



Intersectionality of Disability and Climate Change Threats: Identifying the Unique Vulnerabilities Faced by Persons with Disabilities in Abia State Nigeria Using the Subgroup Chart Technique

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Introduction

Climate change presents major challenges to communities around the globe, worsening the vulnerabilities and inequalities that already exist. Individuals with disabilities are more affected by climate-related disasters. To better understand the various ways climate affects them, this exploratory study investigates the specific climate change challenges experienced by 104 persons with disabilities in Abia State, Nigeria, considering their disability type, age range, gender, and senatorial districts.

The Research Procedure

The study clearly explains why understanding the way persons with disabilities see and think about climate risk really matters for disability rights. It draws from two theories and goes further to show how the perceptions of the respondents align with or differ from the real climate threats. A chart is employed to assess how different layers of vulnerabilities, such as gender, age range, disability type and senatorial district, interact with climate threats. A statistical test is also applied to test whether climate threat perception varies with gender.

The Main Findings

Our main findings show that people with disabilities in Abia State see climate threats differently depending on where they live in Abia State. Heat is a top worry everywhere, especially for people with albinism, those who are deaf-blind, deaf people, and leprosy survivors. In Abia Central, people are most worried about water shortages and less about the sea or river rise. Young and middle-aged women there seem more able to cope with food shortages, while older women are more vulnerable. Flooding is seen as a serious threat in Abia North and Abia South but less so in Abia Central. Air pollution is a major concern in Abia North. Across the board, their worries match the real risks, but they describe them as more severe - showing how vulnerability and access to services matter. Communities in Abia North view risk collectively, while those in Abia South focus more on individual concerns. Perceptions of threats differ little by gender.

The Key Implications

Given that persons with disabilities have sufficient understanding of the climate risks within their environments, they have to be actively involved in providing reasoned pathways to resolving the climate-related problems that affect them. Climate risk information and the steps required to prepare for climate disasters should be made easy for persons with disabilities to understand. This will strengthen their ability to withstand and recover from climate shocks, and help them understand climate risks more accurately, without feeling that the danger is worse than it really is, thus eliminating any unnecessary anxiety. Regarding the unequal distribution of economic resources in the state, the injustice it generates can be resolved by implementing functional support programs, including financial

assistance, social safety nets, and healthcare services tailored to the needs of persons with disabilities, who should be fully represented in the decision-making processes.

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