-East

6.3.1 Conditions of Persons with Disability

In terms of conditions of persons with disabilities in the South-East region, more than 8 in 10 respondents assessed their conditions badly. This finding is not surprising considering that persons with disabilities are more likely to experience worsened socioeconomic realities such as poorer health, less education, unemployment, and a high poverty rate.

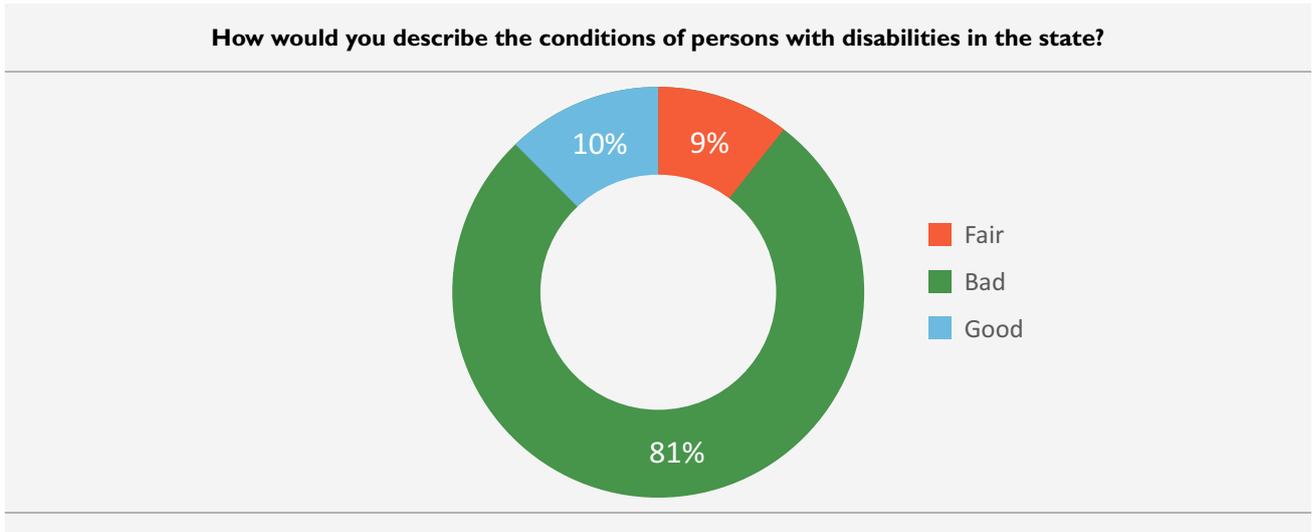
From the qualitative data, social inclusion was also seen as a pressing need because it defines participation and promotes social justice, which is essential for human existence. FGD participants and Key informants sadly noted that people with disabilities in South-East Nigeria need everything normal human beings need to survive. As reported by a key informant:

“So many needs are pressing for PWDs. For instance, there should be adequate provision of special schools, accessible public buildings, empowerment programmes, etc. Also, some of the special schools are dilapidated and obsolete. Places of public interests are being constructed without considerations of PWDs.” **KII Extract**

In line with the above, another informant noted thus:

“Accessibility to public buildings is another pressing need. If you find accommodation anywhere as a person with a disability, you have to adapt or you have to recreate that environment yourself. There is no ramp, nothing at all. Housing is another pressing need for most persons living with disabilities. It is either they are living or still dependent on their extended families or living in their old family houses or where they were born into. Even the government that is supposed to provide low-cost houses for persons living with disabilities in subsidized mortgage rate are not concerned about our plight.” **KII Extract**

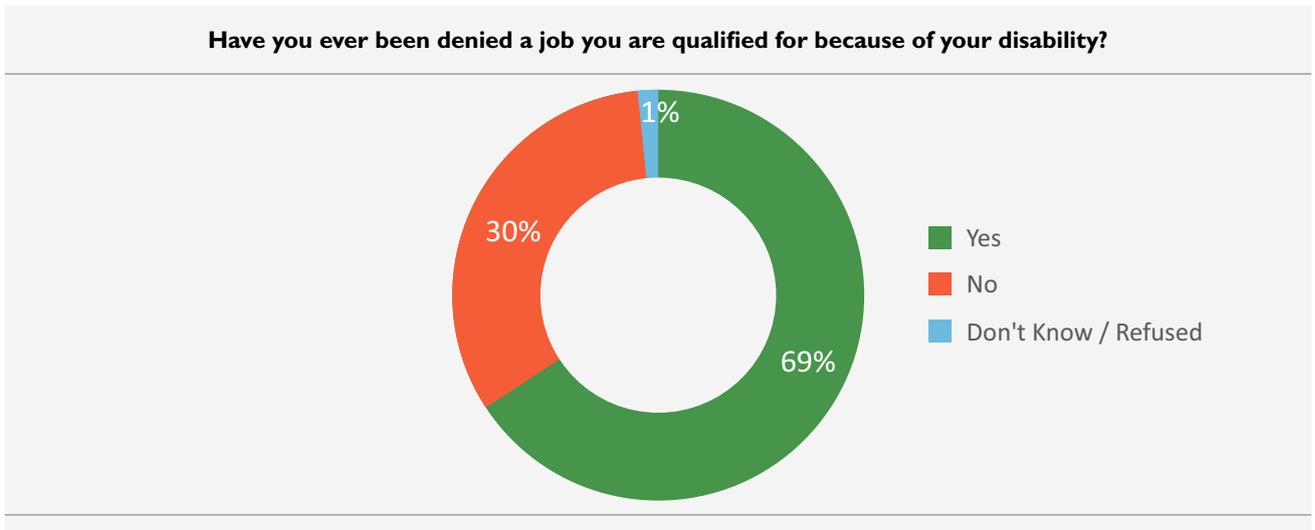
Figure 6.7: Assessing the Living conditions of PWD



6.3.2 Job discrimination among Persons with Disability

Being productively engaged is very important for persons with disabilities to sustain a decent standard of livelihood. Surprisingly, the survey found that about 7 in 10 respondents (69%) have suffered job discrimination, as against 3 in 10 respondents that objected. The high proportion of respondents who suffer from job discrimination in the South-East region is worrisome considering its implication on welfare, and this calls for actionable policies/ initiatives to address employment barriers for PWDs and design strategies for employment inclusion.

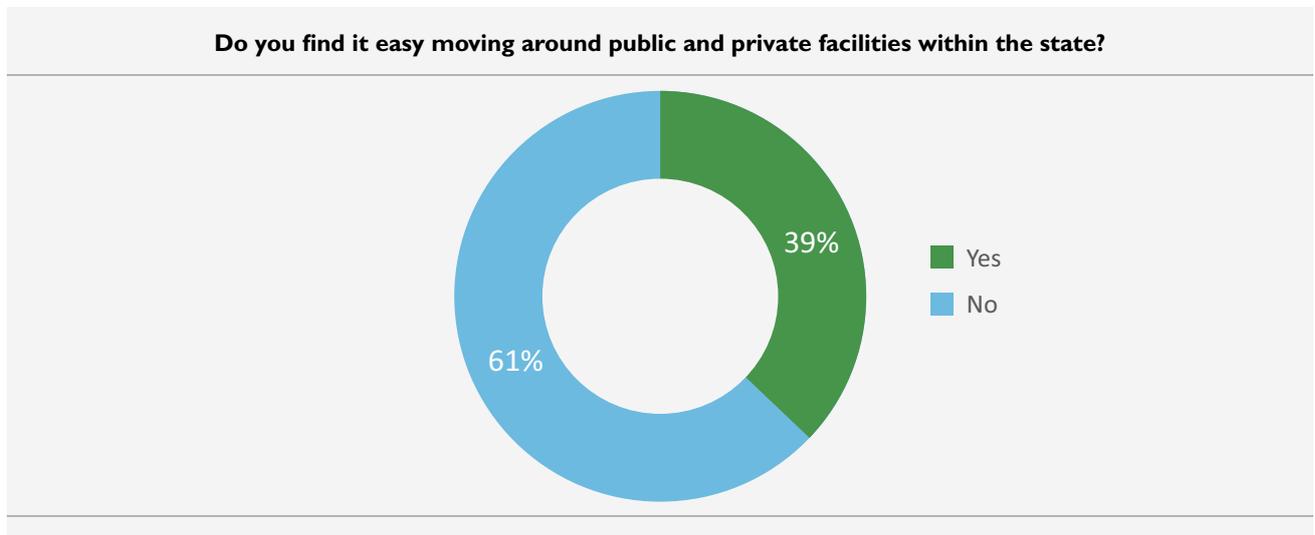
Figure 6.8: Job Discrimination experience of PWD



6.3.3 Accessibility of physical facilities in South-East

The result shows that more than 6 in 10 respondents (61%) have trouble moving around facilities in the South-East region and this may further dampen educational, health, and employment opportunities/inclusion.

Figure 6.9: Establishing ease of movement in Public and Private Facilities



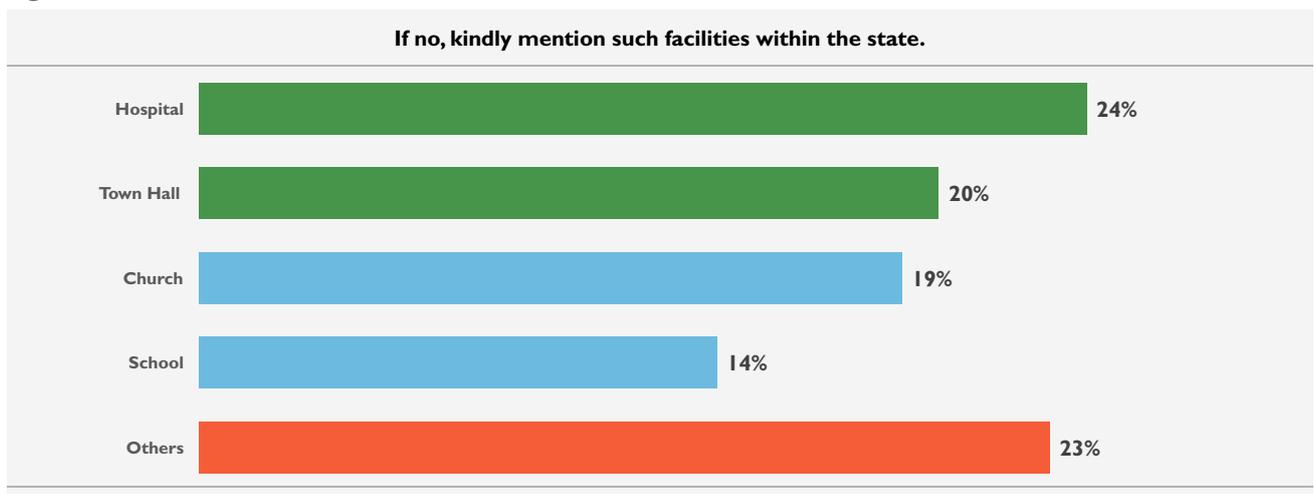
6.3.4 Facilities with poor access for PWD in South-East

Another challenge for persons with disabilities that cuts across all the states in the region is the lack of access to public buildings and facilities due to the physical impediments of accessibility which PWDs are structurally excluded from benefiting from public utilities. In the words of a participant:

“When you go to the church, how many churches have interpreters or other audio needs? How many churches have ramps for people coming in on wheelchairs? For the blind, when you go to church, they will ask you 'ginaonye so bia?' (Meaning who did you come with?).” **FGD Extract**

Additionally, from the survey, respondents were asked to mention the facilities they find difficult to access in the state. Findings show that most respondents (24%) find it difficult to access 'Hospital', 20% expressed difficulty in accessing 'Town hall' and another 19% chose 'Church'. Again, while 14% said school, 23% mentioned other infrastructure not mentioned above like offices, banks among others.

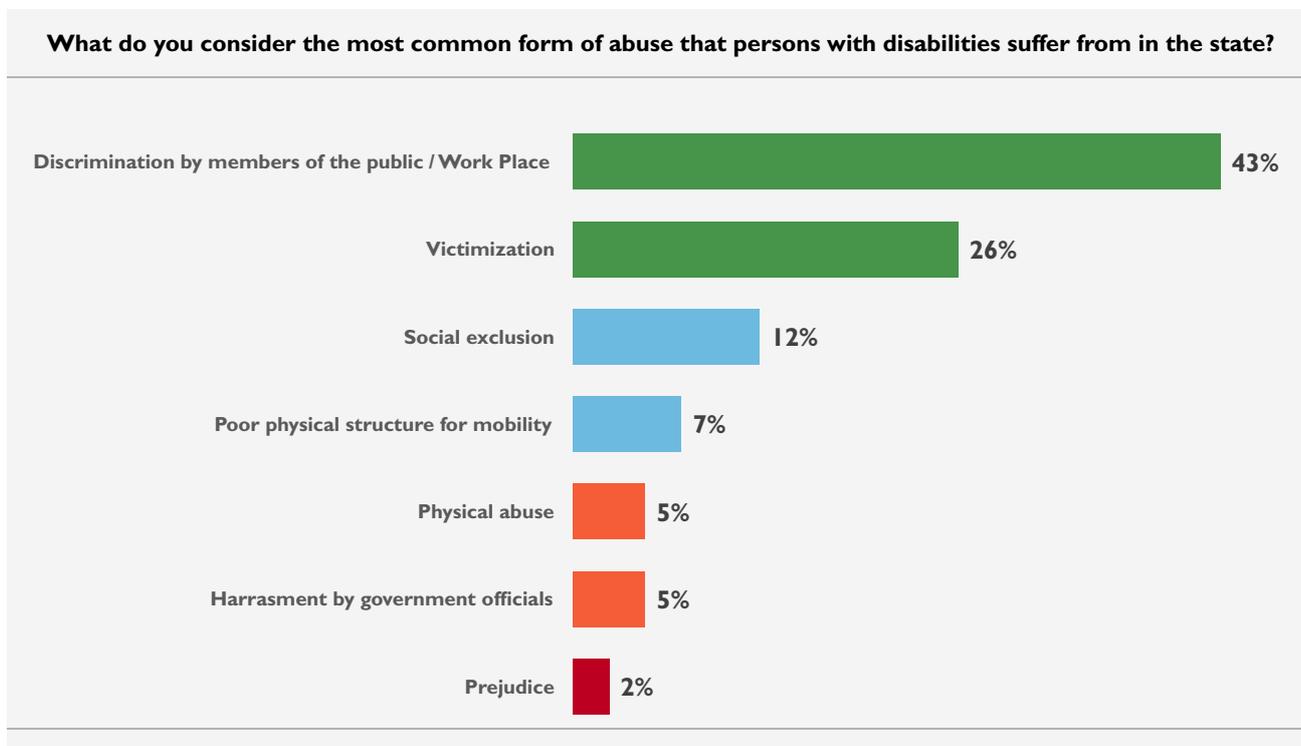
Figure 6.10: List of Inaccessible Facilities



6.3.5 Common forms of abuse among Persons with Disability in South-East

In furtherance of the above, the survey sought to ascertain the common type of abuse faced by PWDs in the South-East region. The result shows that PWD significantly suffers from discrimination and victimization compared to other forms of abuse. This implies that more sensitization, monitoring, and evaluation of the implementation of the Act must be exerted in the South-East states.

Figure 6.11: Most common form of abuse that PWD Experience



6.3.6 General Perception of Persons with Disability in South East

The survey reveals mixed findings on the general perception of persons with disabilities in the South-East region. While the majority of the respondents (63%) agree that many persons with disabilities are well educated, productively engaged in different employment, and contribute to national development, however, majority of the respondents (65%) disagreed that the rights of PWDs are well protected by the government in their state.

In addition, the majority of the respondents (70%) disagree that 'Only family members of persons with disabilities should be responsible for catering for their wellbeing'. Equally, the majority of the respondents (65%) also disagreed that 'the rights of persons with disabilities are included in key decision-making processes in the state'.

Markedly, 86% of the participants strongly believe that 'Most of the programmes that support and promote the wellbeing of PWDs are usually carried out by CSOs, NGOs, and FBOs; and 62% of the participants counter the claim that 'Most of the programmes that support and promote the wellbeing of PWDs are usually carried out by state government'

Figure 6.12: Perception of PWD

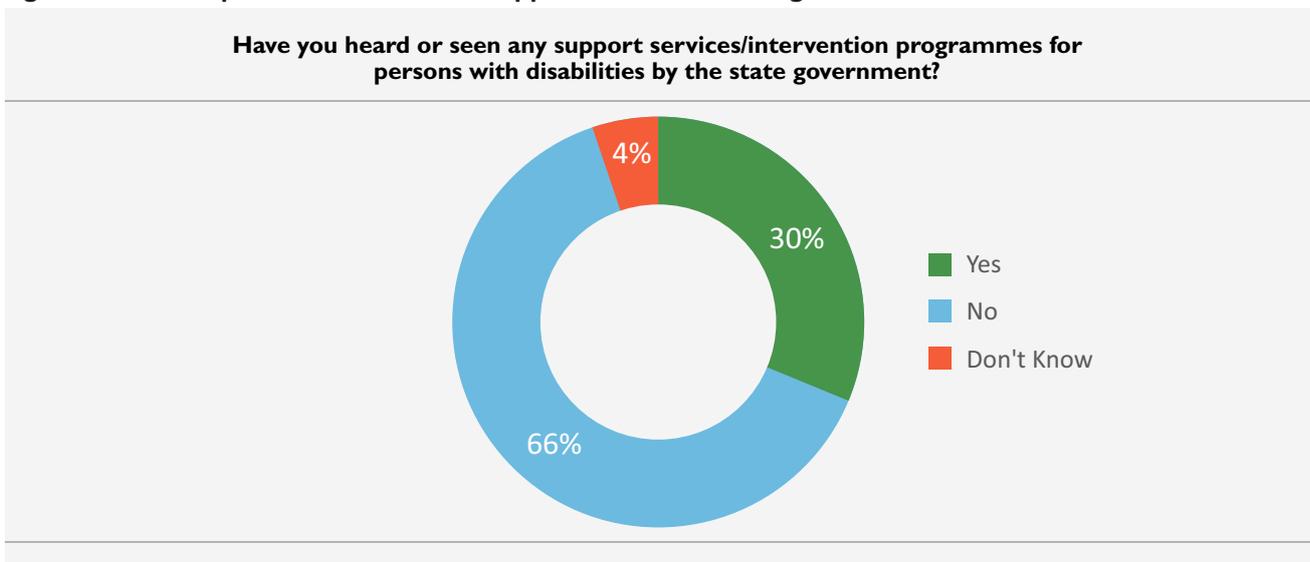
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Many persons with disabilities in this state are well educated and engages in different employment opportunities where they contribute to national growth and development	36%	27%	18%	19%
Only family members of persons with disabilities should be responsible in catering for their wellbeing	11%	19%	23%	47%
The rights of persons with disabilities are well protected by the government of this state.	13%	22%	24%	41%
Persons with disabilities are included in key decision-making process in this state.	15%	20%	22%	43%
Most of the programmes that support and promote the wellbeing of persons with disabilities are usually carried out by CSOs, NGOs, and FBOs.	41%	45%	8%	6%
Most of the programmes that support and promote the wellbeing of persons with disabilities are usually carried out by state governments.	10%	28%	28%	34%

6.4 Support Services / Intervention Programmes for Persons with Disability

6.4.1 Knowledge of support services/intervention programmes by the state governments

To further confirm if the government does support and promote most of the programmes intended for the wellbeing of PWDs, the participants were asked about their knowledge of state government programmes for PWD. Interestingly, the majority of the respondents (66%) have no knowledge of such support in the states compared to a few respondents (30%) that have knowledge of government support services/interventions.

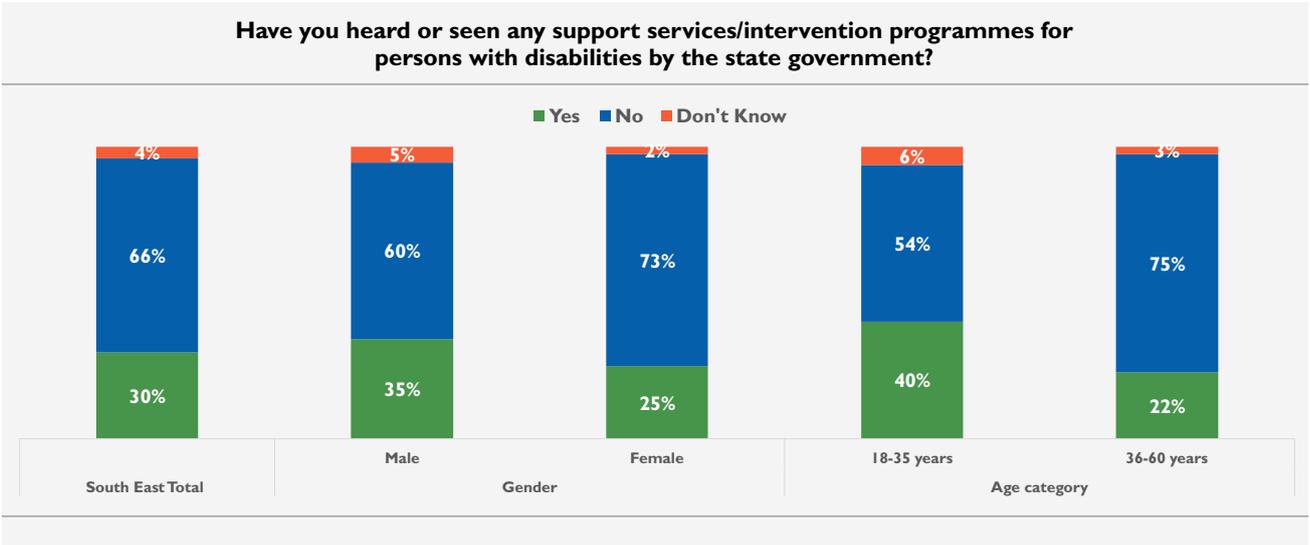
Figure 6.13: Perception of Government Support Services and Programmes



⁴⁵ See sub-section 6.3.6

Like the findings above, most respondents who never heard of or seen any support services/intervention programmes by state government cut across gender and age category. Instructively, most Female respondents (73%) compared to male respondents (60%) shared this view. Likewise, more respondents aged 36-60 years (75%) constituted the highest amongst those who never heard of or seen any support services/intervention programmes by the state government. The implication of this finding could be that the interventions/support programmes by the state government were not adequate to go around.

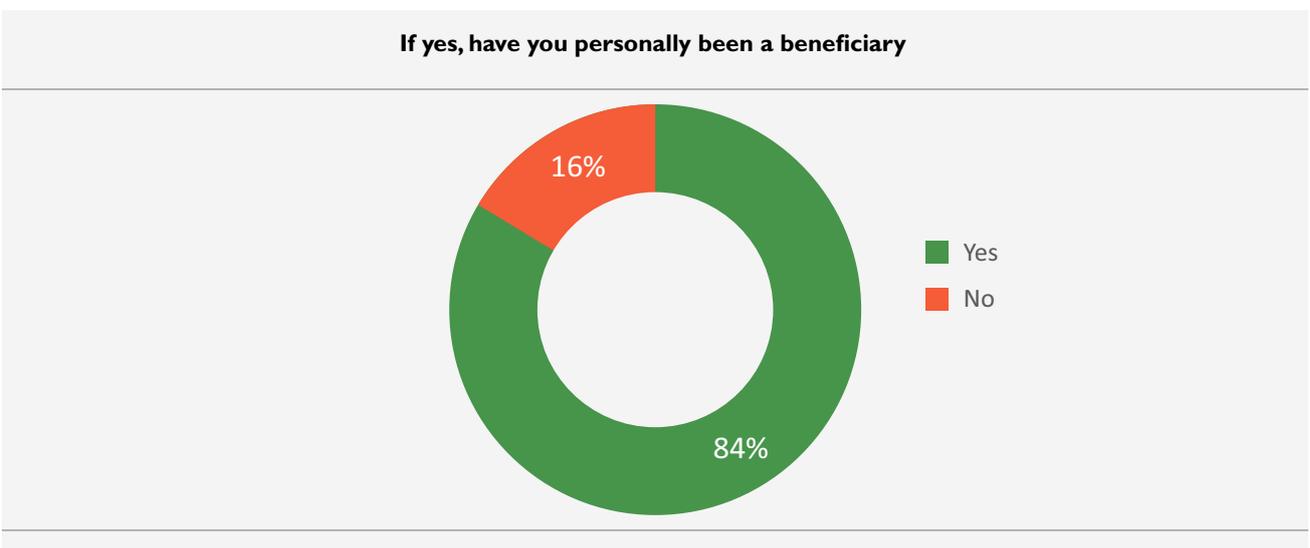
Figure 6.14: Disaggregation of Perception of Government Support Services and Programmes



6.4.2 Beneficiaries of state governments' intervention programmes for Persons with Disability

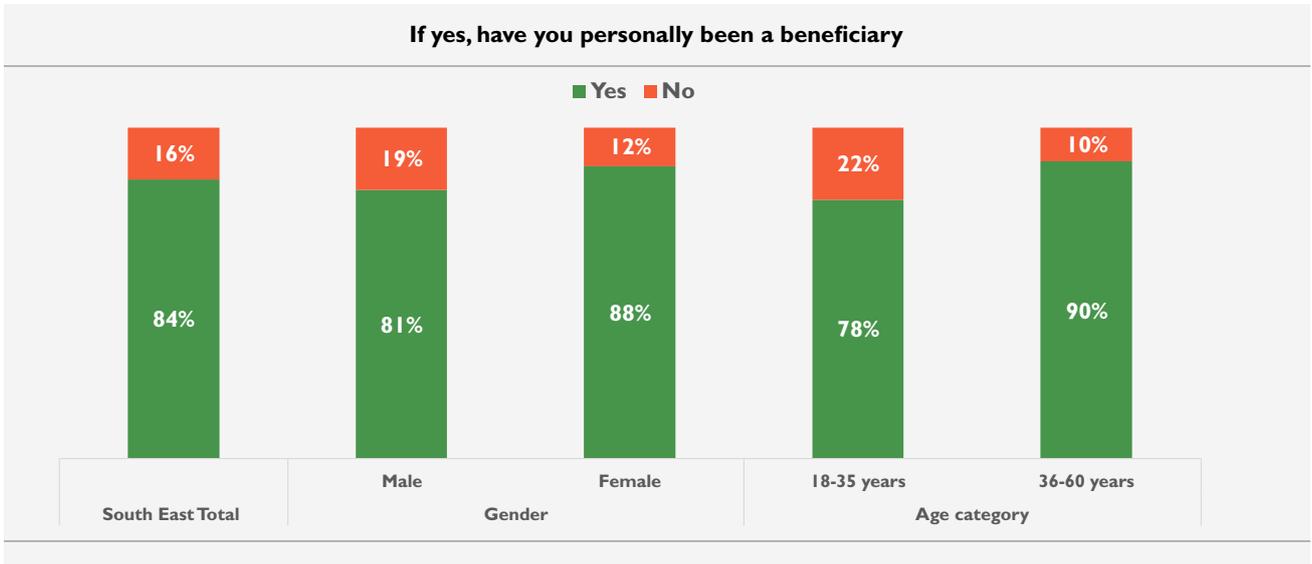
Furthermore, the survey sought to establish if participants have benefitted from the programmes. In response, the result shows that the majority of the respondents (84%) have benefitted, as against only a few (16%) who claimed not to have benefitted.

Figure 6.15: Estimating beneficiaries of Government Intervention Programmes



When the responses were disaggregated by gender and age category, an average of 84.5% of respondents' gender and 84% by age category strongly claimed to have personally benefited from the state government intervention programmes. Evidence from this finding suggests that PWDs that are abreast with government policies, benefit more from government interventions compared to others.

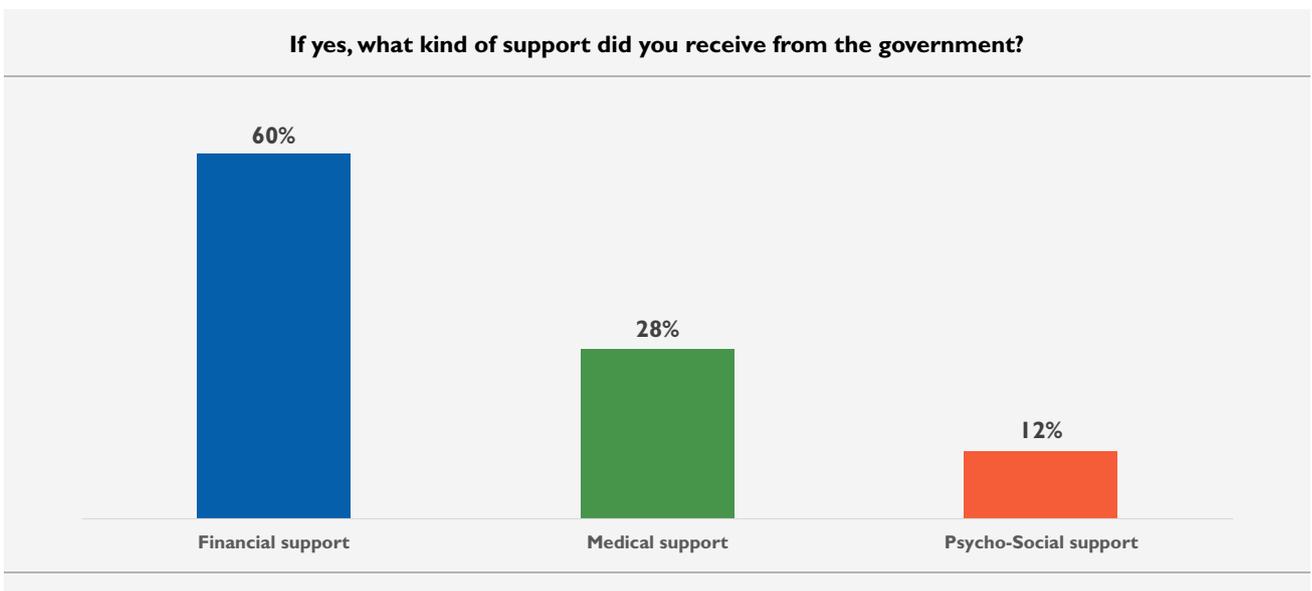
Figure 6.16: Disaggregation of Government Intervention Programme Beneficiaries



6.4.3 Type of support received from the state government

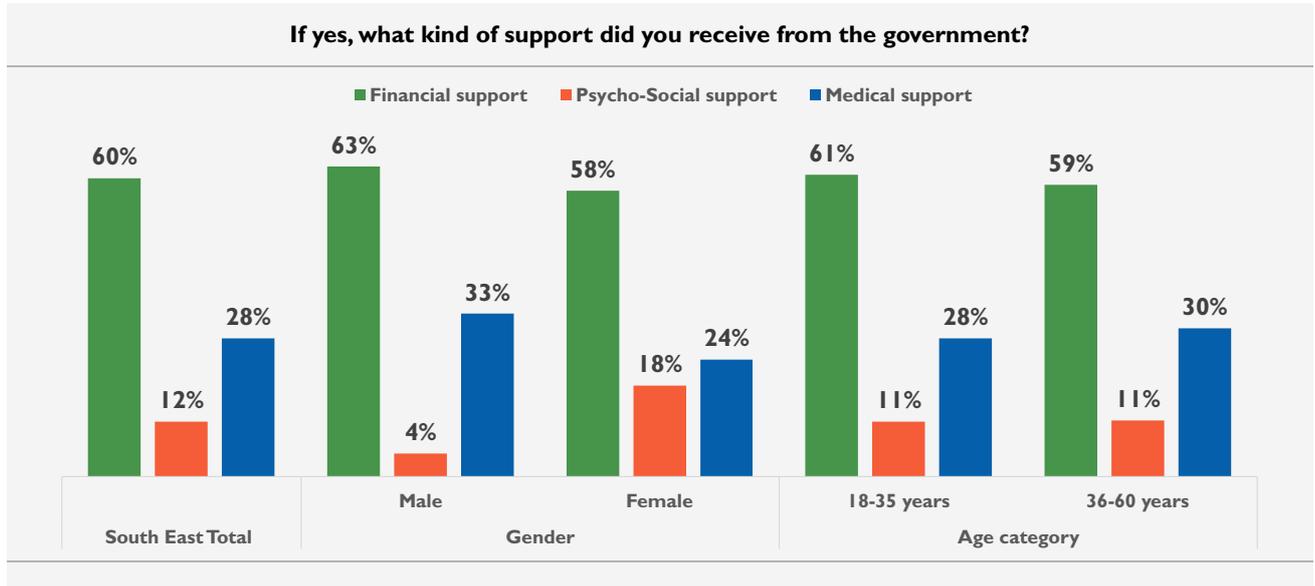
Following the previous questions, we further sought to enquire about the form of support received from the state governments. The result shows that the state government does render 'Financial support' to PWD out of which 6 in 10 of the participants are beneficiaries. Other supports received are medical and psycho-social support in the states. It is worth to note that this finding closely mirrors the result of the South-South region

Figure 6.17: Establishing the forms of Government Support to PWD



The study further revealed that the consensus of 'Financial support' benefited by respondents' cuts across the different socio-demographic categories. In particular, the data highlighted that more Male (63%) than female respondents (58%), and youth aged 18-35 years (61%) constituted the greater proportion of those who benefited from 'Financial support'. In addition, while Male respondents (33%) and respondents aged 36-60 years (30%) were shown to be the greatest beneficiary of 'Medical support', Female respondents (18%) topped those who benefit from 'Psycho-Social Support'.

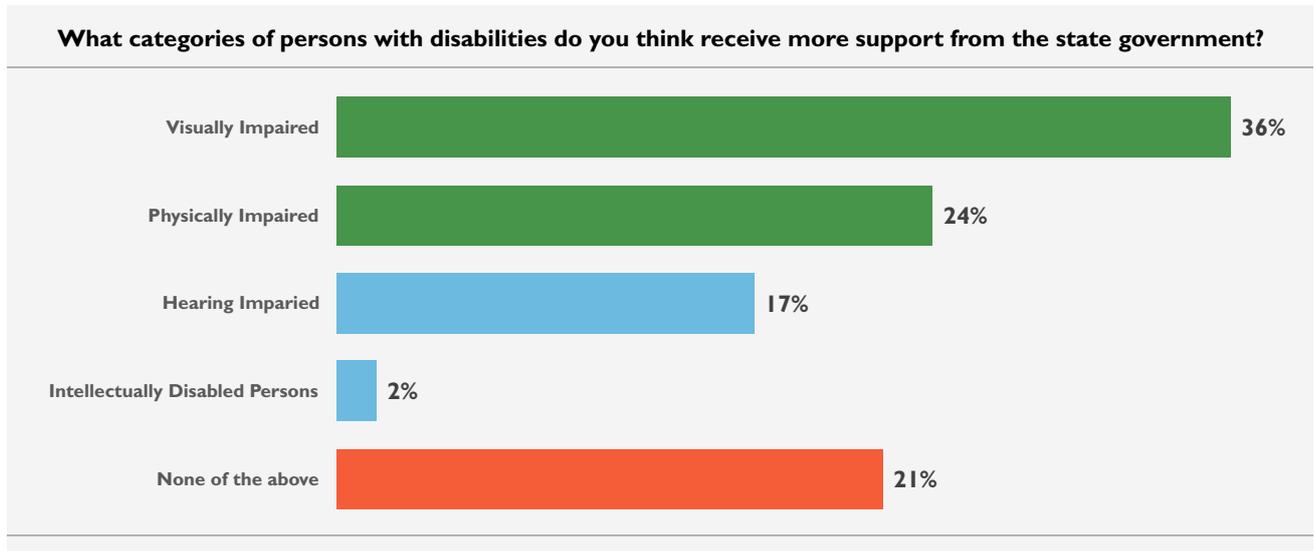
Figure 6.18: Disaggregation of the forms of Government Support to PWD



6.4.4 Category of Persons with Disability with the most support from the state governments

We further enquired about the category of PWD that benefit the most from state government programmes and support and we found that the visually impaired mostly enjoy such benefits compared to other groups. This is also similar to the finding of the South-South.

Figure 6.19: Identifying PWD-beneficiaries of Government Support

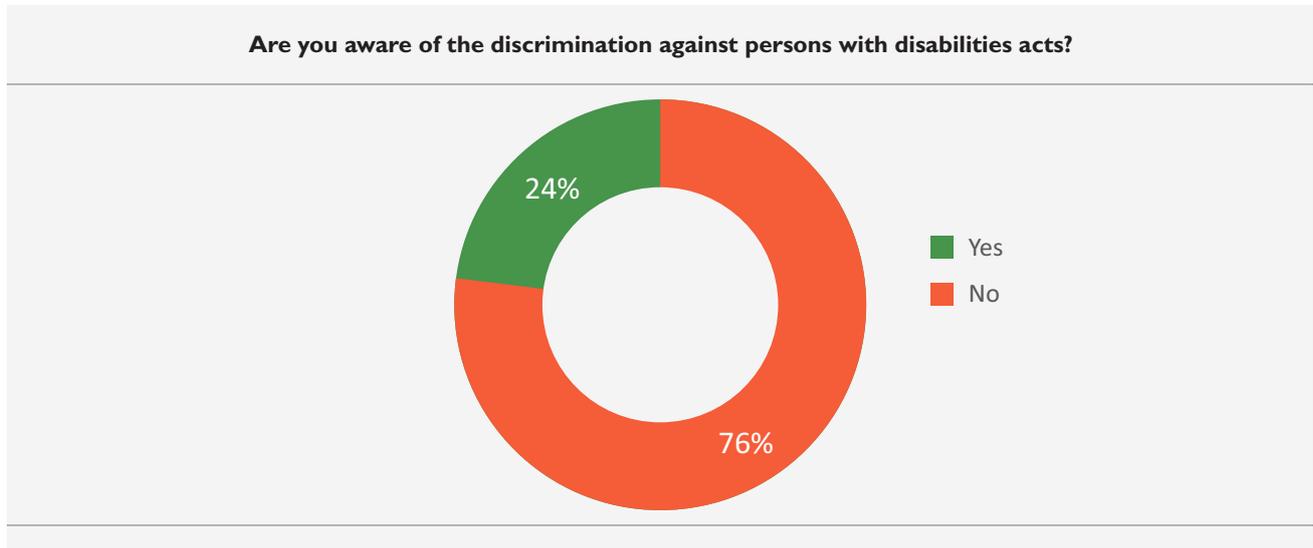


6.5 The Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act

6.5.1 Awareness of the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act

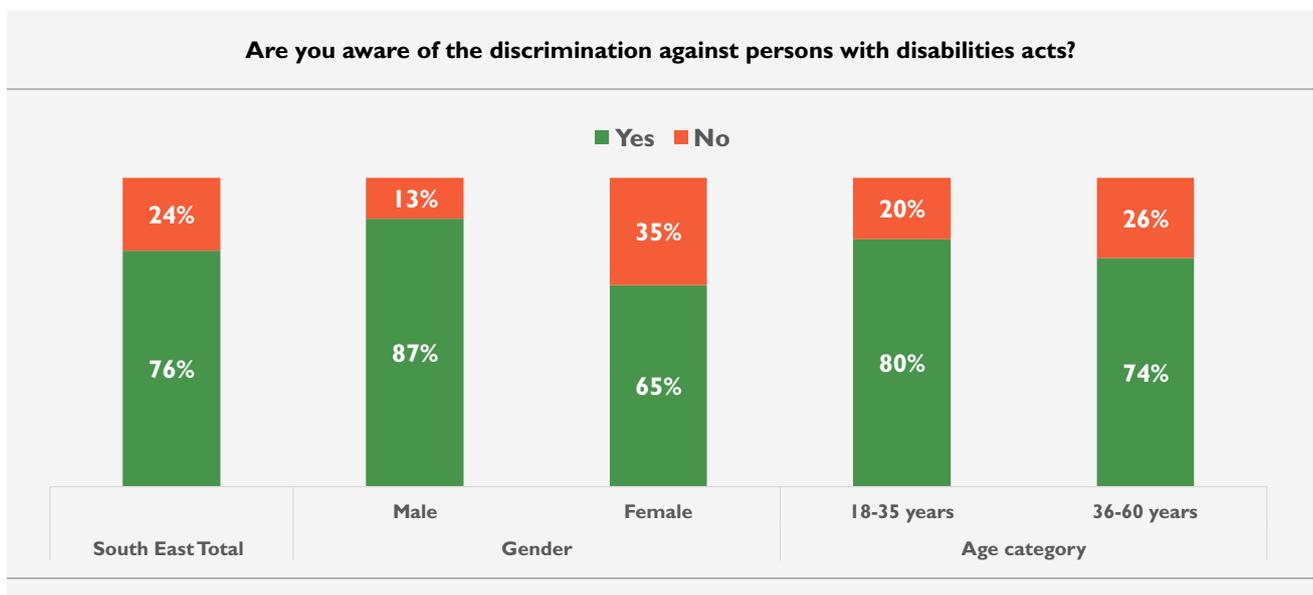
The level of awareness of the 'Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act' was also assessed in the South-East region. The survey found massive awareness of the Act in the South-East, as the majority of respondents (76%) claimed to be aware; compared to only 24% who were unaware.

Figure 6.20: Awareness of the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act



Further disaggregation of the data reveals that across demographics such as gender and age category, more Male respondents (87%) than Female (65%), and respondents aged 18-35 years (80%) were found to have a greater awareness of the Act

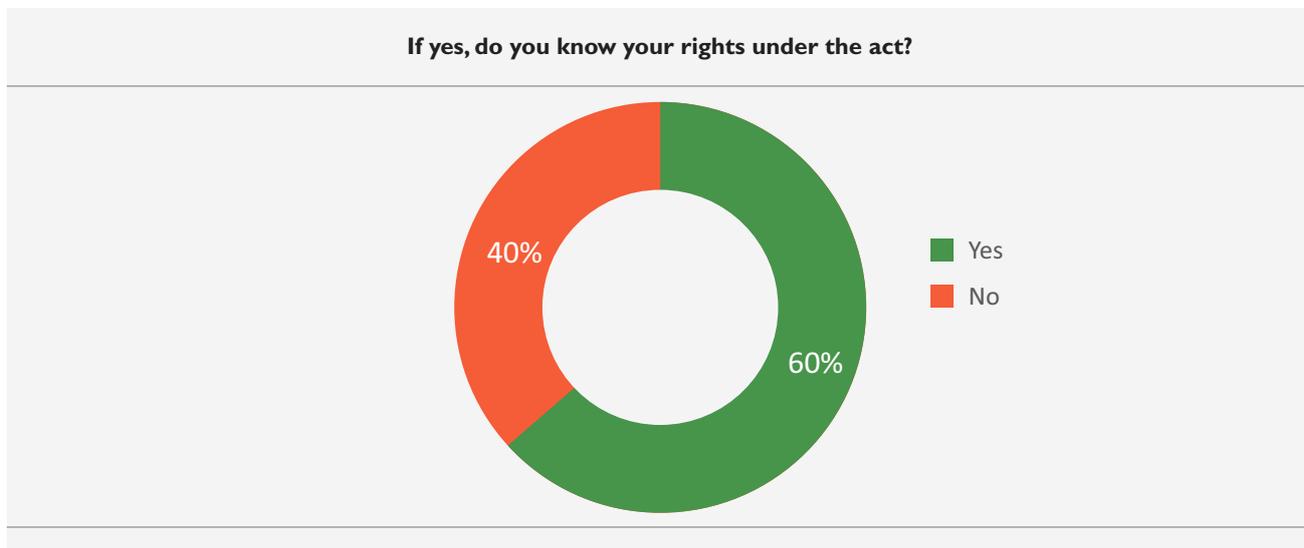
Figure 6.21: Disaggregation of the level of awareness of the Act



6.5.2 Gauging respondent's knowledge about the content of the Act

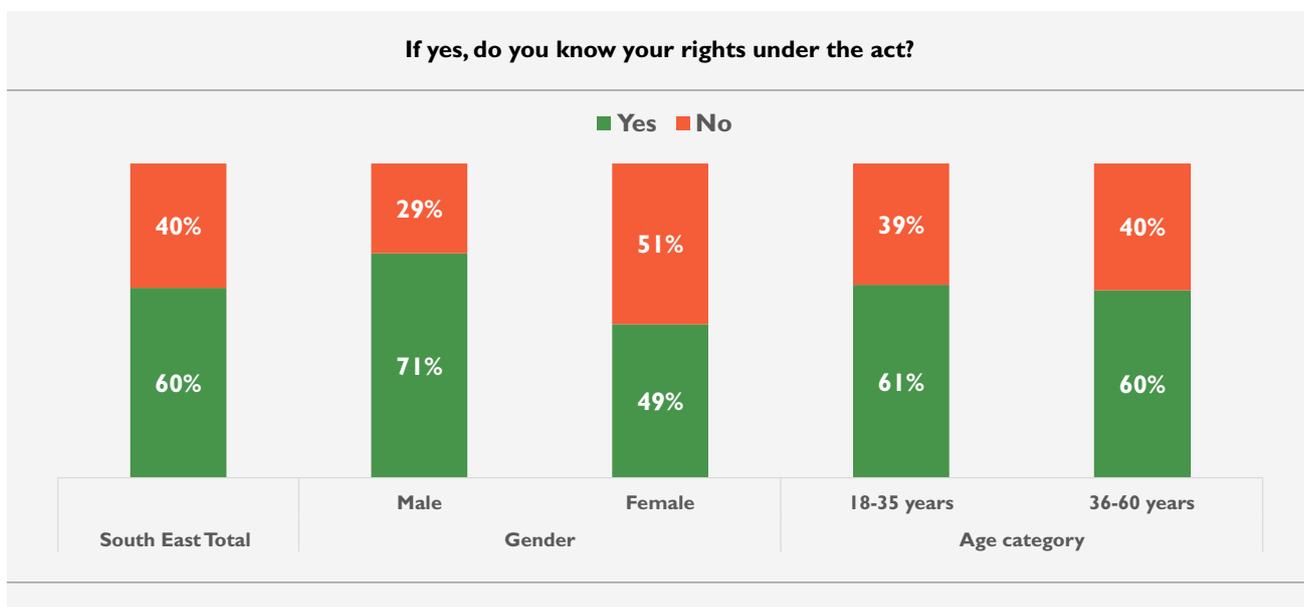
In comparison to the South-South finding, we found that 6 in 10 South-East respondents are well-informed of their rights and only 4 in 10 (40%) respondents are ignorant about the content of the Act, thus implying that the South-South participants are more informed compared to the South-East participants.

Figure 6.22: Knowledge about the content of the Act



Data disaggregation above shows that the level of awareness of rights under the Act was widespread across socio-demographics. The awareness rate was highest amongst Male respondents (71%) than Female (49%); followed by the youth aged 18-35 years (61%) and then aged 36-60years (60%). However, Female respondents (51%) constituted the highest amongst those who claimed to be unaware of their rights under the Act.

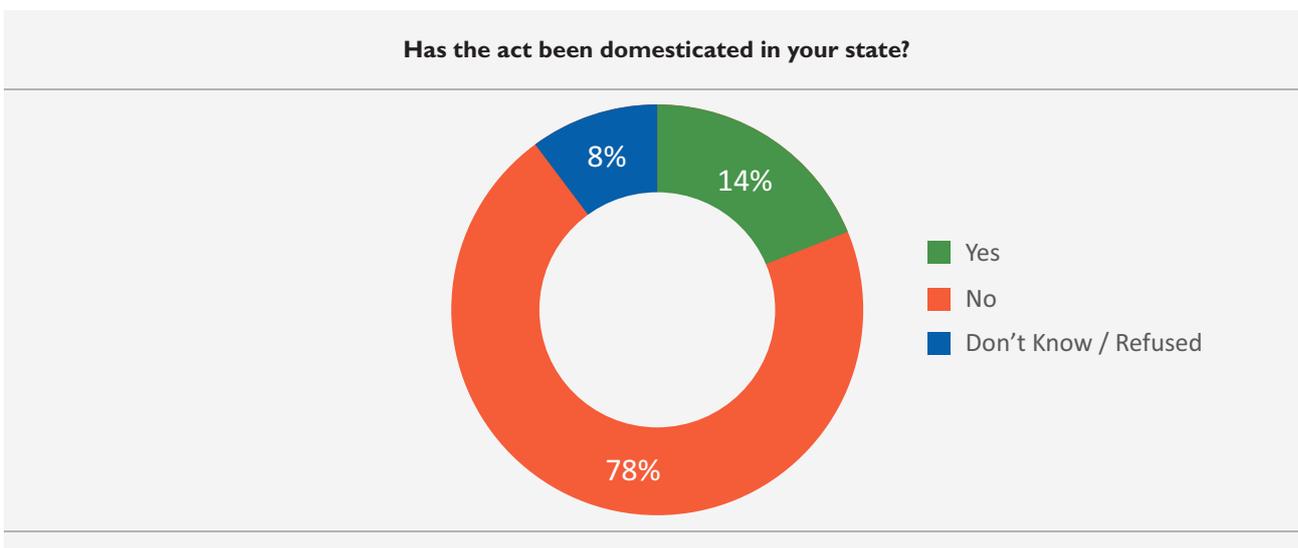
Figure 6.23: Disaggregation of participants Knowledge about the content of the Act



6.5.3 Determining the Domestication of the Act

In ascertaining the domestication of the ‘Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act’ in the South-East, the findings suggest otherwise. The finding reveals that most of the South-East respondents (78%) believe that the Act has not been domesticated, as against only a few (8%) who believe that the Act has been domesticated. It is worth noting that just like the South-South region, none of the states in the South-East geo-political zone are amongst the few 13 states that reportedly have state-level disability laws⁴⁶ in the country.

Figure 6.24: Knowledge about Domestication of the Act



Across the states in the South East geo-political zone, Ebonyi State (94%) had the highest number of respondents who believed that the Act has not been domesticated. This was followed by Enugu State (84%) and Abia State (74%). Accordingly, the majority of respondents in Imo State (70%) and Anambra State (70%) equally held this opinion. However, respondents from Abia State (22%) and Anambra State (22%) were more likely to think that the Act has been domesticated in the state. As earlier suggested, lack of enforcement and sanction could be the reason why most states in South East are yet to domesticate the Act.

Figure 6.25: Disaggregation of Knowledge about Domestication of the Act

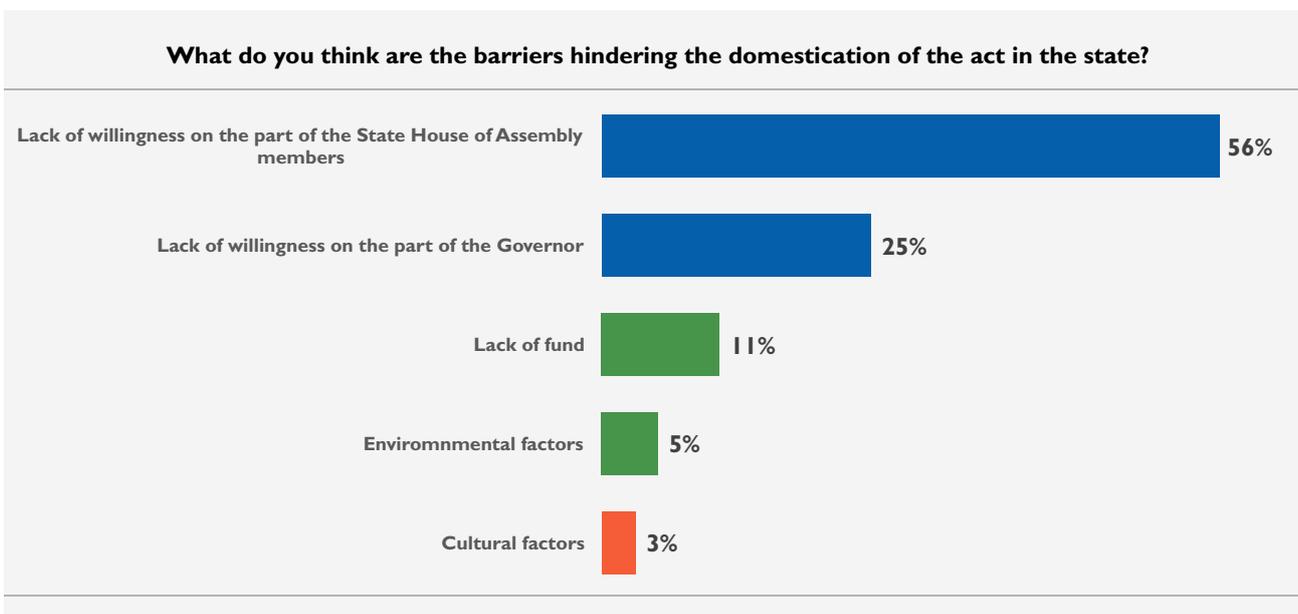
	South East States				
	Imo State	Anambra State	Abia State	Enugu State	Ebonyi State
Yes	12%	22%	22%	8%	4%
No	70%	70%	74%	84%	94%
Don't Know / Refused	18%	8%	4%	8%	2%

⁴⁶ <https://guardian.ng/news/31-million-plwds-suffer-as-23-states-neglect-disability-rights/>

6.5.4 Perceived barriers hindering the domestication of the Act in South-East states

Closely related to the survey findings in South-South, 'Lack of willingness by State House of Assembly Members' (56%) was revealed as the key barrier against the domestication of the Act in South East states. This was followed by 'Lack of willingness on the part of the State Governor' (25%) and 'Lack of fund' (11%). Environmental factors (5%) and Cultural factors' (3%) were also identified. The finding is not surprising since the government has often been blamed for the worsening welfare circumstance of the citizens.

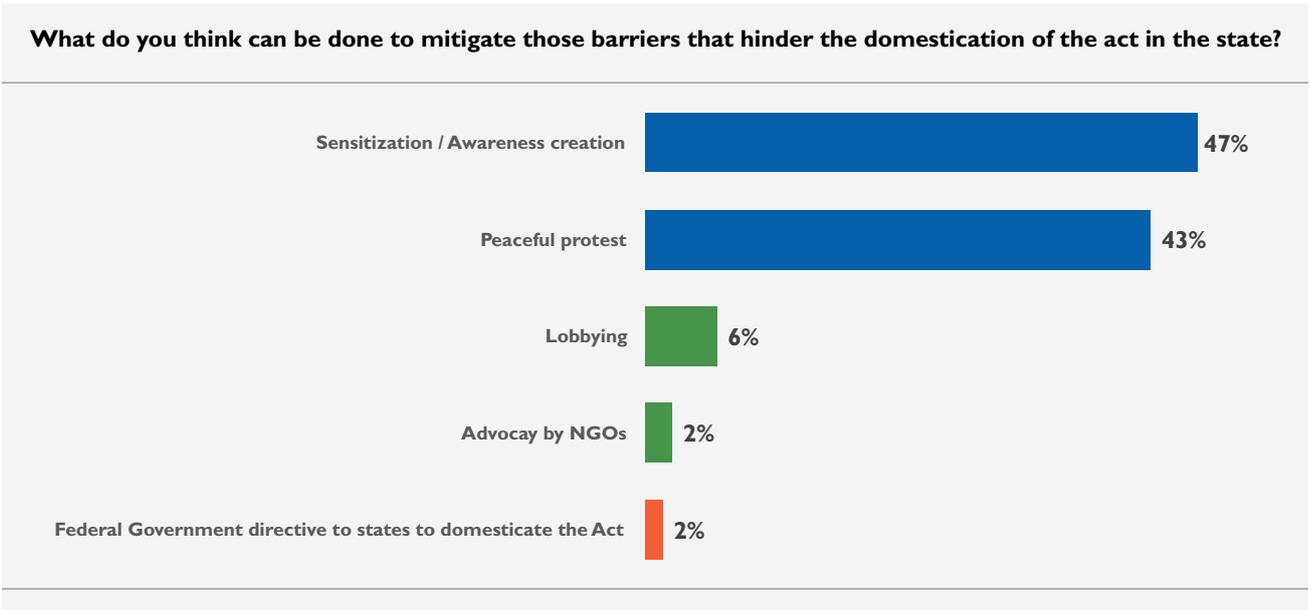
Figure 6.26: Barriers impeding the Domestication of the Act



6.5.5 What can be done to mitigate barriers hindering domestication of the Act

On the mitigating barriers hindering the domestication of the Act in the South-East, most respondents believe that 'Sensitization/Awareness creation' and 'Peaceful protest' are the most suitable approaches for successful domestication of the Act in the region. Additionally, insights from the qualitative interview revealed that there is a need for all persons with disabilities, organization of persons with disabilities, JONAPWD, and other key stakeholders to come out with one voice in mitigating barriers that hinders domestication of the Act in their state. As well elaborated by a participant in the group discussion, "A unified front will draw the attention of the government towards domesticating the Act. There is also a need to create awareness because it doesn't only involve the government. It is a collective effort from the government, private, and also individuals for all to be aware that something of this nature is taking place. Sensitization and awareness need to be carried out to sensitize people about the Disability Act. There is also a need to push it to the state House of Assembly members so that they will enforce it."

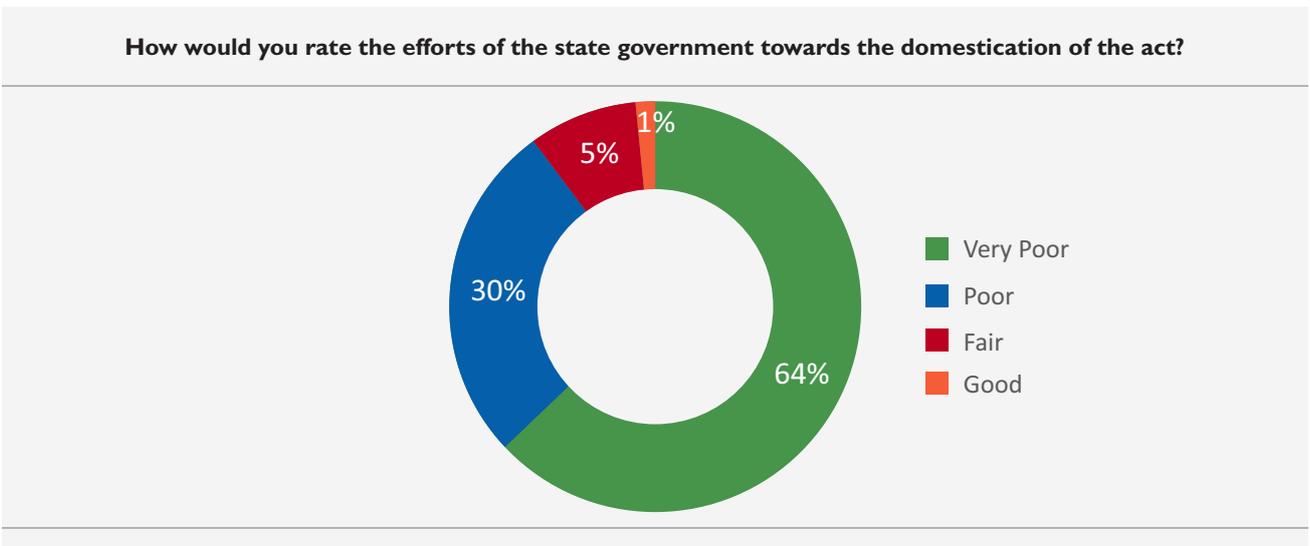
Figure 6.27: Suggestions to remove the mitigating barriers hindering the Domestication of the Act



6.5.6 Perception of state government effort towards domestication of the Act

Similar to South-South findings, there was an overwhelming poor rating of government efforts towards domestication of the Act in the South-East. As the data showed, the overwhelming majority of respondents (94%) rated government effort 'Poorly'; compared to very few respondents (6%) who either rated government effort 'Fairly' (5%) or 'Good' (1%).

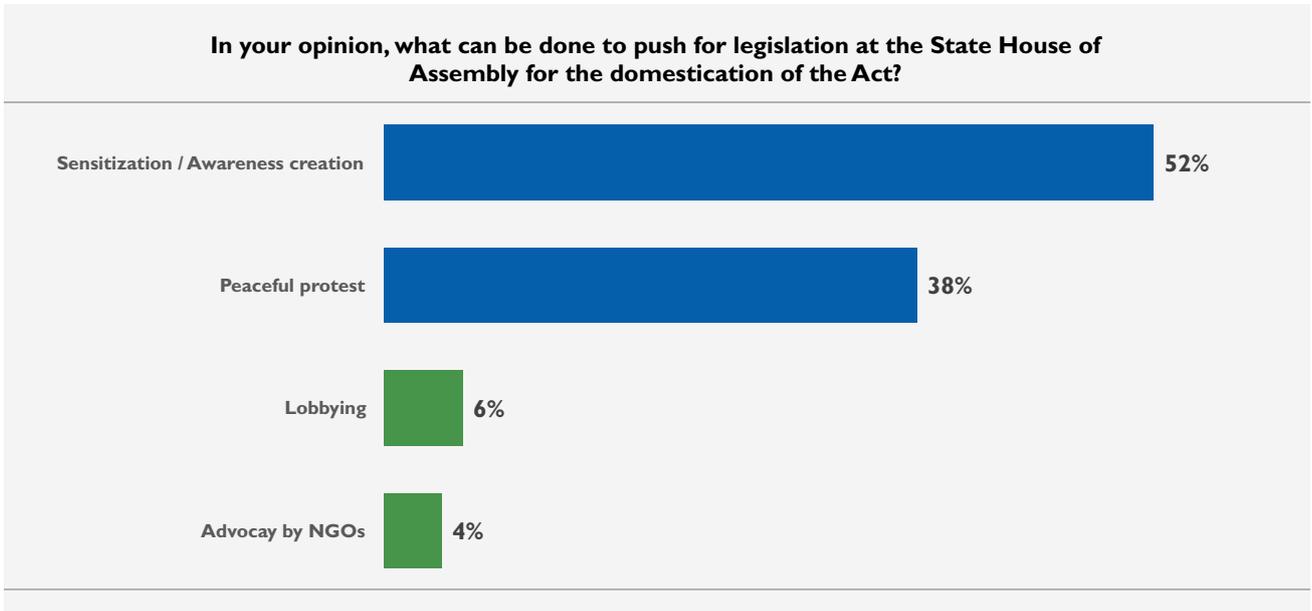
Figure 6.28: Assessing the effort of the State Government on the Act



6.5.7 South-Easterner's suggestion for legislations of the Domestication of the Act at State Houses of Assembly

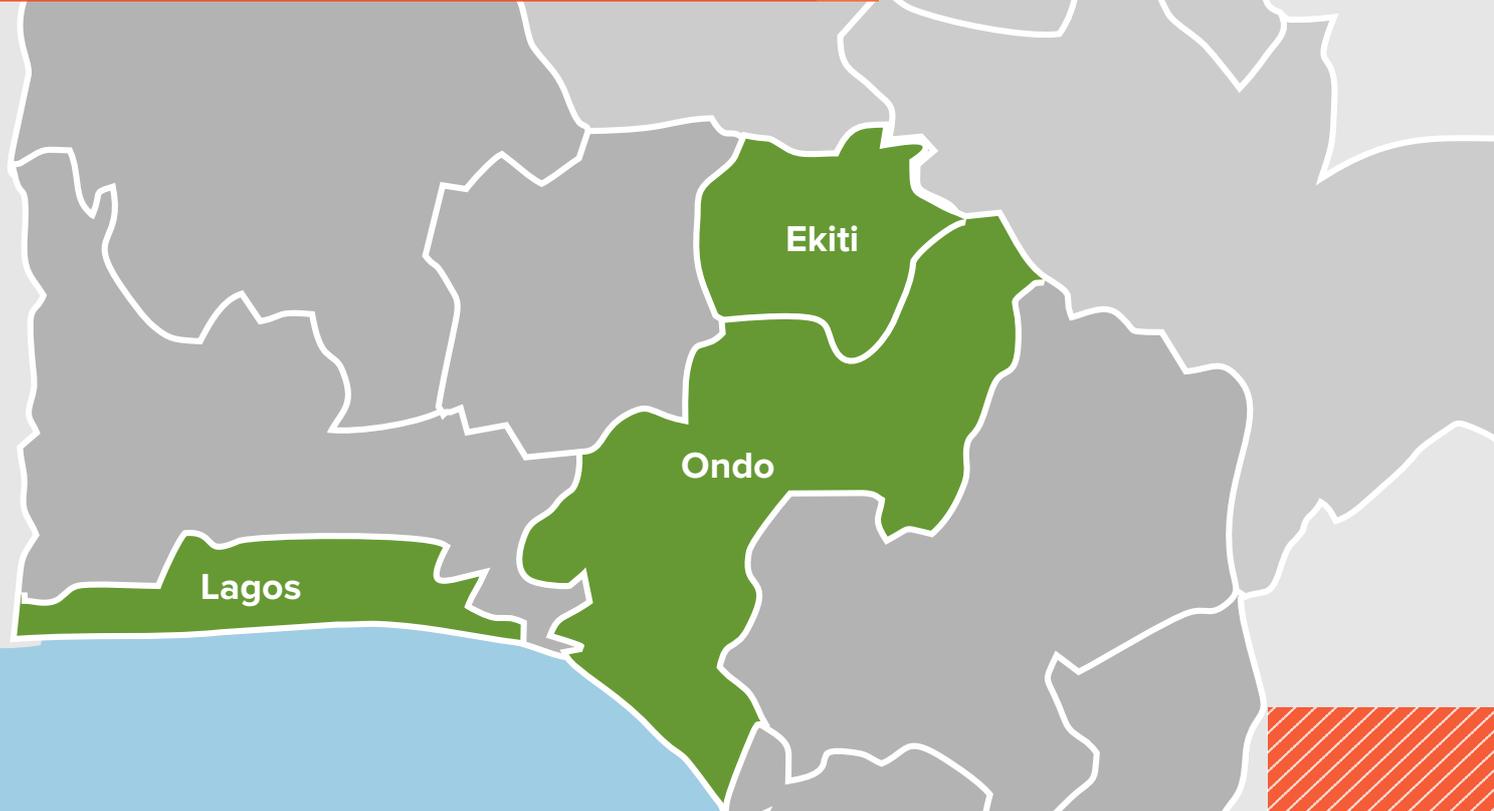
Based on the foregoing, the survey further sought opinion on how to push for the domestication of the Act. As the data showed, the top suggestions made were: Sensitization/Awareness creation (52%) and Peaceful protest (38%). Other suggestions included: Lobbying (6%) and Advocacy by NGOs (4%).

Figure 6.29: Legislation of Domestication of the Act at State House of Assembly



07

SURVEY RESULTS
AND FINDINGS
FROM THE
SOUTH-WEST
REGION



7.1 Social Demography

A total of 300 respondents from the South-West geo-political zone participated in the survey. This consists of 17% of the national respondents and comprises slightly more Female (54%) than male (46%) respondents. In the age category, 57% of the respondents are 18-35 Years and the remaining 43% are 36-60Years. Out of the total participants, 54% have No Formal Education/Completed Primary School, while 46% Completed Secondary School and above. Again, more than 7 in 10 respondents (70%) are Rural dwellers; compared to about 3 in 10 (28%) Urban dwellers. Furthermore, all the states in the South-West geo-political zone such as Osun, Oyo, Lagos, and Ondo have an equal proportion of respondents (17% each), while Ogun and Ekiti have 16% each.

Figure 7.1: Demographic Profile of South-West Region Respondents

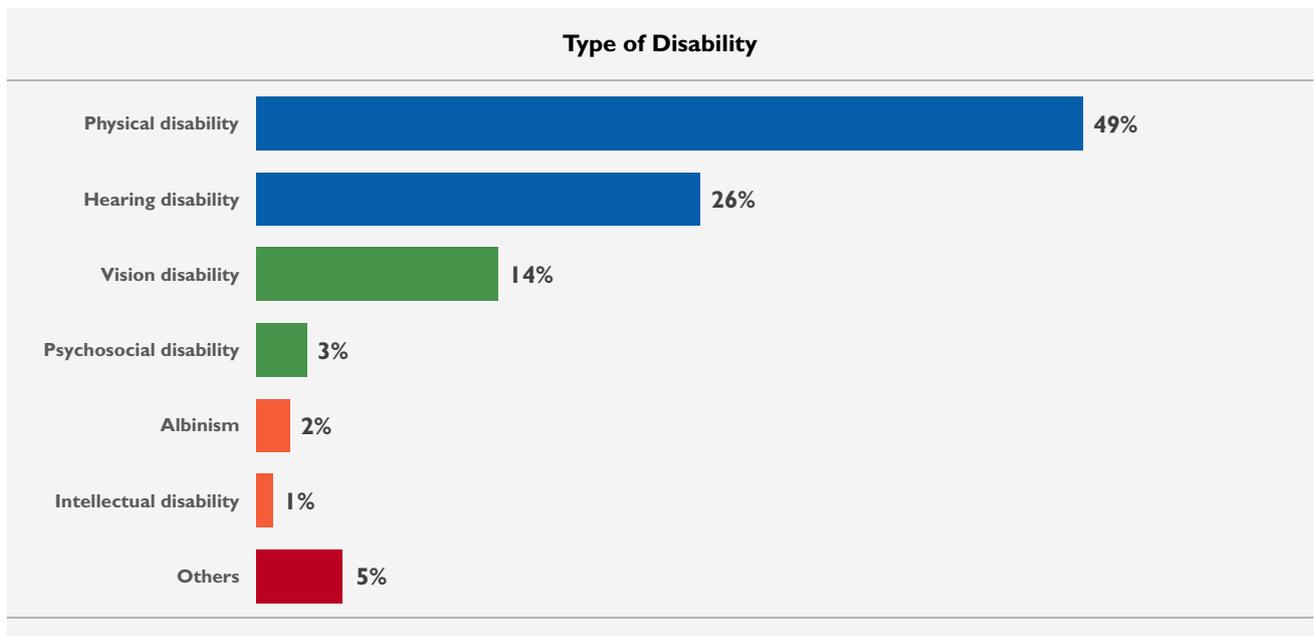
Variable Name	Variable Label	N = 300	% = 100
Gender	Male	137	46%
	Female	163	54%
Age category	18-35 years	171	57%
	36-60 years	129	43%
Highest Education	No Formal Education / Completed Primary School	161	54%
	Completed Secondary & Above	139	46%
Urbanization	Rural	217	72%
	Urban	83	28%
South West States	Osun	50	17%
	Ogun	48	16%
	Ekiti	48	16%
	Oyo	52	17%
	Lagos	52	17%
	Ondo	50	17%

7.2 Disability Identification and Experience

7.2.1 Category of respondent

While investigating the category of respondents by disabilities in the South-West geo-political zone, we discovered that respondents with 'Physical disability' (49%) came out top in the region. This is similar to South-South and South-East findings. In addition, other similar disabilities revealed by the data are 'Hearing disability' (26%) and 'Vision disability' (14%). Very few respondents suffer from Psycho-social disability, Albinism, and Intellectual disability, amongst others.

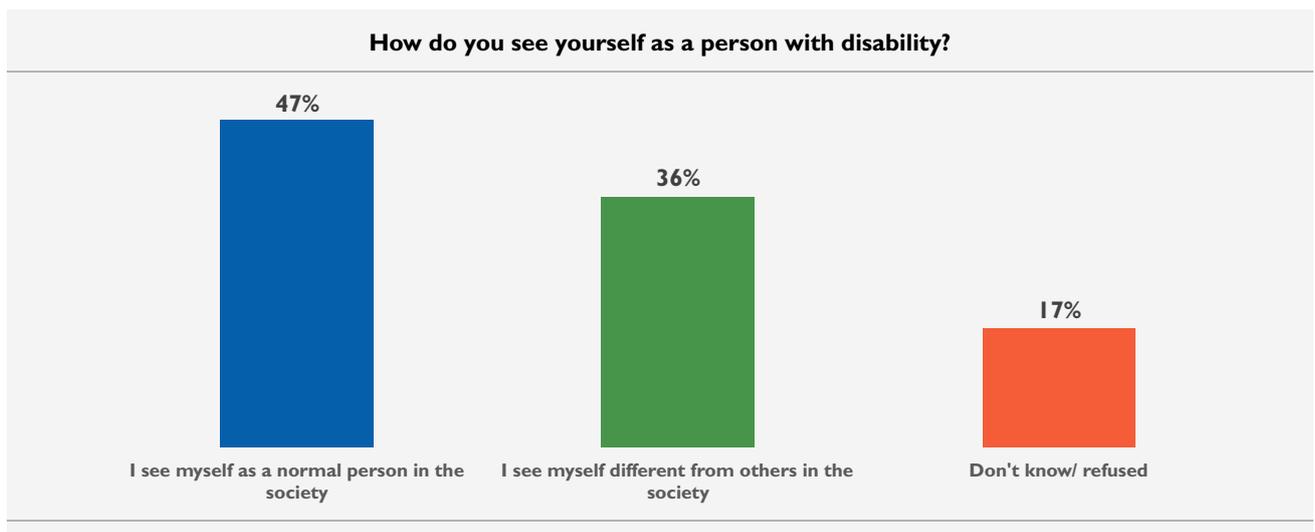
Figure 7.2: Forms of Disability



7.2.2 Realities of Persons with Disability in South-West

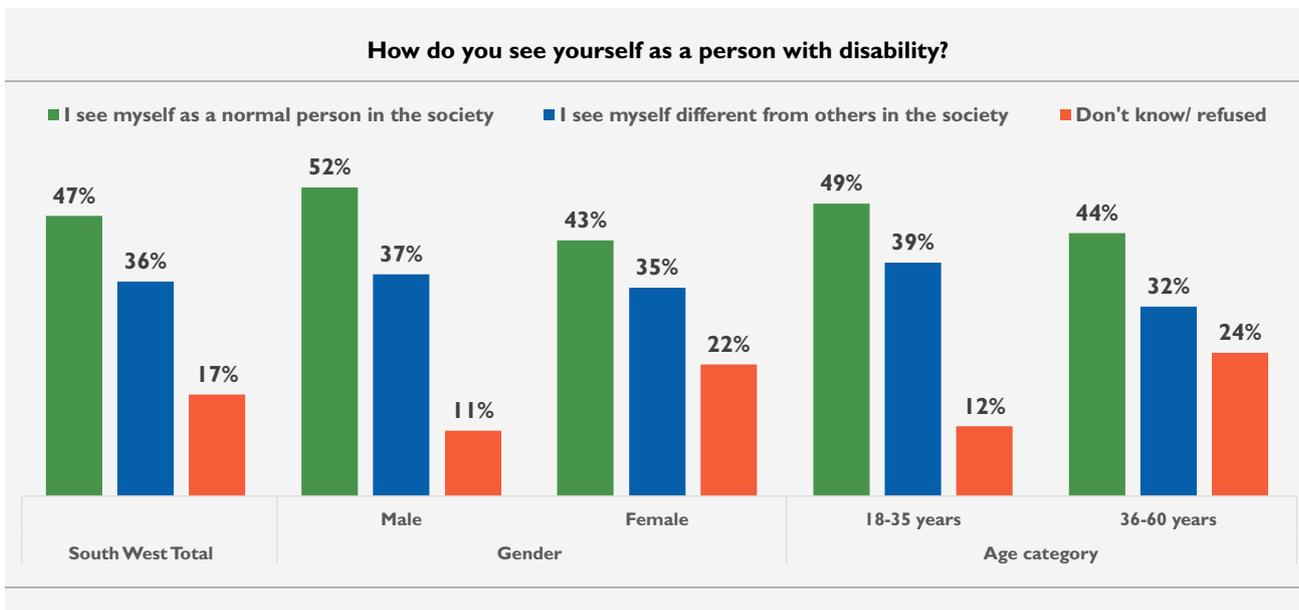
Findings from the survey reveal that slightly less than half of the respondents (47%) consider themselves normal people in the society, compared to about 4 in 10 respondents that feel otherwise (36%). This result suggests that on average, persons with disabilities in South-South and South-East geopolitical zones express a more positive perception of their realities, compared to the South-West.

Figure 7.3: Feeling about personal Disability



Data disaggregation across socio-demographics shows that more Male respondents (52%) than Female (43%) consider themselves as normal person in society. Also, slightly more Male respondents (37%) than Female (35%) consider themselves differently from others. In addition, respondents aged 18-35years were highest among those who either consider themselves as a normal person in the society (49%) or consider themselves different from others (39%).

Figure 7.4: Disaggregation of Respondent’s Feelings about their Disability



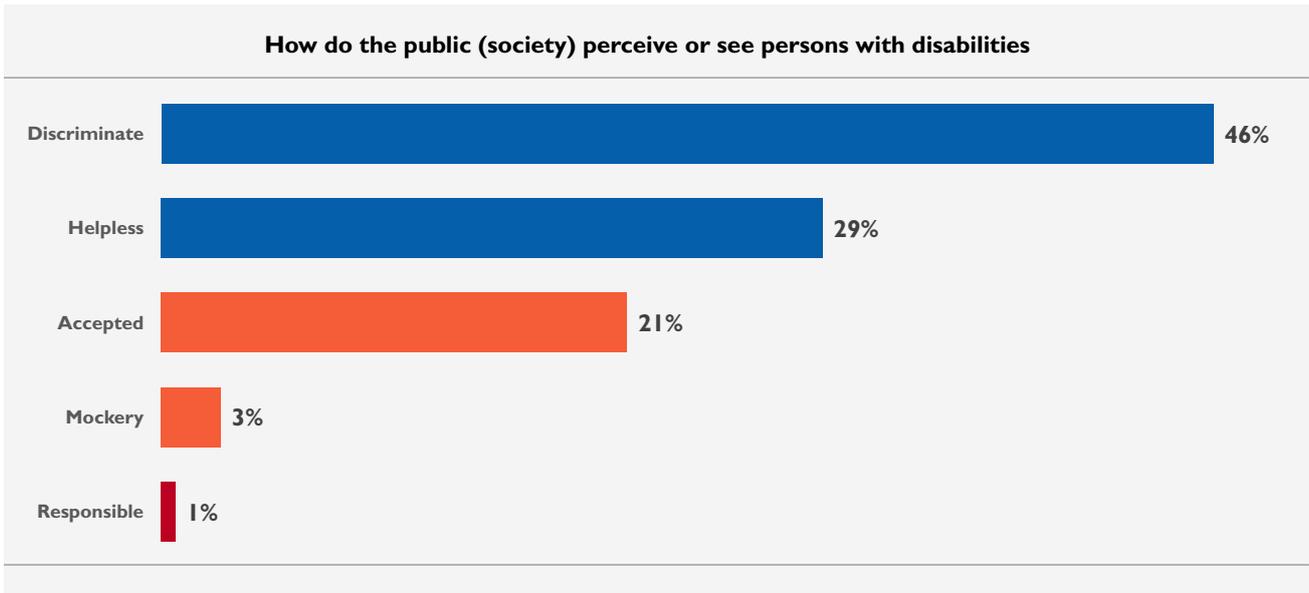
7.2.3 Public perception of Person with Disabilities

Furthermore, we observe some disparity in public perception of PWDs in the South-South and South-West. While an overwhelming majority of respondents perceive persons with disability as ‘helpless’ in the South-South, the perception of the majority of respondents in the South-West is ‘Discrimination’ (46%). Overall, about 8 in 10 respondents (78%) believe that members of the public hold a negative perception about PWD, which has a consequential effect on feelings of self-worth, interdependence, and inclusion in society. There is also the issue of misconception about PWDs as most people see them as beggars. Below are a few quotes that buttress this in the words of some of the interviewed participants:

“The truth is the public believes that when you come closer to them you want to beg for financial assistance. The public also looks down on PWDs without even being conscious that the status of some of us is better than theirs. I remember the day I needed to ask for direction from someone and she felt I wanted to ask for money but later realized I do not truly know my direction. This is one of many examples. This stigmatization and stereotype remain a serious issue of concern that should immediately be addressed.” **KII Extract**

“Some people see us as normal persons like themselves who are able-bodied. However, most people see us as beggars because of our predicament. Some even do worse, for instance, when going out and you stop a motorcycle, often we are charged higher because they feel we have no choice and we cannot help ourselves.” **FGD Extract**

Figure 7.5: Members of the public perception of PWD



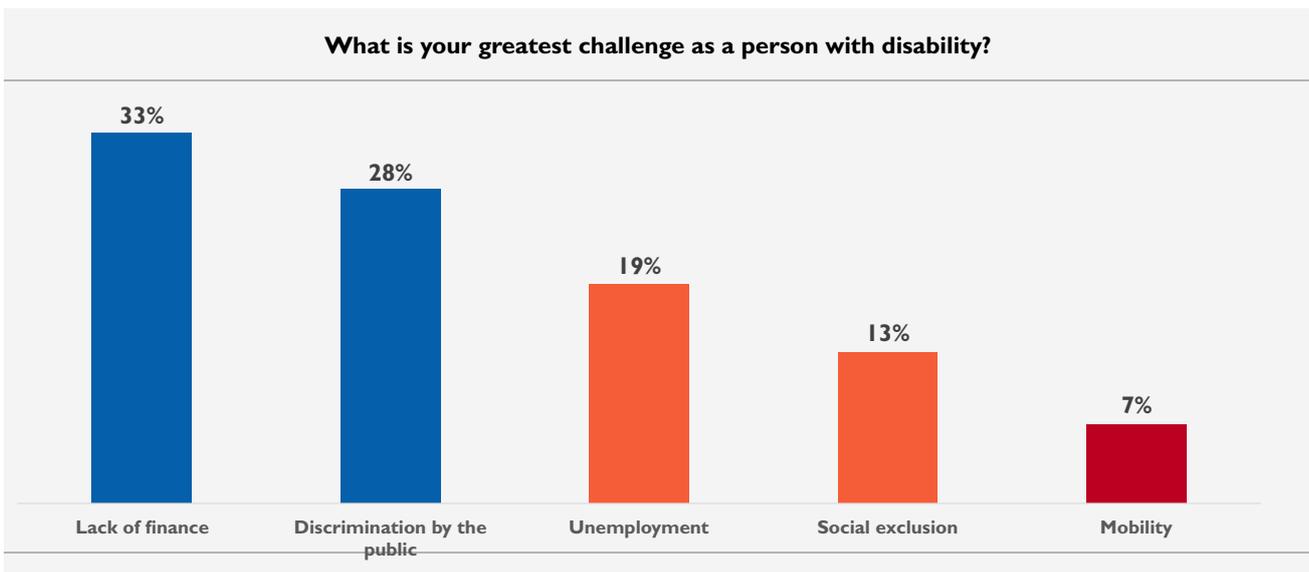
7.2.4 Challenges facing persons with disability

Considering the challenges facing PWD, lack of finance and discrimination appeared to be the worst challenges facing PWDs in the geopolitical zone. This finding is also evident in the South-South and South-East result and implies that more actions need to be undertaken to address the socio-economic factors that are hindering the abilities of PWD from enjoying equal benefits as everyone else in the society. An extract from the group discussion supporting the above finding reads thus:



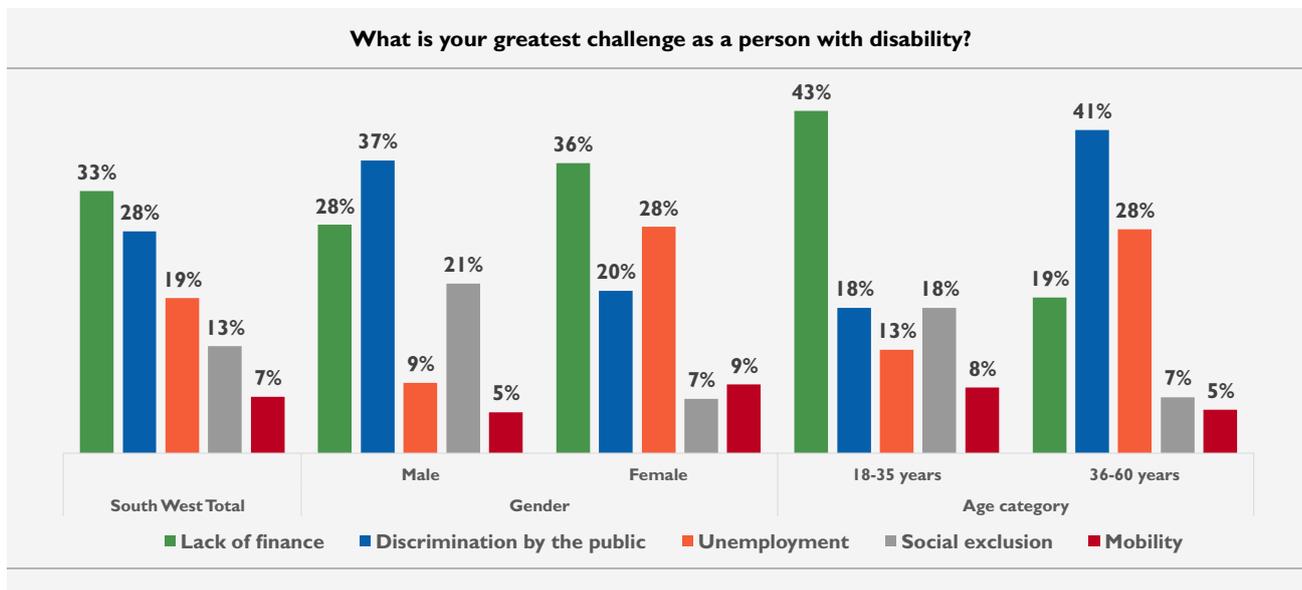
“I, as a person with a disability can say categorically that, if not for God, my disability has posed many challenges for me. Challenges range from financial constraints to having limited access to facilities, neglect, and stigmatization. Regarding access to infrastructure, health, financial aid, transportation, housing, and employment, I must say it has been discouraging and heartbreaking. I am only surviving through the help of good Nigerians.” **FGD Extract**

Figure 7.6: Challenges facing PWD



Further disaggregation of the challenges facing PWD in the South-West shows that Female participants and participants aged 18-35 years mostly experience financial challenges compared to others, respectively. In addition, unlike the findings in South-South, more Male respondents (37%) and respondents aged 36-60 years (41%) experience discrimination in the society. However, 'Unemployment' was seen as a significant challenge by Female respondents (28%) and respondents aged 36-60years (28%), while male respondents (21%) have the greatest challenge of 'Social exclusion'.

Figure 7.7: Disaggregation of challenges facing PWD

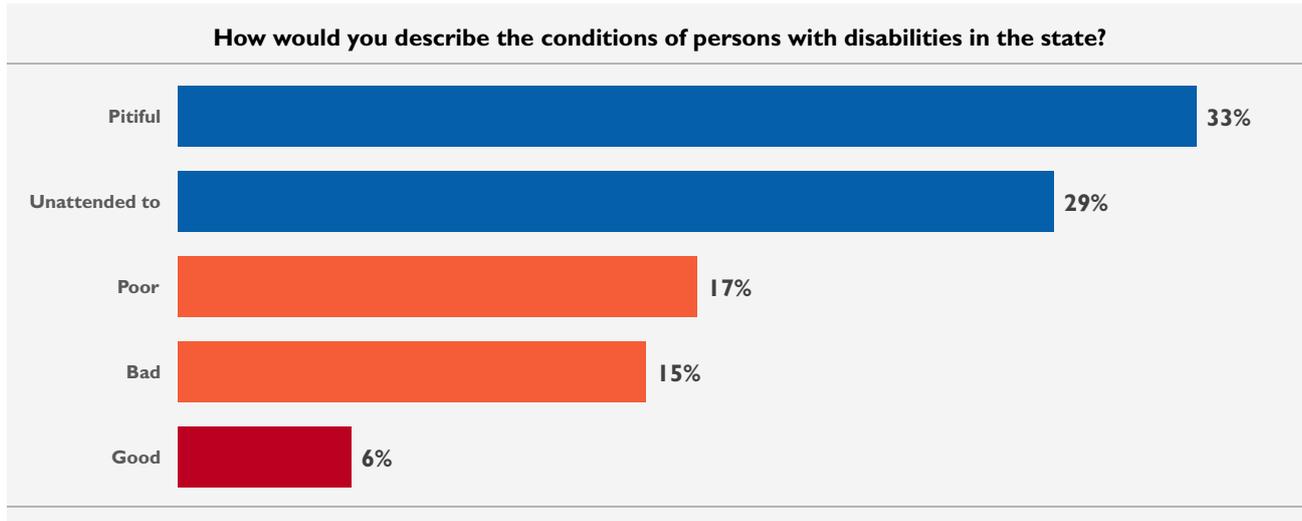


7.3 Inclusion of Persons with Disability in South-West

7.3.1 Conditions of Persons with Disability

As earlier mentioned, persons with disabilities on average experience worse socioeconomic conditions relative to others across the country. In the South-West, at least 9 in 10 respondents (94%) hold a negative perception about the living conditions of PWD in the states. Only 6% of participants out of the total participants hold a positive view about the welfare of PWD in the states. This finding is worrisome considering that, amidst these deplorable conditions of PWDs across the geopolitical zones, inclusive policies to better their plights are equally non-existent in the country.

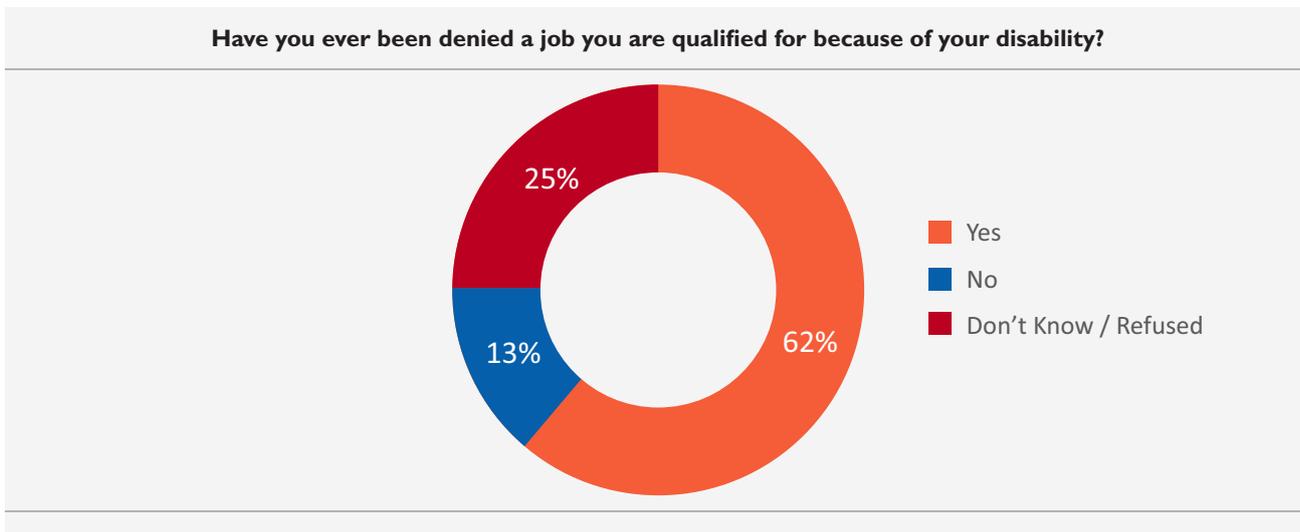
Figure 7.8: Assessing the Living condition of PWD



7.3.2 Job discrimination among Persons with Disability

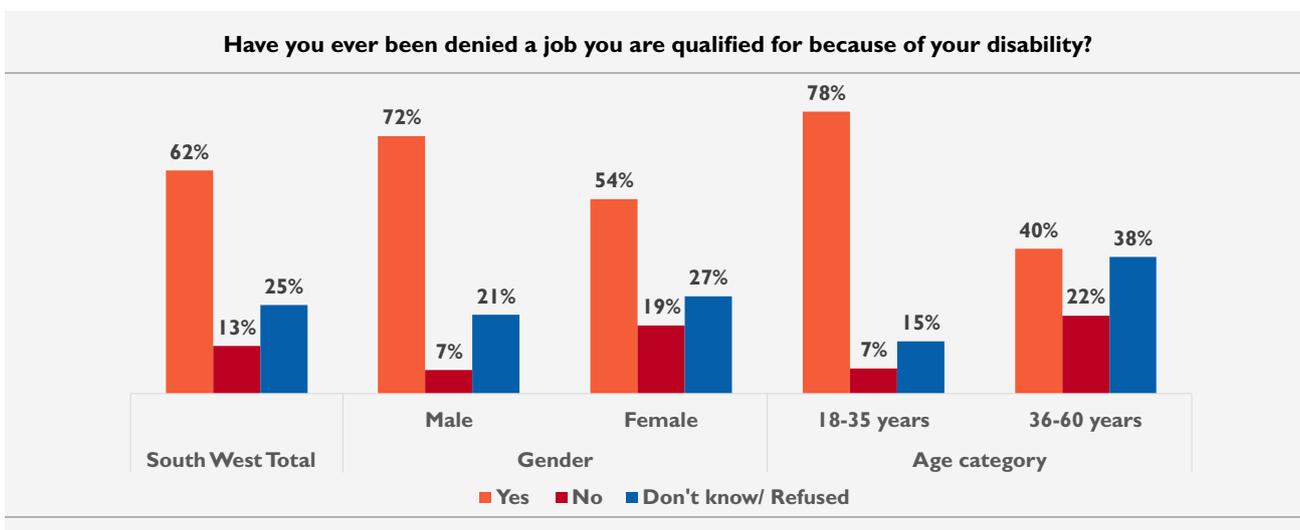
Being denied job opportunities when one is willing to and able to work is highly frustrating for persons with disabilities. This situation appeared to be the case in the South-West geopolitical zone. In specifics, the survey results indicated that roughly 6 in 10 respondents (62%) have been denied job opportunities; compared to only 13% who disagreed. In this wise, there is an urgent need to design policies that will improve the current employment situation of persons with disabilities in Nigeria.

Figure 7.9: Job Discrimination experience of PWD



Across the board, more Male respondents (72%) than Female (54%) suffer more from job denial. In addition, the prevalence of job denial was highest amongst respondents aged 18-35years (78%), while respondents aged 36-60 years (22%) were less likely to suffer job denial in the region.

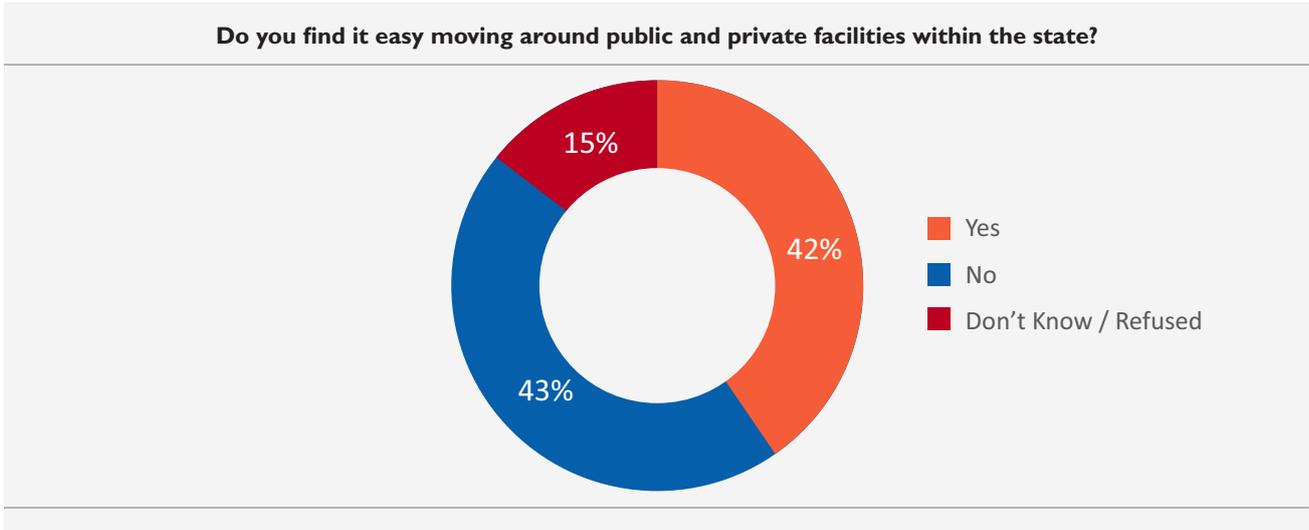
Figure 7.10: Disaggregation of Job Discrimination experience among PWD



7.3.3 Accessibility of physical facilities in South-West

In terms of movement around public and private facilities, data show mixed reactions, which is almost an equal proportion of respondents agreeing (42%) and disagreeing (43%) on the ease of movement among persons with disability. In this wise, it could be said that across the South-West states, ease of movement among persons with a disability doesn't pose as a serious challenge as South-South and South-East findings.

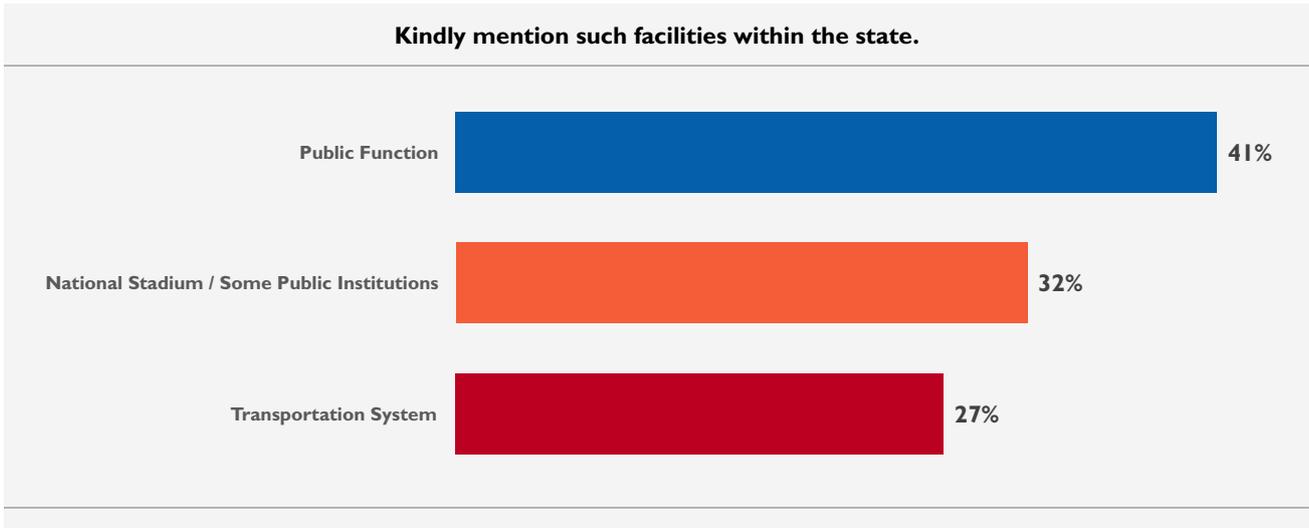
Figure 7.11: Establishing ease of movement in Public and Private Facilities



7.3.4 Facilities with poor access for PWD in South-West

In addition, the views shared by respondents who find it difficult to access public and private facilities were subjected to further analysis. The result indicated that most respondents in the South-West find it hardest accessing 'Public function' (41%); followed by 'National Stadium/ Some public institutions' (32%) and 'Transportation System' (27%).

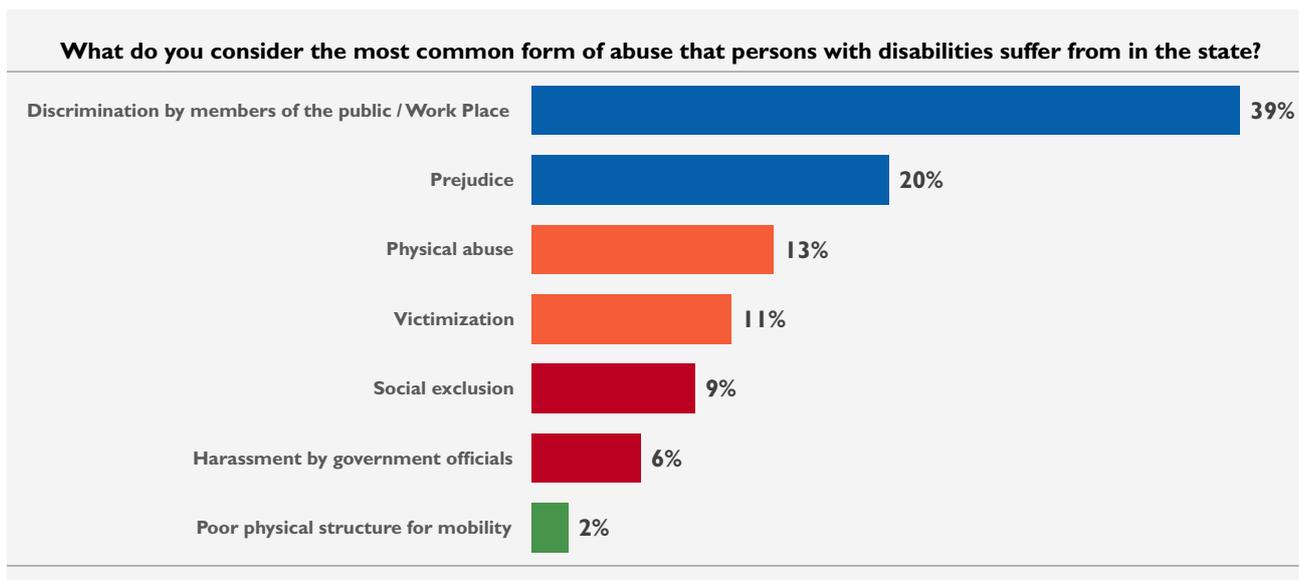
Figure 7.12: List of Inaccessible Facilities



7.3.5 Common forms of abuse among Persons with Disability

Across the geopolitical zones, 'discrimination by members of the public/workplace', appeared to be the most common type of abuse meted out on persons with disabilities. Similar to the result in South-South and South-East, the most common form of abuse was also considered in South West to be 'Discrimination by members of the public/work place' (39%), followed by 'Prejudice' (20%), 'Physical abuse' (13%) and 'Victimisation' (11%). However, 'Social exclusion' (9%), 'Harassment by government officials' (5%), and poor physical structure for mobility (2%) appeared to be the least form of abuse in the South-West.

Figure 7.13: Most common form of abuse that PWD Experience



7.3.6 General Perception of Persons with Disability

On average, the general perceptions of persons with disabilities in the South-West are ostensibly pessimistic. Markedly, the data indicates that the majority of the respondents (75%) strongly object to ‘Many persons with disabilities are well educated, productively engaged in different employment and contributing to national development’. Another overwhelming majority, 9 in 10 respondents (91%) also strongly object that ‘Only family members of persons with disabilities should be responsible in catering for their wellbeing’. In the same vein, the majority of respondents (82%) equally oppose strongly that ‘the rights of persons with disabilities are included in key decision-making processes in the state’; 83% of respondents also strongly objected to the fact that ‘the rights of persons with disabilities are well protected by the state government’. Accordingly, the majority of the respondents (79%) strongly object that ‘Most of the programmes that support and promote the wellbeing of PWDs are usually carried out by CSOs, NGOs, and FBOs. Further objected by most of the respondents (73%) was that ‘Most of the programmes that support and promote the wellbeing of PWDs are usually carried out by state government’.

Figure 7.14: Perception of PWD

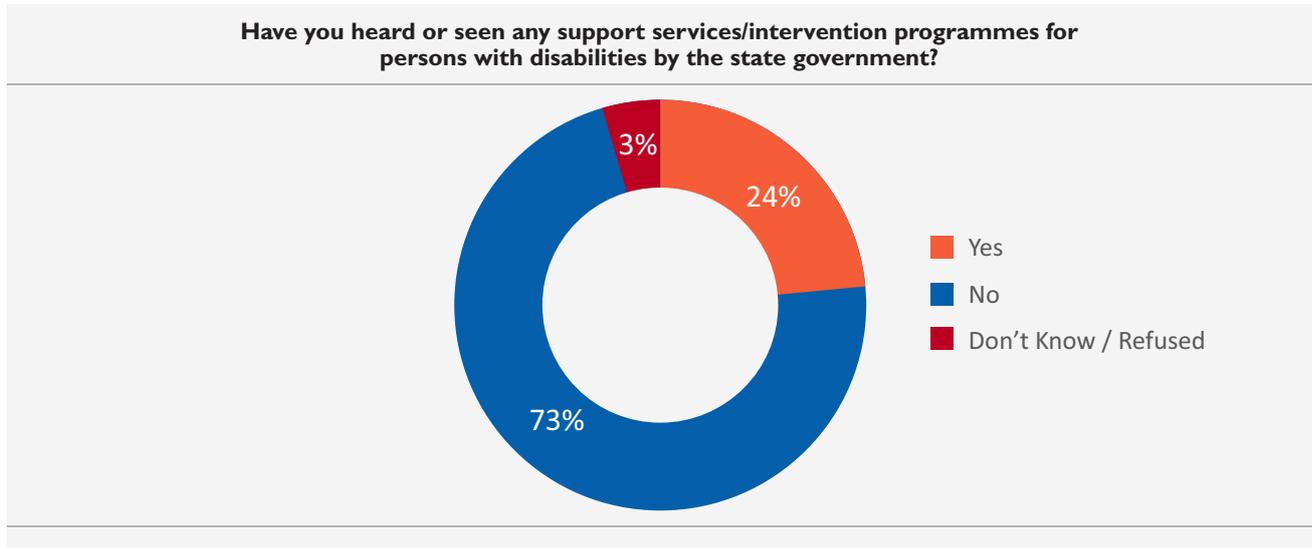
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
Many persons with disabilities in this state are well educated and engages in different employment opportunities where they contribute to national growth and development	41%	34%	9%	16%
Only family members of persons with disabilities should be responsible in catering for their wellbeing	61%	30%	2%	7%
The rights of persons with disabilities are well protected by the government of this state.	50%	33%	5%	12%
Persons with disabilities are included in key decision-making process in this state.	38%	46%	9%	7%
Most of the programmes that support and promote the wellbeing of persons with disabilities are usually carried out by CSOs, NGOs, and FBOs.	61%	18%	9%	12%
Most of the programmes that support and promote the wellbeing of persons with disabilities are usually carried out by state governments.	40%	43%	10%	7%

7.4 Support Services / Intervention Programmes for Persons with Disability

7.4.1 Knowledge of support services/intervention programmes by the state governments

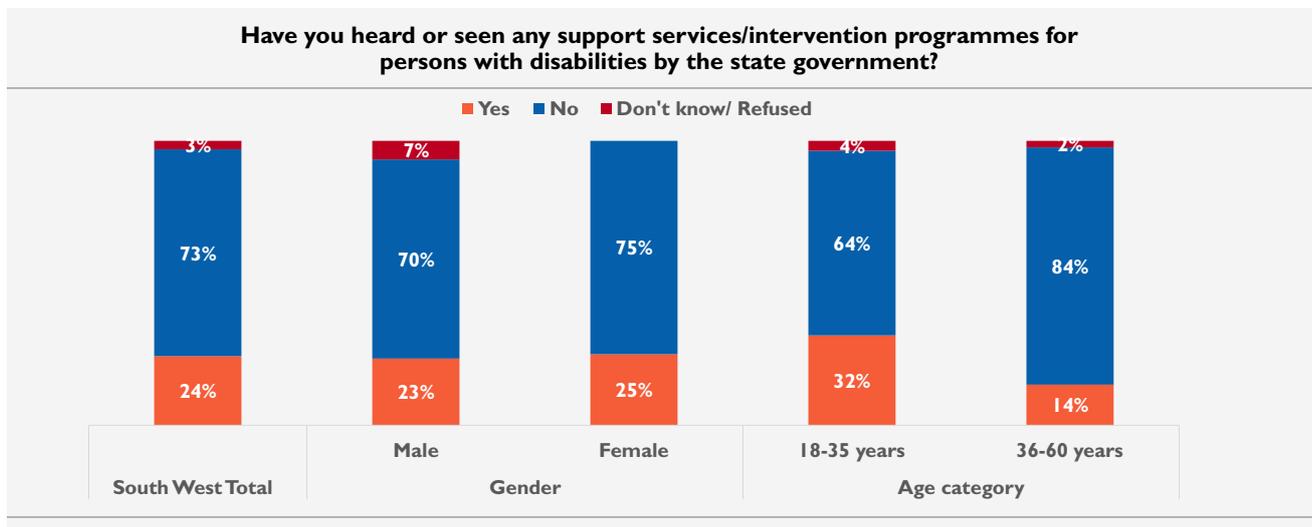
Concerning the knowledge of support services/intervention programmes by the state government in the South-West, the result shows that more than 7 in 10 respondents (73%) are unaware of state support services/intervention programmes; compared to a few respondents (24%) that are aware. The distrustful perception expressed by the respondents could be attributable to the massive level of unawareness.

Figure 7.15: Perception of Government Support Services and Programmes

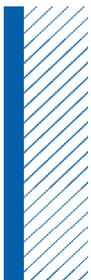


Further disaggregation of the data reveals that an average of 72.5% by gender and 74% by age category do not know state government support for PWD in the states. The unawareness rate was highest amongst respondents aged 36-60 years (84%) and Female respondents (75%).

Figure 7.16: Disaggregation of Perception of Government Support Services and Programmes



Similarly, in the various qualitative data, the findings show that support services and intervention programmes for PWDs in the South West are still implausible. Suggestion indicates that only Lagos and Ekiti states seem to have some support services and intervention programmes aimed at addressing the employment, empowerment, and housing needs of PWDs. In one of the interview sessions, one of the informants from Ondo state explained thus:



“I will say there is very meager or no support from the state government. Though, the Governor appointed PWDs in his cabinet as policymakers, nevertheless, out of about 2 million registered PWDs in the state just 35 were employed. It is still assumed that nothing has been done, not even empowerment that would have even helped in a way to alleviate the suffering of PWDs. In all sincerity, when all of this education, social infrastructure, health, financial aids, transportation, housing, employment/empowerment, assistive technology, and ICT are stressed, it will be clear that PWDs have not been able to access any bit not to talk of benefitting from them.” **FGD Extract**

In one of the FGDs sessions in Lagos, many of the participants affirmed that the Lagos State Government through the Lagos State Office of Disability Affairs (LASODA) has been trying to address the challenges of PWDs by supporting them in education (scholarship to tertiary institutions in the state), provision of infrastructure to aid mobility of PWDs in public places and enactment of the disability law in the state. Also, the provision of financial support and free medical care for PWDs, free transportation for PWDs, and job opportunities for PWDs. They believe that government can still do more by increasing the employment quota to 20 percent in the state to accommodate more of PWDs. However, with regards to the provision of infrastructure support for persons with disabilities, a key informant in Lagos has this to say:



“There is support service available to PWDs in the state in terms of housing, and all other infrastructure but in terms of technology and ICT, it is not encouraging at all, it is very poor. There is still a long way to go in terms of ICT, but before this, there is a need for accessibility of quality education, which will enhance the ICT to improve better” **KII Extract**

On the overall impact of government support services and programmes in Ogun state, a participant interviewed stated that:

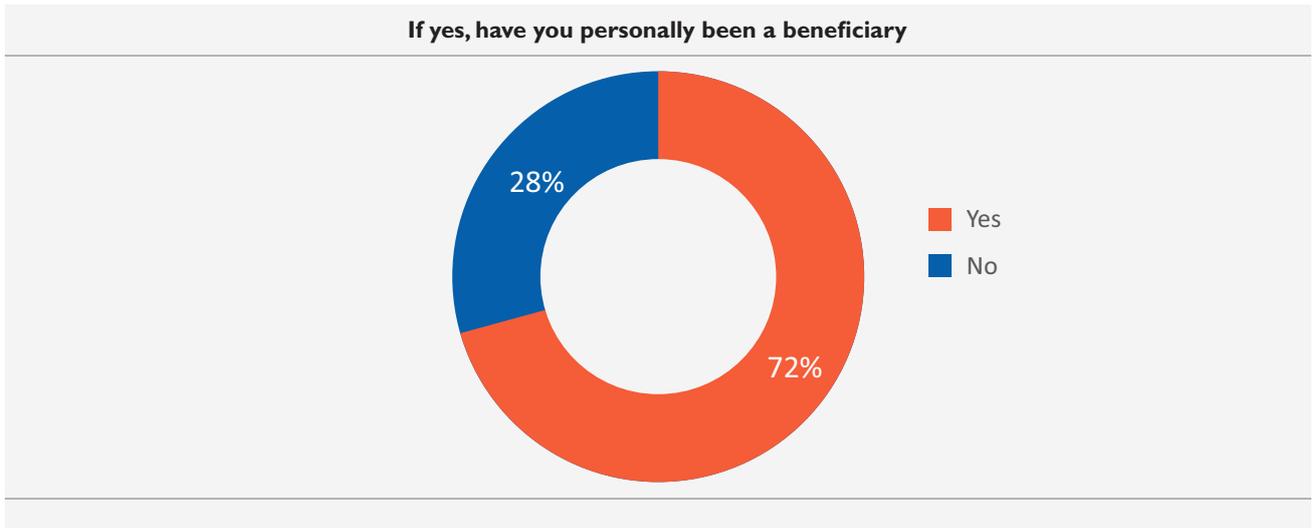


“I think the impact of such support services and intervention programmes is very low considering the number of PWDs in each state that has not even benefitted from such programmes. Most things have been tied to politics in Nigeria. If you are not a member of a political party, you will not benefit from government programmes. These are special people with special needs. Some of them lack employment, vocation, housing, medical care, and mobility from one place to another is a big challenge. PWDs have been neglected in the scheme of things in this state. I know the government cannot do it alone. That is why NGOs/CSOs and FBOs organizations need to come around and support them.” **KII Extract**

7.4.2 Beneficiaries of state governments’ intervention programmes for Persons with Disability

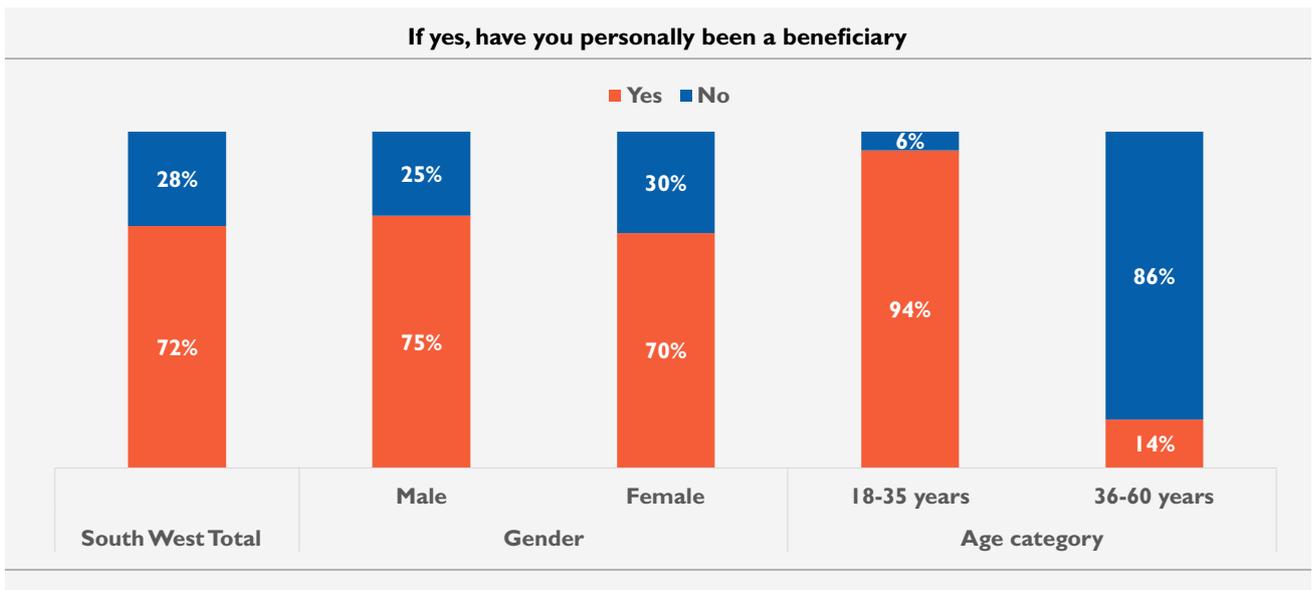
Despite the massive unawareness of government support services/intervention programmes claimed by respondents in the South-West, the majority of the respondents (72%) agreed to have benefitted from government support services/intervention programmes. On the other hand, only a few respondents (28%) stated otherwise.

Figure 7.17: Estimating beneficiaries of Government Intervention Programmes



The data further highlighted that youth aged 18-35 years (94%) constitute the greatest proportion of beneficiaries. Also, Male respondents (75%) enjoy more benefits than Female (70%) participants. On the contrary, respondents aged 36-60 years (86%) are the least beneficiaries of government support services/intervention programmes.

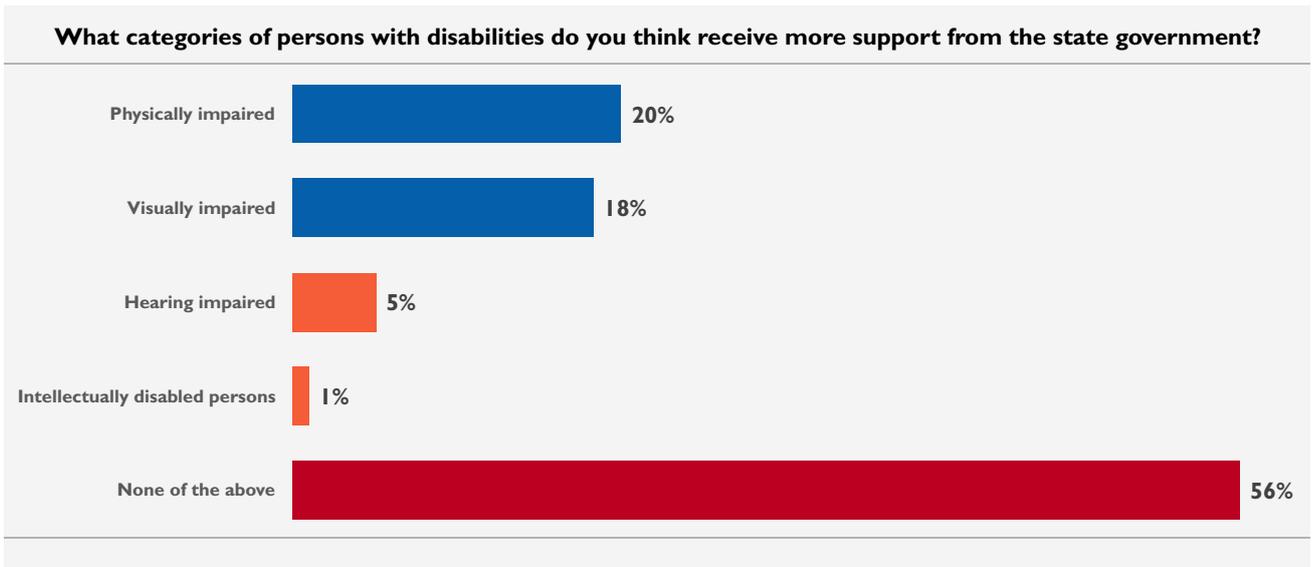
Figure 7.18: Disaggregation of Government Intervention Programme Beneficiaries



7.4.3 Category of Persons with Disability with the most support from the state governments

While assessing the category of PWD beneficiaries of state government initiatives, we found that the 'Physically Impaired' are the most beneficiaries. This finding is similar to South-South and South-East results. Other groups of beneficiaries are the 'Visually impaired' (18%), 'Hearing Impaired' (5%), and 'Intellectually disabled persons' (1%). However, 56% of respondents believe that there is no special support given to any cluster of disabilities by state government in the region. This finding is closely related to that of the South-South and South-East geopolitical zones.

Figure 7.19: Identifying PWD-beneficiaries of Government Support

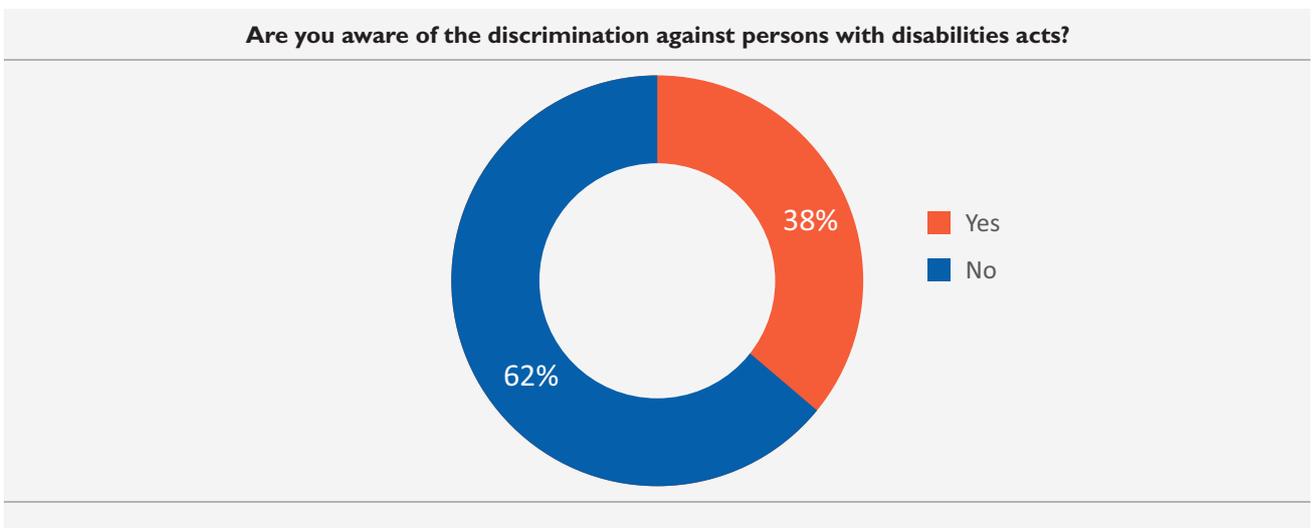


7.5 The Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act

7.5.1 Awareness of the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act

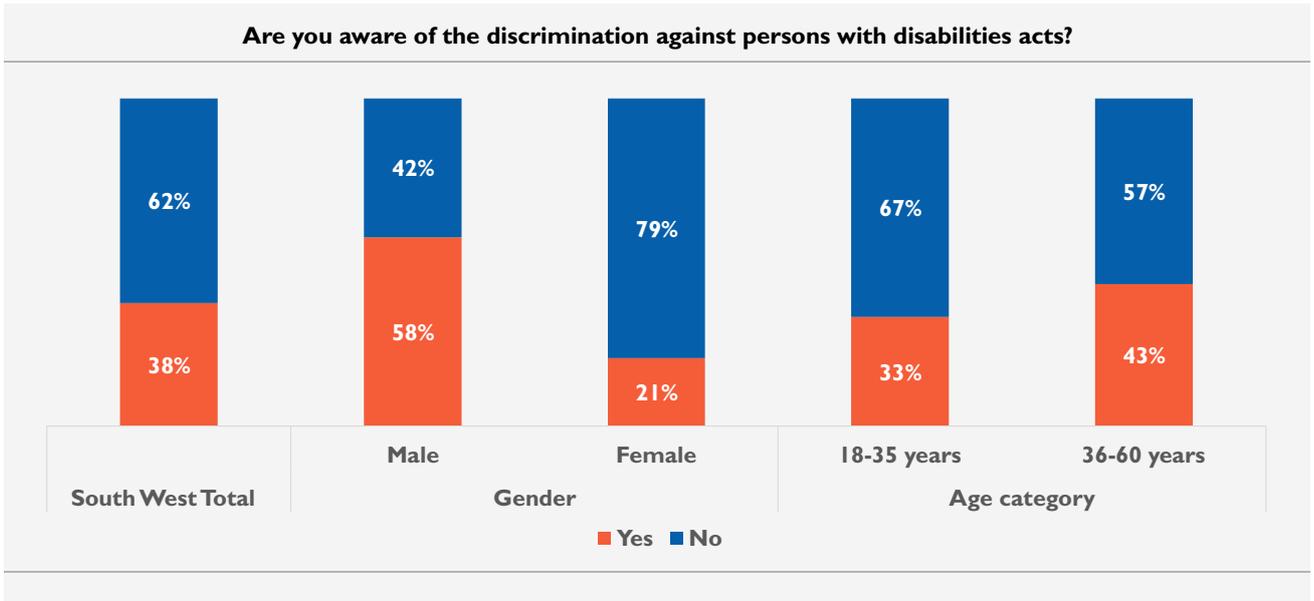
Following the assessment of respondents’ awareness of the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, the data shows that majority of the respondents (62%) in the South-West are unaware, as against 38% who claimed awareness. This result is dissimilar from the South-South and South-East findings, where the majority of the respondents are aware of the Act.

Figure 7.20: Awareness of Discrimination against Persons with Disability Act



Disaggregation of the data shows that the unawareness rate of the Act is highest amongst Female respondents (79%) and respondents aged 18-35years (67%). Also, Male respondents (58%) claimed to be more aware of the Act.

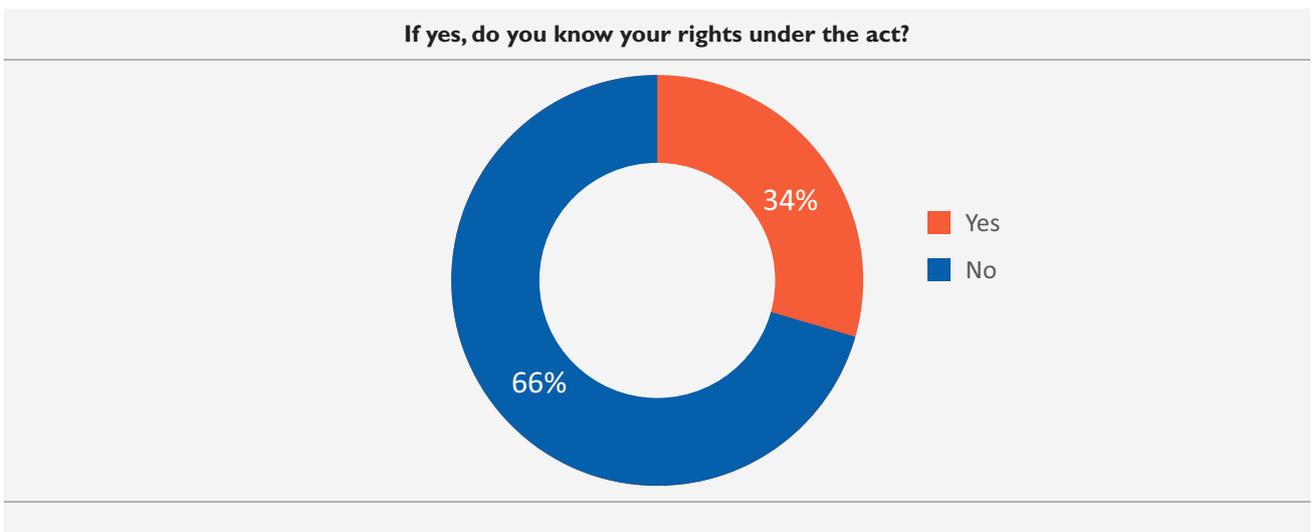
Figure 7.21: Disaggregation of the level of awareness of the Act



7.5.2 Gauging respondent’s knowledge about the content of the Act

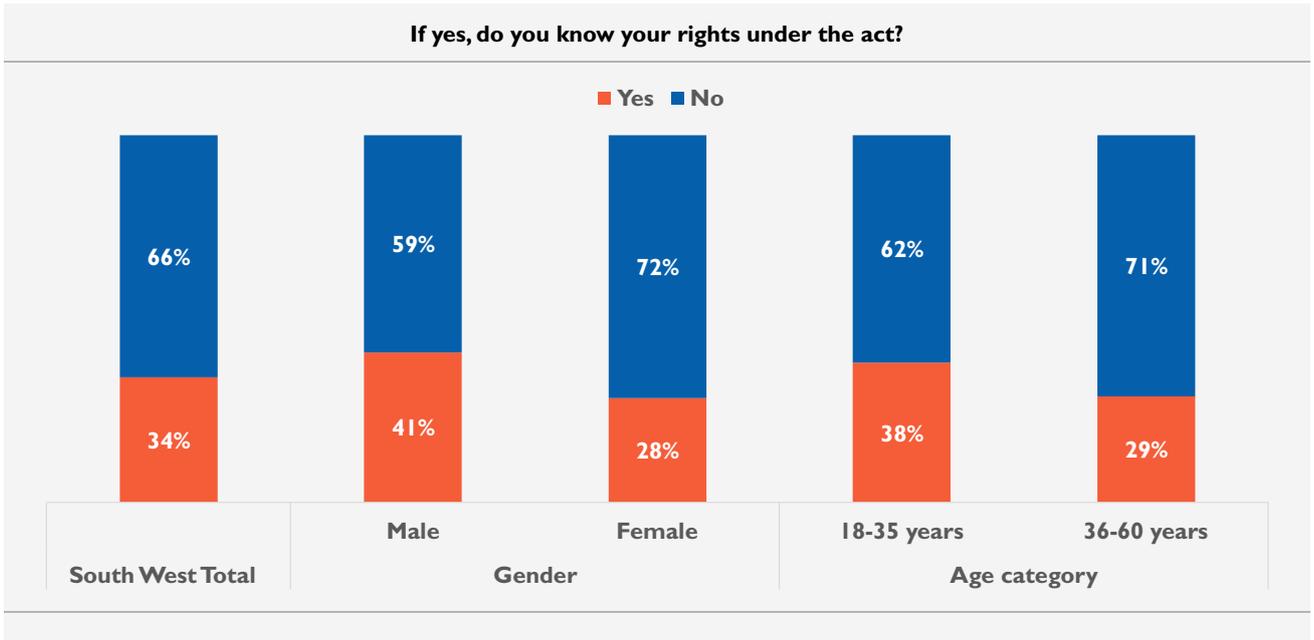
South-West result shows that at least 6 in 10 participants (66%) do not know their rights under the Act. This is dissimilar with South-South and South-East findings, where the majority of the respondents are informed about their rights under the Act.

Figure 7.22: Knowledge about the content of the Act



Further disaggregation of the Act shows that lack of awareness of the rights under the Act was more significant among those between 36-60years (71%) and Female respondents (72%). However, Male respondents (41%) are more acquainted with their rights than Female respondents (28%).

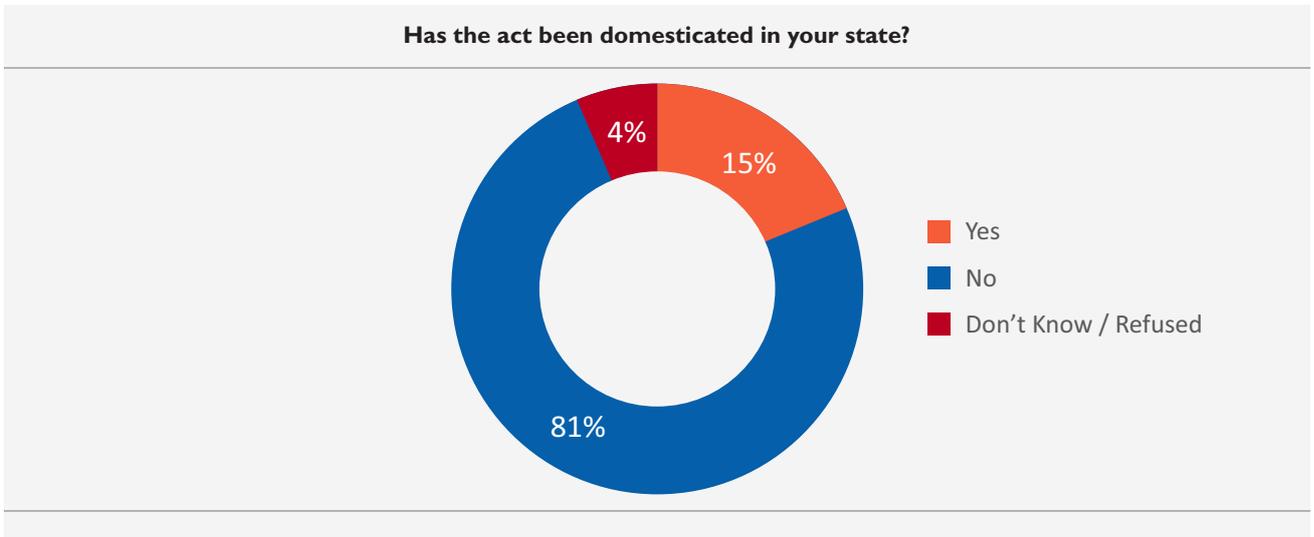
Figure 7.23: Disaggregation of participants knowledge about the content of the Act



7.5.3 Determining the Domestication of the Act

Similar to the findings in South-South and South-East, at least 8 in 10 respondents in South-West confirmed that the Act has not been domesticated; compared to only a few (15%) who believe that the Act has been domesticated. The findings within the three regions are alarming considering that non-domestication of the Act could further worsen the living conditions and social inclusion of PWDs in the society.

Figure 7.24: Knowledge about Domestication of the Act



Data disaggregation further shows that Act has reportedly not been domesticated particularly in Osun State (96%), Ogun State (94%), and Oyo State (94%). An overwhelming proportion of respondents in Ekiti State (92%) and Ondo State (92%) also shared a similar opinion. On the other hand, Lagos State (84%) has the highest proportion of respondents who believed that the Act has been domesticated.

Figure 7.25: Disaggregation of Knowledge about Domestication of the Act

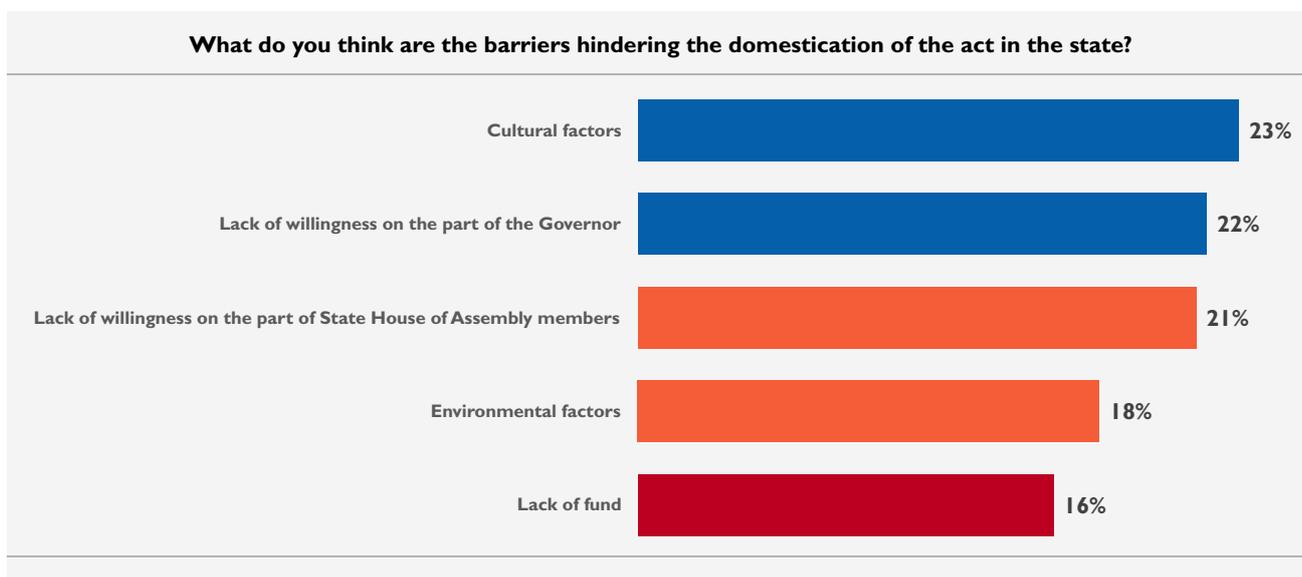
	South West State					
	Osun State	Ogun State	Ekiti State	Oyo State	Lagos State	Ondo State
Yes	2%	0%	0%	2%	84%	4%
No	96%	94%	92%	94%	16%	92%
Don't know/ Refused	2%	6%	8%	4%	0%	4%

It is pertinent to note that desk review and interviews conducted with various participants corroborate the above findings that Lagos State is about the only state in the Southwest that has fully domesticated the act. Through this effort, other states in South West are trying to adopt the Lagos State model to domesticate their act. Part of the effort was the creation of the Lagos State Office of Disability Affairs (LASODA) in June 2011 by Lagos State Special People’s Law (LLSPL). The law upholds the rights of all persons living with disability in the state by safeguarding them against discrimination and ensuring equal rights and opportunities. Access to employment still constitutes major setbacks as employment and livelihood policies and programmes still elude PWD.

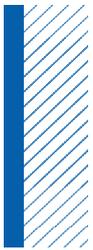
7.5.4 Perceived barriers hindering the domestication of the Act in South-West states

In the south-West geopolitical zone, Cultural factors (23%), Lack of willingness on the part of the State Governor (22%), and State House of Assembly Members (21%) are reportedly the main barriers hindering the domestication of the Act in the states. As earlier posited, the unwillingness of the states to domesticate the Act, will no doubt worsen the challenges facing PWDs.

Figure 7.26: Barriers impeding the Domestication of the Act



Also identified as part of the barriers hindering the domestication of the act in the states are poor data management systems to capture all the PWDs in the various states based on the type of disability or cluster they belong to. There is also the problem of the inability of government officials to involve experienced, qualified, and learned PWDs to represent them among policymakers. As stressed by one of the CSOs interviewed:

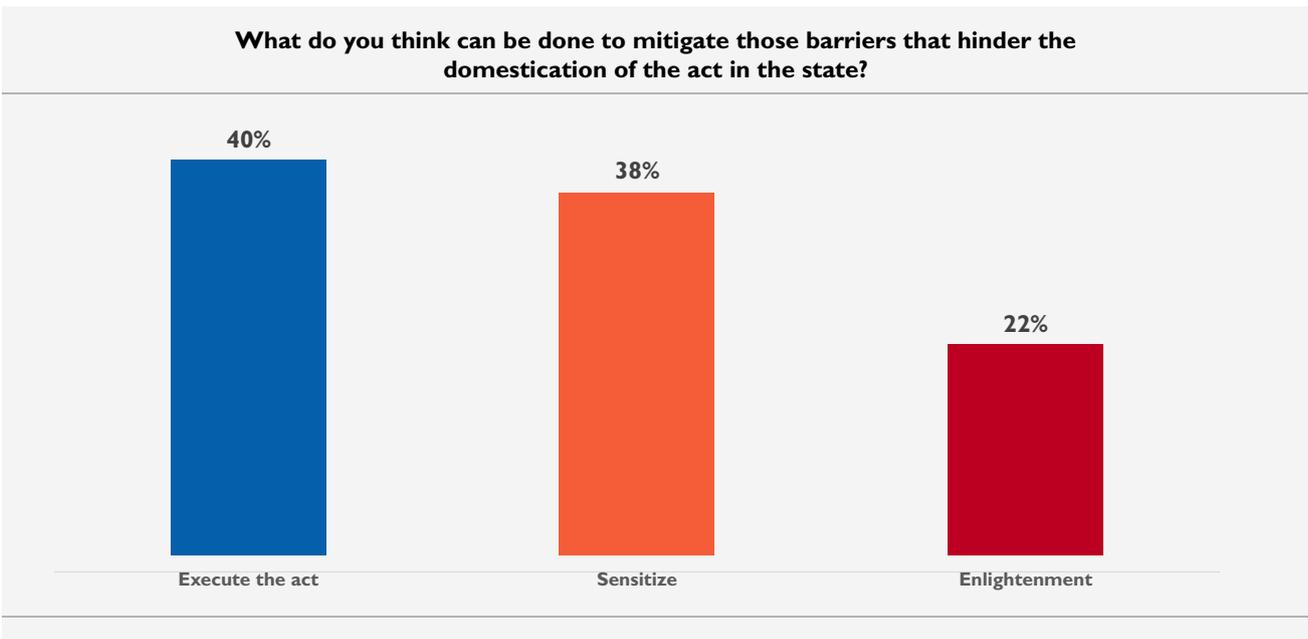


“The barriers hindering the domestication of the act in some states in the South West region are so enormous that it will take the Grace of God for government to show seriousness on the issues of PWDs. We must enact laws that fully guarantee their rights as citizens of this country that will give them the right to quality education, social security, employment, medical care, housing, transportation, and inclusion in governance. These rights are not too much to ask because the line between ability and disability is very thin. I think we must all rise to support the PWDs in all states in Nigeria to get their rights.” **KII Extract**

7.5.5 What can be done to mitigate barriers hindering domestication of the Act

On the mitigating barriers hindering the domestication of the Act in the South-West geopolitical zone, respondents perceive implementation, sensitization, and enlightenment as suitable solutions for the execution of the act.

Figure 7.27: Ways to eliminate barriers hindering the Domestication of the Act

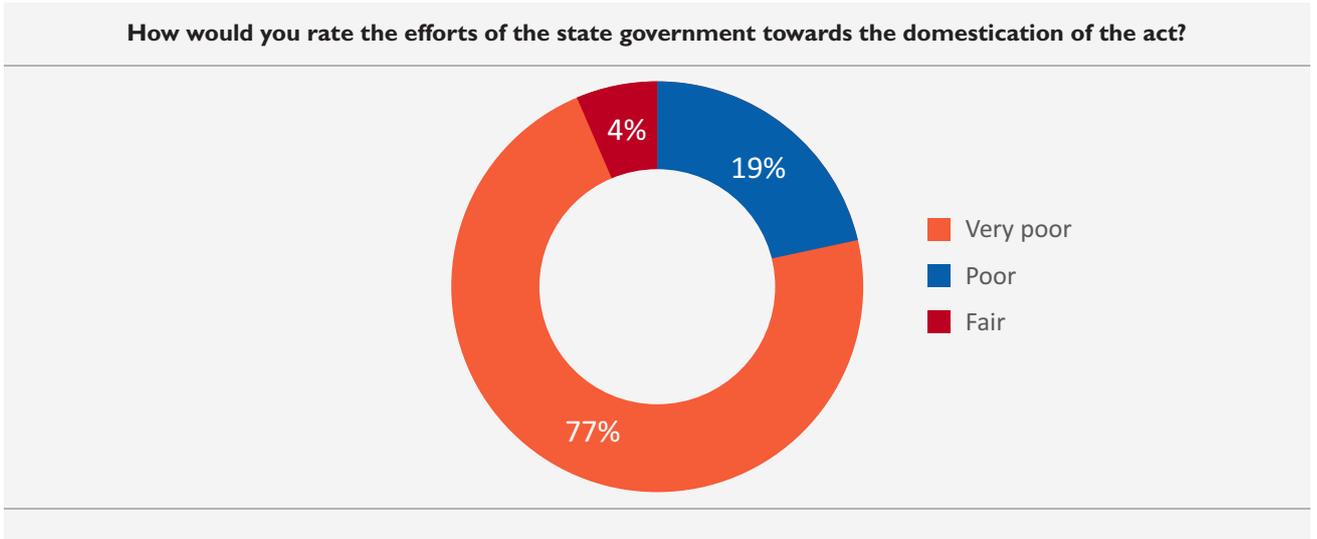


7.5.6 Perception of state government effort towards domestication of the Act

Based on the foregoing and concerning the poor rating of government by respondents in South-South and South-East, at least 9 in 10 respondents in South-West (96%) rated government effort at domestication of the Act ‘Poorly’. Only 6% rated government effort at domesticating the Act as ‘fair’.



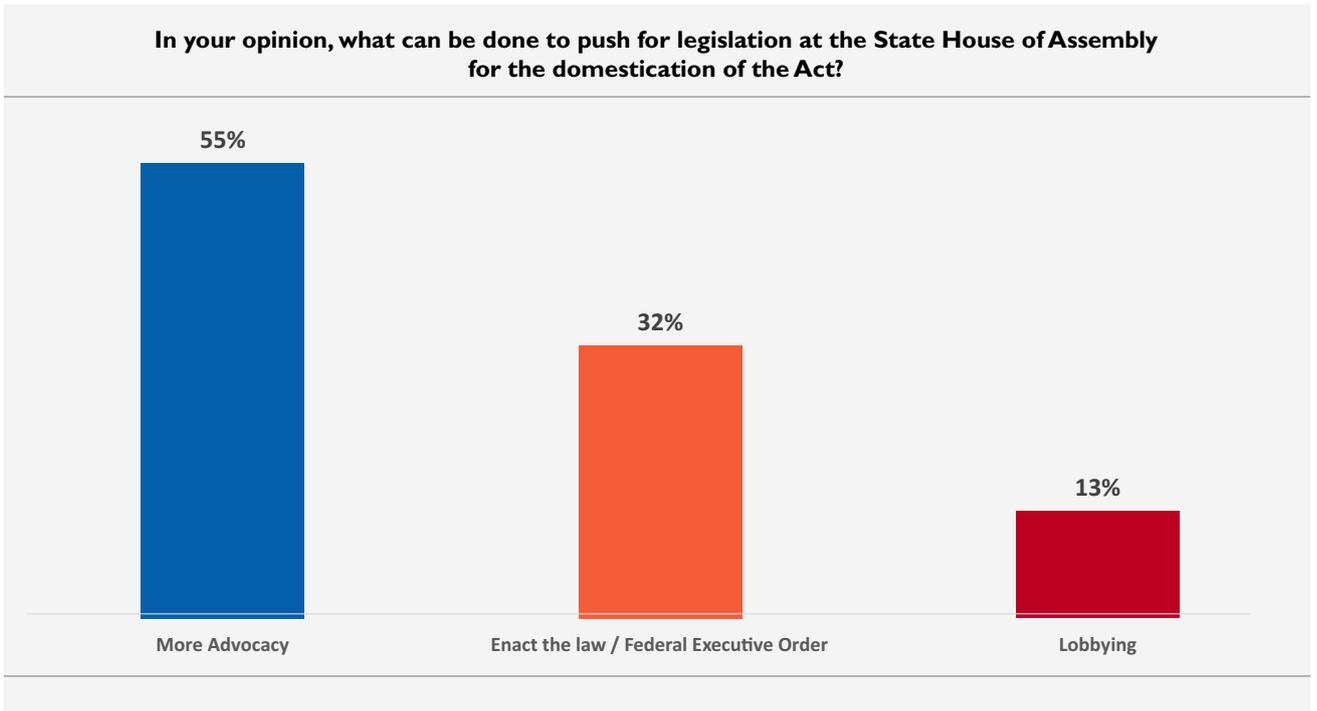
Figure 7.28: Assessing the effort of the State Government on the Act



7.5.7 South-Westerner's suggestion for legislation of the Domestication of the Act at State Houses of Assembly

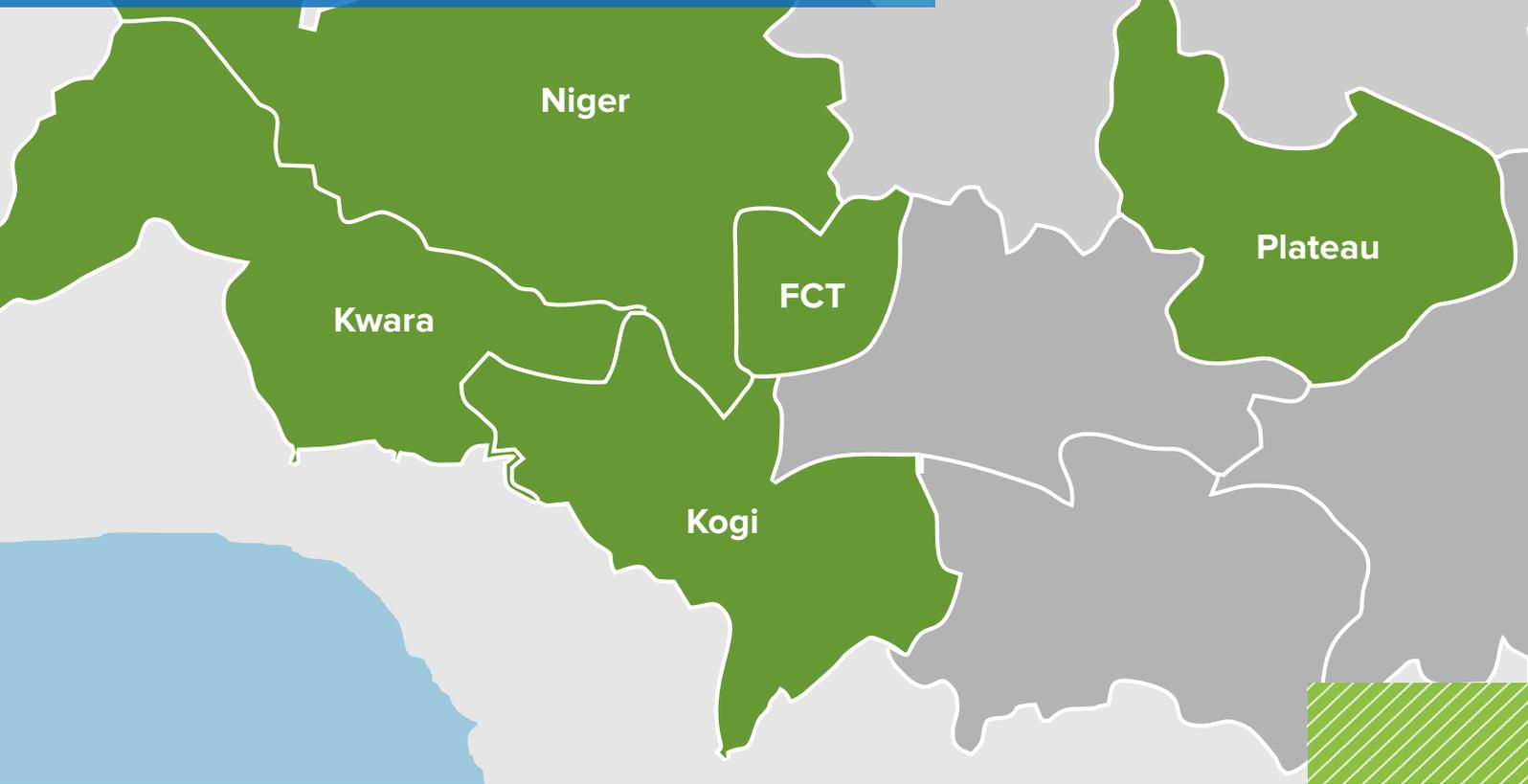
To give further effect to the domestication of the Act, respondents suggest further advocacy, enactment of the law, and lobbying.

Figure 7.29: Legislation of Domestication of the Act at State House of Assembly



08

SURVEY RESULTS
AND FINDINGS
FROM THE
NORTH-CENTRAL
REGION



8.1 Socio Demography

In the North Central geo-political zone, a total of 256 respondents, constituting 15% of the national respondents participated in the survey. Out of the total participants in the region, 57% were Male and 43% were Female. With regards to age category, the respondents were slightly more of the youthful age group 18-35years (49%); 36-60years (42%); and 61 years and above (9%). Again, most of the respondents have No Formal Education/Completed Primary School (54%); compared to those that Completed Secondary Education and above (46%). In addition, Rural respondents (51%) were slightly higher than Urban (49%) respondents. Most of the respondents reside in Plateau State (17%), followed by Kwara State (15%), Nasarawa State (15%), Niger State (15%), and Abuja (FCT) (15%). Also, Kogi State and Benue State had the least respondents with 13% and 10% respectively.

Figure 8.1: Demographic Profile of North-Central Region Respondents

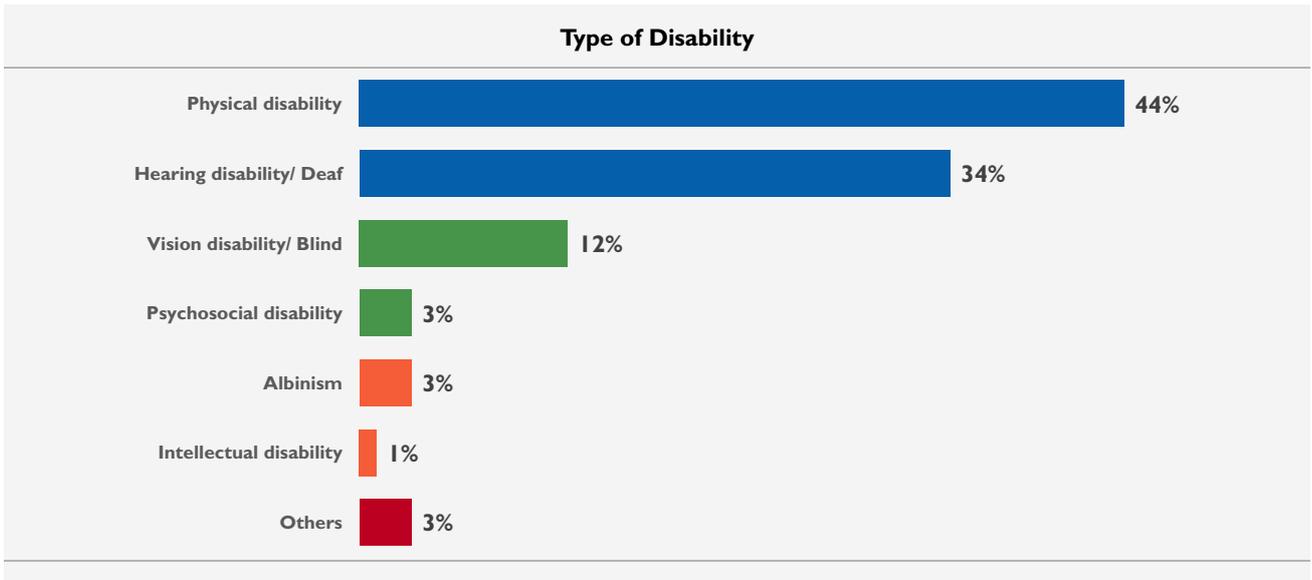
Variable Name	Variable Label	N = 256	% = 100
Gender	Male	145	57%
	Female	111	43%
Age Category	18-35 years	125	49%
	36-60 years	109	42%
	61 and above	22	9%
Highest Education	No Formal Education / Completed Primary School	138	54%
	Completed Secondary & Above	118	46%
Urbanization	Rural	131	51%
	Urban	125	49%
North Central Region	Niger State	38	15%
	Benue State	24	10%
	Kogi State	34	13%
	Plateau State	44	17%
	Kwara State	39	15%
	Nasarawa state	39	15%
	Abuja (FCT)	38	15%

8.2 Disability Identification and Experience

8.2.1 Category of respondent

We investigated the forms of disabilities among respondents in North Central and discovered that respondents with 'Physical disabilities' (44%) were the most prevalent in the region. This was closely followed by respondents with Hearing impairment (34%) and Visual impairment (12%). In addition, other types of disabilities identified were respondents with Psychosocial disabilities (3%), Albinism (3%), and Intellectual disability amongst others.

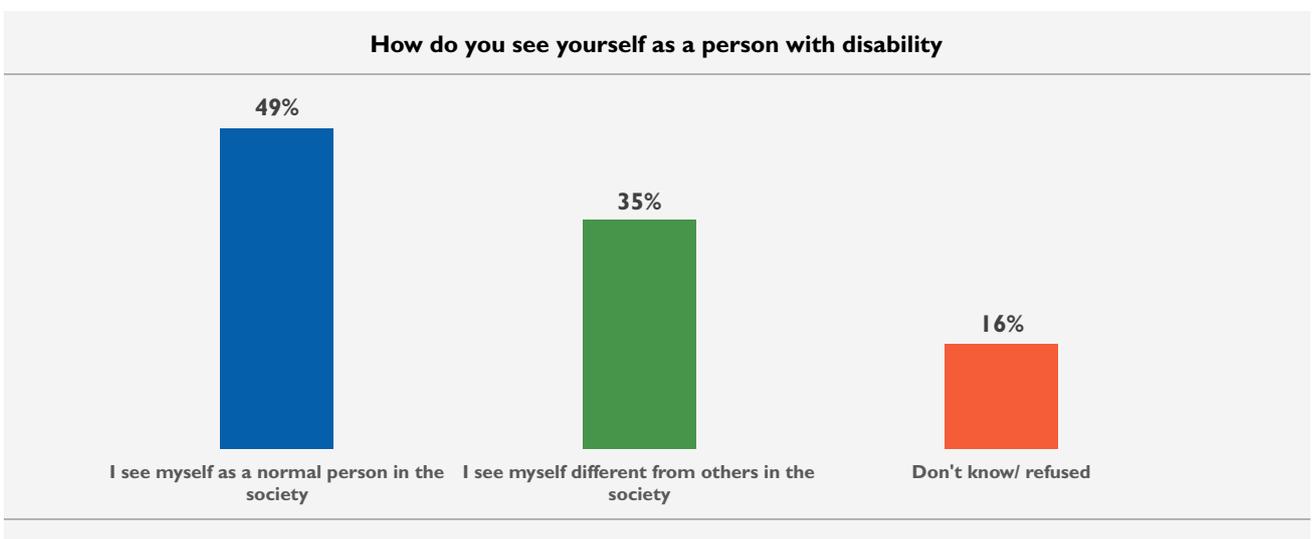
Figure 8.2: Forms of Disability



8.2.2 Realities of Persons with Disability in North-Central

Perception of disability is imperative to establish participants' opinions about their circumstances. In this wise, this question sought to understand the perception of persons with a disability regarding their realities in the North Central. From the response, almost half of the respondents (49%) stated that they 'see themselves as a normal person in the society', while 35% consider 'themselves as different from others in the society'. Very few respondents (15%) said they 'don't know/refused. This is in line with the position of extant literature which holds that most Nigerians perceive PWDs negatively. Accordingly, superstition and ignorance have greatly influenced their attitudes to PWDs. Most of the rights of persons with disabilities as a result are still not being given to them. These include the right to education, medical care, employment, and free movement."⁴⁷

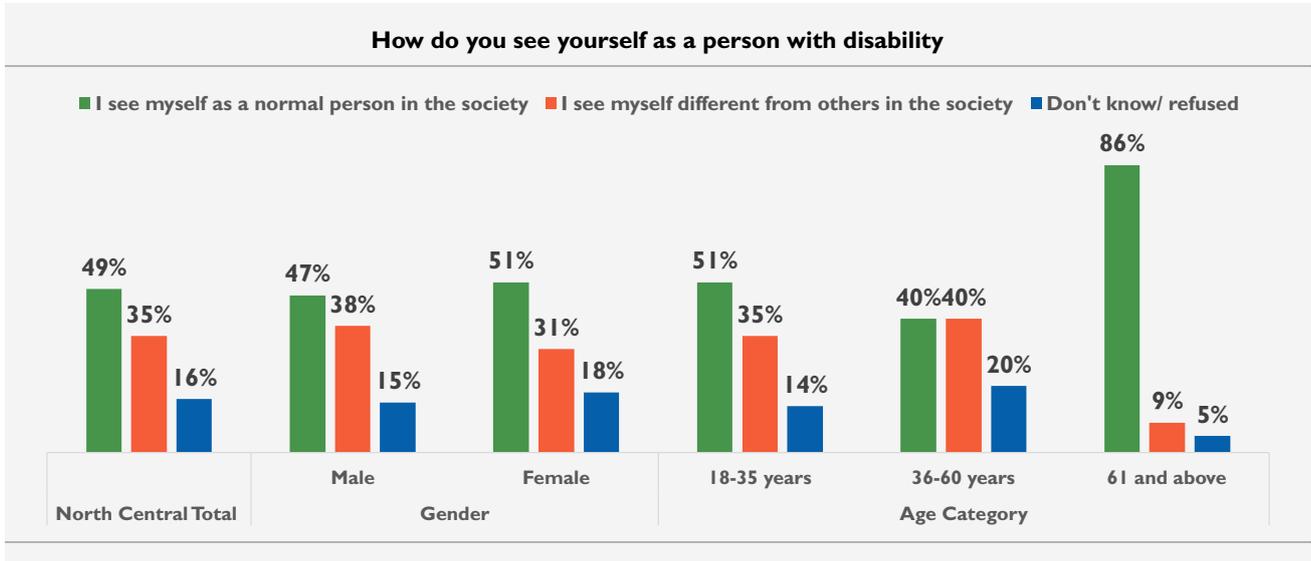
Figure 8.3: Feeling about personal Disability



⁴⁷<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/02674648866780061#:~:text=Most%20Nigerians%20perceive%20disabled%20people,care%2C%20employment%20and%20free%20movement.>

Data disaggregation across socio-demographics shows that respondents who see themselves as normal people in society were highest amongst the elderly aged 61 & above (86%). This is followed by youth aged 18-35 years (51%) and Female respondents (51%). On the other hand, respondents aged 36 to 60 years (40%) and Male respondents (38%) were more likely to see themselves as different from others in the society

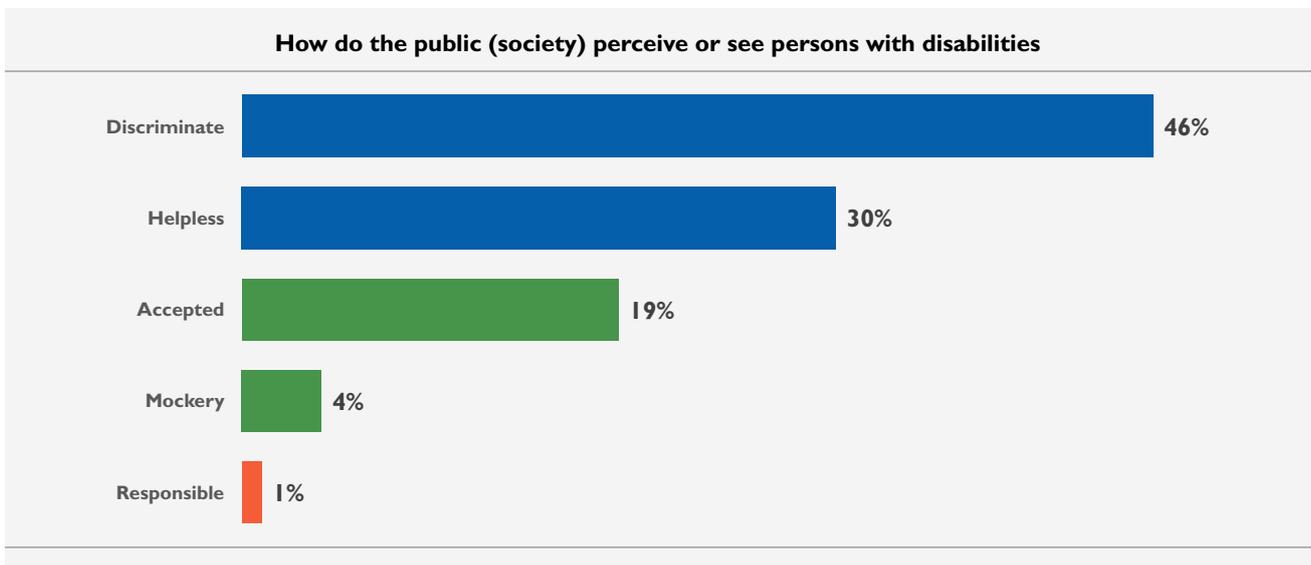
Figure 8.4: Disaggregation of Respondent’s Feelings about their Disability



8.2.3 Public perception of Person with Disabilities

In ascertaining public perception of persons with disabilities in North Central, the survey results indicated that the majority of respondents claimed that the public tends to ‘Discriminate’ (46%). This was followed by ‘Helpless’ (30%). However, while 19% of respondents believed that PWDs are being ‘Accepted’, very few respondents (4%) opined that they are being ‘Mocked’. This finding in North Central closely mirrors the result found in South West.

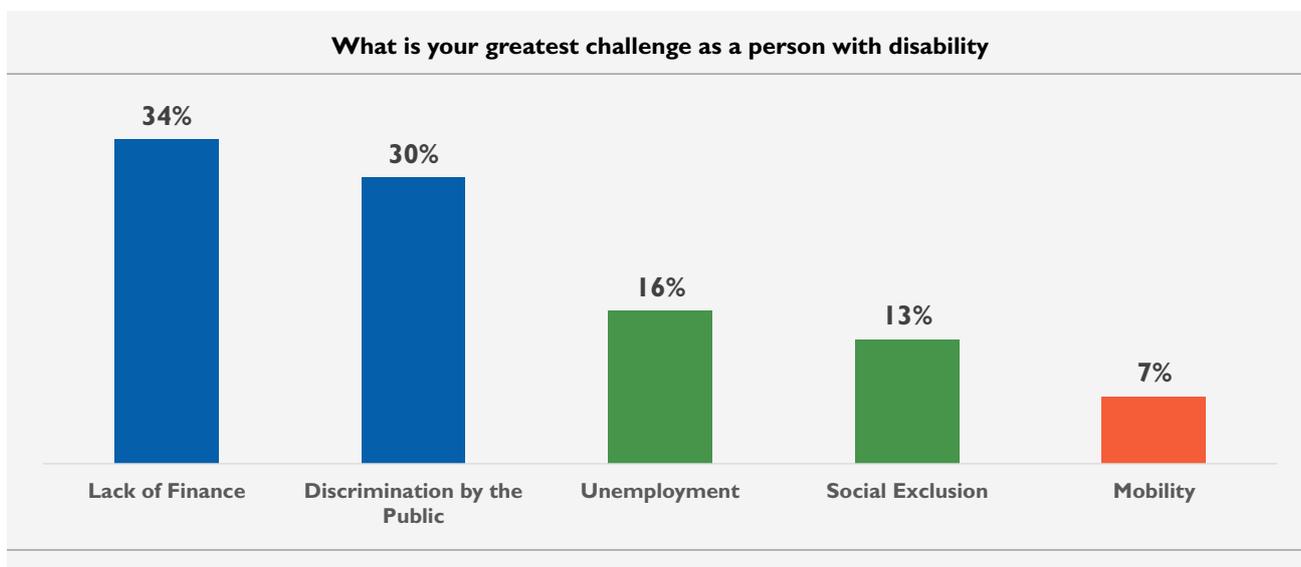
Figure 8.5: Members of the public perception of PWD



8.2.4 Challenges of persons with disability

With regards to the greatest challenges faced by persons with disabilities in North Central, the survey found that 'Lack of finance' (34%) constituted the biggest challenge. This was closely followed by 'Discrimination by the Public' (30%) and Unemployment (16%). Other challenges identified included 'Social exclusion' (13%) and 'Mobility' (7%). This finding suggests that following the results in other geopolitical zones, persons with disabilities are faced mostly with financial challenges. This clearly explains the widespread disaffection with the nature and circumstance of disabilities by persons who have them. The World Bank argued that "Persons with disabilities in Nigeria persistently face stigma, discrimination, and barriers to accessing basic social services and economic opportunities. Today, they face greater barriers brought about by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. They identified a number of these salient barriers. For one, persons with disabilities may experience negative attitudes at family and community levels, including name-calling, negative beliefs, and misconceptions surrounding the causes of disabilities (usually associated with religious or cultural norms, and beliefs)."⁴⁸

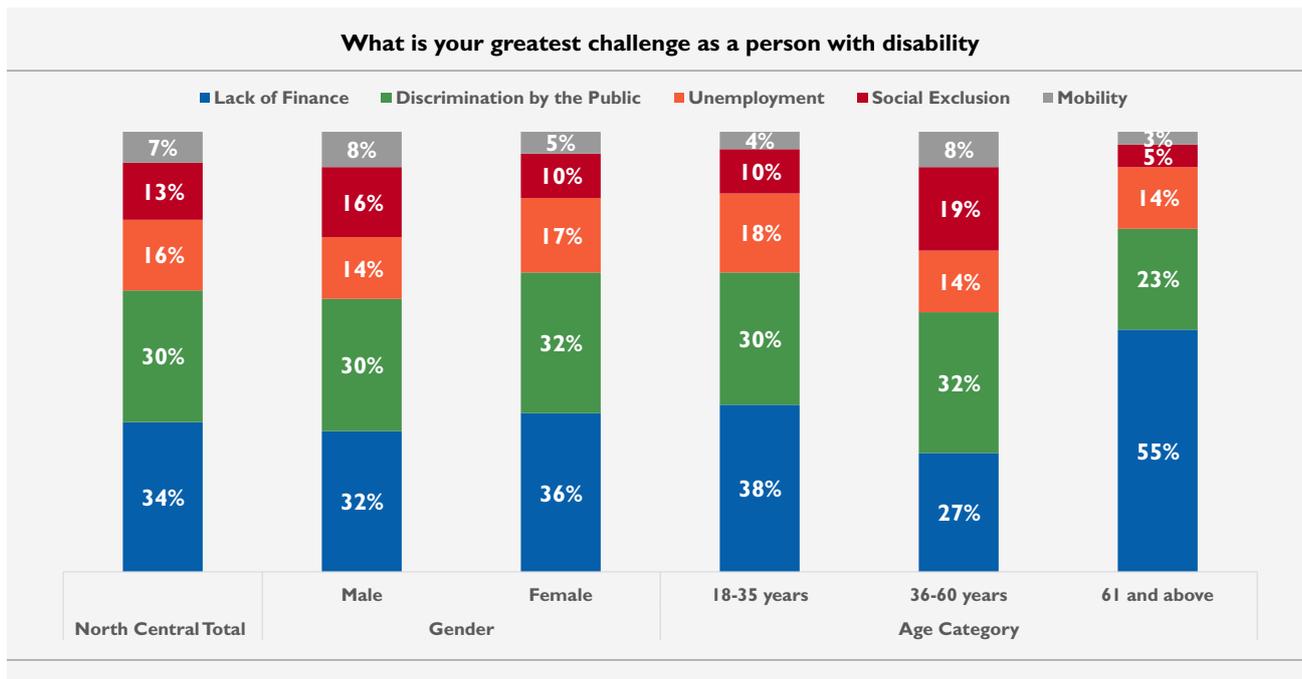
Figure 8.6: Challenges facing PWD



The challenges faced by persons with disabilities in North Central were further disaggregated. The results indicated that 'Lack of finance' and 'Discrimination by the public' were the most widespread challenges across socio-demographics. In terms of age category, respondents aged 61 & above (55%) were shown to suffer the most from Lack of finance. In addition, Female respondents (32%) and respondents aged 36-60 years (32%) were shown to suffer the most from 'Discrimination by the public'. However, 'Unemployment' was seen as a significant challenge by youth aged 18-35 years (18%) while respondents aged 36-60 years (19%) have the greatest challenge of 'Social exclusion'.

⁴⁸ <https://blogs.worldbank.org/nasikiliza/social-inclusion-persons-disabilities-nigeria-challenges-and-opportunities#:~:text=Persons%20with%20disabilities%20in%20Nigeria%20persistently%20face%20stigma%2C%20discrimination%2C%20and,of%20the%20COVID%2D19%20pandemic.>

Figure 8.7: Disaggregation of challenges facing PWD



From opinions submitted by respondents in the group discussion, many of the PWDs that have issues associated with mobility, have decried poor or no inclusion of PWDs in the designs of public facilities such as bus terminals and train stations. One of the participants succinctly put that:



“When it comes to the issues of transportation, we have seen a lot of challenges. Like the railway, for example, you find out that people with physical disabilities cannot even access train terminals, let alone the trains itself. Also, the majority of the bus terminals are not still accessible, because they are strictly not meant for us. In most public buildings, even the toilets cannot be accessed in most cases by persons with a physical disability.” **FGD Extract**

8.3 Inclusion of Persons with Disability in North-Central

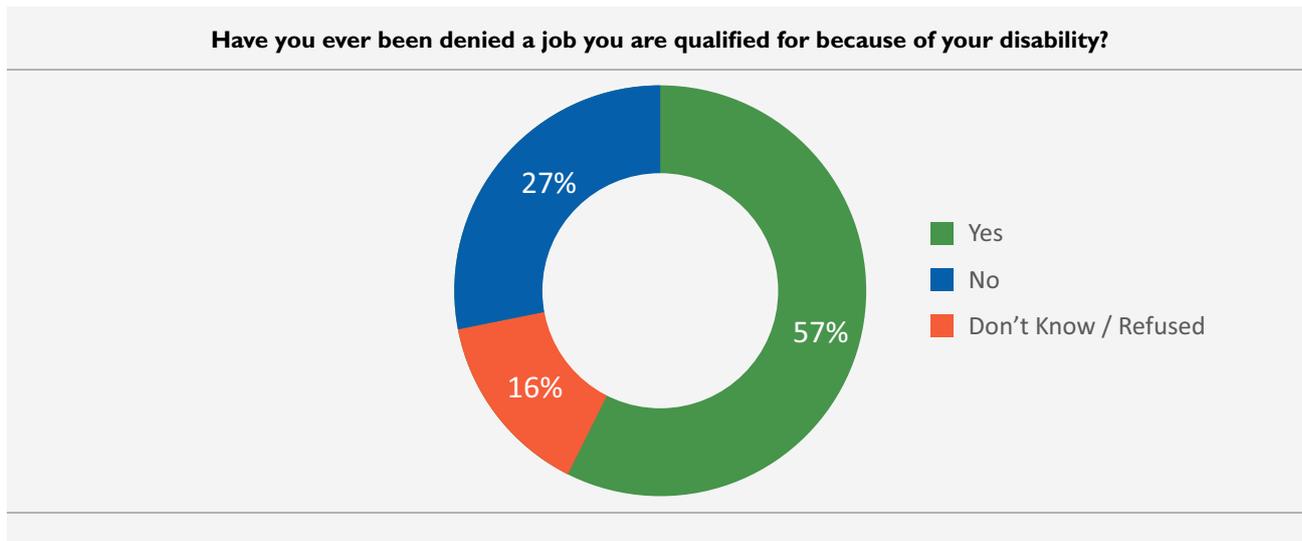
8.3.1 Job discrimination among Persons with Disability

In recent times, people with disabilities have expressed disaffection over the incessant discrimination in the job market. To this end, respondents residing in North Central were asked if they had ever been denied a job as a result of their disabilities. As the findings indicated, 57% of the respondents have been denied job opportunities due to their disabilities. On the other hand, only very few respondents (16%) have not been denied job opportunities. This finding is not different from the results of other geopolitical zones. As earlier stated, the denial of job opportunities against PWDs violates Part VI section (I) of the Disabilities Prohibition Act 2018. In furtherance of this claim, one of the respondents affirmed that:



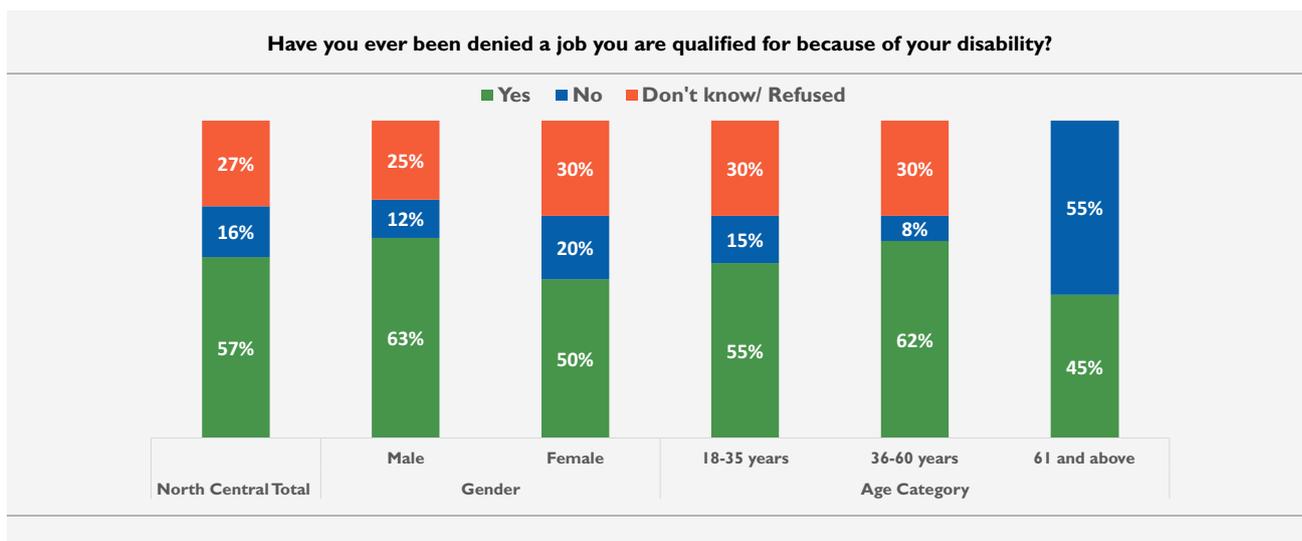
“If you look at the States in the North Central region and the FCT for example, the majority of the offices that we have here, cannot say that they have the 5% employment opportunity reserved in their workforce for PWDs as prescribed by Section 29 of the Act. This is in addition to the fact that the enabling environment is not created for PWDs to apply for jobs favourably just like everyone else. And when we even apply, they hardly shortlist or employ us. It is indeed painful and disheartening.” **KII Extract**

Figure 8.8: Job Discrimination experience of PWD



A quick look at the data indicated that respondents who suffer job denial were prevalent across gender and age category. With regards to gender, more Male respondents (63%) than Female (50%) were revealed to suffer the most from job denial, while respondents aged 61 years & above (55%) were less likely to suffer job denial.

Figure 8.9: Disaggregation of Job Discrimination experience among PWD

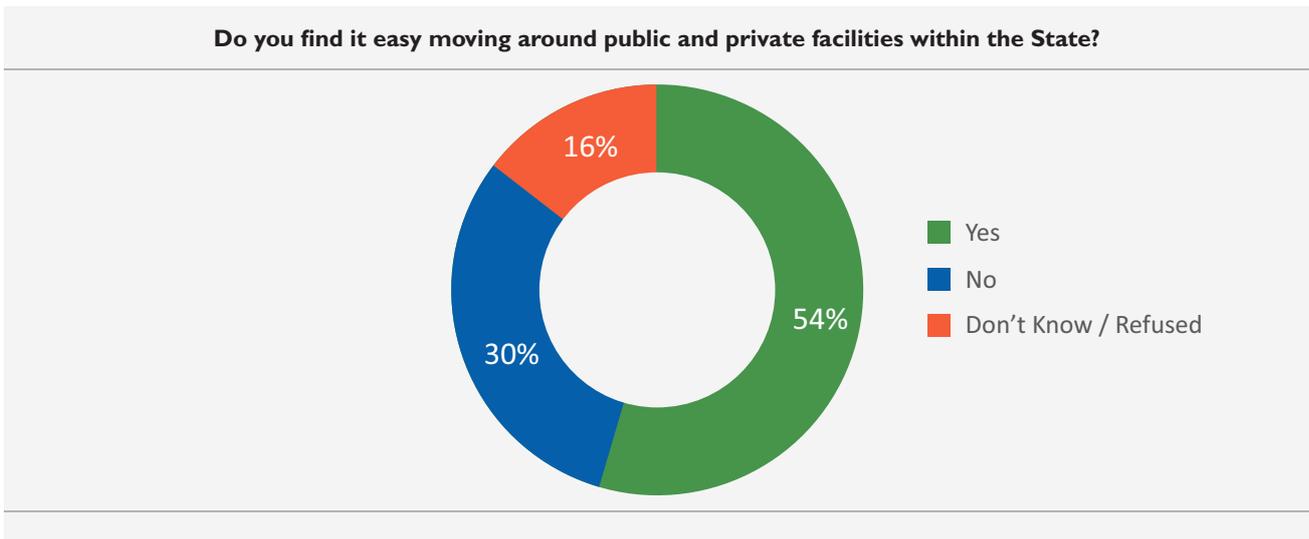


8.3.2 Accessibility of physical facilities in North-Central

Amongst the respondents surveyed in North Central geopolitical zones, 30% of the respondents said they ‘find it difficult to access public and private facilities’; compared to 54% who ‘stated otherwise’, while the remaining 16% ‘Don’t know/Refused’. It is worthy to note here that section 4 of the Discrimination against Persons with Disability (Prohibition) Act, 2018 extensively discusses the need to provide assistive devices for PWDs to ease access to public buildings and infrastructures. Building codes for instance have been prescribed for both public and private buildings in the country and across states. This is needed to aid PWDs' access to public services, a violation of which may lead incomprehensible level of social exclusion. From the qualitative data, one of the participants had recommended in response to this that:

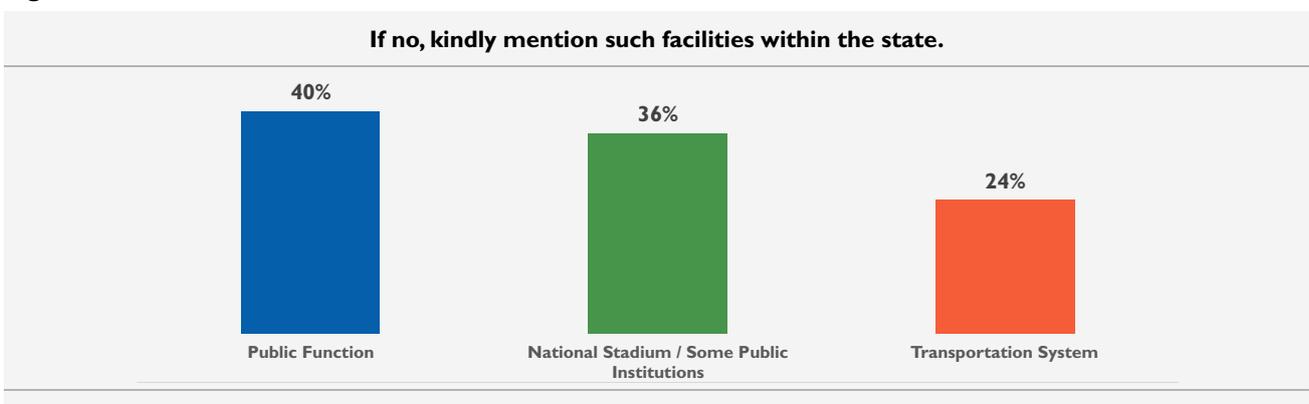
“We want every place to be accessible, we want so many places to be accessible. We have carried this demand and advocacy to COREN, Ministry of Works, Power & Housing amongst others. Let them know we shouldn’t have all these manholes everywhere. These open gutters should be closed. There should be usable ramps too for persons with physical disabilities. There should be brail inscriptions on lifts. There should be audio for the lifts too for persons who have visual impairment too. All of these will help us have ease of access to public buildings and by extension service.” **FGD Extract**

Figure 8.10: Establishing ease of movement in Public and Private Facilities



Probing further, of the 54% of respondents who find it difficult to access public and private facilities in North Central, 40% find it most difficult to access ‘Public function’, followed by ‘National Stadium/ Some public institutions (36%) and ‘Transportation System’ (24%). This result is similar to the opinions expressed by the majority of respondents in the South West geopolitical zone.

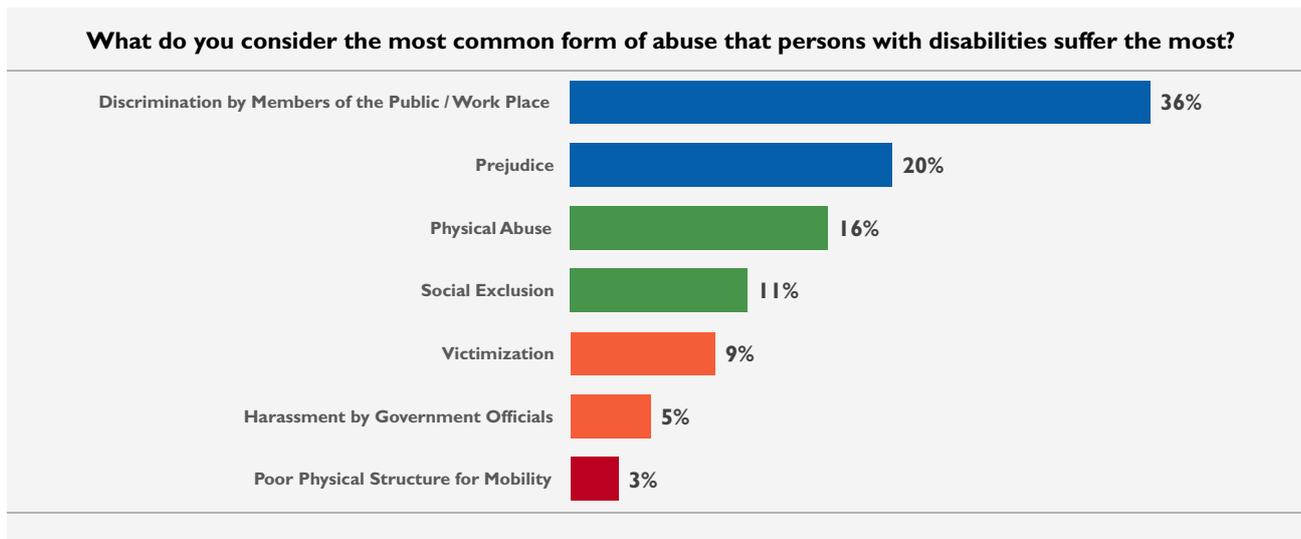
Figure 8.11: List of Inaccessible Facilities



8.3.3 Common forms of abuse among Persons with Disability

As commonly opined across the South-South, South East, and the South West geopolitical zones, also in North Central, ‘Discrimination by members of the public/work place’ (36%) was revealed as the most common type of abuse meted on persons with disabilities; followed by ‘Prejudice’ (20%), ‘Physical abuse’ (16%) and ‘Social exclusion’ (11%). In addition, ‘Victimisation’ (9%), ‘Harassment by government officials’ (5%), and ‘Poor Physical Structure for Mobility’ (3%) appeared to be the least form of abuse in North Central.

Figure 8.12: Most common form of abuse that PWD Experience



8.3.4 General Perception of Persons with Disability

In analyzing the general perception of persons with disabilities in North Central, the survey found that 6 in 10 respondents (60%) strongly opposed that ‘Many persons with disabilities are well educated, productively engaged in different employment and contributing to national development’. Again, the majority of respondents (89%) also strongly opposed that ‘Only family members of persons with disabilities should be responsible in catering for their wellbeing’. Accordingly, another majority (80%) opposed strongly that ‘the rights of persons with disabilities are well protected by the state government. Also strongly objected to by 84% of respondents was that ‘the rights of persons with disabilities are included in key decision-making processes in the state’. Equally objected to by the majority of respondents (69%) was the assertion that ‘Most of the programmes that support and promote the wellbeing of PWDs are usually carried out by CSOs, NGOs, and FBOs. In addition, most of the respondents (78%) vehemently opposed the fact that ‘Most of the programmes that support and promote the wellbeing of PWDs are usually carried out by state government’. Overall, it is noteworthy that part of this pessimism expressed by respondents in North Central could emanate from the perception of being neglected by the state governments.

Figure 8.13: Perception of PWD

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Many persons with disabilities in this state are well educated and engages in different employment opportunities where they contribute to national growth and development	35%	25%	15%	25%
Only family members of persons with disabilities should be responsible in catering for their wellbeing	60%	29%	4%	7%
The rights of persons with disabilities are well protected by the government of this state.	45%	35%	7%	13%
Persons with disabilities are included in key decision-making processes in this state	38%	46%	10%	6%
Most of the programmes that support and promote the wellbeing of persons with disabilities are usually carried out by CSOs, NGOs, and FBOs	35%	34%	13%	18%
Most of the programmes that support and promote the wellbeing of persons with disabilities are usually carried out by state governments	37%	41%	15%	7%

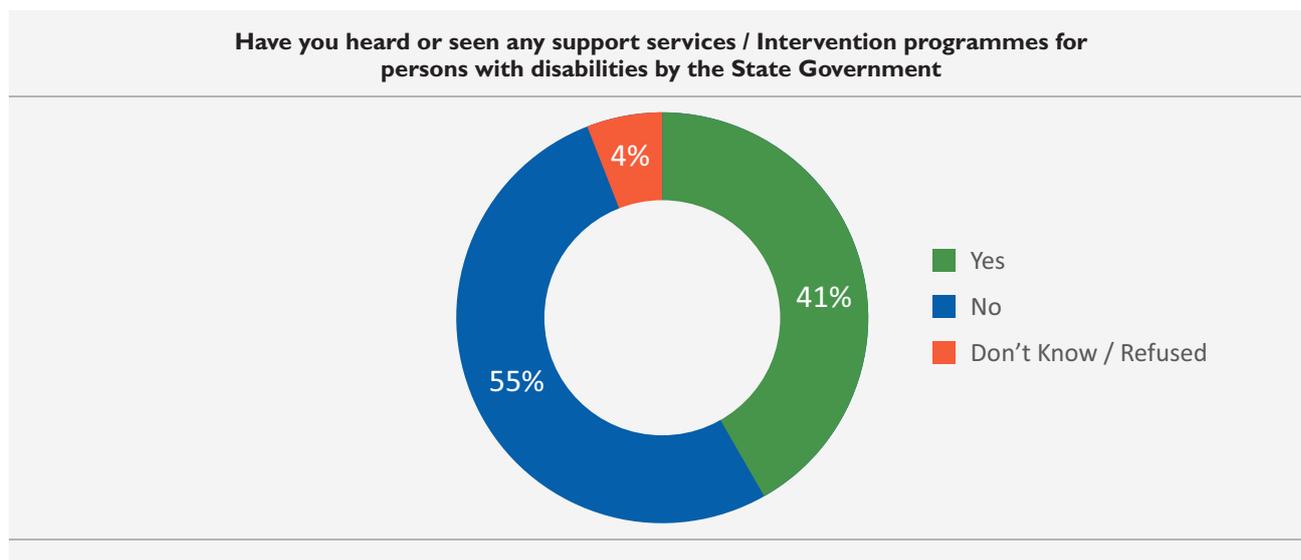
8.4 Support Services and Intervention Programmes for Persons with Disability

8.4.1 Knowledge of support services/intervention programmes by state governments

In ascertaining the knowledge of support services/intervention programmes by state governments in North Central, the survey findings indicated that the majority of respondents (55%) have not heard or seen any support services/intervention programmes for PWDs by the state government; compared to respondents (41%) who claimed to have seen or heard. The implication of this finding could suggest that either the interventions/support programmes by state governments were insufficient considering the large proportion of PWDs in the state or the interventions/support programmes were hijacked/ targeted at the unintended recipients. In the group discussion, participants suggested that governments often do not undertake meaningful interventions or support PWDs in such a manner that they become truly empowered. One of the participants stressed this below:

“Last year there was no “disabled day” specially organized by the government in my state (Niger State). And do you know what they used to do sometimes? During the new year, Christmas, and the Sallah period, they give us rice and meat to go and share which is not even enough for the few of us that need that rice and meat. Is that support reasonable at all? What do we want to do with rice and meat? Teach me how to catch fish, you are giving me rice to eat when tomorrow it would finish, and you would be expecting me to come. Give me a job, I have the qualifications, thank you.” **FGD Extract**

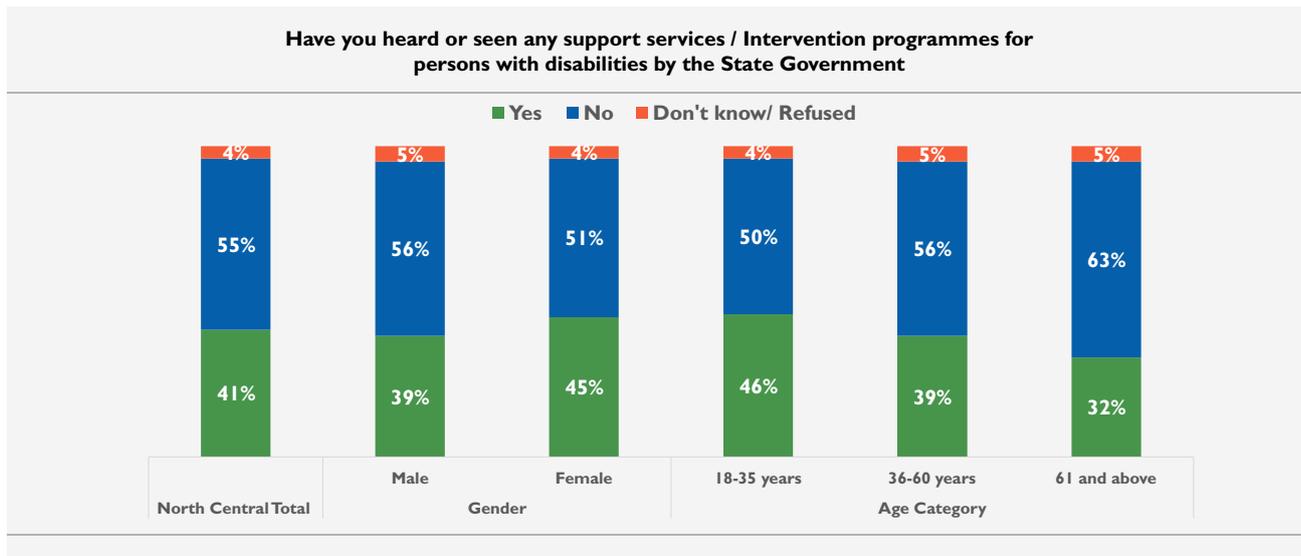
Figure 8.14: Perception of Government Support Services and Programmes



Further analysis indicated that the majority of respondents who have not heard or seen any support services/intervention programmes by state governments in North Central cut across socio-demographics. In particular, the majority of Male respondents (56%) than female respondents (51%) strongly held this opinion. In the same vein, more respondents aged 61 years and above (63%) were the highest among those who have not heard or seen any support services/intervention programmes by state governments.

On the other hand, aged 18-35 years (46%) constituted the highest number of respondents who have heard or seen any support services/intervention programmes by state governments.

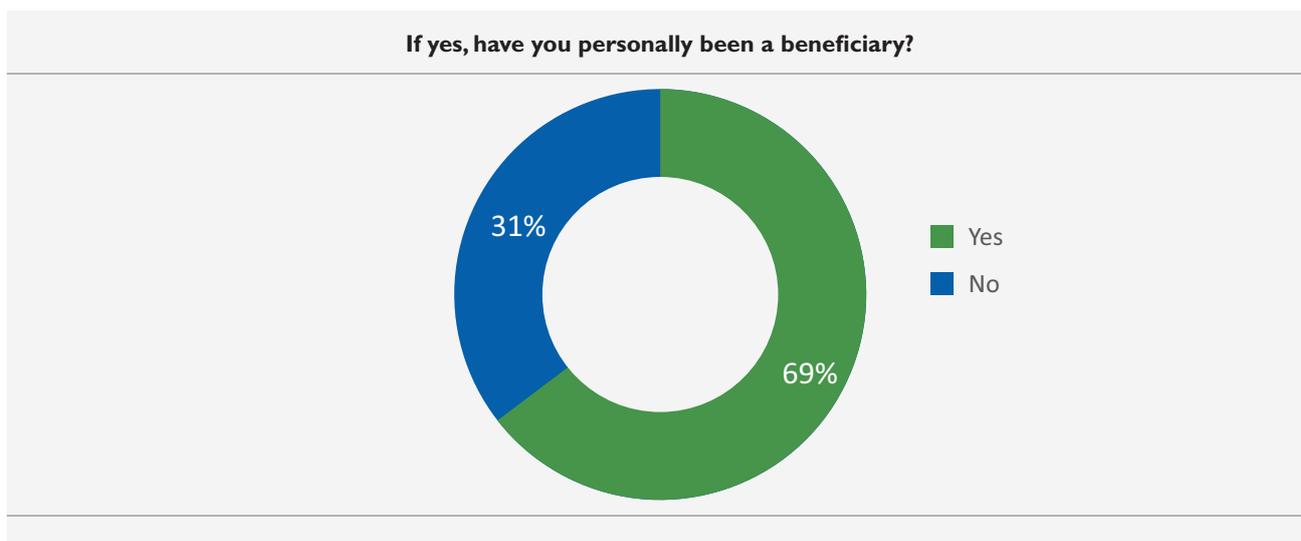
Figure 8.15: Disaggregation of Perception of Government Support Services and Programmes



8.4.2 Beneficiaries of state governments' intervention programmes for Persons with Disability

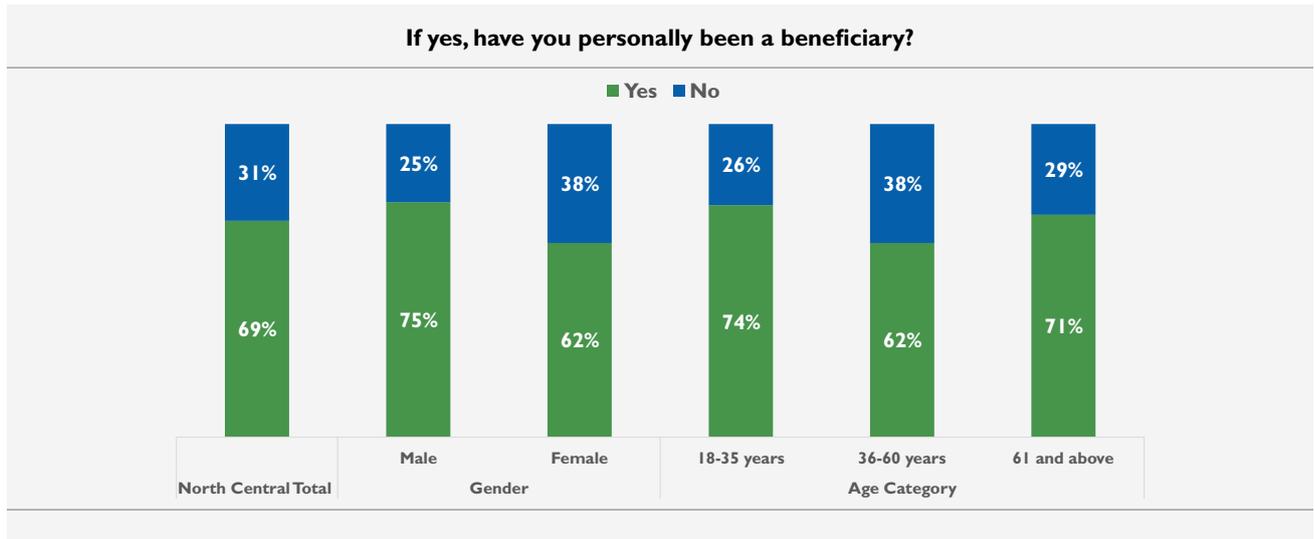
Overall, with regards to whether respondents have been beneficiaries of state government intervention programmes, the result revealed that most respondents (69%) attested to have benefited; compared to a few respondents (31%) who objected.

Figure 8.16: Estimating beneficiaries of Government Intervention Programmes



The disaggregation of responses by gender and age category showed that respondents aged 18-35 years (74%) and the elderly aged 61 years and above (71%) were the highest beneficiaries of state government intervention programmes. In addition, more Male respondents (75%) than Female (62%) benefit the most from state government intervention programmes.

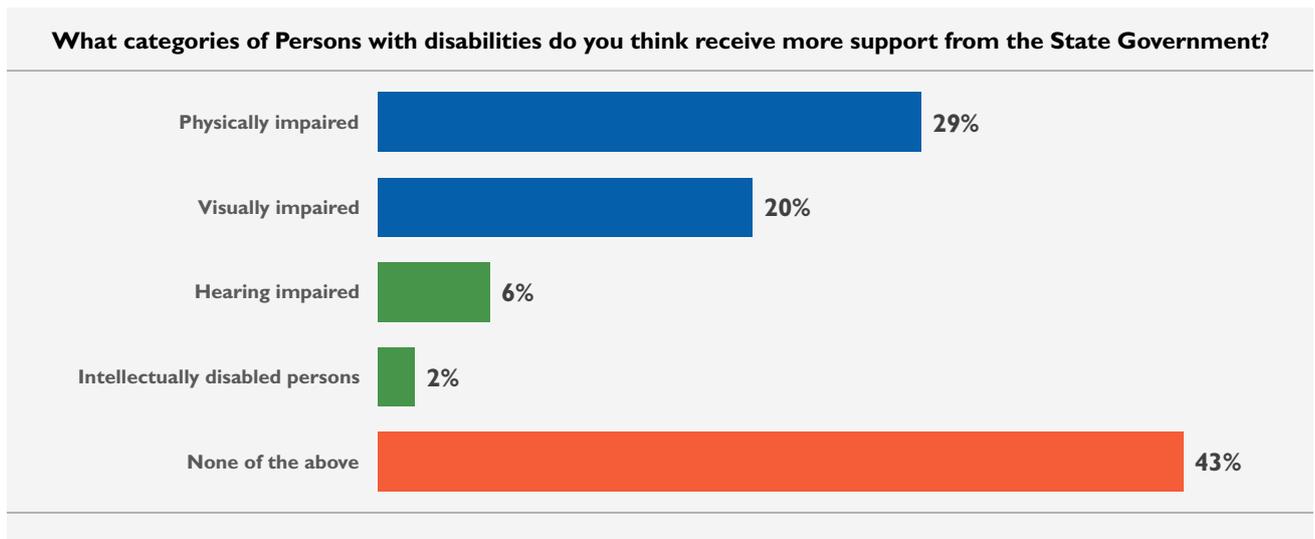
Figure 8.17: Disaggregation of Government Intervention Programme Beneficiaries



8.4.3 Category of Persons with Disability with the most support from state governments

In terms of category disability with the most support from state governments in North Central, findings revealed that 'Physically Impaired' (29%) and 'Visually impaired' (20%) came top. Other disabilities mentioned include: 'Hearing Impaired' (6%) and 'Intellectual disabled persons' (2%). Surprisingly, 43% of respondents believed that 'None of the above' mentioned disabilities receive support from the state government.

Figure 8.18: Identifying PWD-beneficiaries of Government Support



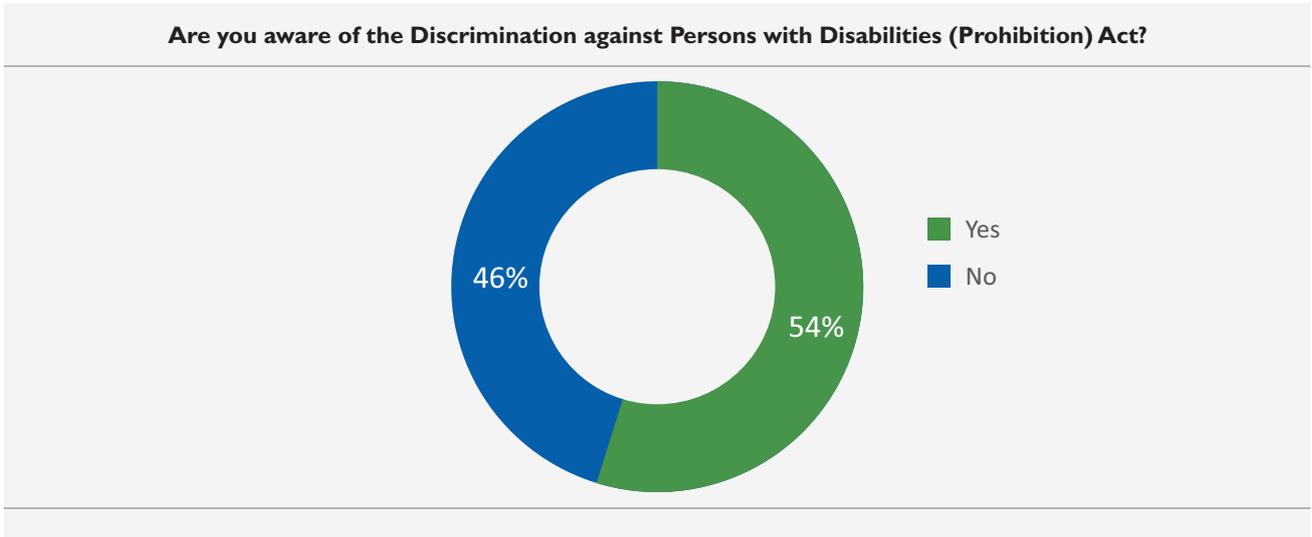
8.5 The Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act

8.5.1 Awareness of the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act

The level of awareness of the 'Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act' was also assessed in North Central, the survey found a slight majority (54%) to be aware; compared to 46% of respondents who appeared to be unaware. On average, there appeared to be a greater proportion of respondents who claimed to be unaware in the North Central, compared to other geopolitical zones in the country. Despite this knowledge, respondents argued that the government's commitment toward domesticating the act and establishing the PWD Commissions in the States is quite weak as most of the States have not done this. One of the respondents from Kogi was quoted as saying thus:

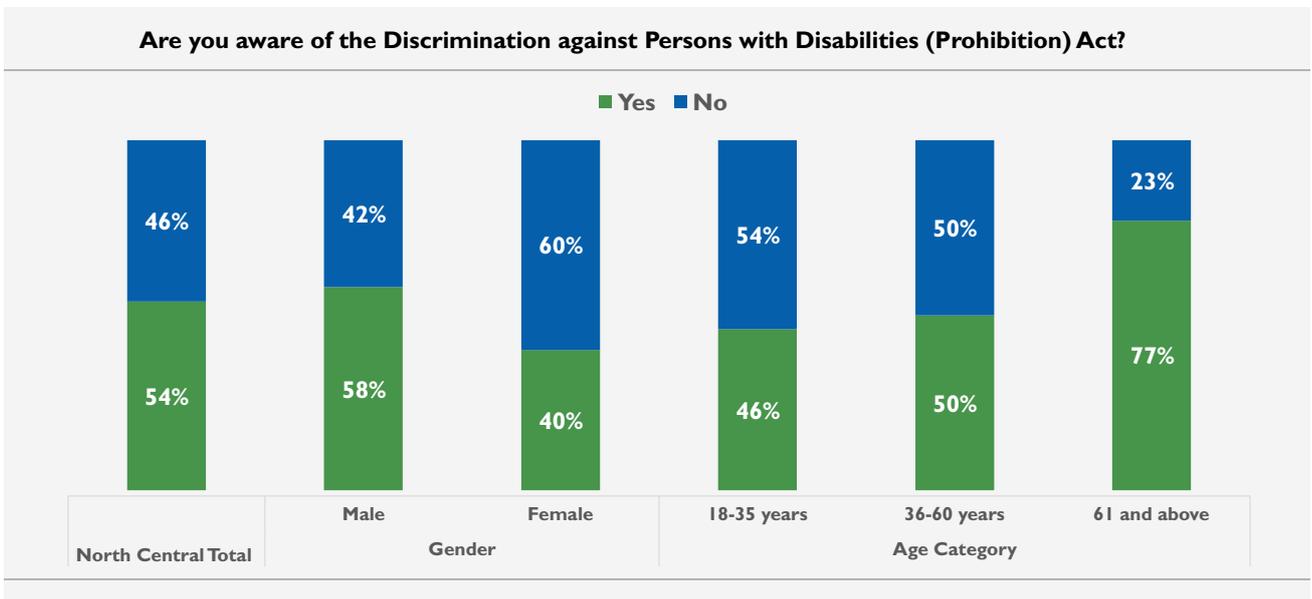
“We cried for the disability commission in Kogi State, but we ended up seeing the disability office. We never argued for an office, we fought to have a commission and they gave us an office that is attached to the office of the SSG. It is like giving a goat to someone and you are still holding the rope. If you are giving it out, give it out in full. We don’t need an office; it is the commission we cried for.” **KII Extract**

Figure 8.19: Awareness of Discrimination against Persons with Disability Act



Data disaggregation revealed that across demographics such as gender and age category, the awareness rate appeared to be highest amongst respondents aged 61 years and above (77%). Also observed is that more Male respondents (58%) than females (40%) years have a greater awareness of the Act. On the flip side, respondents aged 18-35 years (54%) and Female respondents (60%) constituted the highest amongst those who were unaware.

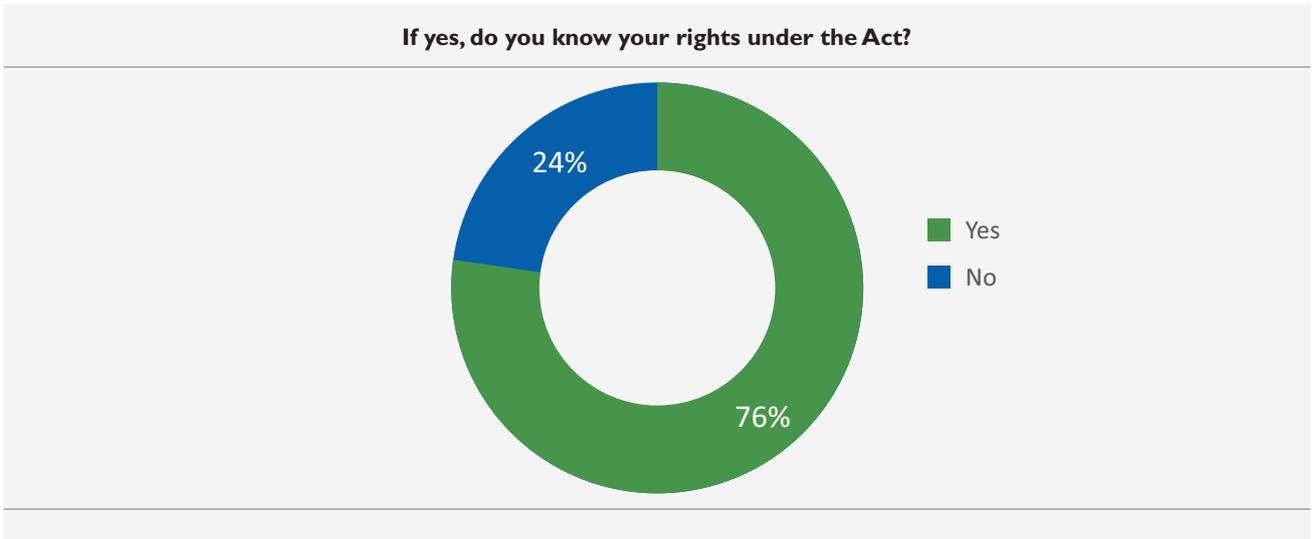
Figure 8.20: Disaggregation of the level of awareness of the Act



8.5.2 Gauging respondent's knowledge about the content of the Act

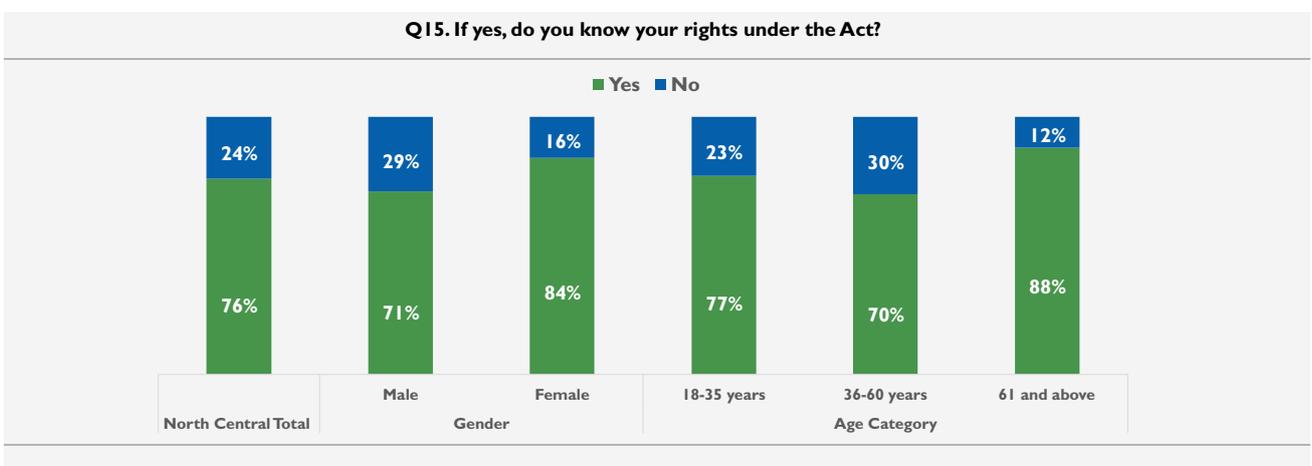
Concerning the results found in the South-South and the South East, most respondents in North Central (76%) were revealed to know their rights under the Act. On the other hand, few respondents (24%) were found to be ignorant of their rights.

Figure 8.21: Knowledge about the content of the Act



Cross tabulation showed that the level of awareness of rights under the Act was prevalent across socio-demographics. Across the age category, the data highlighted that respondents aged 61 years and above (88%) and those aged 18-35 years (77%) were highest among those shown to be aware of their rights under the Act. Again, awareness was equally high across gender but highest amongst Female respondents (84%) than male (71%).

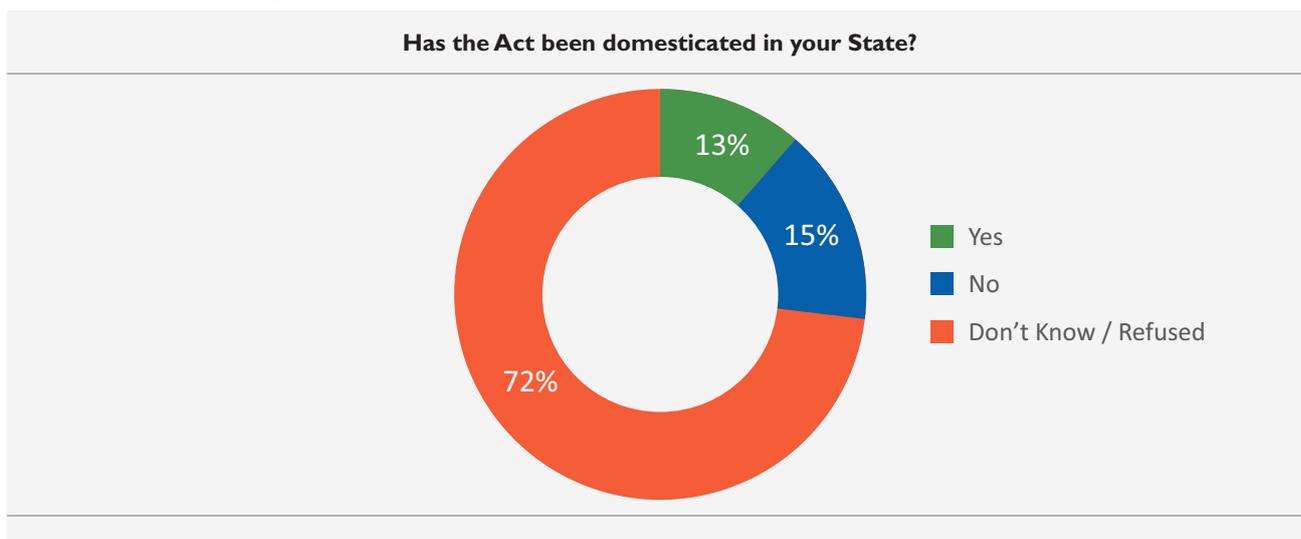
Figure 8.22: Disaggregation of participants knowledge about the content of the Act



8.5.3 Determining the Domestication of the Act

As a follow up on the opinion of the majority who claimed to be aware of the Act in the North Central, the survey sought to ascertain if the 'Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act 2018 has been domesticated in the North Central region, the findings reported was surprising as roughly 7 in 10 respondents (72%) opted for 'Don't Know/Refused'. However, only a very few of the respondents (13%) believed that the Act has been domesticated, while 15% of respondents objected. The larger proportion who opted for 'Don't know/Refused' could suggest that, either the respondents were not keeping abreast with the Act or were not willing to give their opinions on the issue.

Figure 8.23: Knowledge about Domestication of the Act



Data analysis across the states in the North Central geo-political zone showed that respondents who opted for 'Don't know/Refused' were highest in Kogi State (88%), Kwara State (87%), and Niger State (84%). The majority of respondents in Abuja (FCT) (79%) and Plateau State (77%) also held this opinion. On the other hand, while Nasarawa State (69%) has the highest proportion of respondents who believed that the Act has not been domesticated, Plateau state (23%) and Abuja (FCT) (21%) have the highest of those who opined that the Act has been domesticated.

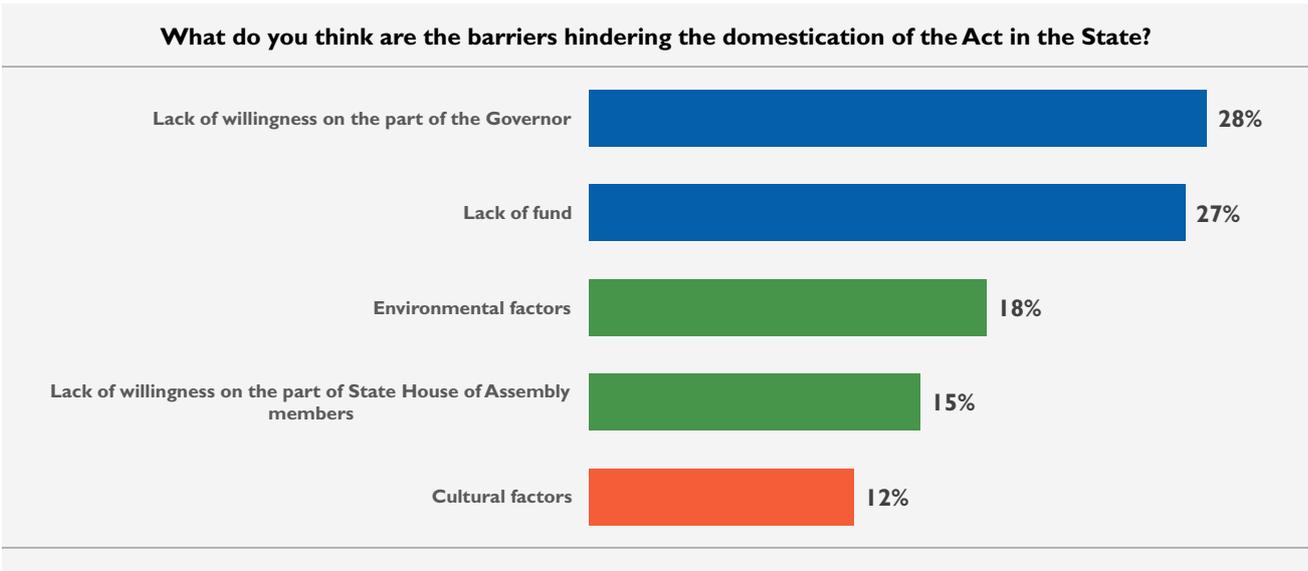
Figure 8.24: Disaggregation of Knowledge about Domestication of the Act

	North Central States						
	Niger State	Benue State	Kogi State	Plateau State	Kwara State	Nasarawa state	Abuja (FCT)
Yes	16%	0%	12%	23%	13%	0%	21%
No	0%	50%	0%	0%	0%	69%	0%
Don't know/ Refused	84%	50%	88%	77%	87%	31%	79%

8.5.4 Perceived barriers hindering the domestication of the Act in North Central states

In the North Central geopolitical zone, the top four barriers perceived to hinder the domestication of the Act include: 'Lack of willingness on the part of the State Governor' (28%), 'Lack of fund' (27%), and 'Environmental factors' (18%). Other barriers identified by respondents included 'Lack of willingness on the part of the State Governor' (15%) and 'Cultural factors' (12%).

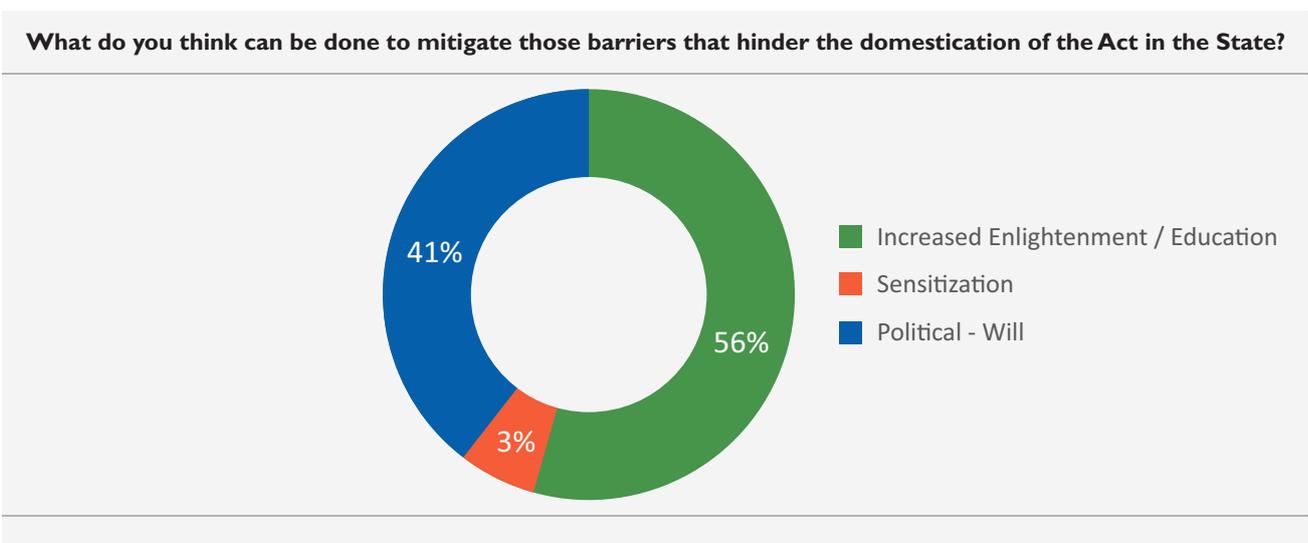
Figure 8.25: Barriers impeding the Domestication of the Act



8.5.5 What can be done to mitigate barriers hindering domestication of the Act

The survey further sought opinions on what can be done to mitigate barriers hindering domestication of the Act in the North Central geopolitical zone. From the results, respondents identified 3 important strategies including: ‘Increased Enlightenment/ Education’ (56%), ‘Political will’ (41%) and ‘Sensitization’ (3%).

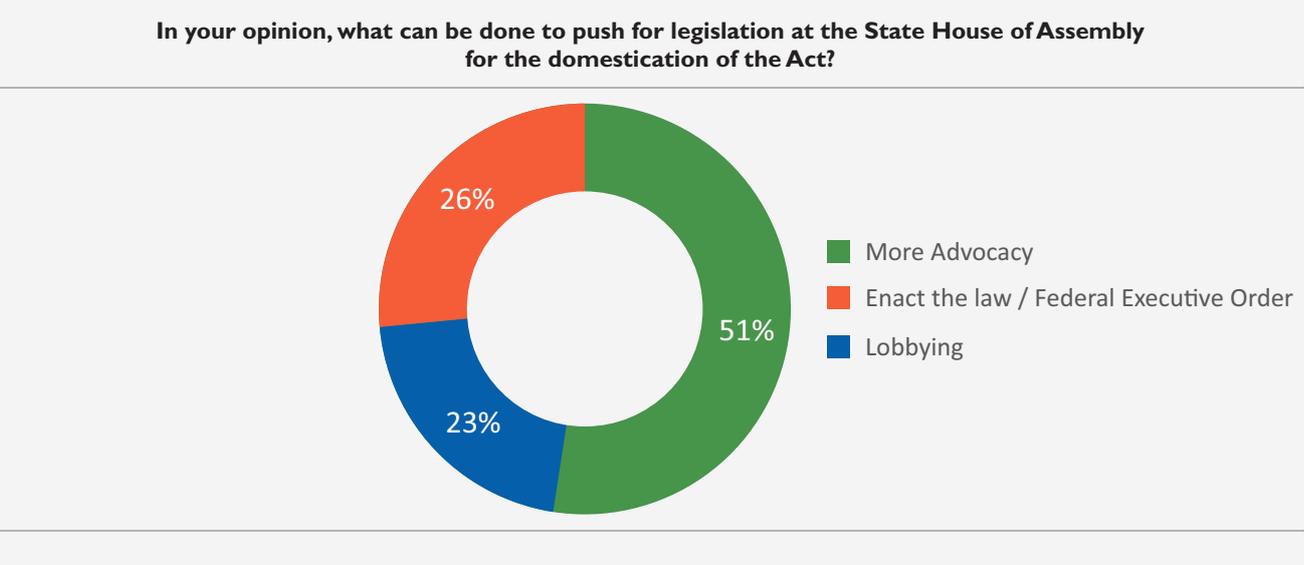
Figure 8.26: Ways to eliminate barriers hindering the Domestication of the Act



8.5.6 Suggestions from North-Central respondents for legislations of the Domestication of the Act at State Houses of Assembly

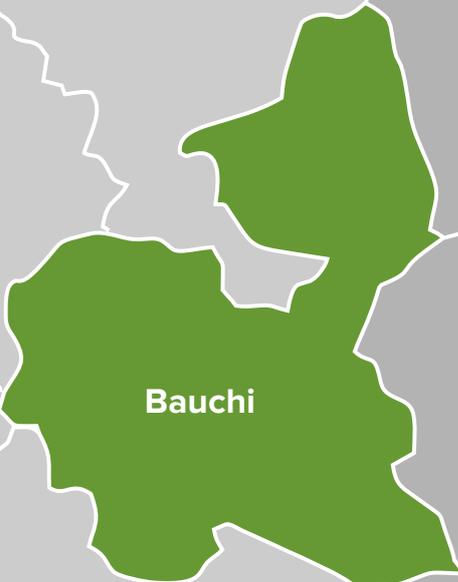
On the question of what could be done to mitigate barriers hindering the domestication of the Act in North Central, the need for ‘More Advocacy’ (51%) came highest amongst the options suggested, followed by ‘Enact the law/Federal Executive Order’ (23%), and lastly ‘Lobbying’ (26%).

Figure 8.27: Legislation of Domestication of the Act at State House of Assembly



09

SURVEY RESULTS
AND FINDINGS
FROM THE
NORTH-EAST



Bauchi

9.1 Social Demography

In the North-East geo-political zone, a total of 297 respondents, amounting to 17% of the national respondents participated in the survey; of which Male respondents (72%) dominated the sample, compared to females (28%). Overall, the respondents were more of the youthful age group of 18-35years (60%); 36-60years (32%); and 61 years & above (8%). The sample was more respondents with Secondary Education and above (59%), compared to those who had No Formal Education/Completed Primary School (41%). Again, more Urban respondents (75%) compared to Rural (25%) were sampled. In particular, Adamawa and Bauchi State had 16% respondents each, while the remaining States had 17% each including Borno, Yobe, Taraba, and Gombe State.

Figure 9.1: Demographic Profile of North-East Region Respondents

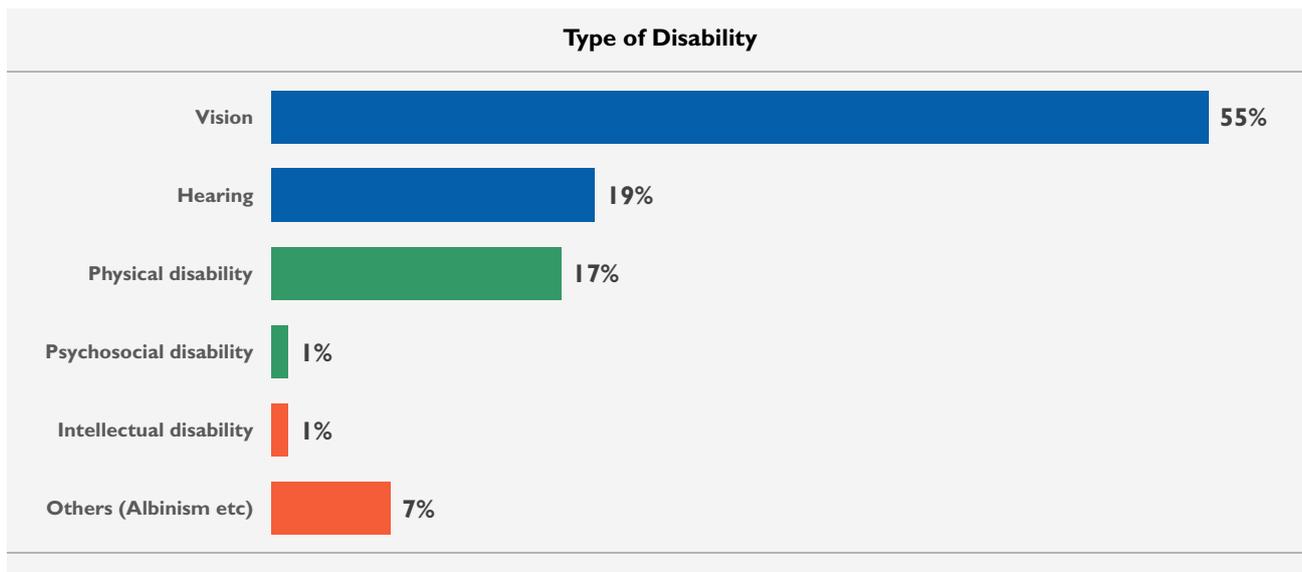
Variable Name	Variable Label	N = 297	% = 100
Gender	Male	214	72%
	Female	83	28%
Age Category	18-35 years	178	60%
	36-60 years	96	32%
	61 and above	23	8%
Highest Education	No Formal Education / Completed Primary School	122	41%
	Completed Secondary & Above	175	59%
Urbanization	Rural	73	25%
	Urban	224	75%
North East States	Borno	51	17%
	Adamawa	48	16%
	Bauchi	48	16%
	Yobe	50	17%
	Taraba	50	17%
	Gombe	50	17%

9.2 Disability Identification and Experience

9.2.1 Category of respondent

In investigating the type of respondents' disabilities, the result showed that Visual disability (55%) constituted the highest disability surveyed in the North East. Other prevalent disabilities by respondents found in the data include those with Hearing disability (19%) and Physical disability (17%). In addition, Psycho-social disability (1%) and Intellectual disability (1%) were also mentioned amongst others.

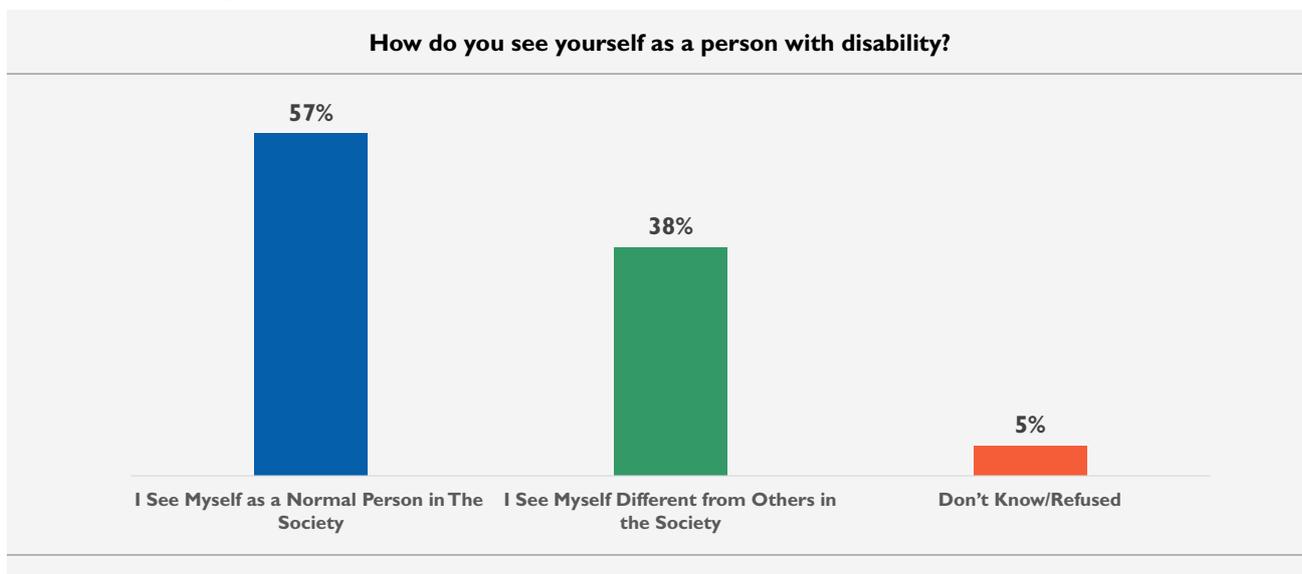
Figure 9.2: Forms of Disability



9.2.2 Realities of Persons with Disability in North-East

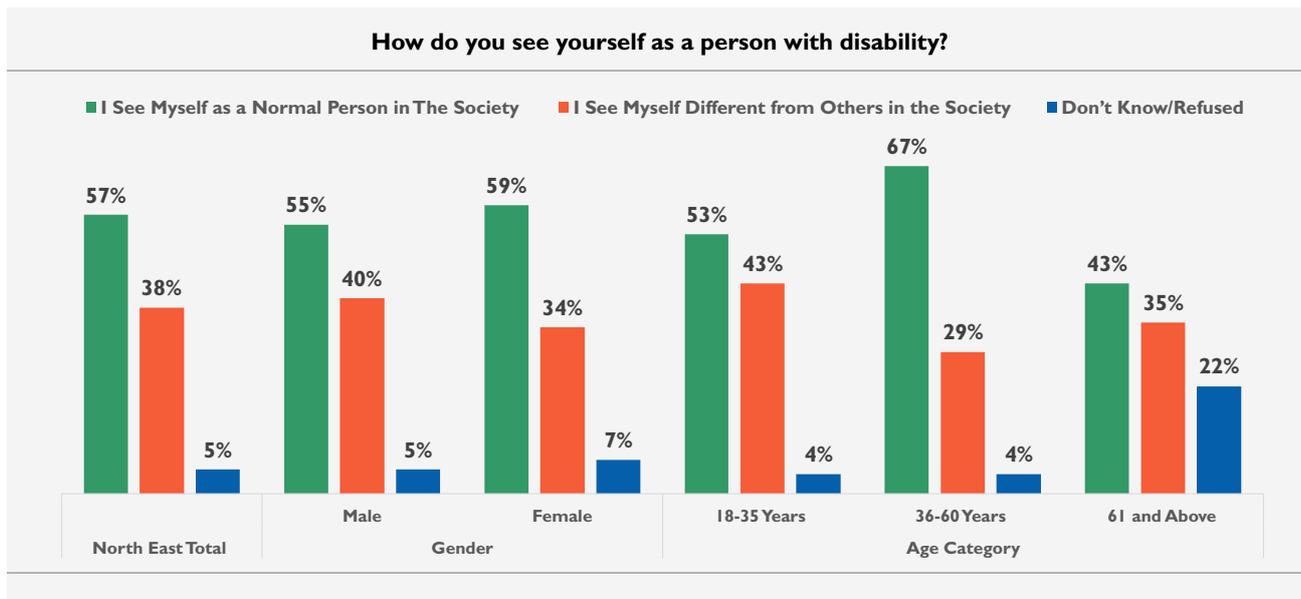
Ascertaining the perception of persons with disabilities is important for effective intervention and policy purposes. However, findings from the survey indicated that more than the average of the respondents (57%) 'See themselves as a normal person in the society. On the contrary, 38% 'Consider themselves as different from others in the society'. However, only 5% opted for 'Don't Know/Refused. This result appeared same as the findings in the South-South geopolitical zone.

Figure 9.3: Feeling about personal Disability



Further analysis of data by gender and age category showed that respondents aged 36 to 60 years (67%) were the highest amongst those who considered themselves normal people in society. Also, more female respondents (59%) than males (55%) were likely to consider themselves normal people in society. On the other hand, respondents aged 18-35 years (43%) and Male respondents (40%) were found to be more likely to see themselves as different from others in the society.

Figure 9.4: Disaggregation of Respondent’s Feelings about their Disability



In addition to the above, findings from the qualitative data reveal that there is a negative perception of persons with disabilities in the eyes of the public. For instance, key informants, as well as participants in the group discussion, acknowledged the widespread discrimination, lack of affection, social exclusion, and ridicule persons with disabilities receive from members of the public. Here are a few quotes from the KIIs and FGDs to buttress this point.



“Persons with disabilities suffer neglect and the public sees them as weak, useless, and liability even to their own families. The attitude of members of the public towards persons with disabilities is mostly characterized by lack of affection, irritation, and unwillingness to engage PWDs in a relationship.” **FGD Extract**

“In Gombe state, people with disabilities are likely to encounter prejudice from members of the public. Some portray them as being pitiable and pathetic, sinister or evil, tragic but brave, laughable, aggressive, non–sexual and incapable of fully participating in everyday life, and are most times sidelined in all forms of decision-making roles.” **KII Extract**

9.2.3 Challenges of persons with disability

Persons with disabilities are more likely to experience some challenges compared to others. To this end, the survey sought to probe the greatest challenges faced by persons with disabilities in North East. Findings indicated that the top 3 biggest challenges identified were: 'Lack of finance' (32%), 'Social Exclusion' (28%), and Unemployment (18%). 'Discrimination by the Public' (15%) and 'Mobility' (7%) were equally mentioned among the greatest challenges faced by persons with disabilities. This corroborates the results found in some of the geopolitical zones such as the South-South, South East and North Central. Across these geopolitical zones, there is widespread consensus that finance constitutes the greatest challenge to PWDs.

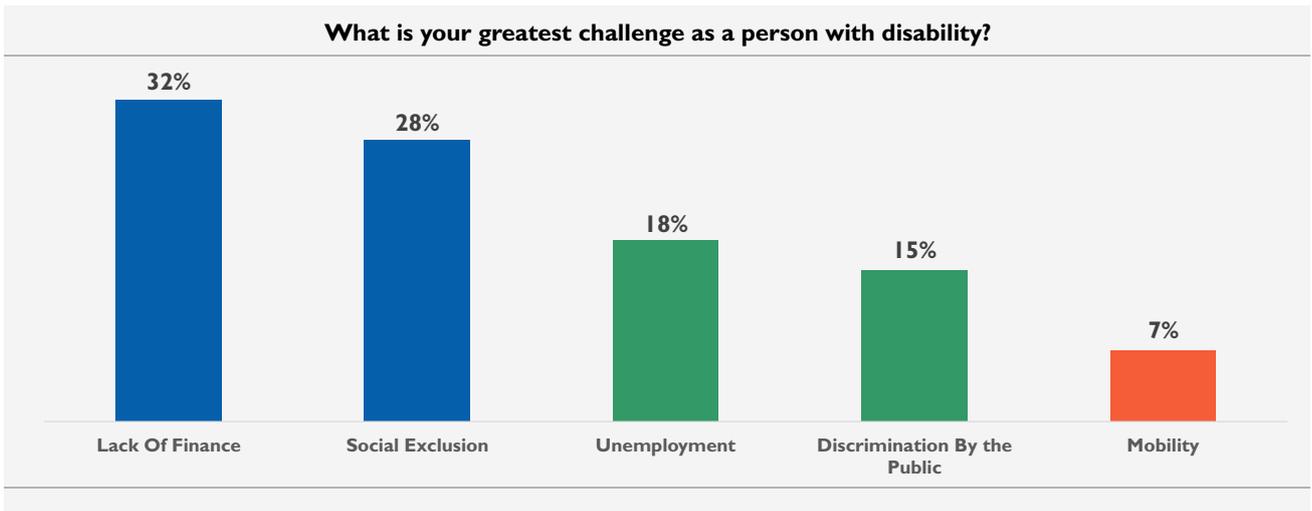


These findings were further validated by responses from key informants and focus group participants in states across the North East region while identifying the most pressing needs for persons with disabilities. In their words:

“PWDs most times lack opportunities for education, finance, and help. The most pressing needs of people with disabilities are mostly financial aid, food, employment, and access to health services. They need to feed themselves, and their family and also be able to sustain their livelihood. They lack help on how to go about this.” **FGD Extract**

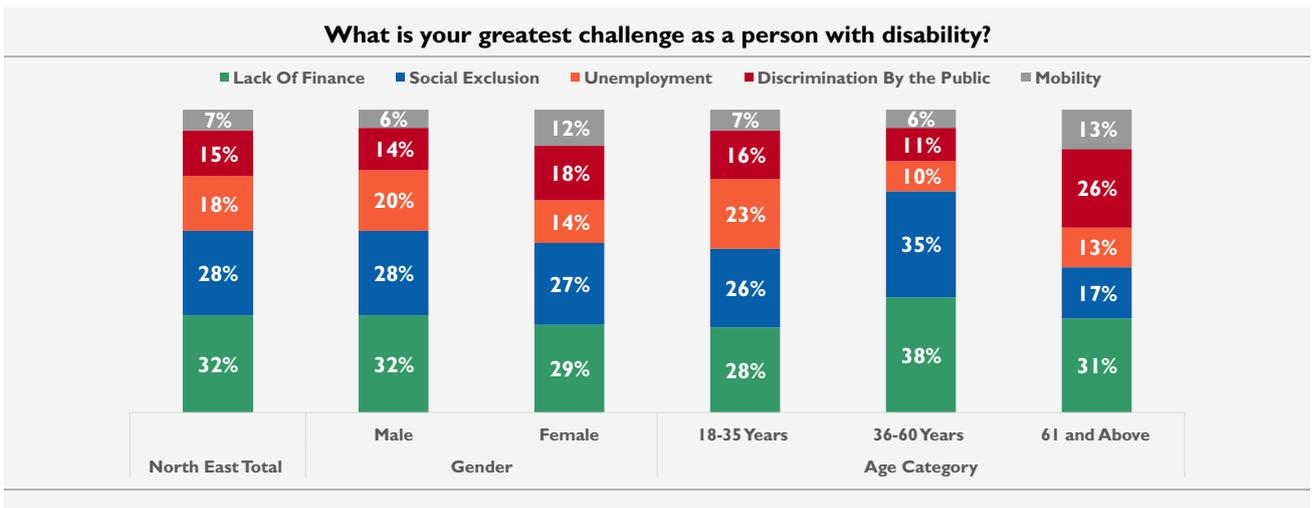
“People with disabilities need to be provided with basic education. They need to be engaged in skills acquisition programs and be properly cared for in terms of quality health care and social support. They need to be properly accommodated by the provision of housing facilities. Providing such facilities for them will help them support themselves and contribute to the economic development of the society.” **KII Extract**

Figure 9.5: Challenges facing PWD



A disaggregation of the challenges faced by persons with disabilities in the North East showed that those who suffer most from ‘Lack of finance’ were highest amongst Male (32%) and respondents aged 36-60 years (38%). In addition, respondents aged 36-60 years (35%) were shown to suffer the most from ‘Social exclusion’. However, ‘Unemployment’ was seen as a major challenge by respondents aged 18-35 years (23%), while ‘Discrimination by the public’ was highest amongst respondents aged 61 years & above (26%).

Figure 9.6: Disaggregation of challenges facing PWD



9.3 Inclusion of Persons with Disability in North-East

9.3.1 Conditions of Persons with Disability

Conditions of persons with disabilities in the North East were equally assessed. From the results, an overwhelming 9 in 10 respondents (90%) rated the conditions of persons with disabilities 'Poorly'. On the other hand, very few respondents considered the condition 'Fair' (8%). This finding may not be unconnected to the daily challenges faced by PWDs in the North East such as incessant security threats, inappropriate job placement, lack of reasonable accommodation, and lack of finance amongst others. This result also reflects the findings in the South East geopolitical zone where an overwhelming majority of respondents rated the conditions of PWDs poorly. These findings were further validated by responses from key informants and focus group participants across the states in North East who unanimously agreed that the condition of persons with disabilities in their states has been deplorable and has forced many to take on begging as a profession to survive.

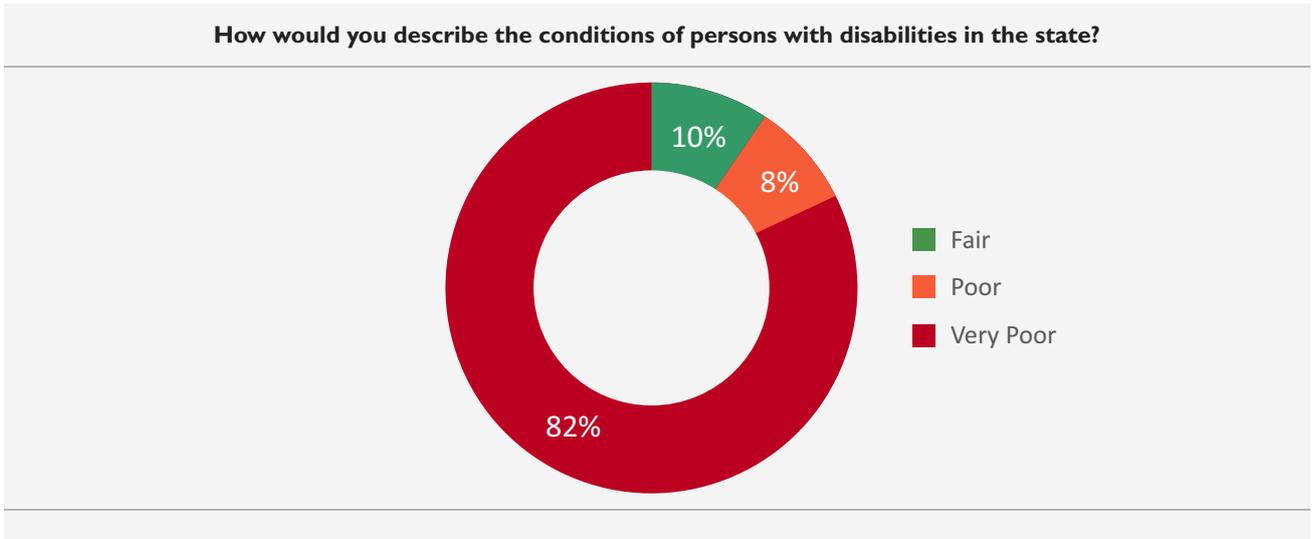


“Over time, due to neglect and lack of concern for the welfare of persons with disabilities, the conditions of persons with disabilities have worsened. They have been compelled to become beggars on the street for survival. Some of them that are young and should be in school, often resort to hawking small items to enable them to feed themselves. Although this issue is currently being tackled by the state government and critical stakeholders to take young persons with disabilities off the streets and enroll them in schools, and for the older ones, to see how they can be empowered.” **KII Extract**

“I think the conditions of persons with disabilities are not in a very good state. This is because even though some of them sell little things on the street there are limitations to their resources and reach and most of them are just beggars on the street. I don't know what the governments or NGOs are doing to help.” **FGD Extract**



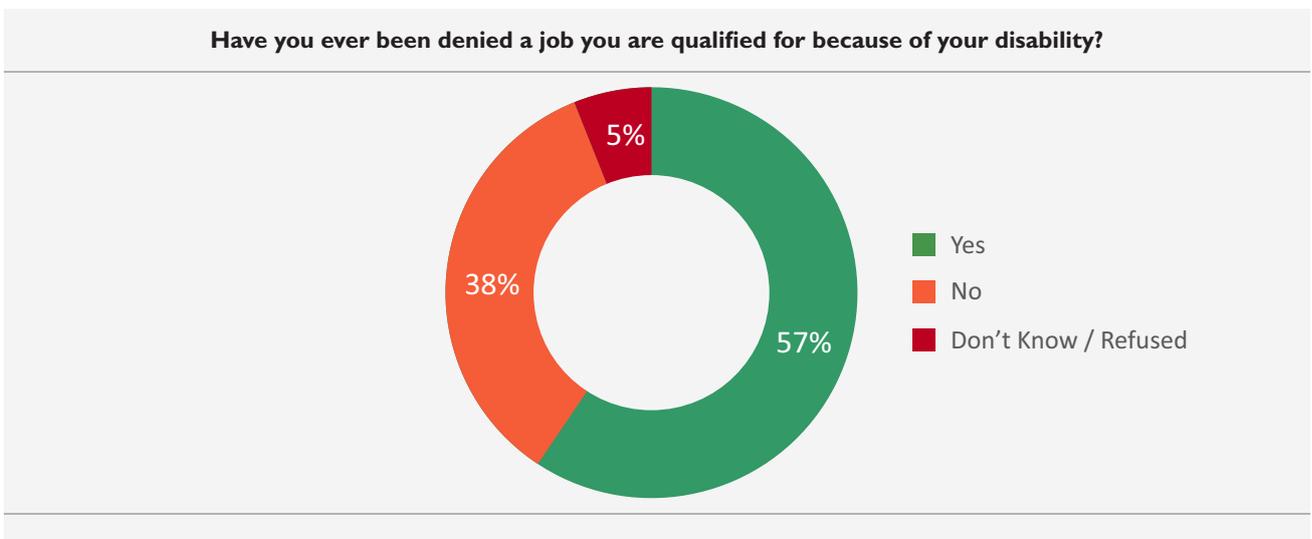
Figure 9.7: Assessing the Living condition of PWD



9.3.2 Job discrimination among Persons with Disability

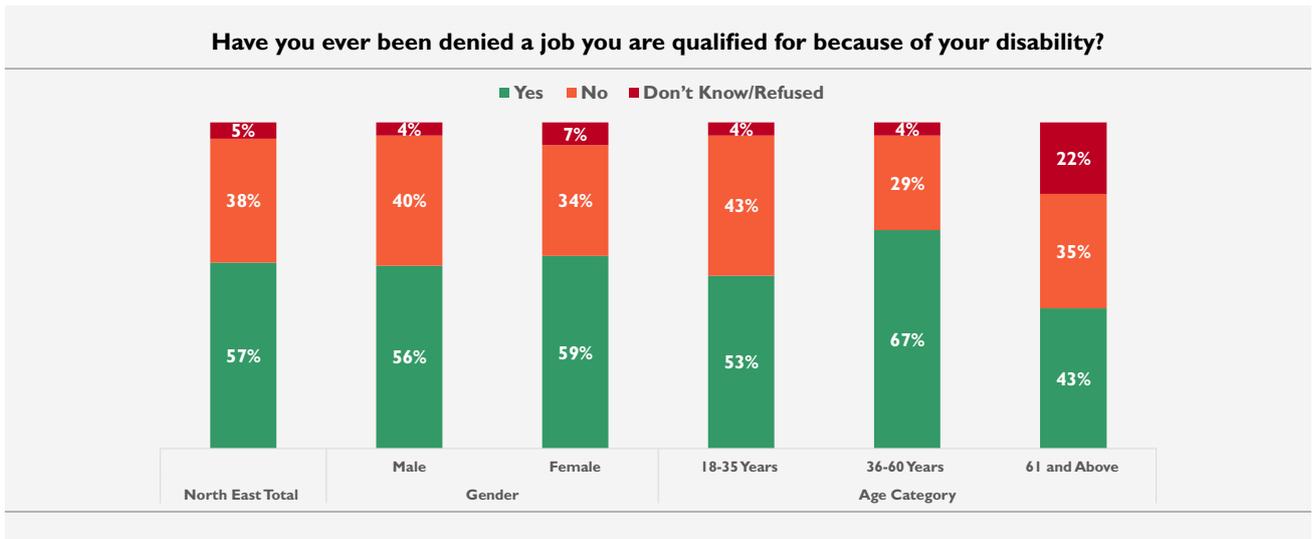
In furtherance of the assessment of the socio-economic condition of people with disabilities in the North East, respondents were asked if they had ever been denied a job as a result of their disabilities. The survey found that the majority of respondents (57%) have been denied job opportunities; compared to (38%) who have not experienced job denial. However, this job denial against PWDs is rather unfortunate and scary as it cut across all the geopolitical zones in the country.

Figure 9.8: Job Discrimination experience of PWD



Digging deeper into whether respondents have experienced job denial in North East, the data showed that, interestingly, more respondents aged 36-60 years (67%) seemed to have the highest occurrences of job denial. Again, more Females (59%) than males (53%) were also shown to suffer the most from job denial. However, across age categories, respondents aged 18-35 years (43%) were found not to suffer the most from job denial.

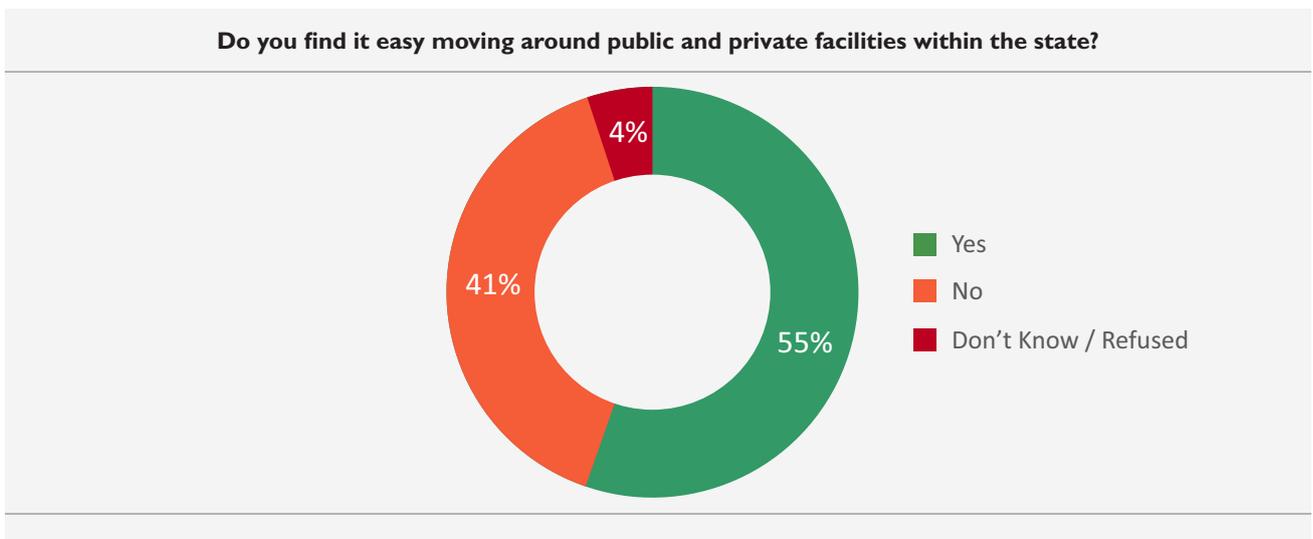
Figure 9.9: Disaggregation of Job Discrimination experience among PWD



9.3.3 Accessibility of physical facilities in North-East

The result from the survey in North Central further revealed that slightly more than half of the respondents (55%) find it easy moving around public and private facilities within the state. On the contrary, 41% claimed the opposite. Also, as this finding indicated, more respondents across the geopolitical zones expressed concerns over the difficulty in accessing public and private facilities. This is however not surprising given that movement can present a serious challenge for people with disabilities, especially in developing countries like Nigeria where the concerns of PWDs are usually neglected.

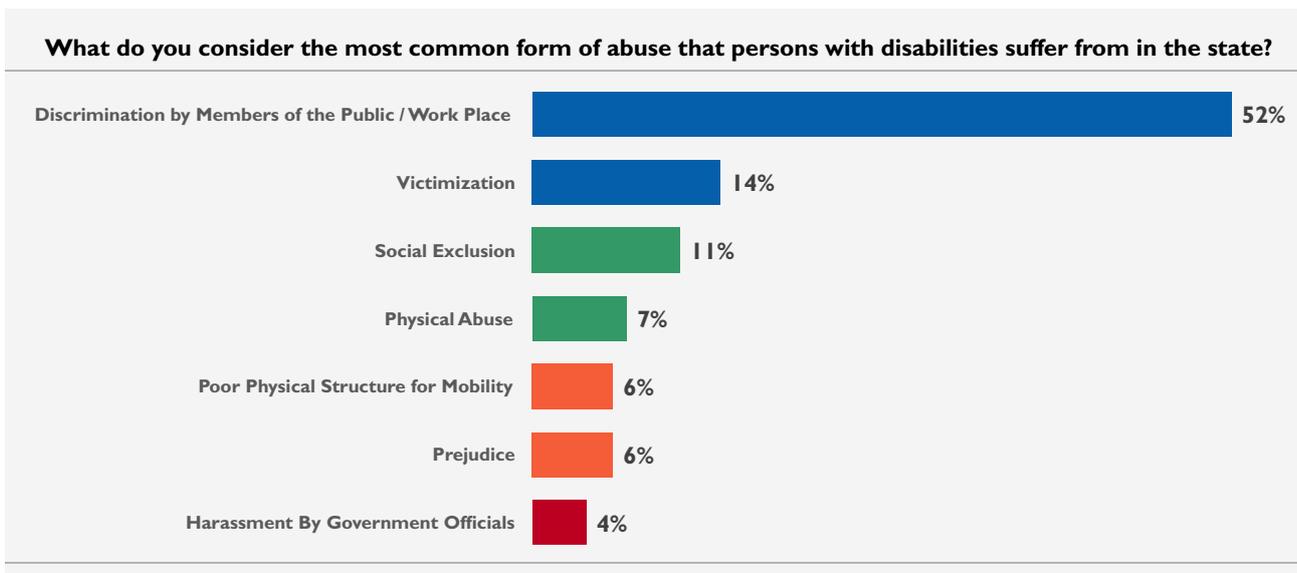
Figure 9.10: Establishing ease of movement in Public and Private Facilities



9.3.4 Common forms of abuse among Persons with Disability

The survey further sought to ascertain the common type of abuse faced by PWDs in the North-East geopolitical zone. From the data 'Discrimination by members of the public/workplace' (52%) was opined as to the greatest form of abuse in the region. The other prevalent abuses mentioned were: 'Victimisation' (14%) and 'Social exclusion' (11%). In addition, 'Physical Abuse' (7%), Prejudice (6%), etc., were equally mentioned amongst others. This finding is not different from the results found across the other geopolitical zones, especially in the South South; suggesting clearly, a true reflection of the prevalence of abuse among persons with disabilities in the country.

Figure 9.11: Most common form of abuse that PWD Experience



9.3.5 General Perception of Persons with Disability

The general perceptions of persons with disabilities in the North East were further sought. The data indicated that a slight majority of the respondents (55%) strongly objected that ‘Many persons with disabilities are well educated, productively engaged in different employment and contributing to national development’. On the other hand, a slight majority (58%) opined that ‘Only family members of persons with disabilities should be responsible for catering for their wellbeing’. On the other hand, the majority of respondents (65%) opposed that ‘the rights of persons with disabilities are well protected by the state government. Further opined by a slight majority of respondents (54%) was that ‘Persons with disabilities are included in key decision-making processes in the state’. Again, the majority of the respondents (80%) strongly believed that ‘Most of the programmes that support and promote the wellbeing of PWDs are usually carried out by CSOs, NGOs, and FBOs. Further objected by slightly more than average of the respondents (57%) was that ‘Most of the programmes that support and promote the wellbeing of PWDs are usually carried out by state government’

Figure 9.12: Perception of PWD

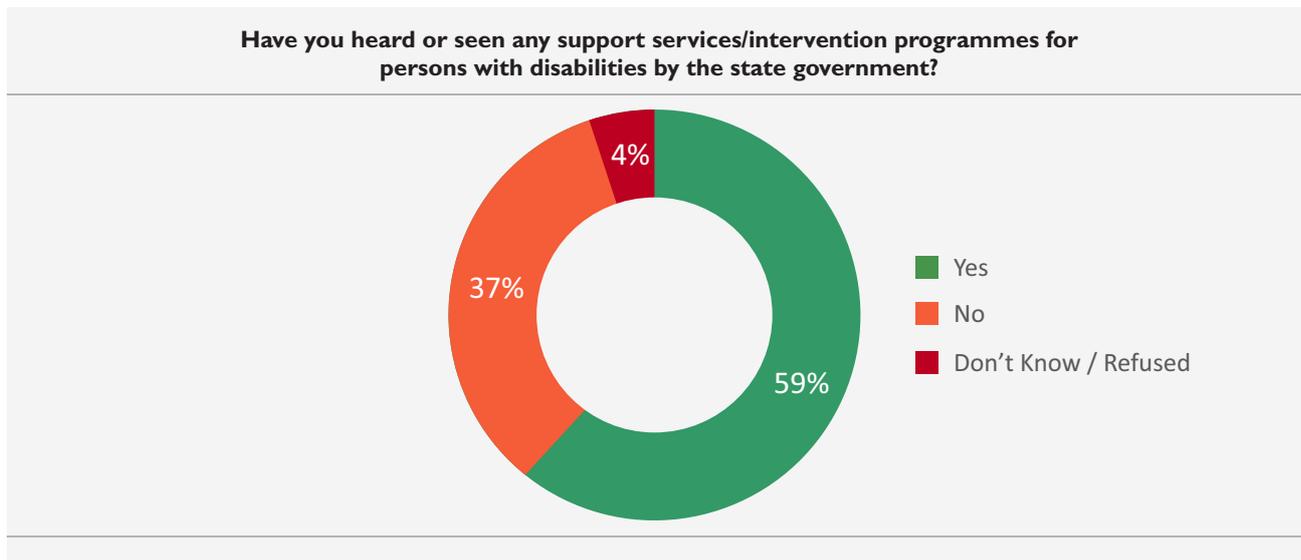
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
Many persons with disabilities in this state are well educated and engages in different employment opportunities where they contribute to national growth and development	15%	40%	25%	20%
Only family members of persons with disabilities should be responsible in catering for their wellbeing	22%	20%	40%	18%
The rights of persons with disabilities are well protected by the government of this state.	13%	52%	21%	14%
Persons with disabilities are included in key decision-making process in this state.	18%	28%	42%	12%
Most of the programmes that support and promote the wellbeing of persons with disabilities are usually carried out by CSOs, NGOs, and FBOs.	6%	14%	36%	44%
Most of the programmes that support and promote the wellbeing of persons with disabilities are usually carried out by state governments.	18%	39%	29%	14%

9.4 Support Services and Intervention Programmes for Persons with Disability

9.4.1 Knowledge of support services/intervention programmes by state governments

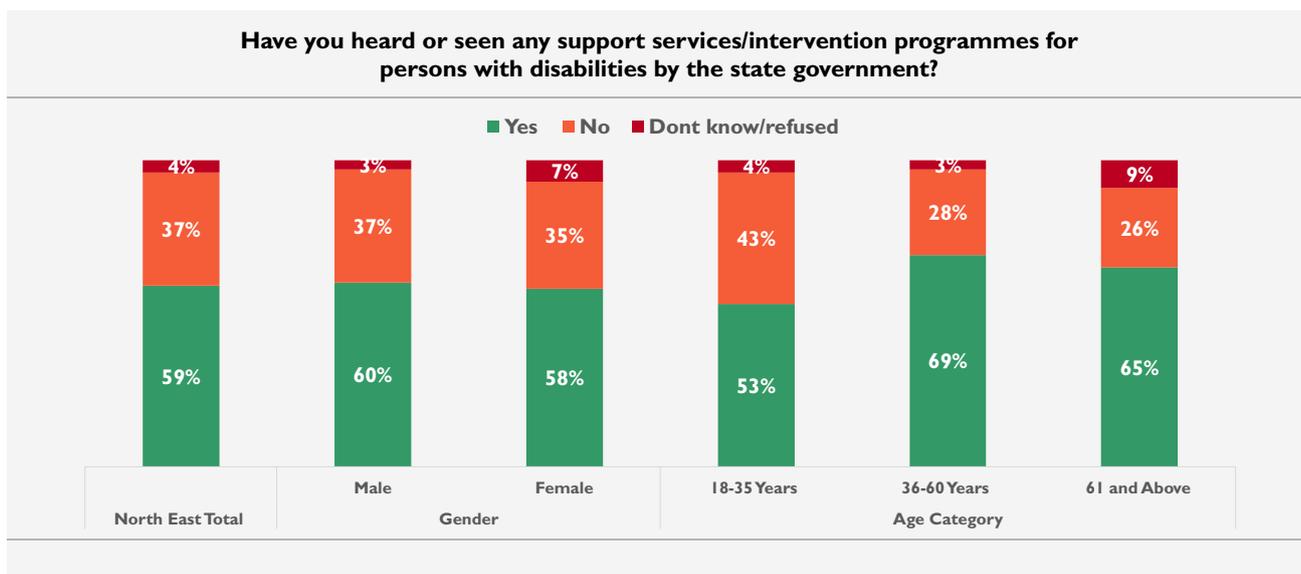
Furthermore, respondents' knowledge of support services/intervention programmes by state governments in the North East was also investigated. The results indicated that roughly 6 in 10 respondents (59%) claimed awareness of support services/intervention programmes; compared to a few respondents (41%) who either were unaware (37%) or simply 'Don't know/refused' (4%). This result mirrors the findings in the South South geopolitical zone

Figure 9.13: Perception of Government Support Services and Programmes



Further investigation of the data revealed that respondents who know about support services/intervention programmes by state governments were highest amongst respondents aged 36-60 years (69%) and aged 61 years & above (65%). Also, more Male respondents (60%) than Female (58%) claimed awareness of the support services/intervention programmes. On the other hand, the youth aged 18-35 years (43%) were more likely not to know about support services/intervention programmes by state governments.

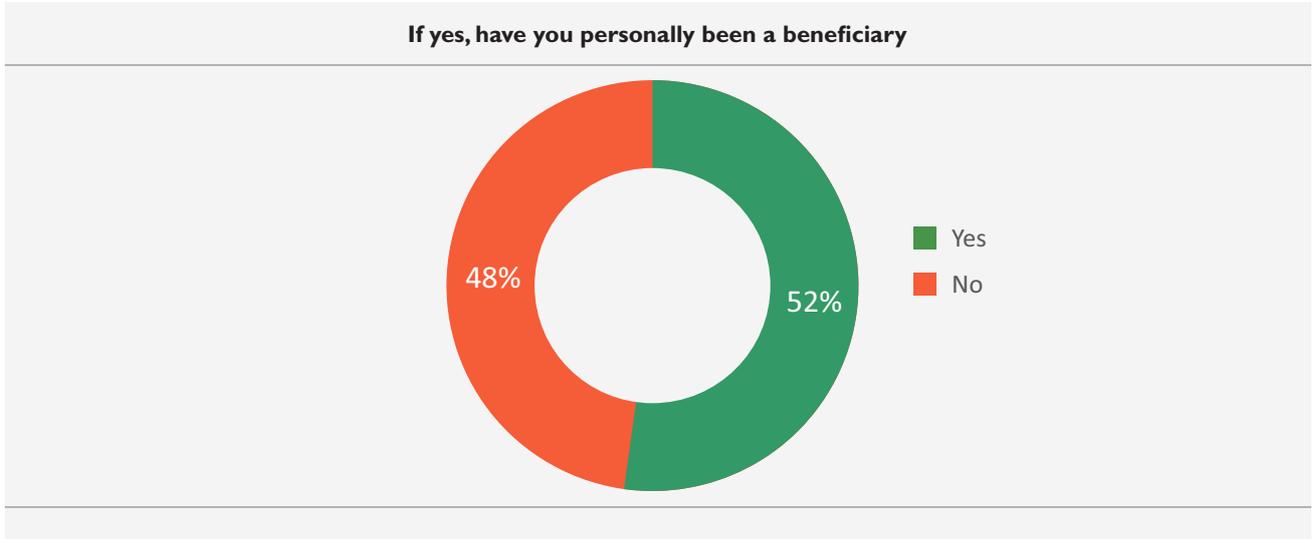
Figure 9.14: Disaggregation of Perception of Government Support Services and Programmes



9.4.2 Beneficiaries of state governments' intervention programmes for Persons with Disability

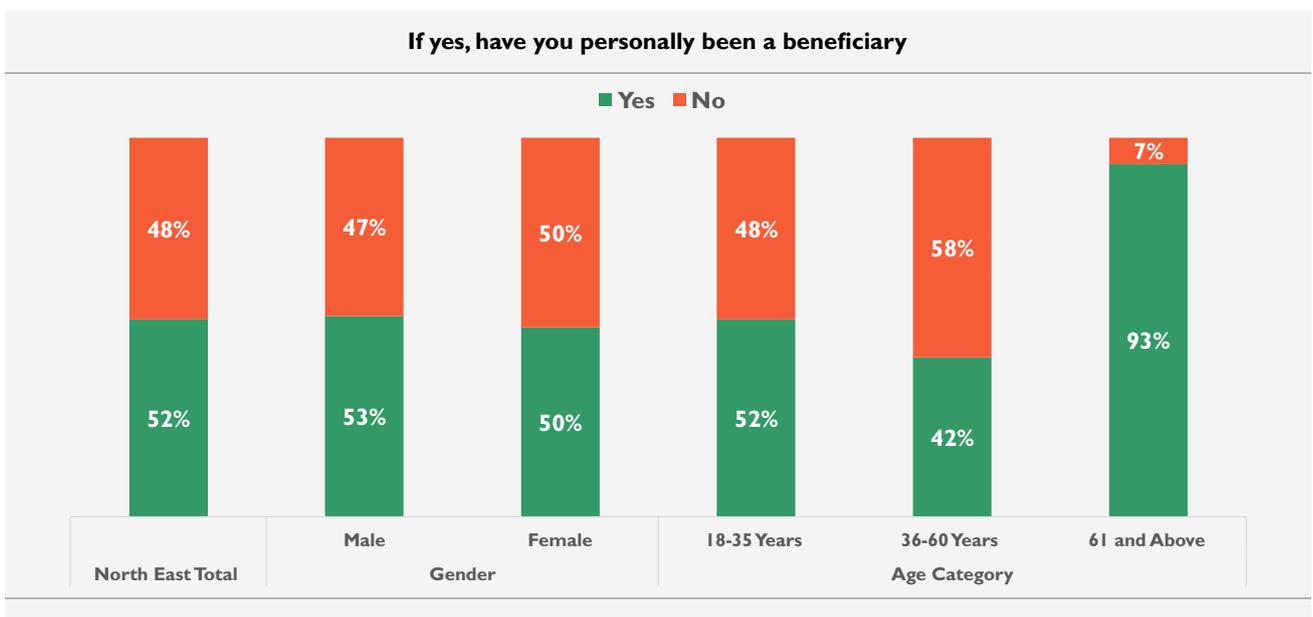
Again, when respondents in North East were asked if they have personally benefited from state government intervention programmes for Persons with Disability, overall, about 5 in 10 respondents (52%) said 'yes'. On the other hand, 48% said 'No'.

Figure 9.15: Estimating beneficiaries of Government Intervention Programmes



From the data, it was revealed that the elderly aged 61 years and above (93%) and respondents aged 18-35 years (52%) appeared to have benefitted the most from such government intervention programmes. The data further highlighted that slightly more Male respondents (53%) than Female (50%) benefit from government intervention programmes. On the contrary respondents aged 36-60 years (42%) were the least beneficiary of government support services/intervention programmes.

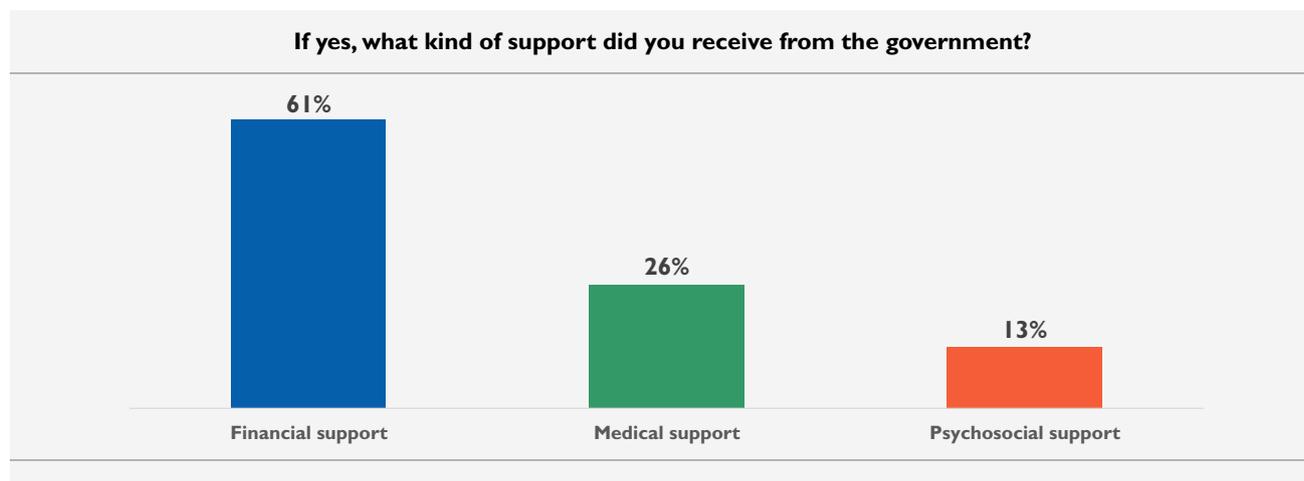
Figure 9.16: Disaggregation of Government Intervention Programme Beneficiaries



9.4.3 Type of support received from the state government

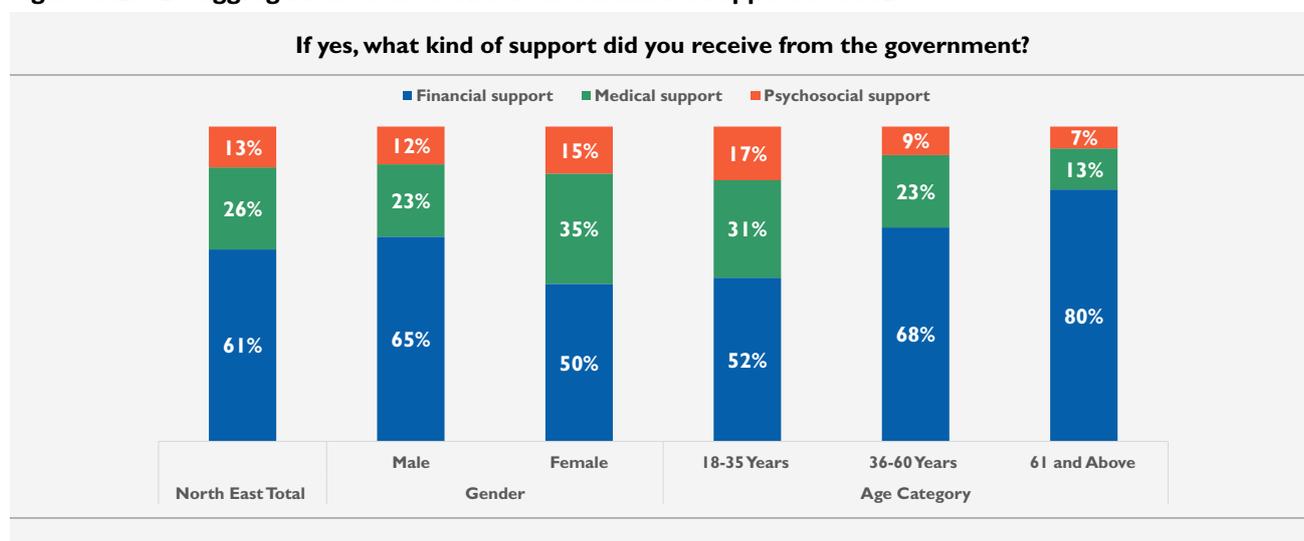
The type of support PWDs receive from the state government in North East was also interrogated. From the result, 'Financial Support' (61%) constituted the highest support received from state governments. Respondents also mentioned 'Medical support' (26%) and 'Psycho-Social Support' (13%). Again, this result no doubt mirrors earlier findings that the state governments across the geo-political zone have been supportive of the wellbeing of PWDs.

Figure 9.17: Establishing the forms of Government Support to PWD



The data highlighted that respondents aged 61 years & above (80%) constituted the greater proportion of those who benefited from 'Financial support'; followed by aged 36-60 years (68%). Also, Male respondents (65%) were shown to receive more 'Financial support' than Female respondents (50%). However, recipient of 'Medical support' was highest amongst Female (35%) and the youth aged 18-35years (31%).

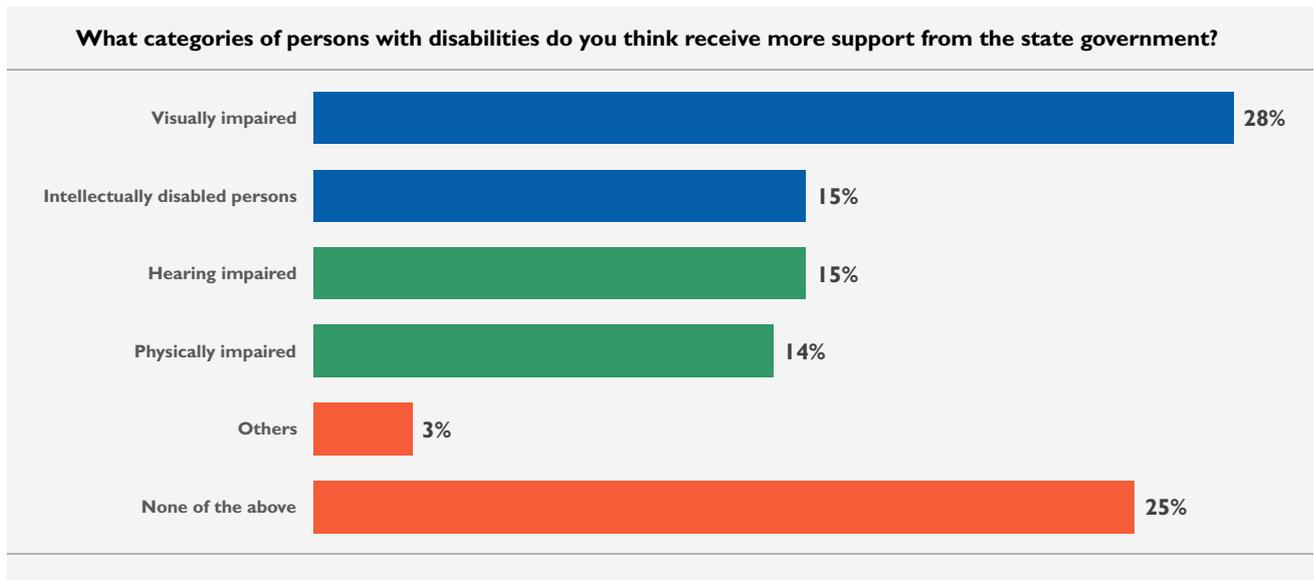
Figure 9.18: Disaggregation of the forms of Government Support to PWD



9.4.4 Category of Persons with Disability with the most support from state governments

Again, analogous to the result found in the South-South and South East geopolitical zones, the top 4 categories of disabilities with the most support from state governments in North East include: 'Visually impaired' (28%), 'Intellectually disabled persons' (15%), 'Hearing Impaired' (15%) and 'Physically Impaired' (14%). However, 25% of respondents opted for 'None of the above'

Figure 9.19: Identifying PWD-beneficiaries of Government Support

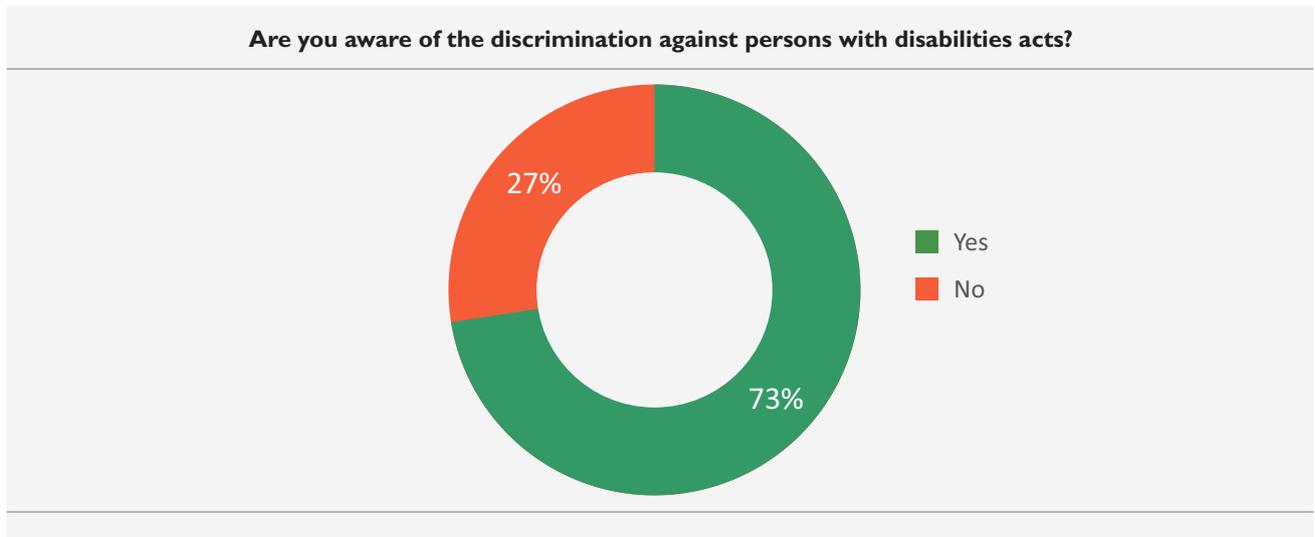


9.5 The Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act

9.5.1 Awareness of the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act

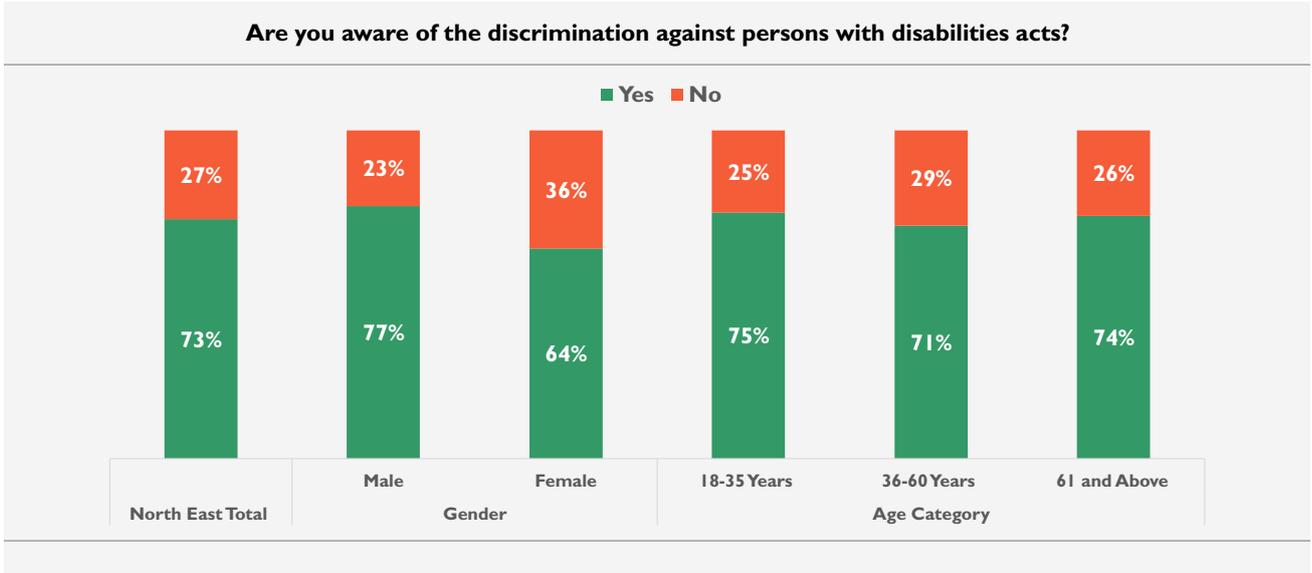
The survey also assessed the awareness level of the ‘Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act’ in North East. Related to the result found in the South-South, South East, and North Central, the survey equally found majority of the respondents in the North East (73%) were well-informed of the Act, as against a few 27% who claimed to be ignorant of the Act.

Figure 9.20: Awareness of the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act



Data disaggregation further uncovered that across demographics such as gender and age category, more Male respondents (77%) than Female (64%), and respondents aged 18-35 (75%) years have a greater awareness of the Act. Awareness level was equally high amongst respondents 36-60 years (71%) and aged 61years & above (74%).

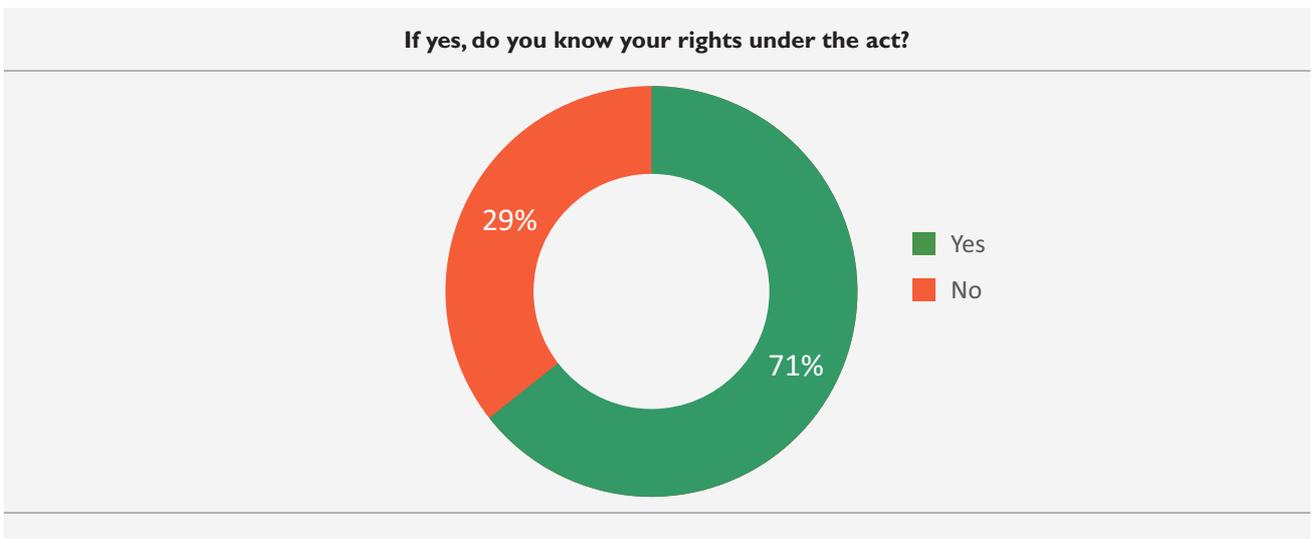
Figure 9.21: Disaggregation of the level of awareness of the Act



9.5.2 Gauging respondent’s knowledge about the content of the Act

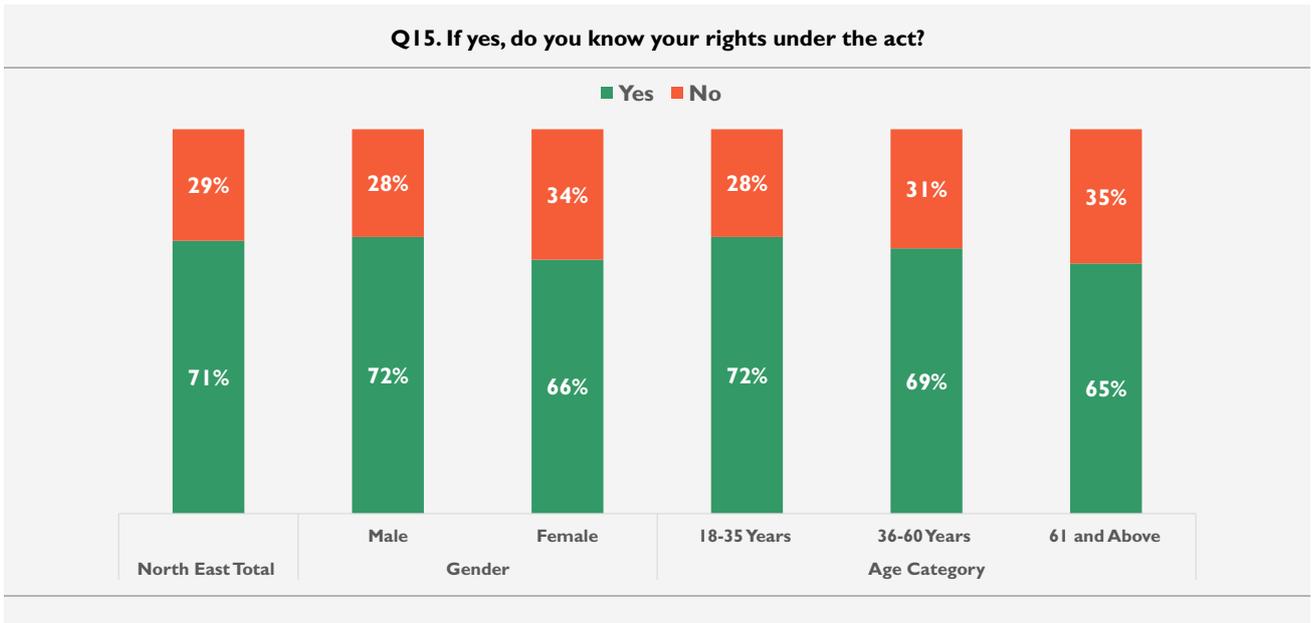
On gauging respondent’s knowledge about the content of the Act, findings revealed that compared to the results found in the South-South, and South East, the majority of respondents (71%) in North East are well-informed of their rights under the Act; compared to only (29%) respondents who stated otherwise.

Figure 9.22: Knowledge about the content of the Act



The data reports that across age categories, significantly more respondents aged 18-35 years (72%) appeared to have a better knowledge of their rights under the Act. This trend was also seen amongst more Male respondents (72%) than Female (66%). However, on average, Female (34%) and elderly respondents aged 61 years & above (35%) were more likely not to know their rights under the Act.

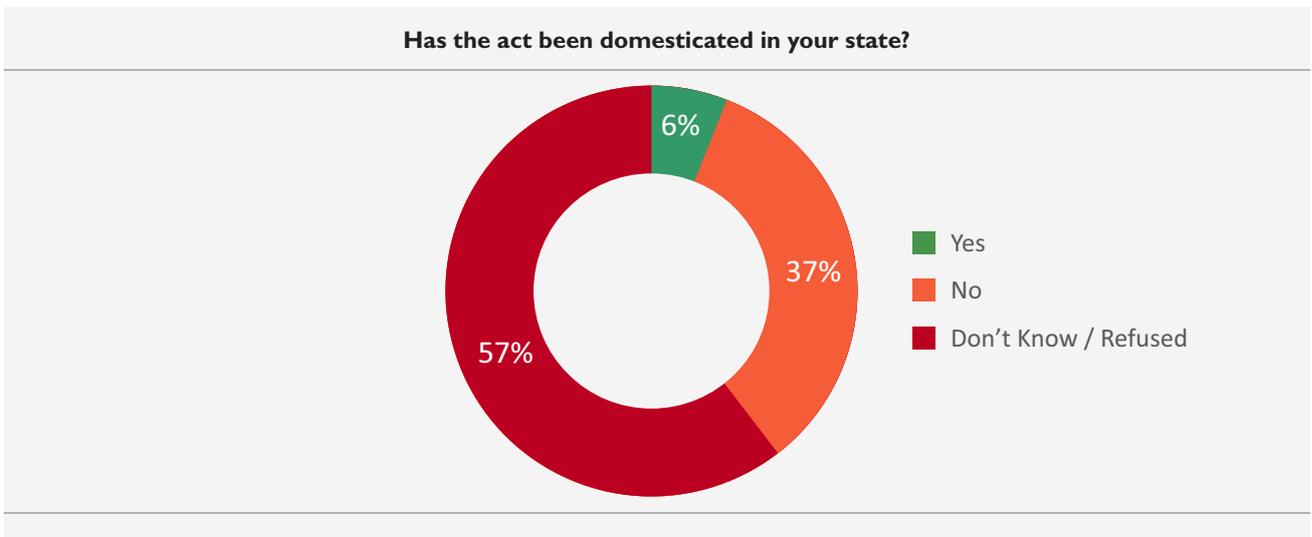
Figure 9.23: Disaggregation of participants Knowledge about the content of the Act



9.5.3 Determining the Domestication of the Act

The findings reported here clearly point to the fact that the Act has not been domesticated in the North-East geopolitical zone of the country. As the data illustrated, the overwhelming majority of the respondents (94%) either opted for 'Don't know/Refused' (57%) or out rightly objected (37%). On the contrary, only a few (6%) expressed optimism that the Act has been domesticated. This finding is not dissimilar from the result found across the geopolitical zones in the Southern part of the country.

Figure 9.24: Knowledge about Domestication of the Act



Across the states in North-East geo-political zone, the sentiment that the act has not been domesticated was widespread and cut across nearly all the states in the region. From the data, only Bauchi State (40%) appeared to have domesticated the Act amongst the states in the geopolitical zone. However, the majority of respondents from the other states in the region either believed that the Act has not been domesticated or opted for 'Don't Know/Refused'.

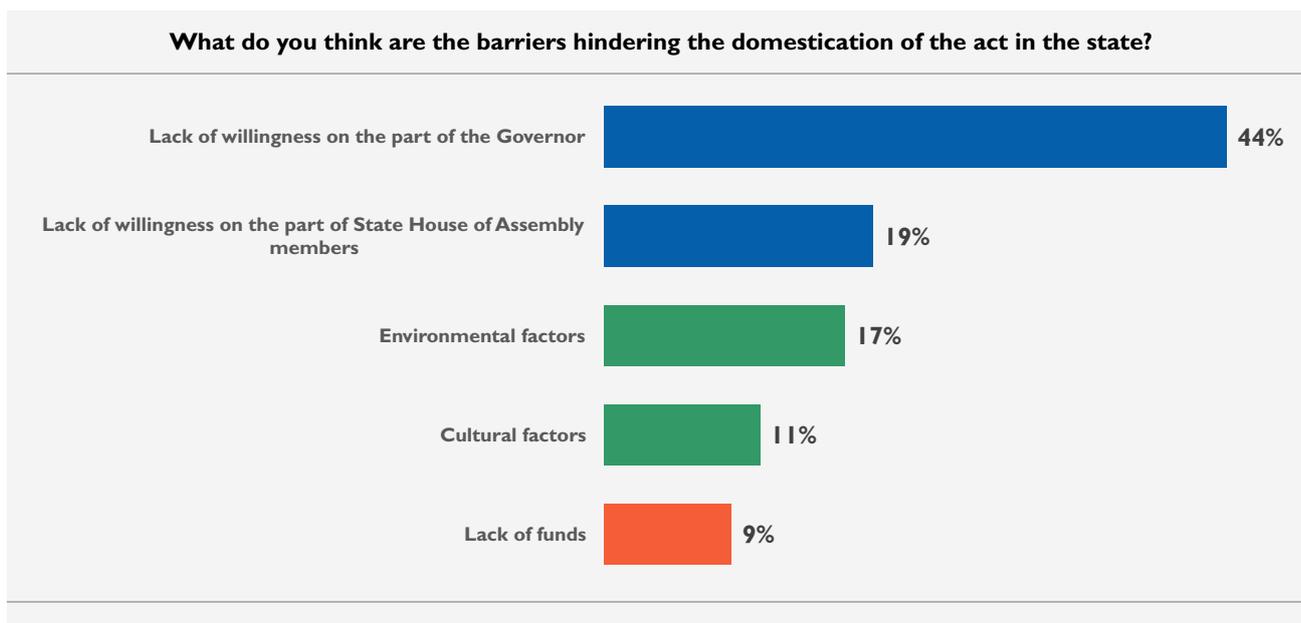
Figure 9.25: Disaggregation of Knowledge about Domestication of the Act

	North East State					
	Borno State	Adamawa State	Bauchi State	Yobe State	Taraba State	Gombe State
Yes	0%	0%	40%	0%	0%	0%
No	53%	67%	0%	40%	24%	40%
Don't know/refused	47%	33%	60%	60%	76%	60%

9.5.4 Perceived barriers hindering the domestication of the Act in North-East states

There appeared to be a common consensus in opinion regarding the barriers hindering the domestication of the Act across all the geopolitical zones in the country. Related to the revelations in other geopolitical zones, the survey also found in North East that the key barriers hindering the domestication of the Act included: 'Lack of willingness on the part of the State Governor' (44%), 'Lack of willingness by State House of Assembly Members' (19%) and 'Environmental factors' (17%). Cultural factors (11%) and Lack of funds (9%) were equally mentioned.

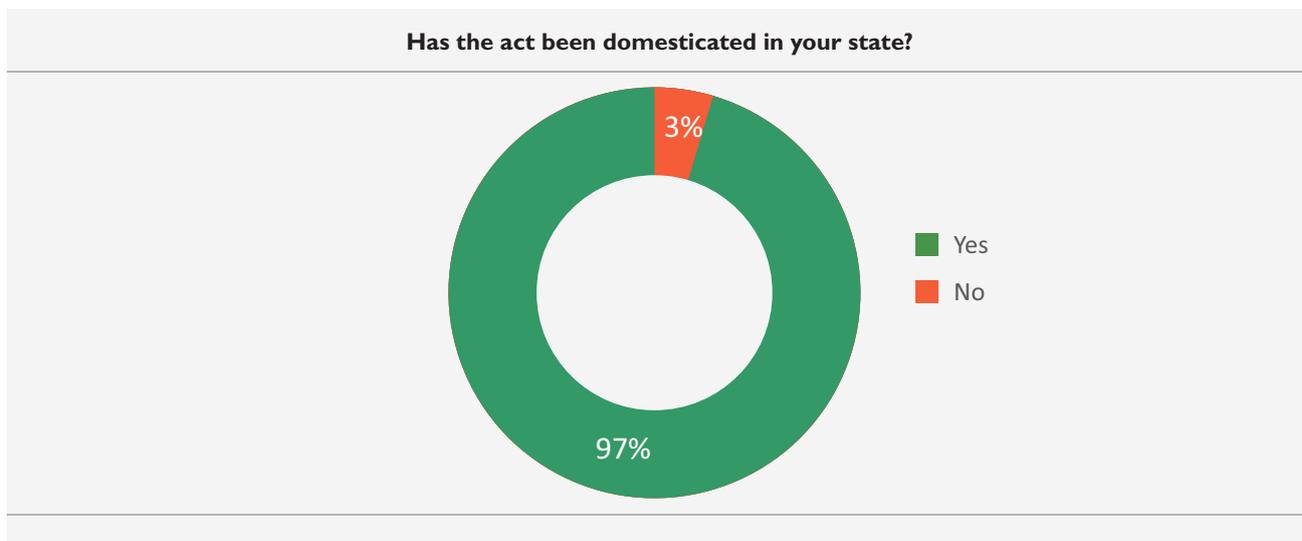
Figure 9.26: Barriers impeding the Domestication of the Act



9.5.5 What can be done to mitigate barriers hindering domestication of the Act

To facilitate the domestication of the Act in North-East states, respondents recommended the crucial need for 'Increased Advocacy' (97%). Also lightly mentioned was the 'Political-will' (3%) of the state government to expedite action on the Act. As earlier mentioned, respondents strongly believed that increased advocacy by NGOs, CSOs, and key stakeholders will no doubt ease the barriers hindering the domestication of the Act.

Figure 9.27: Suggestions to remove the mitigating barriers hindering the Domestication of the Act



9.5.6 Perception of state government effort towards domestication of the Act

Based on the foregoing, majority of the respondents (63%) rated government effort at domestication of the Act 'Poorly'. On the other hand, few respondents (37%) either gave a 'Fair' assessment (32%) or believed government effort has been 'Good' (5%). From interactions with stakeholders, particularly through the key informant interviews and focus groups, it was clear that while the majority of the states in the North-East are yet to domesticate the act, their state governors have been engaging and consulting with various stakeholders to ensure the act gets domesticated. There were several quotes from the KIIs and FGDs to highlight this finding.

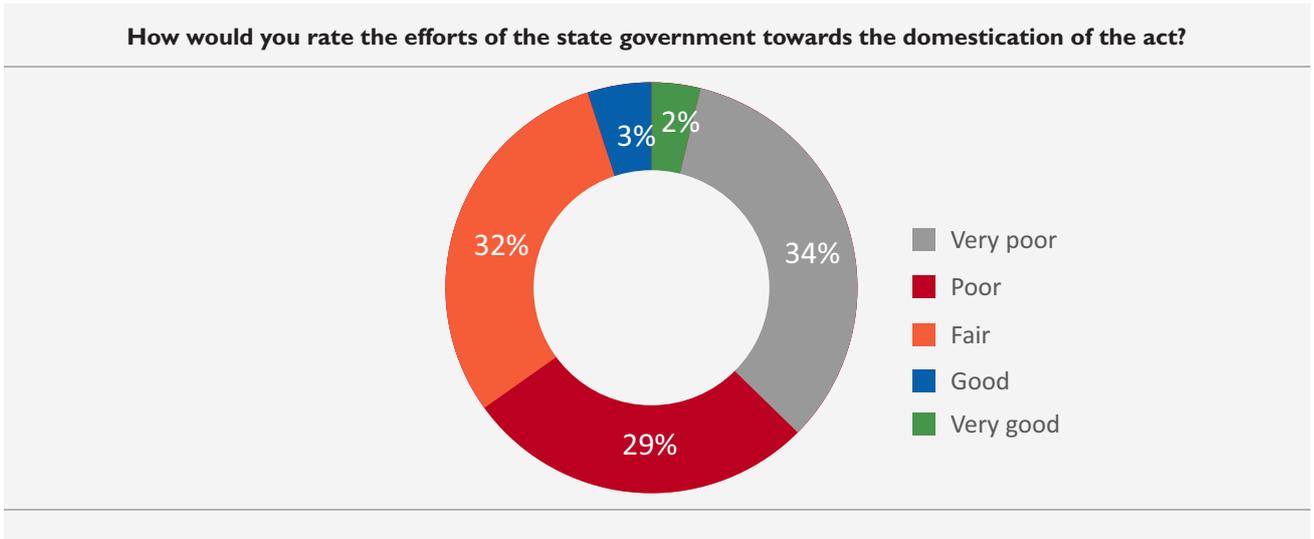


"We are focusing and waiting for the passage of the bill by the house of assembly. Those making decisions have been consulting with JONAPWD, NGOs, and other critical stakeholders. I can confirm this. Once they pass the bill, the government of the state will do the right thing under the administration of Governor Umara Zulum of Borno state." **KII Extract**

"The state house of assembly has already sat on the bill after having consultations with our leaders at JONAPWD (Yobe) and other stakeholders. I believe they are also briefing the governor about it too. Once it is passed, it will be domesticated." **FGD Extract**

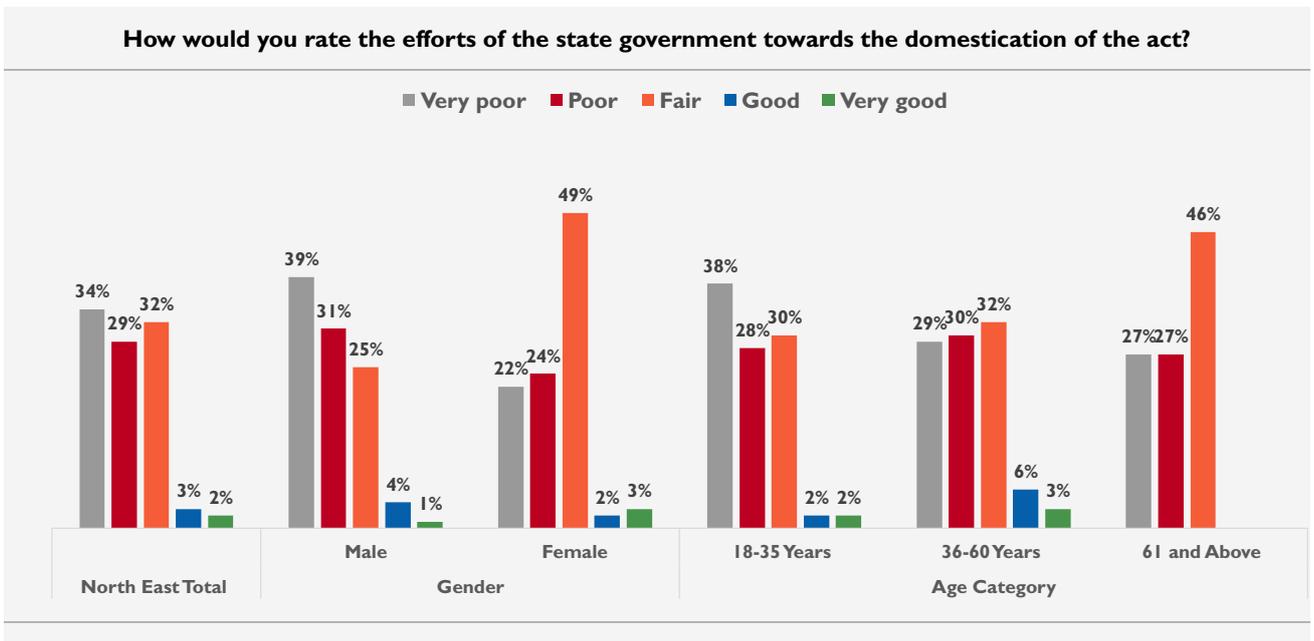


Figure 9.28: Assessing the effort of the State Government on the Act



Data disaggregation revealed that the poor rating of government efforts cut across gender and age category. However, the majority of respondents who rated government poorly appeared to be highest amongst respondents aged 18-35 years (66%) and Male respondents (70%). Also observed was that more Female respondents (49%) and the elderly aged 61 years & above (46%) appeared to have a 'Fair' rating of government effort. In addition, although not quite significant, respondents aged 36-60 years (9%) were more likely to rate government efforts 'Good'.

Figure 9.29: Disaggregation on effort of the State Government on the Act



10

KEY FINDINGS
FROM
NORTH-WEST
REGION



10.1 Socio Demography

North West had the highest proportion of respondents to the survey with a total of 348 respondents, constituting 20% of the national respondents. Male respondents (68%) were more compared to Female respondents (32%). With regards to age category, the survey was dominated by respondents aged 36 -60 years (52%) and followed by aged 18-35 years (37%), and then those aged 61 years & above (11%). In addition, the majority of respondents (76%) had No Formal Education/Completed Primary School; compared to those with Secondary Education & above (24%). Again, the sample was more Urban respondents (58%) than Rural (42%). Accordingly, Kano State (16%) had the highest number of participants, followed by Sokoto and Katsina State with 15% each respectively, Zamfara and Jigawa State with (14%) each, and Kaduna and Kebbi State had 13% of respondents each.

Figure 10.1: Demographic Profile of North-West Region Respondents

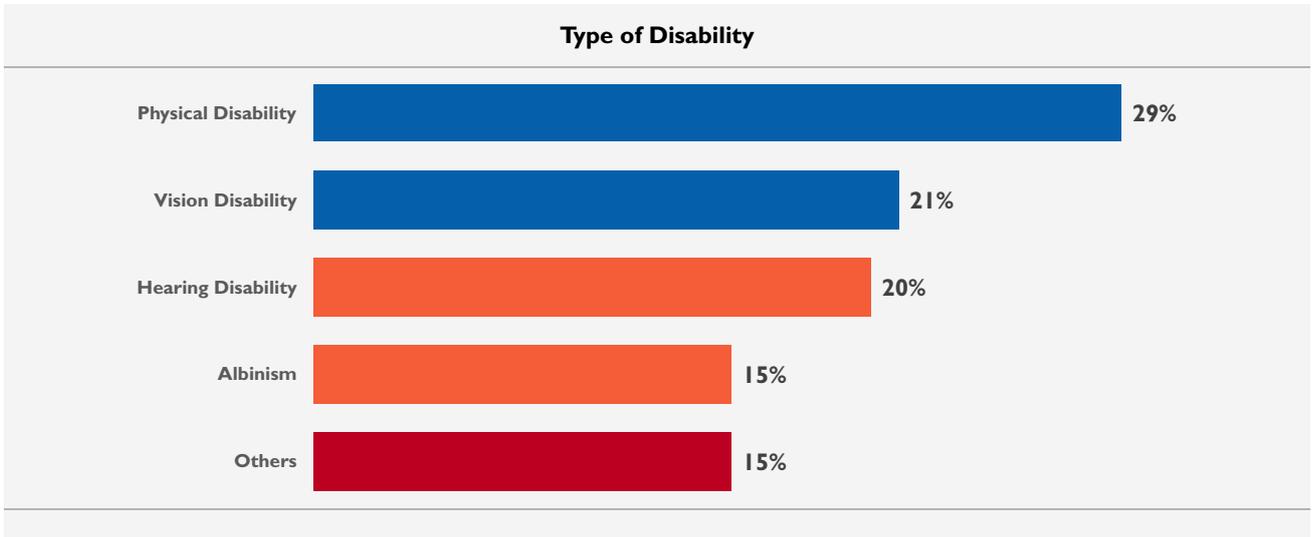
Variable Name	Variable Label	N = 348	% = 100
Gender	Male	238	68%
	Female	110	32%
Age Group	18-35 years	130	37%
	36-60 years	180	52%
	61 and above	38	11%
Highest Education	No Formal Education / Completed Primary School	264	76%
	Completed Secondary & Above	84	24%
Urbanization	Rural	146	42%
	Urban	202	58%
North West States	Sokoto	51	15%
	Katsina	51	15%
	Zamfara	50	14%
	Jigawa	48	14%
	Kaduna	47	13%
	Kebbi	47	13%
	Kano	54	16%

10.2 Disability Identification and Experience

10.2.1 Category of respondent

In North West, respondents to the survey were as follows: 'Physical disability' (29%), Visual disability' (21%), and 'Hearing disability' (20%). Equally identified were respondents with Albinism (15%) amongst others. This result share resemblance with the findings in South West and South-East geopolitical zones.

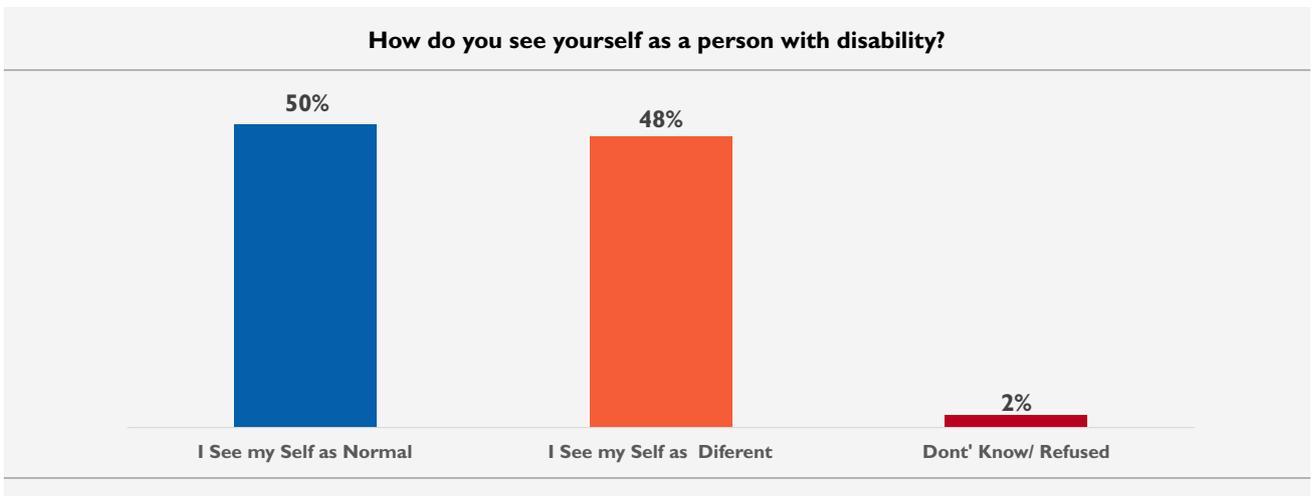
Figure 10.2: Forms of Disability



10.2.2 Realities of Persons with Disability in North-West

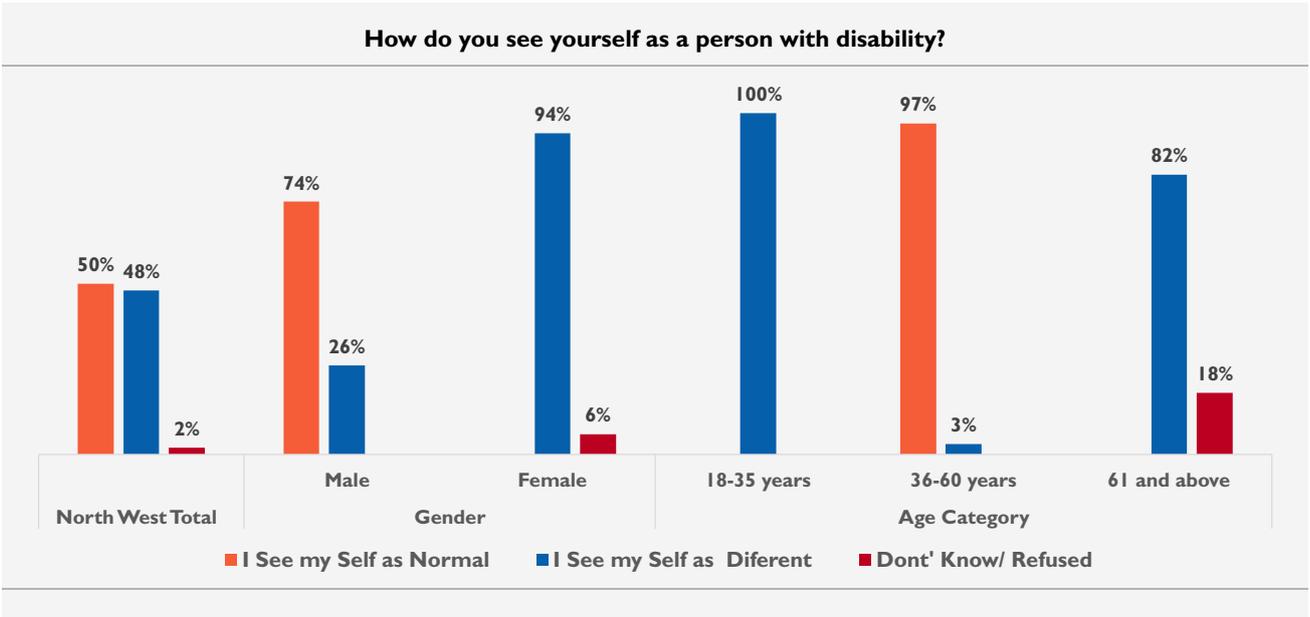
The perception of persons with disability in the North-West was equally sought and analyzed. As the result indicated, half of the respondents (50%) said 'I see myself as a normal person in the society, 48% said 'I see myself as different from others in the society, while very few respondents (2%) opted for Don't Know/Refused.

Figure 10.3: Feeling about personal Disability



Further analysis across gender and age categories showed that those who considered themselves normal people in society were highest amongst respondents aged 36-60 years (97%) and Male respondents (74%). However, Female respondents (94%) and youth aged 18-35 years (100%) expressed the greatest cynicism; stating that they considered themselves different from others. The level of pessimism indicated by these respondents in the North-West is rather unfortunate, as it would further alienate them from society.

Figure 10.4: Disaggregation of Respondent’s Feelings about their Disability

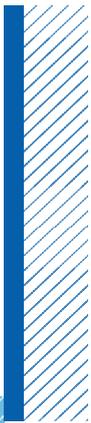


From the qualitative data, opinions from participants in the interviews suggest that there is a negative and stereotypical mode of treatment from the public as it concerns persons with disabilities. For instance, the majority of the public views disability through the charity model, the empathetic way instead of the human rights and social model. Viewing disability through the charity model is damaging as it does not give PWDs the confidence and feeling of inclusion. As succinctly put by one participant:



“It is time for us to stop looking at disability through the charity model and start looking at disability through the human right and social model. Here in the north, the charity model is what makes the PWDs be begging on the streets, while if you view it through the human rights model or the social model, that will give them more confidence and courage to participate in all manner of things.” **KII Extract**

More so, some people believe that persons with disabilities are a liability to society and should not be seen as normal people hence, they treat a person with a disability as a beggar. Here are a few quotes that buttress this:



“A lot needs to be done in the way people see PWDs. This is because people think that a person with a disability is a liability, instead of them encouraging him, sending him to school, and giving him all necessary assistance to become useful in society, they would rather push him/her to street begging.” **KII Extract**

“The general perception of the people here is that any person with a disability is a beggar. They assume that he or she cannot do anything productive unless begging.” **FGD Extract**

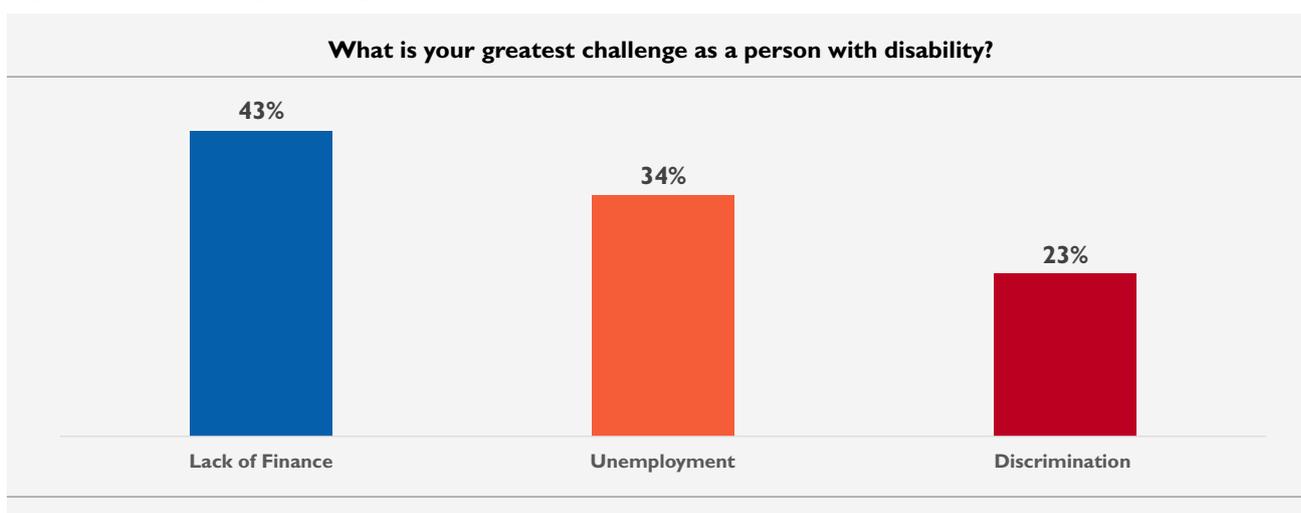
“The people's perception of PWDs in the state is very poo. Some people even think that PWDs are the cause of their problem. Generally, when you go around the state, you will see people with disability being pushed around, begging for survival, instead of the government to empower them with the necessary tools to become self-reliant.” **KII Extract**

10.2.3 Challenges of persons with disability

On the challenges facing persons with disabilities in North West, 'Lack of finance' (43%), was highly emphasized. This was followed by 'Unemployment' (34%) and lastly 'Discrimination by the Public' (23%). It is noteworthy that across all the geopolitical zones sampled, lack of finance dominated as the most pressing challenge faced by PWDs. The obvious lack of finance could affect their socio-economic well-being and means of livelihood. As buttressed by a key informant from Kano state, his opinion accentuated that lack of finance is a major problem faced by persons with disabilities and further increases the poverty profile in the state.

“Poverty is also a major problem faced by the PWDs. A lot of them who do not come from wealthy homes lack the education or required skills to earn financially and make a meaningful living. The only financial aid I remember them receiving was during the election period. That is the only time they are remembered and sweet-talked in exchange for votes.” **KII Extract**

Figure 10.5: Challenges facing PWD



10.3 Inclusion of Persons with Disability in North-West

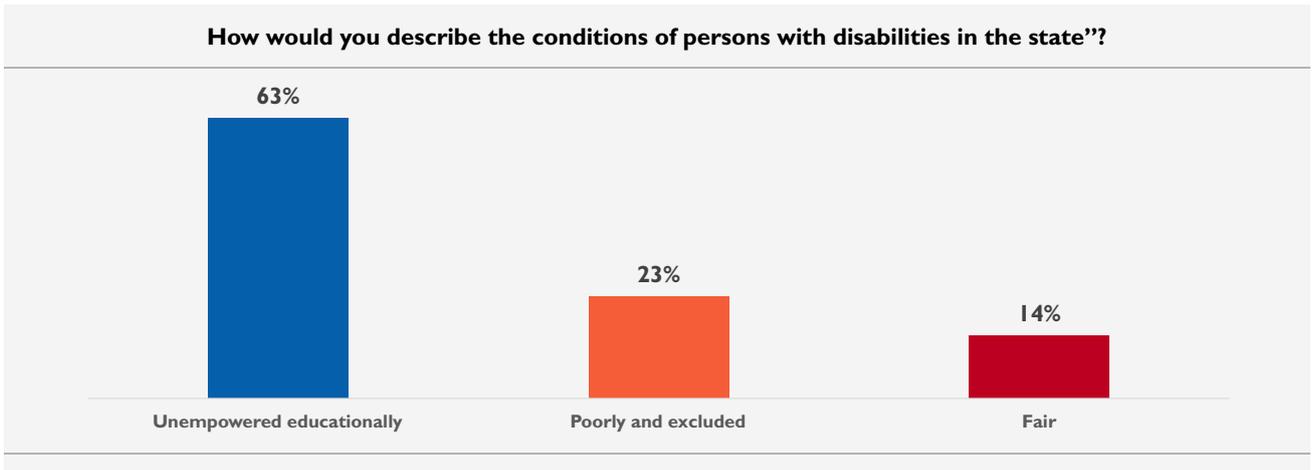
10.3.1 Conditions of Persons with Disability

As earlier mentioned, persons with disabilities on average are likely to experience worse conditions of livelihood relative to others across the country. In North West, the survey found that, in most cases, persons with disabilities are being looked at as mostly those who are 'Underpowered educationally' (63%). Again, PWDs were further considered as 'Poor and excluded' (23%), while only a few adjudged them 'Fairly' (14%). Based on this finding, there is a need for society to evolve a more cautious approach to how to treat and interact with persons with disabilities to promote inclusion. Across the region, one recurring theme that stood out the most in terms of priority needs for persons with disabilities was education. As evidenced in the qualitative data, interviewed participants unanimously agreed that education is the number one priority for the condition of persons with disabilities to be improved. Here are a few quotes that support this.

“The most pressing issues for PWDs to my understanding have to do with empowerment and also supporting their educational career as they are mostly at the recipient end of any intervention and you will realize that a significant number of them especially those that are from a poor background or rural communities are disadvantaged to have access to education most especially up to the level of tertiary education and hence cannot be awarded any tertiary certificate. These are the major challenges faced by them due to the inability of the government and the system to ensure that their educational career is being sustained and at the same time empower those who have reached the level of attending a tertiary institution.” **KII Extract**

“I think what they need most is education, and this is for the younger ones because whatever you want to do, you have to start it from the root, there are a lot of children who are disabled but we don't see them because they are kept at home, they are young and still around school-going age. To build a new generation of PWDs we need to educate the younger ones. We can't change the older generation, but we can build a different one through educating the younger ones, not just sending them to school, but making sure that they attend the school as needed, this will go a long way in bringing them closer to the public thereby doing away with the possibility of stigmatization in the later stage. When you interact with the disabled you will find out that they are very intelligent and that gives them an upper hand, while other children help them to move around, they will help the other children with lessons they don't understand thereby bringing out the need to help and support each other as a team.” **KII Extract**

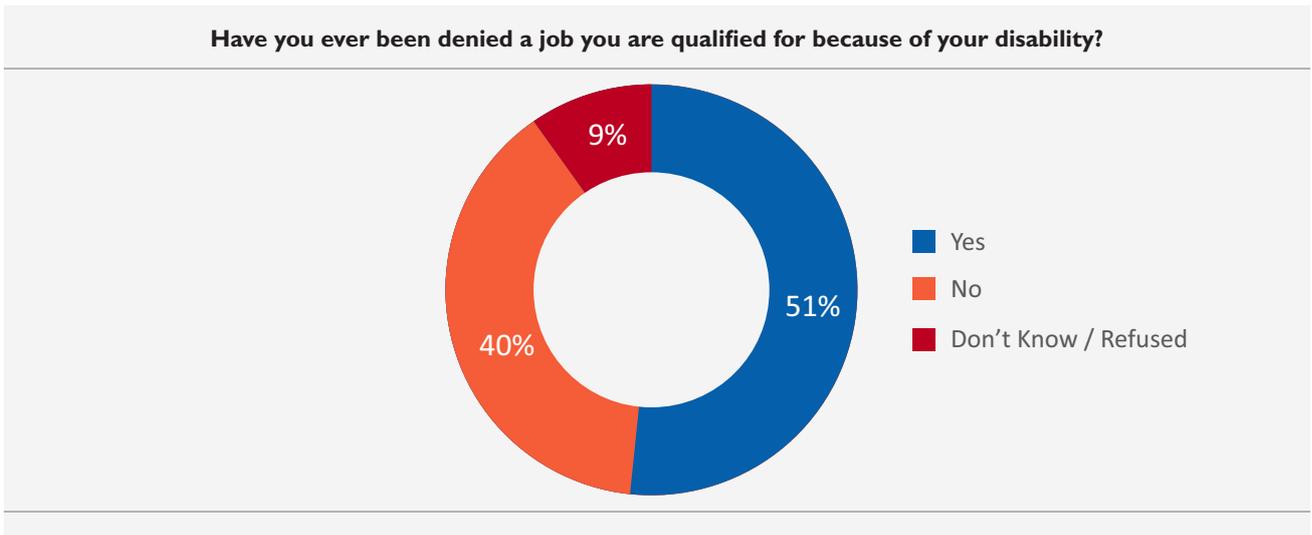
Figure 10.6: Assessing the Living condition of PWD



10.3.2 Job discrimination among Persons with Disability

Job denial to persons with disabilities could be terrible, as it would easily remind them of their predicaments. In the North-West, the survey found that about half of the respondents (51%) have been denied job opportunities, as against 40% who have not experienced job denial. It is pertinent to highlight that the trend in job discrimination among persons with disability was not only peculiar to North West but also wide spread across all the geopolitical zones in the country.

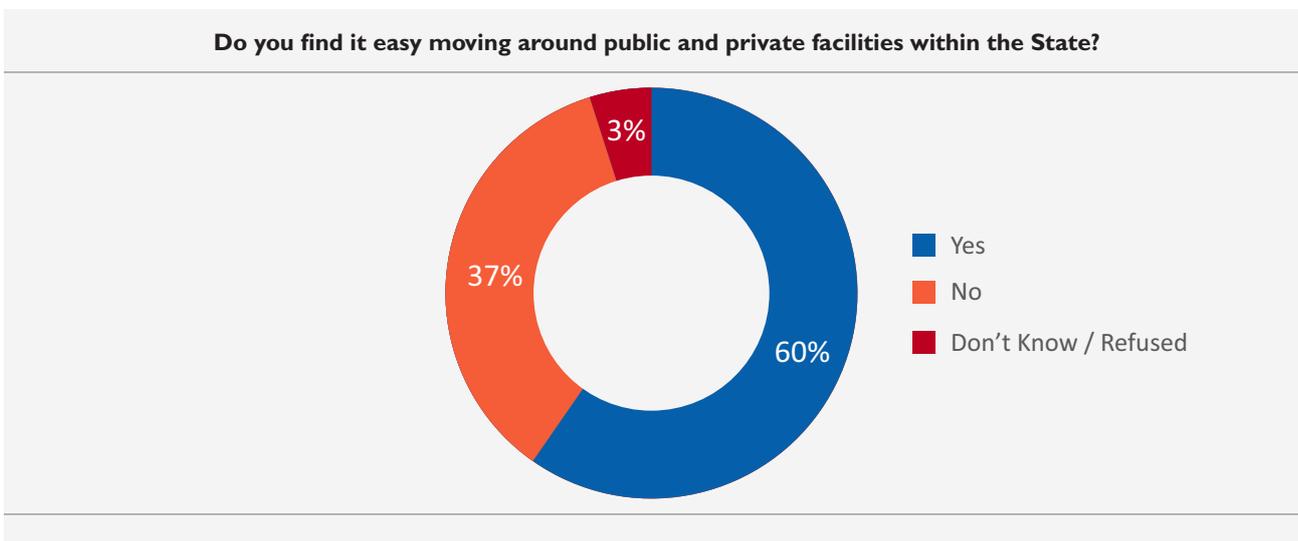
Figure 10.7: Job Discrimination experience of PWD



10.3.3 Accessibility of physical facilities in North-West

As the findings suggest, ease of movement among persons with a disability appeared to be pretty difficult in the North West. In particular, 6 in 10 respondents (60%) expressed that they find it easy to move around public and private facilities within the state; compared to 37% who stated otherwise. The difficulty in movement revealed in North West was also revealed to be prevalent across the South-South and the South East geopolitical zones.

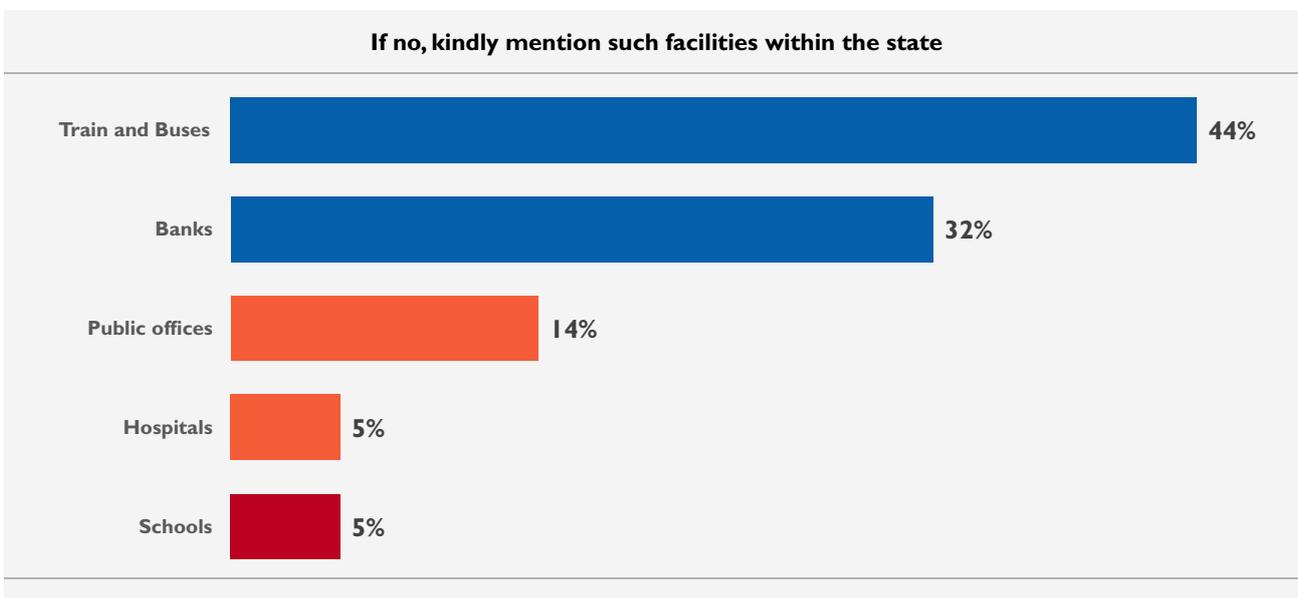
Figure 10.8: Establishing ease of movement in Public and Private Facilities



10.3.4 Facilities with poor access for PWD in North-West

In addition, the views shared by respondents were subjected to further analysis. The result indicated that most respondents in North West find uneasy access to 'Train and Buses (44%); followed by 'Banks' (32%) and 'Public offices' (14%). Again, few respondents equally mentioned 'Hospitals' (5%) and 'Schools' (5%).

Figure 10.9: List of Inaccessible Facilities

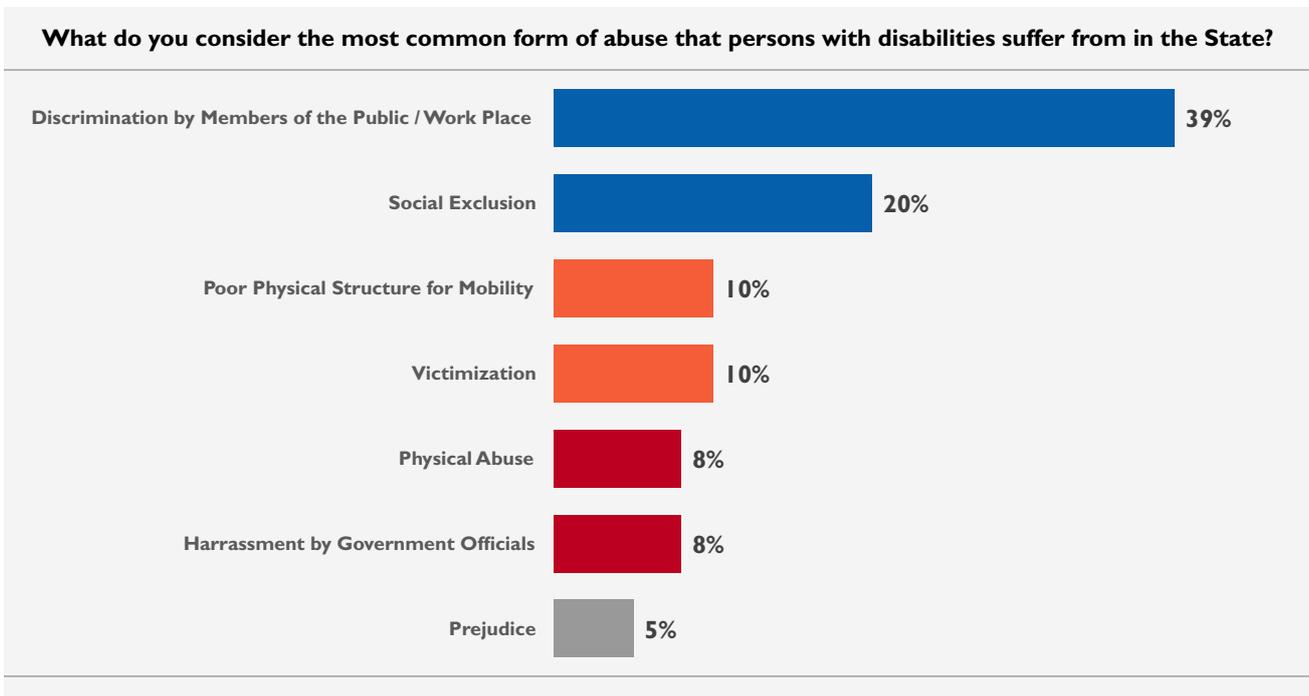


10.3.5 Common forms of abuse among Persons with Disability

In the North West geopolitical zone, the leading type of abuses identified by respondents were ‘Discrimination by members of the public/work place’ (39%), followed by ‘Social exclusion’ (20%), ‘Poor Physical Structure for mobility’ (10%) and ‘Victimisation’ (10%). Also mentioned included ‘Physical abuse’ (8%), Harassment by government officials (8%), and ‘Prejudice’ (5%). This finding which is also not different from the results found across other geopolitical zones; suggests that it is seemingly hard to discuss abuse amongst persons with disabilities without mentioning discrimination by members of the public/workplace, social exclusion, physical abuse, and victimization. Triangulating this data with the view of a key informant, he holds thus:

“There indeed exists a stereotypic mode of treatment with regards to PWDs which is a general issue of how the community is perceiving them, as I stated earlier, right from time if you are born with any kind of disability, people begin to underate you in term of performance, intelligence and capability to even exist for a long period like other humans. That perception has gone deep even at the adult stage still considering PWDs as incapacitated to do one thing or the other. To address this, the mindset of the public has to change and understand that having a disability does not mean you are not capable of doing what you ought to, this does not mean that your condition can negate you from having access to education, quality health care services, social gatherings, and social interactions and other things. If the mindset of the public is tactically addressed, there will be a positive change toward PWDs. If we look at disability to a larger extent, if we live long, we are all going to experience one kind of disability or the other, if we think in this direction, we would not be stigmatizing those that are disabled at an early stage of their lives or as they reach a certain level of development, if we think that way, we will reverse our action or attitude towards PWDs.” **KII Extract**

Figure 10.10: Most common form of abuse that PWD Experience



10.3.6 General Perception of Persons with Disability

Slightly more than half of the respondents (57%) objected that ‘Many persons with disabilities are well educated, productively engaged in different employment and contributing to national development’. Another overwhelming majority, (81%) also strongly objected that ‘Only family members of persons with disabilities should be responsible in catering for their wellbeing’. In the same vein, the majority of respondents (81%) equally opposed that ‘the rights of persons with disabilities are included in key decision-making processes in the state’; also objected by 69% of respondents was that ‘the rights of persons with disabilities are well protected by the state government. However, the majority of the respondents (77%) strongly expressed that ‘Most of the programmes that support and promote the wellbeing of PWDs are usually carried out by CSOs, NGOs, and FBOs, while more than half of the respondents (63%) disagreed that ‘Most of the programmes that support and promote the wellbeing of PWDs are usually carried out by state government’. Overall, the general perception of persons with disabilities seemed to share related characteristics with those of South West, South East, and North Central geopolitical zones.

Figure 10.11: Perception of PWD

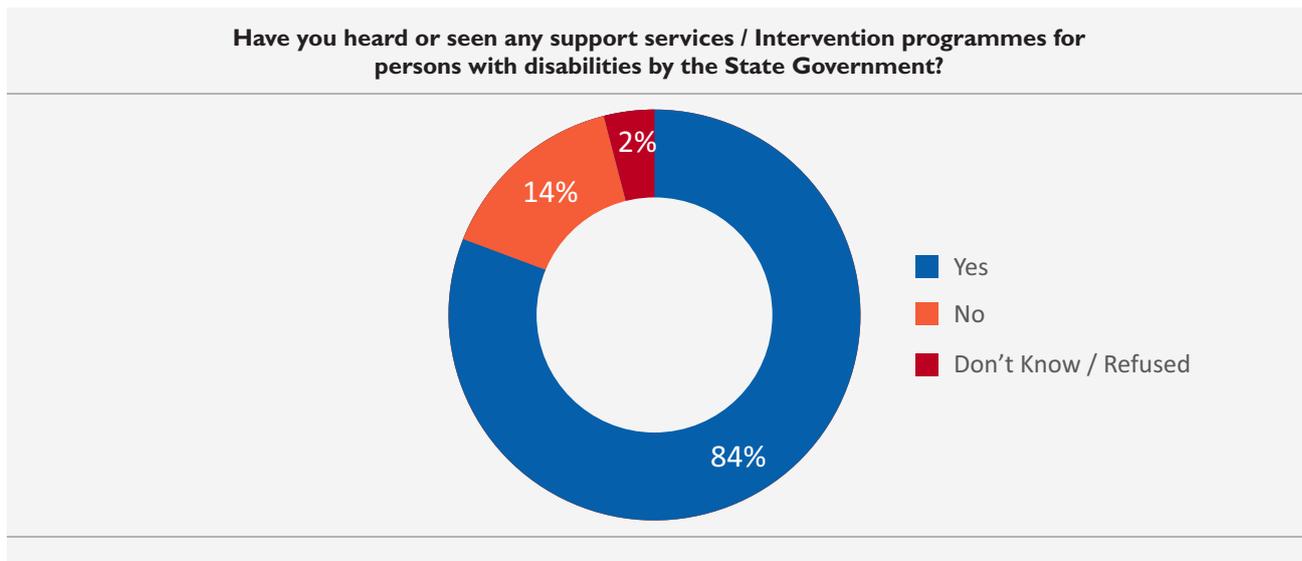
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
Many persons with disabilities in this state are well educated and engages in different employment opportunities where they contribute to national growth and development	20%	37%	27%	16%
Only family members of persons with disabilities should be responsible in catering for their wellbeing	34%	47%	12%	7%
The rights of persons with disabilities are well protected by the government of this state.	21%	48%	30%	1%
Persons with disabilities are included in key decision-making process in this state.	30%	51%	16%	3%
Most of the programmes that support and promote the wellbeing of persons with disabilities are usually carried out by CSOs, NGOs, and FBOs.	9%	14%	42%	35%
Most of the programmes that support and promote the wellbeing of persons with disabilities are usually carried out by state governments.	14%	49%	34%	3%

10.4 Support Services and Intervention Programmes for Persons with Disability

10.4.1 Knowledge of support services/intervention programmes by state governments

The survey further elicited responses regarding knowledge of support services/intervention programmes by state governments in the North West. From the findings, the majority of respondents (84%) claimed to be aware, compared to 14% who claimed otherwise.

Figure 10.12: Perception of Government Support Services and Programmes

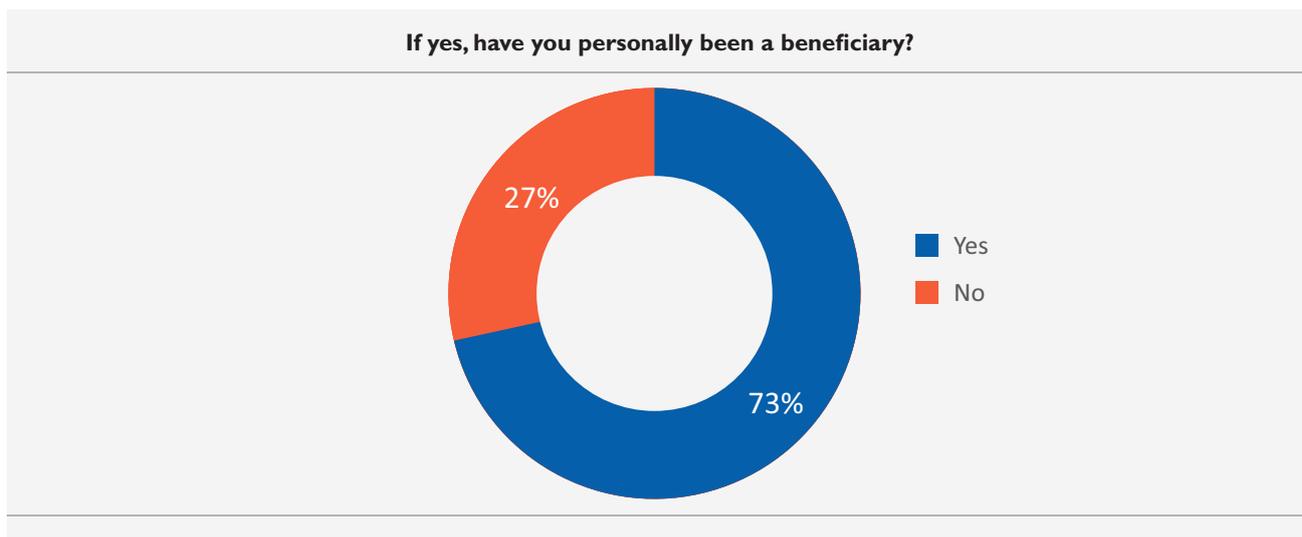


10.4.2 Beneficiaries of state governments' intervention programmes for Persons with Disability

In line with the widespread awareness of government support services/intervention programmes in the North West, the majority of respondents (73%) equally agreed to have benefitted from government support services/intervention programmes. On the other hand, only a few respondents (27%) stated otherwise. More insight into the various interview revealed that more needs to be done towards ensuring the required support get to the actual PWDs who needs them. As buttressed by a participant in the group discussion...

“Apart from the work that the CSOs are doing to support persons with disabilities, I don't think there is any support service dedicated to us. For instance, there are many NGOs, Organizations, and Foundations working in the area of disability and providing support, healthwise and in many other ways. The thing is that PWDs in this region are many, and the support given doesn't reach the desired population, there is a need for more support from all stakeholders especially the government to address their problems.” **FGD Extract**

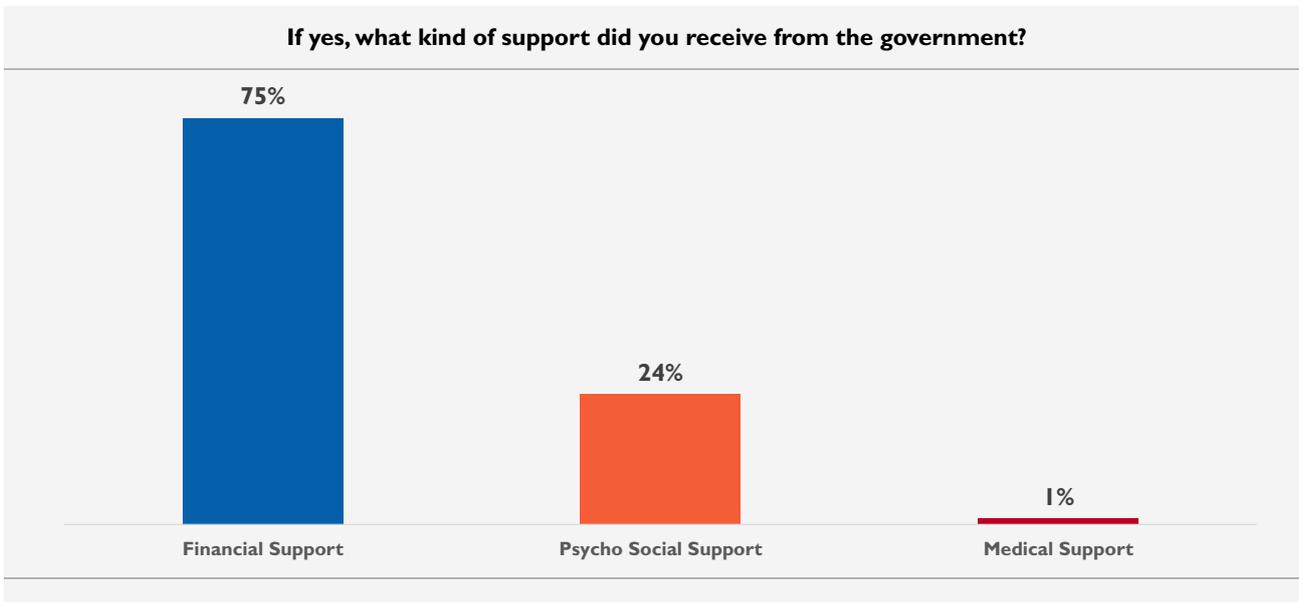
Figure 10.13: Estimating beneficiaries of Government Intervention Programmes



10.4.3 Type of support received from the state government

Probing further on the type of support received from the state government in the North West, the result showed that 'Financial support' (75%) topped what respondents benefitted, followed by 'Psycho -Social Support' (24%) and 'Medical support' (1%) constituted the least support received from the state government.

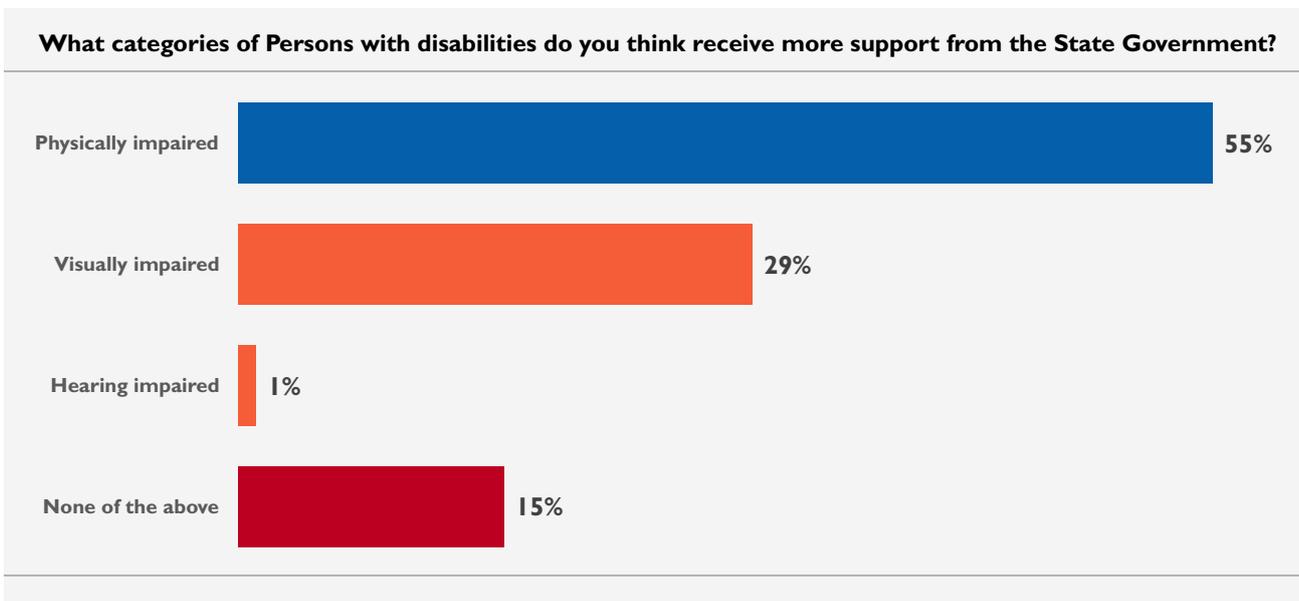
Figure 10.14: Establishing the forms of Government Support to PWD



10.4.4 Category of Persons with Disability with the most support from state governments

In the same vein, analogous to the result found in other geopolitical zones, the top 3 disabilities with the most support from state governments in the North East include: 'Physically Impaired' (55%), 'Visually impaired' (29%), and 'Hearing Impaired' (1%). However, 15% of respondents opted for 'None of the above'. This implies that they do not believe any cluster of disability is receiving any preferential support from the state government.

Figure 10.15: Identifying PWD-beneficiaries of Government Support

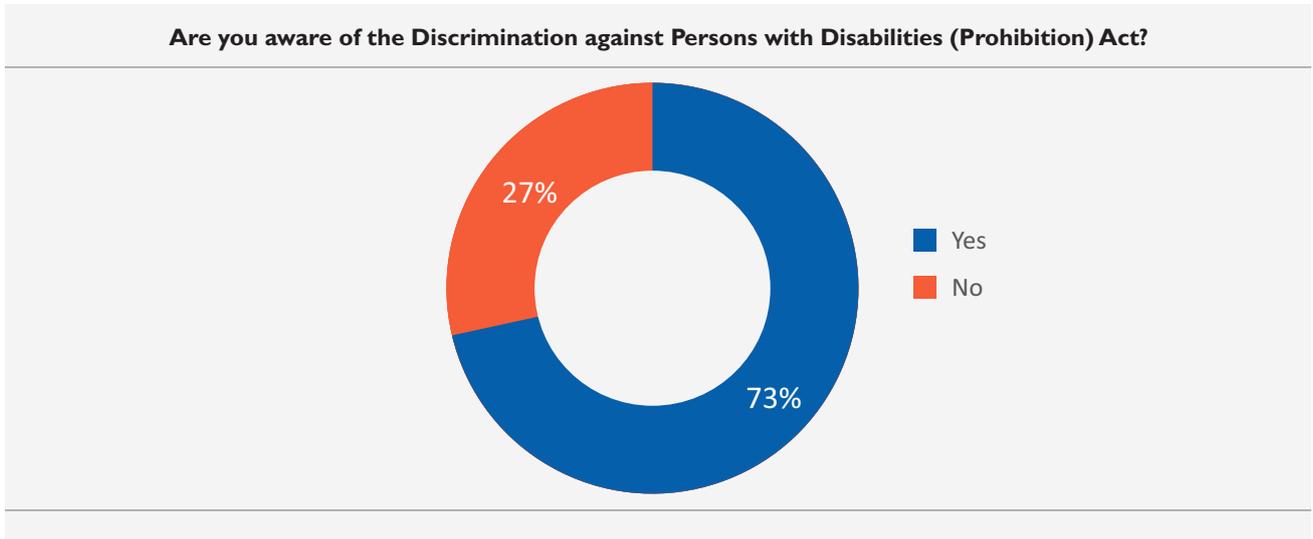


10.5 The Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act

10.5.1 Awareness of the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act

The awareness level of the 'Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act' was also assessed in the North West. As ubiquitous in other geopolitical zones, the survey equally found massive awareness of the Act in the North West, a majority of respondents (73%) claimed to be aware; compared to only 27% who seemed to be unaware.

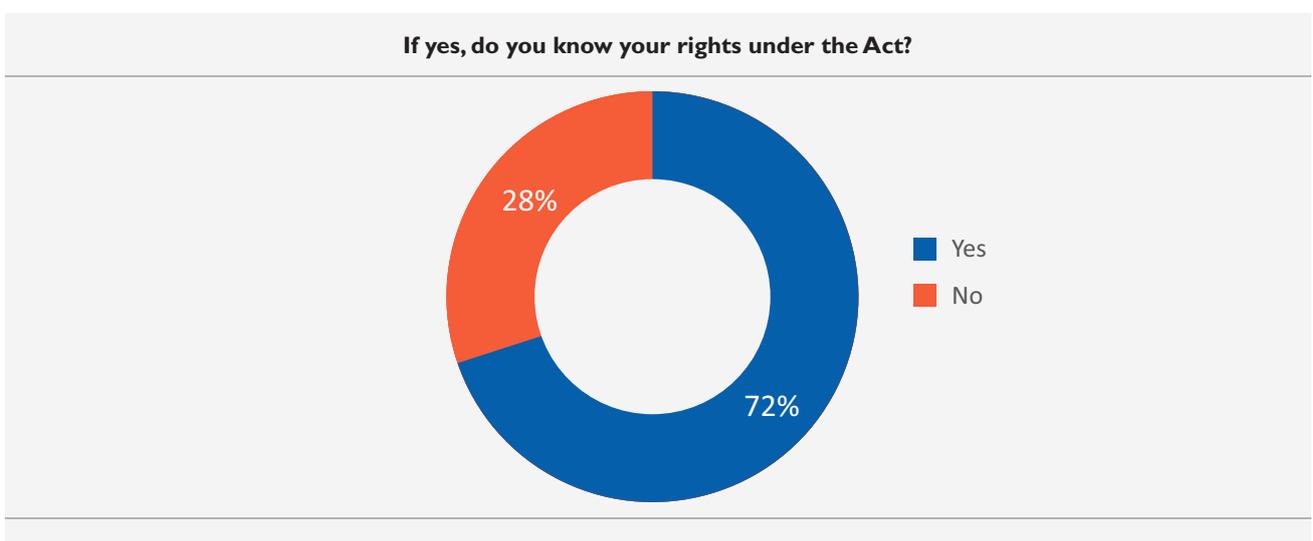
Figure 10.16: Awareness of the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act



10.5.2 Gauging respondent's knowledge about the content of the Act

In terms of respondents' knowledge about the content of the Act in the North West, the result indicated that roughly 7 in 10 respondents (72%) claimed that they understand their rights under the Act, as against 28% who stated otherwise. Again, this finding resembles the findings in the South-South and South East, where the majority of the respondents claimed to know their rights under the Act.

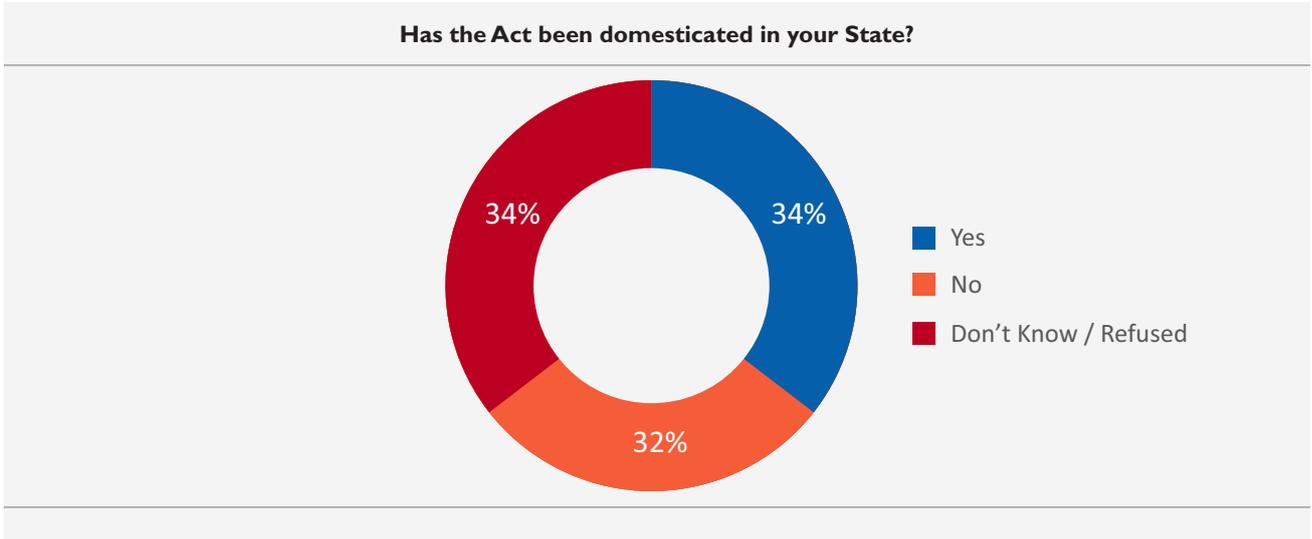
Figure 10.17: Knowledge about the content of the Act



10.5.3 Determining the Domestication of the Act

To further probe whether the Act has been domesticated across the states in the North West, the survey indicated mixed findings. However, while only a few respondents (34%) believed that the Act has been domesticated, the majority of the respondents (66%) either felt that the Act has not been domesticated (32%) or simply 'Don't Know/Refused' (34%); this finding suggests that the Act might not have been implemented across all the states in North West geopolitical zone.

Figure 10.18: Knowledge about Domestication of the Act



Despite the generality of opinions regarding the non-domestication of the Act in the North West geopolitical zone, data disaggregation indicated that this could not be the case in Kano, Kaduna, and Jigawa states. As evidence suggested, the majority of the respondents in Kano (87%) and Kaduna (79%) affirmed that the Act has been domesticated in these states. Likewise, the majority of respondents from Jigawa state (56%) equally shared this opinion. On the contrary, all the respondents from Zamfara (100%) and a large majority in Katsina (73%) expressed high cynicism that the Act has not been domesticated, while all the respondents in Sokoto State (100%) and a large majority in Kebbi (64%) appeared not to know/refused.

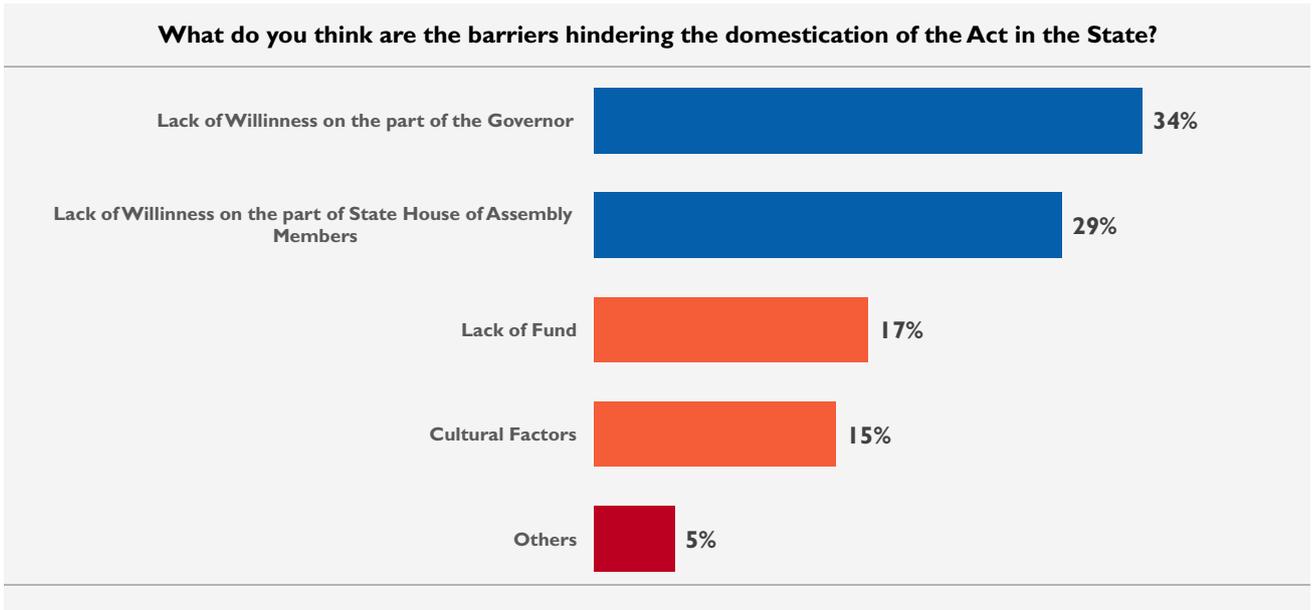
Figure 10.19: Disaggregation of Knowledge about Domestication of the Act

	North West State						
	Sokoto State	Katsina State	Zamfara State	Jigawa State	Kaduna State	Kebbi State	Kano State
Yes	0%	0%	0%	56%	79%	15%	87%
No	0%	73%	100%	21%	0%	21%	6%
Don't Know/Refuse	100%	27%	0%	23%	21%	64%	7%

10.5.4 Perceived barriers hindering the domestication of the Act in North-West states

The survey also investigated the perceived barriers hindering the domestication of the Act in North-West states. As the result indicated, the biggest four barriers stated included: Lack of willingness on the part of the State Governor (34%), Lack of willingness by State House of Assembly Members (29%), Lack of funds (17%), and Cultural factors (15%). Remarkably, 'Lack of willingness on the part of the State Governor' and 'Lack of willingness by State House of Assembly Members', cut across all the geopolitical zones in the country as the greatest barriers militating the domestication of the Act.

Figure 10.20: Barriers impeding the Domestication of the Act

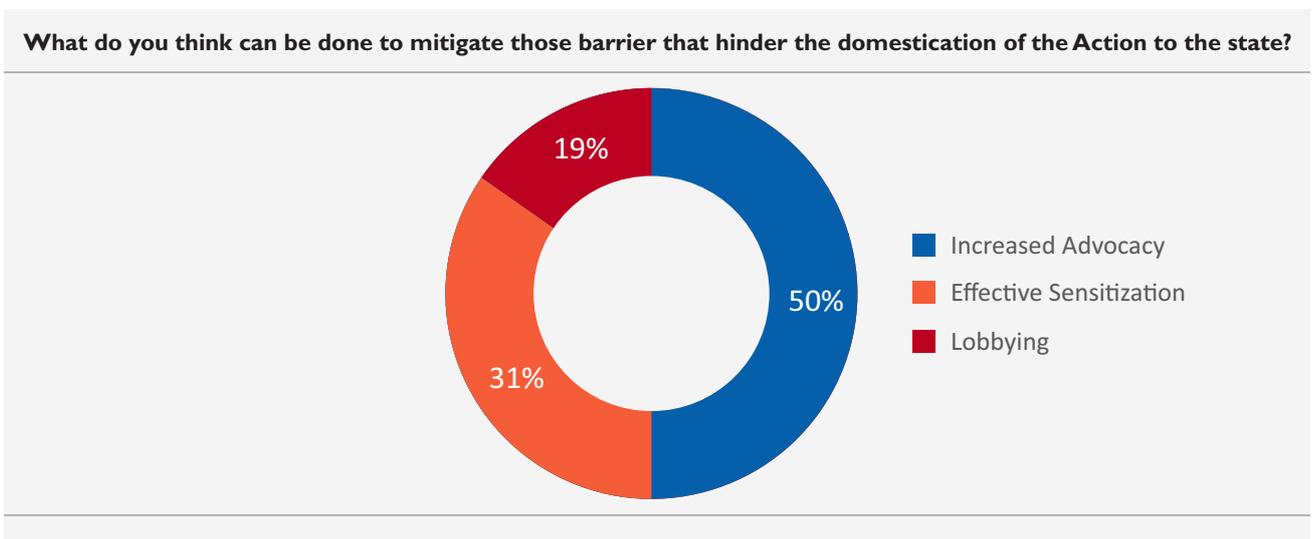


Furthermore, interviews with various key stakeholders across the region suggest that there were lots of other issues currently being addressed that stalled the progress of domesticating the act in some states. They acknowledged the role being played by JONAPWD, CSOs, and other relevant stakeholders in having critical discussions with policy actors to ensure the act is domesticated.

10.5.5 What can be done to mitigate barriers hindering domestication of the Act

In terms of what can be done to mitigate barriers hindering domestication of the Act in the North West geopolitical zone, respondents suggested 3 important solutions such as: ‘Increased Advocacy’ (50%), ‘Effective Sensitization’ (31%), and ‘Lobbying’ (19%). Respondents believed that the adoption of these options will facilitate the rapid implementation and domestication of the Act

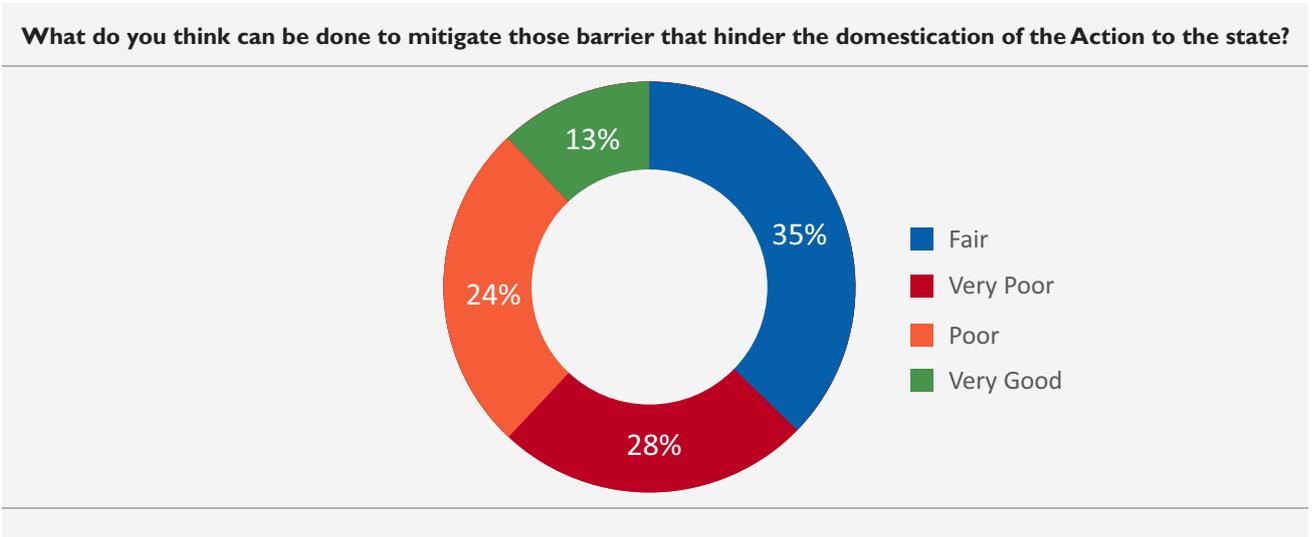
Figure 10.21: Suggestions to remove the mitigating barriers hindering the Domestication of the Act



10.5.6 Perception of state government effort towards domestication of the Act

Respondents in the North West were also asked to appraise state government's efforts towards domestication of the Act. Overall, 52% of respondents rated government effort negatively – 'Very Poor & Poor'; while 35% rated it neutrally – 'Fair'. However, only 13% rated it positively 'Good'.

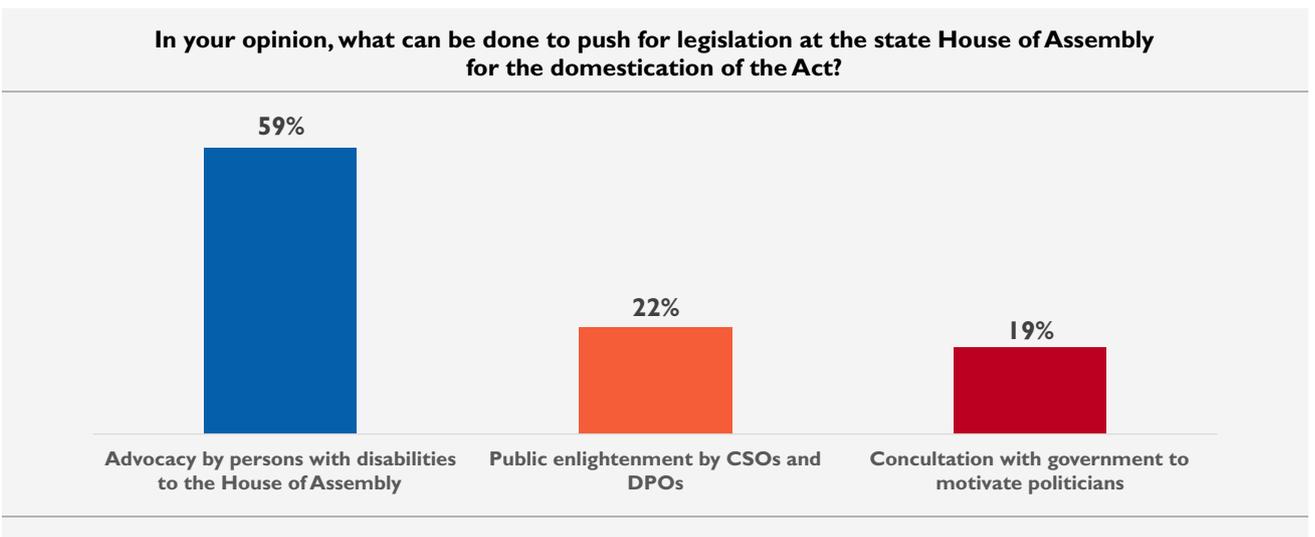
Figure 10.22: Assessing the effort of the State Government on the Act



10.5.7 North-Westerner's Suggestion for legislations of the Domestication of the Act at State Houses of Assembly

The survey further elicited views from respondents on how to push for the domestication of the Act at the State House of Assembly. From the findings, 'Advocacy by persons with disabilities to the House of Assembly' (59%) emerged highest; followed by 'Public enlightenment by CSOs and DPOs' (22%) and 'Consultation with the government to motivate politicians' (19%). Overall, based on the findings on advocacy by persons with disabilities, the roles of the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD) and the Joint National Association of Persons with Disability (JONAPWD) cannot be overemphasized. In this regard, the executives of both the NCPWD and JONAPWD need to scale up the momentum of the campaign and engagement across the geopolitical zones in the country.

Figure 10.23: Legislation of Domestication of the Act at State House of Assembly



11

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATION, AND CONCLUSION



11.1 Summary of Key findings

This survey was designed to assess the state of disability in Nigeria. In particular, the study has thoroughly investigated and analyzed crucial issues militating against the well-being of PWDs, across the six geopolitical zones in the country. The survey elicited responses on important issues bordering on: the challenges facing persons with disabilities, the state of support services currently available and enjoyed by PWD, the level of interventions and support services available for PWDs, the state of domestication of The Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018, as well as the factors hindering the domestication of Discrimination Act 2018.

Overall, the findings suggest that the welfare of PWDs has not been given utmost priority by the state governments across the six geopolitical zones in the country. This lack of attention and care plausibly explains why many persons with disabilities across the country feel neglected and alienated as revealed in this study. With regards to the type of disabilities that are most prevalent in the country, the study found that Physical disability, Vision impaired disability, and Hearing disability constituted the dominant disabilities across the six geopolitical zones.

In gauging how the public perceives or treats persons with disabilities, the study found that persons with disabilities were mostly being perceived as helpless and discriminated against. This negative perception did not change even across the six geopolitical zones. Another fundamental issue revealed in the survey was the increasing financial challenges faced by persons with disabilities; across the board, the financial problem came highest among the challenges mentioned. Other pressing challenges were social exclusion and difficulties in accessing private and public facilities. Obviously, with a lack of access to private and public facilities, PWDs could be structurally excluded from benefiting from these facilities.

Again, focusing on job discrimination among persons with disabilities, the findings were also quite revealing and shocking. It was surprising to find that, despite the provisions of the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018, the majority of persons with disabilities were still being denied job opportunities. Meanwhile, across the geopolitical zones, more respondents suffer from job discrimination in the Southern part of the country- South-South, South East, and South West, compared to the Northern Part- North Central, North East, and North West. With regards to common forms of abuse among persons with disabilities, respondents across the geopolitical zones identified: Discrimination by members of the public/workplace, Social Exclusion, Victimization, and Physical abuse. However, further investigation indicated that a slight majority of respondents across the geopolitical zones appeared to have benefited from state government intervention programmes for persons with disabilities. In the same vein, most of the respondents excluding those from South West geopolitical zones also appeared to be well-informed of their rights under the Act.

When respondents were asked to indicate whether the Act has been domesticated in their states, the widely held opinion was that the act has not been domesticated. Again, this sentiment was shared mostly in the Southern part, compared to the Northern part. Digging further into the perceived barriers hindering the domestication of the Act, lack of willingness by State House of Assembly Members and lack of willingness on the part of the State Governor topped the barriers. In this wise, on what can be done to mitigate barriers hindering domestication of the Act, respondents recommended the urgent need for increased advocacy, more stakeholders collaboration, protest action by PWDs, and lobbying.

11.2 Recommendations

According to the World Health Organization, in 2018, about 29 million Nigerians were revealed to be living with disabilities. This number constitutes a huge chunk of the nation's population and plays



important role in the economic development of the country. Hence, this survey has unmasked the numerous issues regarding the state of disabilities across the six geopolitical zones in the country. Instructively, the survey's findings identified several areas that the government needs to improve upon to ameliorate the plights of persons with disabilities in the country. To this end, the following recommendations become pertinent.

Nigerian Government

Nigeria's quest for economic development and poverty reduction may not be achieved if it fails to address the socio-economic upheavals of persons with disabilities. As the survey findings indicated, increasing financial challenges was one of the key challenges facing persons with disabilities. On this point, the empowerment of persons with disability and funding of disability inclusion programmes must be given urgent priority by the government. Special budgetary allocations must be earmarked for the ministries and agencies in charge of disability, to cater to the well-being of PWDs.

As evident from the survey findings, the majority of persons with disabilities had expressed resentment over the difficulties in accessing private and public facilities. No doubt, most public and private buildings in Nigeria including hospitals, banks, schools, transportation, airports, hotels, shopping malls, etc, do not have facilities such as ramps that would facilitate easy access for PWDs; thereby further contributing to economic and social exclusion. There is a need for the government at all levels to brace upon its responsibility to persons with disabilities by putting in place the necessary support for easy accessibility of these facilities. Providing the enabling environment that fosters the inclusion of economically marginalized groups such as PWDs is important for national unity and social cohesion.

As the survey found, the current challenges faced by persons with a disability concerning employment discrimination remain profound, even with the provisions of Part VI, section (I) of the Disabilities Prohibition Act 2018, which criminalizes discrimination by imposing sanctions

on the offenders. Given the strong nexus between disability and poverty, excluding persons with disabilities from employment opportunities make them more vulnerable and further reinforces poverty. In this wise, there is a crucial need to strengthen the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities, to ensure that violations of the rights of persons with disabilities, especially concerning job discrimination are duly prosecuted and properly sanctioned. The focus for this should start from the Southern part of the country where this discrimination is more rampant compared to the Northern part of the country.

Most importantly, despite the significance and benefits of the disability Act to persons with disabilities, many states across the geopolitical zones in Nigeria are yet to put in place strategies for its domestication, implementation, and enforcement; findings from this study buttress this point. The non-domestication of this Act in most states will ultimately restrict access of persons with disabilities to certain opportunities, privileges and services duly accrue to them. It is sufficient to say that the unwillingness of most states to domesticate the Act could stem from a lack of political will. There is need for government at all levels to take charge and commit itself towards the domestication and implementation of the Act.

Again, civil engagements and dialogue should be encouraged and organized at federal, state, local government, and community levels to enable persons with disabilities to express their opinions, challenges, and grievances, especially those who feel alienated and neglected from governance. This will promote a sense of belonging amongst persons with disabilities and further foster public awareness of disability inclusion.

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs):

CSOs, NGOs, and FBOs should strengthen the advocacy for persons with disabilities and provide the platform for bringing together government officials, MDAs, advocates, and relevant stakeholders to brainstorm on the challenges and prospects of persons with disabilities



CSOs are encouraged to advance the status of persons with disabilities by holding the government to account concerning the funding of disability inclusion projects while pushing for the domestication of the Act across the states of the Federation.

Discrimination by members of the public/workplace, social exclusion, victimization, and physical abuse was found to be widespread abuses faced by PWDs. In this regard, the policymakers and relevant stakeholders such as CSOs, the Ministry of Information, National Orientation Agency (NOA), Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN), Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), etc. have increasing roles to play in shaping and amplifying narratives that promote anti-discrimination, discourage abuse and victimization of PWDs, while facilitating disability mainstreaming across the public sector and civil society.

CSOs in collaboration with the Joint National Association of Persons with Disability (JONAPWD) are encouraged to engage the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities to discuss critical issues and laws on disability wellbeing and inclusion.

Nigerian Citizens

Despite the numerous challenges faced by PWDs in Nigeria, the majority still expressed hope and optimism about their future. Society needs to tap into this positive mindset of PWDs to build a more just and inclusive society. The traditional institutions, religious leaders, community leaders, and the media have an ever-increasing role to play in this area.

The perceptions and dispositions of most Nigerians regarding PWDs need to change. As findings from the survey indicated, stigmatization and discrimination remain widespread challenges affecting PWDs across the geopolitical zones in the country. This negative attitude of society is worrisome, given that true social inclusion happens when citizens and society develop positive attitudes towards persons with disability.

Most persons with disabilities feel that the way society treats them is a bigger challenge, compared to their impairments. Citizens are therefore encouraged to desist from statements and actions that can stir negative emotions and ill-feeling amongst persons with disabilities. Negative comments and unguarded utterances could contribute not only to low self-esteem amongst persons with disabilities but also to the feeling of disaffection from society.

The public perception of persons with disabilities across the country is often framed around the misconception that PWDs are helpless persons in need of assistance rather than the valuable manpower of the society capable of contributing to national development. This is evident as PWDs constitute the most marginalized and discriminated in the job market. In this wise, society is encouraged to focus on the potential and ability of PWDs rather than focusing on their disabilities.

11.3 Conclusion

The survey highlights that even though some progress has been made over the years to better the plight of persons with disabilities by the Federal government, a lot needs to be achieved especially by state governments in this area. Importantly, the government at all levels, CSOs, and Citizens must brace up to their responsibilities of making the society socially and economically inclusive for PWDs. This will help reduce the myriads of challenges confronting PWDs while ensuring that they arise from the doldrums and attain their full potential. In addition, if the wellbeing of persons with disabilities is to count, then the Act that provides for the full integration and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in society, must be given urgent and utmost consideration. In this wise, it is rational to conclude that the quest to secure a better future for persons with disabilities rests on Nigeria's ability to adequately domesticate, implement, and enforce the Act across the states of the Federation.



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