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**Promoting Accessibility and Enforcement
of the Disability Act within Nigeria's
Political Space: A PAGE Analysis of the
Domestication of the Nigerian Disability
Act 2018**



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© 2025 Disclaimer. This publication **PAGE Analysis of the Domestication of the Nigerian Disability Act 2018** evaluates the implementation status of the Disability Law across Nigerian states, examining legislative progress, assent, gazetting, and the establishment of disability commissions as key enforcement mechanisms. The findings highlight both progress and critical gaps in disability rights implementation at the state level. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information presented, the findings, analyses, and conclusions are intended for informational, advocacy and research purposes only and should not be construed as endorsement or critique. The Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) and its partners bear no responsibility for any direct or indirect errors, omissions, or consequences resulting from the use of the information provided. This publication is intended for informational purposes only. WFD and its partners disclaim liability for any loss or damage arising from the use of this report or its contents.

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Preface

In pursuit of inclusive democratic governance and the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Nigeria, the **Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD)**, commissioned and worked in collaboration with the **Centre for Ability, Rehabilitation and Employment (CARE)**, on this study titled “*Promoting Accessibility and Enforcement of the Disability Act within Nigeria’s Political Space: A Page Analysis of the Domestication of the Nigerian Disability Act 2018 in the 36 States of Nigeria, including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT)*”.

This study represents a critical step toward understanding the current landscape of disability rights enforcement in Nigeria, particularly the extent to which the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018—commonly referred to as the Nigerian Disability Act—has been domesticated and implemented across the federation. The Act, which was signed into law in January 2019 after years of sustained advocacy, provides a legislative framework for the protection, inclusion, and equal participation of persons with disabilities in all spheres of public life, including the political domain.

Despite this legal milestone, true progress lies in the extent to which Nigeria’s 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory have taken steps to domesticate and implement the Act within their respective jurisdictions. This study applies a systematic and detailed page-by-page analysis of relevant legislation, policies, and government actions to assess the commitment and responsiveness of subnational governments toward disability inclusion, particularly within the political space.

By spotlighting gaps, progress, and patterns of domestication, the report aims to serve as a vital tool for legislators, policymakers, disability rights advocates, civil society organizations, and development partners working to ensure that no Nigerian in the urban, rural and even difficult to reach areas is left behind in the democratic process. It also underscores the urgent need for comprehensive enforcement mechanisms and accessible political environments that reflect the aspirations of all citizens, regardless of physical or mental ability.

The findings and recommendations herein are both a call to action and a roadmap for creating a more inclusive Nigeria—one where disability rights are not only recognized in law but also practiced in policy and lived in reality.

We extend our appreciation to all stakeholders, researchers, and contributors whose expertise and dedication have made this study possible. We hope it inspires renewed commitment and accountability at every level of governance.

Adebowale Olorunmola
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Acknowledgements

This publication was made possible through the dedication and collaborative efforts of various individuals and organisations committed to advancing disability rights and inclusive governance in Nigeria.

We extend our deepest appreciation to Adebowale Olorunmola (WFD), Sola Folayan (WFD), and Duncan Wall (WFD) for their meticulous review of multiple drafts of this report and their invaluable insights, which greatly enhanced the quality of the final document. Special recognition goes to the research team, led by Dr. Chike Okogwu, with contributions from Dr. Adebukola Adebayo and Oluwaseyi Moses (Research Assistant), whose expertise and commitment were instrumental in producing this study.

We acknowledge the vital role played by the Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD) structures across the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), as well as the wider Communities of Persons with Disabilities, whose experiences and perspectives provided critical insights into the accessibility and enforcement of the Disability Act.

Finally, we express our sincere appreciation to the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) for funding the PAGE Analysis Project, which has made this important study possible. Their support continues to play a crucial role in advancing disability inclusion within Nigeria's political and governance landscape.



Foreward

The Passage, Assent, Gazette and Enforcement (PAGE) Analysis Project is another important programmatic intervention by the growing and increasingly impactful collaboration of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) and Centre for Ability Rehabilitation and Empowerment (CARE). The project is also a strategic presentation that X-trays the position of the disability laws across the federation including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) depicting the implementation of the law at state level at a glance. It is no longer news that the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Law of 2018 has not gained the prominence required; the loophole responsible for the depleting efforts in achieving accessible systems and structure through legislation.

The research engaged the disability community through JONAPWD to collate imputes of the community at diverse levels to considering the popular phrase of “Nothing for us without us” to ensure that the right representation and information to bring about the desired change and impact. The states that have the existence of law remained only 17 out of the 36 states including the FCT, making it imperative for concerted efforts that will drive advocacy efforts toward the other states that are yet to domesticate the law.

This research was intentional in ensuring the representation of both gender and considered strongly the youth and adults’ demography. Considering that the project is a disability focused research, at least five disability types were considered as: blind, deaf, persons with albinism, person with leprosy and persons with physical disabilities

The recommendations made in this research work are actionable and hopefully will drive the increase in number of states that are yet to domesticate the law and drive implementation across all deficiencies identified in each state of the federation if fully implemented.

Hon. Dr. Bashir Dawodu
Chairman House of Representatives Committee on Disability Matters

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Executive Summary

This study evaluates the implementation status of the Disability Law across Nigerian states, examining legislative progress, assent, gazetting, and the establishment of disability commissions as key enforcement mechanisms. The findings highlight both progress and critical gaps in disability rights implementation at the state level.

Legislative Status Across States

States Without Legislative Action: At the time of this report, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Ebonyi, and Rivers had not initiated any legislative process to domesticate the Disability Law. While Kwara State had previously attempted the process, it was not completed, requiring a fresh restart that has yet to commence.

States in Legislative Process: Benue, Borno, Katsina, and Taraba have begun legislative proceedings but have yet to pass the law, leaving persons with disabilities (PWDs) without legal protection and institutional support.

States That Have Passed the Law But Await Assent: Delta, Imo, and Ogun have successfully passed the law, but the absence of gubernatorial assent has stalled its gazetting and implementation.

States That Have Assented But Await Gazetting: Adamawa, Edo, Enugu, FCT, Jigawa, Kano, Niger, and Kwara have assented to the law but are yet to gazette it or establish disability commissions, delaying its full enforcement.

Fully Compliant States: Seventeen states—Abia, Anambra, Bauchi, Ekiti, Gombe, Kaduna, Katsina, Kogi, Lagos, Nasarawa, Ondo, Osun, Oyo, Plateau, Sokoto, Yobe, and Zamfara—have completed all four legislative stages (passage, assent, gazette, and enforcement), making them fully compliant with the Disability Law.



Implementation Challenges

Despite legislative advancements, significant obstacles hinder full implementation of the Disability Law:

Political Will and Commitment: Many state governments lack urgency in enacting and enforcing disability laws, resulting in slow progress.

Awareness and Sensitisation: Public understanding of disability rights remains limited, with many still engaging PWDs through a charity-based approach rather than a rights-based framework. This reinforces stigma and discrimination.

Institutional Barriers: Many states lack functional disability commissions or enforcement mechanisms which makes it difficult to track compliance. The absence of legal protections, enforcement agencies, and inclusive policies perpetuates marginalization, restricts access to opportunities, and sustains systemic discrimination.

Establishment of Disability Commissions

A key aspect of effective Disability Law implementation is the creation of disability commissions responsible for enforcement, advocacy, and policy execution. While some states have gazetted the establishment of such commissions, their impact remains minimal due to limited functionality and resource constraints.

Conclusion

The findings underscore the need for stronger political commitment, public awareness, and institutional capacity to fully implement the Disability Law across all Nigerian states. Ensuring the effective establishment of disability commissions and enforcement mechanisms is critical to promoting the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities.



1.0

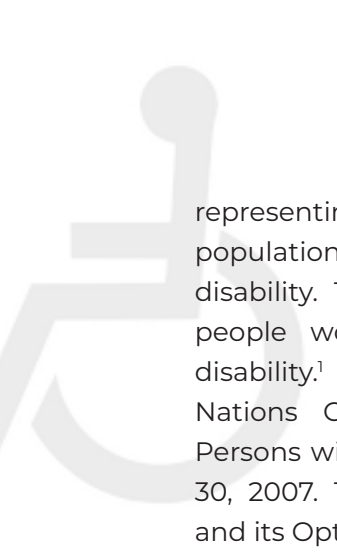
Introduction

1.1 Overview of the Disability Act and its importance.

The Disability community, over the years, has been discriminated against and suffered neglect associated with belief, cultural, and religious systems and the huge inaccessible systems and structures that limited their interaction with their community and their ability to partake in everyday life. The negligence of the disability community has made several systems of government pay little or no attention to the community and for this reason, the community has experienced lack in education, health, and economic activities which have further impoverished the community, leading to citizens' charity engagement of the community. However, demanding accountability from citizens and government is more efficient when there are legislations that properly define the roles and responsibilities of every stakeholder involved.

Nigeria is a member of the United Nations and a signatory to the Convention of Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).³ This compels the country to put in place a disability law at the national level and further domesticate same at the sub-national level to protect the rights of persons with disabilities and define the responsibilities of state and non-state actors. However, the absence of legislation at the sub-national level remained a major factor that deprived the disability community of holding the government and other stakeholders accountable. In some states where these laws have been domesticated, the level of its implementation remains almost a mirage as there are peculiar challenges that have impeded the full implementation of the provisions of the disability law. Thus, limiting persons with disabilities from enjoying their rights to a fulfilled life in a real sense.

According to the United Nations (UN) estimates, around 1 billion people globally,



representing roughly 15% of the world's population, experience some form of disability. This translates to about 1 in 6 people worldwide having a significant disability.¹ Nigeria signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on March 30, 2007. The country ratified the CRPD and its Optional Protocol on September 24, 2010, but there was no national disability legislation until after nine years on the 23rd of January, 2019 when the Muhamadu Buhari-led administration signed into law, the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act 2018². However, over five years after the assent, the impact of this law is yet to be fully felt. Ahead of the assent to the national disability law in 2019, states such as Adamawa and Plateau have assented to a disability law at the state level to enhance life for persons with disabilities in their states. However, after the passage and assent of the disability law, some states have completed the necessary legislative process, while some have not, thereby limiting rights and opportunities for persons with disabilities.

The Discrimination Against Persons with Disability Prohibition Act 2018 was enacted to

protect the rights of persons with disabilities and ensure their full inclusion in all aspects of society following the CRPD. Despite the existence of this Act, its implementation across different states varies significantly, affecting the degree of protection and support persons with disabilities receive. Following the findings from this research work, it is imperative to state that the existence of the law does not guarantee the implementation of the provisions of the disability law. The factors responsible are not the same in every location but, do not have much distinction. These factors are; low awareness, stereotypes, lack of political will and funding.

The Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018: An Overview

PART I.

Part I of the Act comprises two (2) Sections. Section 1 makes discrimination against persons with disabilities an offence and prescribes in the same section, the penalty for such discriminatory conduct or practice. This, however, does not negate adjudication of civil actions to recover damages from the violator for the same infraction. This

section of the Act shows the seriousness of discriminating against any PWDs based on his/her disability. This can be seen from the fact that whereas the Constitution provides for damages and compensation in cases of infringement of fundamental and disability rights, the Constitution did not make provision for pressing criminal charges against any person(s) who commits such infractions.

The Act took a bold step to provide for both fines and imprisonment to show that disability discrimination is no longer tolerable. With this view in perspective, the second section provides for the needed awareness of the dignity and capacity of persons with disabilities which should be championed by the Federal Ministry of Information. This action is geared towards promoting the rights, capabilities, respect, dignity, and achievements of persons with disabilities amongst others.



PART II

Part 2 of the Act is made up of six (6) sections and deals with the right to access physical infrastructure on an equal basis with others. The physical infrastructures include public buildings and spaces. Since disability has never been a front-burner topic for years it affected the manner and mode of construction of both public and private buildings.

An interesting provision in Part II of the Act is a recognition of the direct involvement of persons with disabilities in the service of Notice of Non-Accessibility. Section 8 gives PWDs the powers to personally serve Notice of

Non-accessibility on any authority in any situation where a person with disability does not have access to a building. This provision also gives them the right to make recourse to courts to enforce the accessibility and should the case be in their favour, a penalty awaits the violators. By

including them in the service of this Notice of Non-Accessibility, this part captured the slogan that there can be nothing about persons with disabilities without them.

PART III.

Part III deals exclusively with road transport. In this case, both publicly funded or provided road transport as well as privately-owned commercial transport services are included. This part also includes both the provision of goods and services and tends to distinguish between public and private sources of road transportation. However, an interesting aspect of the part is its inclusion of all public vehicles. The Part requires the provision of assistive devices on these public transport systems like lifts, ramps, and functional audible and visual displays of destinations and bus stops. The inclusion of this provision becomes imperative given the transport situation in Nigeria.

Furthermore, the Part III clearly mandates the marking and exclusive reservation of some parking lots for persons with disabilities and state exemptions in which case a person or persons without a disability shall be entitled to park on such parking lots without running afoul of the Act. The

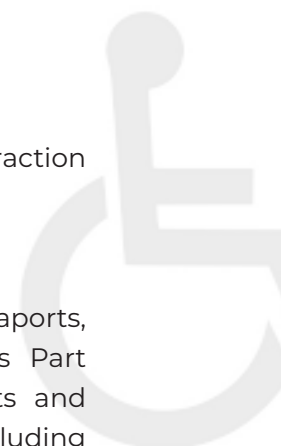
Part ended by criminalizing any infraction of the provisions of the Part.

PART IV

Part IV of the Act is dedicated to seaports, railways, and airport facilities. This Part commands accessibility of seaports and railways and their facilities including vessels railway stations and trains. It further requires the compulsory provision of wheelchairs for persons with mobility disability and the provision of personnel to assist in getting on and off.

PART V

In Part V, the Act introduces a sharp deviation from the earlier Parts and sections and puts measures into place to combat a social vice and menace that has been part of the culture of some parts of Nigeria. That is the culture of alms begging. It prohibits the use of persons with disabilities in doing such. It makes such an act or conduct a crime. Section 16 (1) (c) of this Part, makes provision to combat the pervasive and oft-encouraged practice of self-alms-soliciting by persons with disabilities often encouraged by their families and relatives as a survival strategy. The foresight is intended to curb a pervasive social vice



where persons with disabilities resort to public alms begging for survival.

Part V provides for an unfettered right to education devoid of segregation or discrimination of any sort thereby taking the constitutional non-justiciable fundamental objectives and directive principles of State policy a step further in the case of persons with disabilities. This is in tandem with Section 18 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, (as amended) which provides for educational objectives of the Government towards ensuring equal and adequate educational opportunities at all levels. The Act has made a huge difference between the Constitution and the Act as it has removed the education of persons with disabilities under the Fundamental Objectives and Directive principles of state policy which has remained non-justiciable.

Part V further makes compulsory, the provision of free education for persons with disabilities up to secondary school and tasks the Commission to provide assistive learning devices. Public schools should be inclusive and provide necessary facilities for the education of persons with disabilities. This Part emphasises the

provision of adequate learning platforms for the blind, the deaf, or persons with multiple disabilities, especially children. It further provides for unfettered access to adequate healthcare services and the use of a Permanent Certificate of Disability in appropriate cases. It finally recognizes the first consideration for persons with disabilities in emergency cases and queues.

PART VI

Part VI of the Act provides for the freedom to choose and be recruited for any open jobs as well as the right to work on an equal basis with others. It criminalizes any infraction of this provision. It further provides 5% employment space for persons with disabilities in public organizations and the encouragement of level playing ground for full participation in public life, politics, and political parties for persons with disabilities.

PART VII

Part VII establishes the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities and its Governing Council with representatives from ten (10) relevant ministries, the National Human Rights Commission, and the National Planning Commission. The

Council has enormous powers to establish and promote inclusive schools, including vocational and rehabilitation centres for the development of persons with disabilities. It has to liaise with the public and private sectors to ensure that all public policies consider the interests of persons with disabilities. The Commission works with relevant government agencies to enforce approved building codes and receives complaints from persons with disabilities about their rights and their right to seek redress in court when infractions occur. The Council is imbued with the duty to ensure research, development, and education on disability issues amongst others. The Act places the Commission directly under the supervision and control of the President which removes unnecessary bureaucracy and interferences in the carrying out of its functions.

PART VIII

Part VIII provides for



the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer of the Commission and other staff of the Commission. A notable provision of this Part is that the Executive Secretary of the Commission must be a person with a disability. This also speaks to the Disability Rights Movement slogan “nothing about us without us” spelling the beginning of inclusivity.

1.2 Significance of the Disability Law

The significance of the Disability law cannot be overemphasised, considering the various levels of discrimination that the disability community has faced over the years. Having a Disability Law is significant because it establishes legal protections and guarantees the rights of persons with disabilities thus ensuring their full inclusion in



society. The existence of the Disability Law provides a robust legal framework for equal access to inclusive education, employment, and the required percentages as enshrined in the specific laws, inclusive healthcare systems, and accessibility to public systems and infrastructure, thereby reducing discrimination, stereotyping to the barest minimum if not complete removal. The significance of the law ensures the promotion of social justice by removing physical and systemic barriers that hinder persons with disabilities from fully participating in economic, political and social life. Also, the law ensures the enforcement of accessibility standards, safeguards against workplace discrimination, creates reasonable accommodation and strengthens the enforcement mechanisms through government agencies.

Overall, a well-implemented disability law ensures dignity, independence and equal opportunities, while creating a more inclusive and just society for persons with disabilities. A disability law will certainly enhance the quality of life of persons with disabilities in diverse ways and will provide an avenue to live a purposeful life, provided that systems and structures are delivered

on the Right-Based Approach.

a. The Legal Protection of Rights

The Disability Law serves as a fundamental legal framework that safeguards the rights of persons with disabilities ensuring protection against discrimination and social exclusion. More so, the Law guarantees the sustainability of programmes long after the tenure of an administration expires. Considering that most systems of government often provide for the needs of persons with disabilities on an emotional, discretionary basis and are sometimes linked to campaign programmes and promises in order to secure votes, there is need to have the law to document the legality of interventions and define clear responsibilities of all stakeholders.

b. Promotion of Inclusion and Accessibility

The provisions of the Disability Law compel full inclusion in the provision of systems and structures. The Law mandates accessibility in public spaces, transportation, education, employment, health institutions, gardens,

parks, and other recreational facilities, fostering a more inclusive society free of bias and barriers.

c. Framework for Policy Implementation

The Law provides a structured approach for governments and institutions to develop, implement, and enforce policies that support disability inclusion and meet the needs of all clusters of disabilities as against an independent and exclusive decision in the provision and design of programmes and interventions for persons with disabilities. The Disability Law serves as a guide to meet the needs of the disability community.

d. Employment and Economic Opportunities

The Law helps stipulate employment quotas and guide economic empowerment programmes. Also, the Law ensures persons with disabilities have access to job opportunities with dignity and financial independence, which provides independent living and eradicates the disability community from being a burden

to their relatives and the government at large.

e. Awareness and Sensitization

Strategically, provisions for continued engagement of the public on disability-related issues become an easy task where there is a law that contains provisions that consider awareness and public sensitisation of the general public of the provisions of the law. It raises awareness about the rights and needs of persons with disabilities, encouraging positive societal attitudes and reducing the stigma and discrimination that is usually associated with the community.

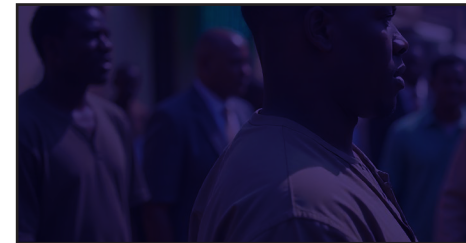
f. Accountability and Enforcement:

The existence of the Disability Law provides an opportunity for having targeted sanctions where responsibilities are not deployed adequately. Every law identifies the roles and responsibilities of every stakeholder who is a key player in the implementation of the same. The Law establishes mechanisms for monitoring and enforcing disability rights, holding institutions accountable for non-compliance and negligence.

1.3 Conceptual interpretation

This research aims to evaluate the extent to which the Discrimination Against Persons with Disability Act has been implemented, identify existing challenges, and recommend measures for improvement. The study utilises a dataset collected from various states and it reflects the experiences and perceptions of Persons with Disabilities regarding the impact of the law. In alignment with International Commitments, Nigeria's legal framework with global agreements, such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), reinforces the country's commitment to disability inclusion.

This research provides a deep insight into how much has been done alongside how much more needs to be done. The research report further highlights actions that are responsible for the current realities and provides basic recommendations on



what can be done to move forward for the community of persons with disabilities to lead a barrier-free life. Conceptual interpretation provides an overview of the passage, assent, gazette, and enforcement (PAGE) of the Disability Law across various states.

The research further examines the legislative process, identifying states that have initiated the process but remain stalled at the State Assembly level. In some cases, this indicates that the bill has yet to be introduced on the floor for deliberation, undergoes its first and second readings, or is still navigating legislative bureaucracy.

a.Passage

For the purpose of this research, “passage” refers to a draft Disability Bill that has successfully undergone legislative process such as: mentioned on the floor of the house, the first, second, public hearing, and third readings at the legislative assembly. It signifies that the bill has been

approved through a voting process and formally enacted into law by the respective assembly.

b.Assent

Assent is a crucial step in the legislative process, as it signifies the final approval required for a bill to become law. In this context, it refers to a Disability Bill that has been passed by the legislative assembly but still requires the formal endorsement of the executive governor. This step is essential because, without the governor’s assent, the bill remains inactive and cannot be implemented. Assent demonstrates the executive’s commitment to the law, ensuring that it aligns with government policies and priorities. It also marks the transition from a proposed framework to an enforceable legal instrument that can drive social change, protect the rights of persons with disabilities, and promote inclusivity.

c.Gazette

For this research, a gazette is the official government publication of the Disability Law after assent. Once the disability bill has been assented to by the executive, it

should be published in the government gazette to become officially recognized for enforceability. Without the gazette, the disability law may not be legally binding, as it has not been officially communicated to the public and relevant authorities. Gazetting also makes the law justiciable. Without gazetting a law, the judiciary is unable to use the law in the courts and no one can adjudicate using the law.

d.Enforcement

This research considers the establishment of a Disability Commission as a key mechanism for enforcement. Once established, the Commission will be responsible for implementing and ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Law. Without such a body in place, the law risks remaining merely a written document without effective execution, limiting its impact on the lives of persons with disabilities. The commission plays a crucial role in translating legal provisions into actionable policies, monitoring enforcement, and addressing violations to ensure that the Law serves its intended purpose.



2.0

Objectives of the PAGE analysis.

a. Assess the level of awareness

To evaluate the extent to which stakeholders, political stakeholders, government officials, community of Persons with Disabilities, and the general public are aware of the Disability Law and its provisions. The level of this awareness is expected to create accessibility to systems, and structures both at the private and public institutions and facilities. Awareness of the Law is expected to also be reduced to the barest minimum if not completely eradicate discriminatory attitudes towards the disability community and make conscious efforts in creating accessibility for the community.

b. Evaluate Policy Implementation

Examine the extent to which Disability Law has been translated into policies, programmes, and services to impact the lives of Persons with Disabilities positively

c. Evaluate Enforcement

To evaluate the level of law enforcement, the mechanisms put in place, and their effectiveness in ensuring compliance with the Law.

d. Assess the impact on the quality of life:

To evaluate the effect of Disability Law implementation on the quality of life of persons with disabilities vis-à-vis the provision of the law

e. Identify Challenges and Barriers:



To document the challenges and barriers that hinder the full effectiveness and implementation of the Disability Law.

f. Develop recommendations for improvement:

To develop recommendations for improvement based on the findings from this study.





3.0

Methodology

3.1 Demographic Analysis of Respondents

For this research work, national coverage was considered with five respondents per state inclusive of the Federal Capital Territory totaling 185 persons in total. This was achieved through a structured platform and coordination.

a. Cluster of Disability Types

The study employed a purposive sampling method to specifically target persons with disabilities to ensure the collection of relevant and insightful data. Additionally, Key Informant Interviews (KII) were conducted with persons with disabilities, and government officials, to enhance the depth and evidence-based nature of the research work. Kindly note that the KII respondent requested that their responses be treated as anonymous; hence, cannot be quoted. The government officials included persons with disabilities who have gained political appointments with the government while others are officials of the government. Data for this study was gathered using structured questionnaires distributed across the 36 states of Nigeria and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), ensuring comprehensive geographical representation.

Participants were all persons with disabilities to provide insightful and practicable context to the question. They were drawn from the Joint Associations of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD) an umbrella body for disabilities and the Organisation of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs). However, this did not negate their appointment and employment with the government as their disability status qualifies them by choice to be a member of the umbrella body following their rights to association. The respondents were selected from diverse demographics, ensuring representation across a minimum of five disability groups: Blind/low vision, physical disabilities, deaf or hard of hearing physical, leprosy, and albinism. There were 106 persons with physical

disabilities, of which 42 were deaf, 3 persons with leprosy, 15 were blind/low vision, and 19 persons with albinism making a total of 185 respondents. The demographic distribution of the respondents provided insights into the representation of different disability groups and their experiences with the Law.

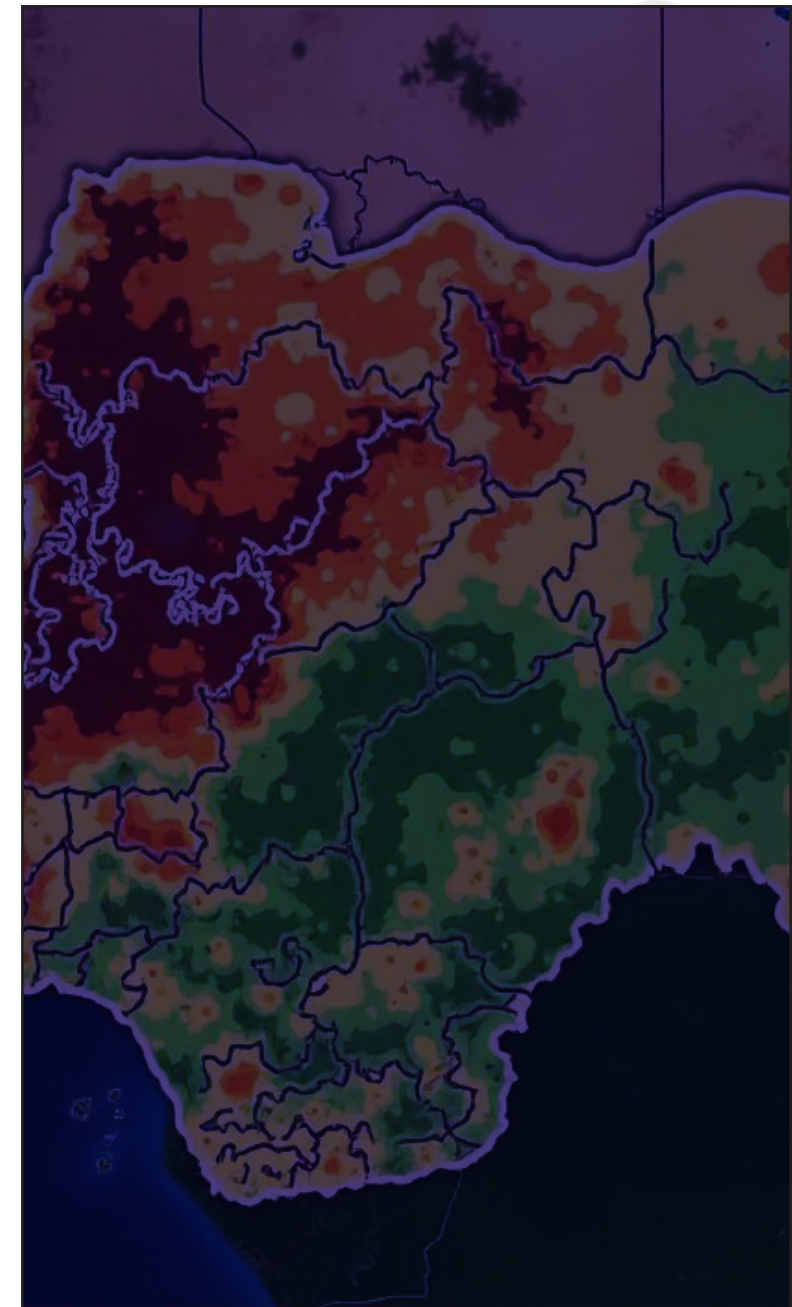
b. Age brackets of respondents

The age demography of respondents reveals that the majority fall within the 30–49 age group, accounting for 89 individuals. This is followed closely by the 18–29 age group, which comprises 63 respondents. The number of individuals aged 50 and above is significantly lower, with 33 respondents. This distribution indicates that a substantial portion of the respondents is within their prime working and productive years, which may have implications for awareness, employment opportunities, and the overall impact of the Disability Law on different age groups.

c. Gender Representation

The gender demography of respondents indicates that males constitute the majority, with 111 individuals, while females account for 74 respondents. This distribution suggests a higher level of male

participation in the assessment, which could reflect broader societal trends in engagement, employment, or accessibility to information. Understanding the gender composition is crucial in analysing how the Disability Law affects men and women differently, particularly in areas such as employment opportunities, accessibility, and enforcement of rights. This data can help in shaping more inclusive policies and interventions that address gender-specific challenges faced by persons with disabilities.



4.0

Data Analysis

The responses were analysed using a combination of statistical and qualitative methods. Quantitative data was processed through frequency distribution and visualised using charts and graphs to illustrate key trends. For qualitative responses, text analysis techniques such as word clouds and frequency mapping were employed to identify recurring themes related to challenges and recommendations. The questionnaire incorporated both closed-ended and open-ended questions, allowing for a comprehensive analysis of numerical data and qualitative insights. The research targeted and collected responses from five participants per state, including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), totaling 185 respondents to align with the study's target sample size.

a. Gender Distribution and Inclusion

The study surveyed a total of 185 respondents, with 111 respondents being male and 74 respondents being female. While both genders (male/female) were represented, the lower participation of women highlights potential gaps in gender inclusion within discussions on Disability Law implementation. This disparity may suggest barriers to engagement for women with disabilities, emphasising the need for more inclusive advocacy efforts to ensure women's voices are adequately represented in policy formulation and implementation. The importance of female representation is very important to help address issues of double discrimination first as female and also as female with discrimination.

b.Awareness of the Disability Law in the State

The awareness level of the Disability Law in the state shows that a majority of respondents, 122 individuals, indicated that they are aware of the law, while 63 respondents stated that they are unaware of it. This suggests that although there has been some level of sensitisation and dissemination of information regarding the law, gaps in awareness still exist. The findings highlight the need for continued advocacy, public education, and targeted outreach to ensure that all stakeholders, including persons with disabilities, government agencies, and the general public, are fully informed about the existence of a law where available, provisions, rights, and responsibilities outlined in the law. Expanding awareness efforts will be crucial in enhancing compliance and effective implementation.



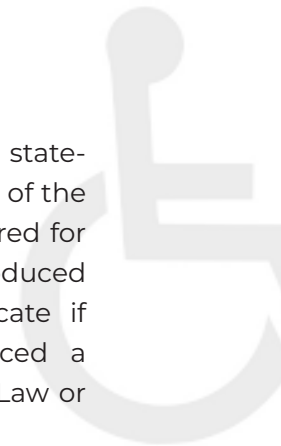
5.0

State-by-State Analysis

The implementation of the Disability Law across Nigerian states varies significantly, with each state at different stages of the legislative process. While some states have successfully passed, assented to, and gazette the law, others are still in the early stages of drafting or awaiting legislative approval. The process typically involves the introduction of a bill in the State House of Assembly, followed by public hearings, legislative debates, passage, and gubernatorial assent. However, even in states where the law has been enacted, the establishment of a functional Disability Commission remains a challenge due to inadequate funding, political will, inadequate capacity of the disability community, and administrative bottlenecks. This section provides an overview of the status of the Disability Law across various states, highlighting progress, challenges, and gaps in implementation.

As at the time of this research, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Ebonyi, and Rivers states have neither domesticated the Disability Act nor taken any significant steps towards its enactment. There is no record of legislative deliberations, public hearings, or executive actions to initiate the process. This lack of commitment reflects a gap in disability rights protection within these states, leaving persons with disabilities without the legal framework necessary to ensure their inclusion, accessibility, and equal opportunities in various sectors.

There is evidence that the legislative process for the domestication of the Disability Act has commenced in Benue, Borno, Katsina, and Taraba. These states are at varying level of the process. Some have initiated discussions, conducted public hearings, or presented the bill for reading in their respective State Houses of Assembly. The research shows that Delta, Imo, and Ogun States have passed the Disability Bill to law and are awaiting the Governor's assent. This indicates a significant step



in the legal framework for protecting and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities in the state. However, without gubernatorial assent, the efforts made remain stalled.

Adamawa, Edo, Enugu, Jigawa, Kano, Niger, and, Kwara states have demonstrated commitment to disability inclusion by assenting to the Disability Law. This marks a critical step towards ensuring the legal protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities in these states. With the law now assented to, the focus shifts to gazette, and effective implementation, including the establishment of disability commissions for enforcement of accessibility standards, and the provision of inclusive services.

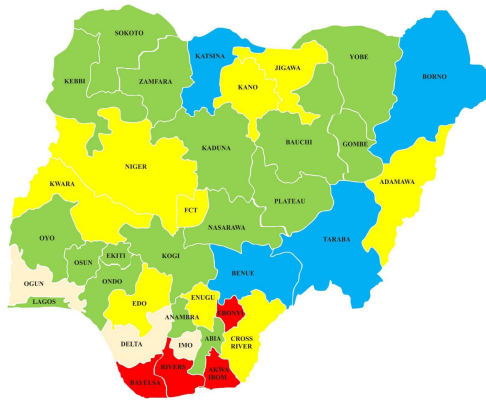
For the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), the Discrimination Against Persons with Disability (Prohibition) Act 2018 suffices for it as legislation as a fresh law will not be enacted considering that it is not a sovereign state like others. However, a commission is expected to be established independent of the National Disability Commission that will implement the provisions of the law at

the six area councils.

The research shows that Abia, Adamawa, Anambra, Ekiti, Gombe, Kaduna, Kebbi, Kogi, Lagos, Nasarawa, Ondo, Osun, Oyo, Plateau, Sokoto, Yobe, and Zamfara have successfully gazetted the Disability Law, and established a disability commission marking a significant step towards ensuring the legal protection and inclusion of persons with disabilities. The gazetting process provides official recognition and publication of the law, making it enforceable and accessible to all stakeholders. By formalizing the law, these states demonstrate their commitment to disability inclusion, improving access to social services, employment opportunities, and infrastructure for all clusters of disabilities in the state. However, beyond gazetting and establishing a commission, continuous efforts are needed to ensure full implementation, awareness creation, and effective monitoring to translate legal provisions into tangible benefits for persons with disabilities which is only achievable through the establishment of a disability commission.

The table below depicts a matrix in a state-by-state analysis to show the impact of the Law in each state and what is required for action. The status of legislation introduced ahead of “passage” helps to indicate if a state has in anyway commenced a legislative process on the Disability Law or is still at a zero-state level.

MAP OF NIGERIA



Complete PAGE: Establishment of a Disability Commission due to existing law.

Assented: Bill received the Governor's assent or signature

Passed: Bill was finally approved at the Assembly level and passed into law

Legislation in Process: The process of legislation has commenced: A mention of the Bill, first, Second, public hearing, third reading as the case may be.

Zero Legislation: No evidence of legislative process

S/N	States	Status of Domestication of the Disability Act-(Legislative Process)	Status of Domestication of the Disability Passed by the Legislature	Assent to the Disability Bill by the Governor	Gazetted	Enforcement: Disability Commission; Status of Establishment	Challenges
1	Abia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	<p>The state is one of the few states that had assented to a Disability Law since 2016 ahead of the National Disability Act in 2019. However, it is yet to gazette and establish a disability commission. This has left the disability community without any enforceable legislation and limited them to demanding their rights on a legal basis. Public facilities such as schools, and health and financial institutions among others remain inaccessible. Government interventions are discretionary and not a right-based approach which is not sustainable. The need for continued advocacy and sensitisation for the executive class is required to advocate for the establishment of a disability commission.</p>

S/N	States	Status of Domestication of the Disability Act-(Legislative Process)	Status of Domestication of the Disability Passed by the Legislature	Assent to the Disability Bill by the Governor	Gazetted	Enforcement: Disability Commission; Status of Establishment	Challenges
2	Adamawa	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	The state is one of the few states that had assented to a Disability Law since 2016 ahead of the National Disability Act in 2019. However, it is yet to gazette and establish a disability commission. This has left the disability community without any enforceable legislation and limited them to demanding their rights on a legal basis. Public facilities such as schools, and health and financial institutions among others remain inaccessible. Government interventions are discretionary and not a right-based approach which is not sustainable.
3	Akwa-Ibom	No	No	No	No	No	The state is yet to start the process. Consequently, persons with disabilities in the state lack the legal protection and support mechanisms provided by the National Law. Infrastructure remains inaccessible, absent of transport systems that consider persons with disabilities. Full advocacy with stakeholders is needed to drive an inclusive state through legislation and implementation

S/N	States	Status of Domestication of the Disability Act-(Legislative Process)	Status of Domestication of the Disability Passed by the Legislature	Assent to the Disability Bill by the Governor	Gazetted	Enforcement: Disability Commission; Status of Establishment	Challenges
4	Anambra	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	It is commendable that Anambra state is one of the few states that has gone through the whole PAGE process. However the state still faces several implementation and enforcement challenges. Many public facilities, including government buildings, schools, hospitals, and courts, remain inaccessible to PWDs due to the absence of necessary accommodations such as ramps and elevators. For instance, the Anambra State Secretariat has ramps only at exterior entrances, while interior floors are connected solely by stairs, hindering mobility for individuals with physical disabilities. Inclusive awareness and advocacy are required to drive proper implementation of the disability law in the state.

S/N	States	Status of Domestication of the Disability Act-(Legislative Process)	Status of Domestication of the Disability Passed by the Legislature	Assent to the Disability Bill by the Governor	Gazetted	Enforcement: Disability Commission; Status of Establishment	Challenges
5	Bauchi	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	The challenge of participation of persons with disabilities in normal life remains difficult due to the inaccessibility of physical infrastructure, such as buildings and roads. Healthcare system in Bauchi State is criticized for its lack of accessibility for persons with disabilities. There are very few trained healthcare providers to meet their specific needs.
6	Bayelsa	No	No	No	No	No	Bayelsa despite huge resources accruing to the state as revenue, it has not domesticated the Disability Act nor have a specific law that promotes the inclusion of persons with disabilities. Consequently, there is significant barriers around accessibility, education, inclusive health, employment, and social protection. The state requires a full intervention program of legislation for all stakeholders.

S/N	States	Status of Domestication of the Disability Act-(Legislative Process)	Status of Domestication of the Disability Passed by the Legislature	Assent to the Disability Bill by the Governor	Gazetted	Enforcement: Disability Commission; Status of Establishment	Challenges
7	Benue	Yes	No	No	No	No	The state has a draft at the state assembly sent from the Governor's office making the bill an executive one. The bill has scaled through its first reading. There is need for intense legislative engagements for speed up of the process. However, there remain huge level of inaccessible structures, health facilities, road and a legislation that protects rights of persons with disabilities.
8	Borno	Yes	No	No	No	No	Borno state is currently undergoing a legislative process. Nevertheless, persons with disabilities are challenged with several accessibility issues due to the absence of an enabling law to protect their rights. Despite being plagued with several insecurity issues, the state does not have an accessible system and structure. The need for adequate legislative engagement is required for quick response to providing solution and easing the pains of the disability community.

S/N	States	Status of Domestication of the Disability Act-(Legislative Process)	Status of Domestication of the Disability Passed by the Legislature	Assent to the Disability Bill by the Governor	Gazetted	Enforcement: Disability Commission; Status of Establishment	Challenges
9	Cross-River	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	The state passed and assented to the Disability Law but yet to gazette and establish a disability commission. The absence of the commission makes implementation of the Law impossible there by limiting rights of the community. An executive advocacy is required to enable the Governor give directives for the commencement of the gazetting process including establishing a disability commission to bring about an inclusive and accessible system.
10	Delta	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	The state has made considerable progress and passed the disability law. Efforts to drive assent and implementation are required. However, the state also suffers a deficit of accessible systems and structure which makes it difficult for persons with disabilities to enjoy accessible transport, health and education in the state.

S/N	States	Status of Domestication of the Disability Act-(Legislative Process)	Status of Domestication of the Disability Passed by the Legislature	Assent to the Disability Bill by the Governor	Gazetted	Enforcement: Disability Commission; Status of Establishment	Challenges
11	Ebonyi	No	No	No	No	No	Being at zero level of implementation is worrisome. Most of the infrastructure in the state is not accessible. It also does not have a legislation that protects the rights of persons with disabilities specifically in the state. The state currently requires full advocacy programme to drive inclusive legislation.
12	Edo	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	The state has made considerable progress to get to assent level. What the state requires is to gazette and enforce the law through the establishment of a disability commission. However, despite these levels of success achieved, several public systems and structures are not accessible. This leads to absence of participation and exclusion in the state. Advocacy for a commission is required alongside the implementation

S/N	States	Status of Domestication of the Disability Act-(Legislative Process)	Status of Domestication of the Disability Passed by the Legislature	Assent to the Disability Bill by the Governor	Gazetted	Enforcement: Disability Commission; Status of Establishment	Challenges
13	Ekiti	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Despite achieving the PAGE indicators, the state is still backward in the area of accessible systems, inclusive education, health and adherence to the provision of the Disability Law. There is need for awareness and capacity development for stakeholders towards the implementation of the law.
14	Enugu	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Enugu state requires a gazette and implementation of the disability law. The absence of a commission makes the disability community vulnerable and unable to demand its rights through legislation. There are deficits in accessible systems and structures to drive an inclusive space for the community. There is need to advocate for the implementation of the said Law in the state.

S/N	States	Status of Domestication of the Disability Act-(Legislative Process)	Status of Domestication of the Disability Passed by the Legislature	Assent to the Disability Bill by the Governor	Gazetted	Enforcement: Disability Commission; Status of Establishment	Challenges
15	Gombe	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Gombe state is one of the few states in the Northeast with full PAGE indicators. However, there is still an inclusive infrastructure deficit. Although the state commission is still recent, there is need for capacity development to ascertain the proper implementation and translation of the law.
16	Imo	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	The state awaits assent and implementation. This makes the disability community vulnerable as there is no disability law that protects their rights. The state, like other states in similar stage has an inclusive structure deficit across all sectors. There is need to advocate for assent including setting up a disability commission through a stakeholder engagement approach.

S/N	States	Status of Domestication of the Disability Act-(Legislative Process)	Status of Domestication of the Disability Passed by the Legislature	Assent to the Disability Bill by the Governor	Gazetted	Enforcement: Disability Commission; Status of Establishment	Challenges
17	Jigawa	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	While the state has made strides in various aspects of development, the rights and needs of people with disabilities remain a critical aspect that requires attention. Education is the cornerstone of personal and societal development. Unfortunately, due to the absence of a gazetted law and a commission to ensure enforcement of the law, many children and young adults with disabilities in Jigawa State face significant barriers accessing quality education, healthcare services, social protection among other forms of inaccessibility. The state requires an urgent push for establishment of the disability commission alongside a value reorientation on right-based approach.

S/N	States	Status of Domestication of the Disability Act-(Legislative Process)	Status of Domestication of the Disability Passed by the Legislature	Assent to the Disability Bill by the Governor	Gazetted	Enforcement: Disability Commission; Status of Establishment	Challenges
18	Kaduna	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	While the state has made strides in various aspects of development, the rights and needs of people with disabilities remain a critical aspect that requires attention. Education is the cornerstone of personal and societal development. Unfortunately, due to the absence of a gazetted law and a commission to ensure enforcement of the law, many children and young adults with disabilities in Jigawa State face significant barriers accessing quality education, healthcare services, social protection among other forms of inaccessibility. The state requires an urgent push for establishment of the disability commission alongside a value reorientation on right-based approach.

S/N	States	Status of Domestication of the Disability Act-(Legislative Process)	Status of Domestication of the Disability Passed by the Legislature	Assent to the Disability Bill by the Governor	Gazetted	Enforcement: Disability Commission; Status of Establishment	Challenges
19	Kano	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	The state is yet to gazette and set up a commission but its implementation is done via a ministry which affects its independence. There are huge commercial activities in the state but with enormous inaccessibility of systems that exclude the disability community. The transportation, health, employment quotas, and education are not accessible to the disability community. There is need to advocate for a disability commission and proper implementation of the law.
20	Katsina	Yes	No	No	No	No	Having just a draft at the state assembly requires full advocacy engagement with all stakeholders. The state has an infrastructure deficit at almost every level. Considering the recent insecurity issues in the state, persons with disabilities have further been at a state of disadvantage which requires legislation that protects their rights including socio-economic and general needs.

S/N	States	Status of Domestication of the Disability Act-(Legislative Process)	Status of Domestication of the Disability Passed by the Legislature	Assent to the Disability Bill by the Governor	Gazetted	Enforcement: Disability Commission; Status of Establishment	Challenges
21	Kebbi	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Kebbi state recently passed Disability Law and established an agency for the implementation of the law. The law, among other things, empowers the agency to prioritise the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities to ensure full inclusion in society. The state still has an infrastructure deficit. Implementation has not fully taken effect. There is need for engagement around understanding the law and implementation of the same. Advocacy around awareness and budget provision is very strategic.
22	Kogi	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Despite attaining full PAGE status, the state systems and structures remain inaccessible for persons with disabilities. The transportation, education, employment quotas, and implementation are not efficient. The state requires advocacy intervention to build synergy between governance and the disability community. It is envisaged this will result in a functional commission that will drive implementation.

S/N	States	Status of Domestication of the Disability Act-(Legislative Process)	Status of Domestication of the Disability Passed by the Legislature	Assent to the Disability Bill by the Governor	Gazetted	Enforcement: Disability Commission; Status of Establishment	Challenges
23	Kwara	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Despite the long years of creation, the state remains backward in disability matters due to the absence of a disability commission. Similar to other states, the disability community suffers from infrastructure deficits in transportation, health, education. The need for full advocacy engagement with stakeholders is required to provide a disability commission that can hold the government accountable.
24	Lagos	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	The Lagos State Special Peoples' Bill, also known as the Lagos State Special People's Law 2011, was passed into law by the State House of Assembly in 2011. The state is one of the states with a disability law ahead of the promulgation of the National Act. However, despite the law in the state, there exists an infrastructure shortfall that requires advocacy for inclusion. Engagement is more driven in urban areas of the state thereby limiting benefits for members of the community who are not within the urban areas.

S/N	States	Status of Domestication of the Disability Act-(Legislative Process)	Status of Domestication of the Disability Passed by the Legislature	Assent to the Disability Bill by the Governor	Gazetted	Enforcement: Disability Commission; Status of Establishment	Challenges
25	Nasarawa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	It is a fact that persons with disabilities are not only marginalised and neglected but there has been a history of major systemic exclusion at various levels of development. The state has all PAGE indicators fulfilled but the state is still not fully inclusive. Budget allocation for the commission remains a difficult task including inclusive employment, education, health and transportation. There is a need to engage the Commission through capacity development which will help them in implementation and awareness campaigns to bring the knowledge of the law to the general public.
26	Niger	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	The state requires full advocacy implementation to provide a disability commission in the state. The disability community currently is vulnerable as there is no disability commission to enforce the implementation of the law and protect PWDs rights.

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27	Ogun	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	<p>Despite the industrialisation of the state, there is an absence of disability legislation to protect disability rights. The law even though it has been passed, awaits assent which makes implementation a mirage. The state requires advocacy to drive executive interest in assenting and to drive implementation.</p> <p>However, the state currently has inaccessible structures and systems. Interventions for disability community is implemented discretionarily which denies their rights.</p>
28	Ondo	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	<p>The state has all PAGE indicators fulfilled but the state still has several public infrastructures not accessible for persons with disabilities. Enforcement of the provisions of the law is relatively low and the community of persons with disabilities has not maximised the benefits of the law. The need to drive advocacy in the area of awareness and enforcement is needed in the state.</p>

S/N	States	Status of Domestication of the Disability Act-(Legislative Process)	Status of Domestication of the Disability Passed by the Legislature	Assent to the Disability Bill by the Governor	Gazetted	Enforcement: Disability Commission; Status of Establishment	Challenges
29	Osun	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	The state recently passed, assented to, and established a commission. The state is yet to commence enforcement has the law is less than a year. However, structures remain at a deficit to the disability community. The need for awareness, educating the populace on the provisions of the law, and the need to drive implementation is required in the state for the law to be beneficial.
30	Oyo	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	The state is still not as accessible as expected. The transportation system remains very inaccessible, as well as most public structures. The high density of population and size also makes implementation difficult to achieve. The state requires high awareness and sensitisation to ensure efficient implementation. Stakeholder engagement will further reinforce the need for enforcement of the law to allow the remodeling of structures and other public facilities.

S/N	States	Status of Domestication of the Disability Act-(Legislative Process)	Status of Domestication of the Disability Passed by the Legislature	Assent to the Disability Bill by the Governor	Gazetted	Enforcement: Disability Commission; Status of Establishment	Challenges
31	Plateau	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	The state remains one of the few states with a Disability Law before the national. Despite the law and commission, the disability community still face exclusion due to the deficit of systems and structures. The implementation of the law does not impact on the non-urban areas of the state. The state requires awareness and enforcement to drive more benefits to the disability community.
32	Rivers	No	No	No	No	No	Despite the metropolitan nature of the state, there is no Disability Law to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. The disability community faces high transportation challenges, and inaccessible public structures except for some world-class hotel facilities. The State requires full intervention from drafting to the implementation stage to better the lot of persons with disabilities in the state.

S/N	States	Status of Domestication of the Disability Act-(Legislative Process)	Status of Domestication of the Disability Passed by the Legislature	Assent to the Disability Bill by the Governor	Gazetted	Enforcement: Disability Commission; Status of Establishment	Challenges
33	Sokoto	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	<p>Sokoto state has a Disability Law marking it a pivotal milestone in the state's commitment to inclusivity. This legislation mandates the inclusion of persons with disabilities in various programmes. The state structures still have an accessibility deficit. The education sector is still void of inclusion, employment challenges and transportation challenges. The insecurity challenge and desert nature of the state makes it very important to advocate for a right-based approach implementation. Cultural perceptions and limited public awareness deeply prevent the community from demanding their rights. The disability community requires capacity development, to enable them to know how to drive the process for implementation, public awareness, and government engagements.</p>

S/N	States	Status of Domestication of the Disability Act-(Legislative Process)	Status of Domestication of the Disability Passed by the Legislature	Assent to the Disability Bill by the Governor	Gazetted	Enforcement: Disability Commission; Status of Establishment	Challenges
34	Taraba	Yes	No	No	No	No	The state does not have a Disability Law although the draft law has passed through the public hearing stage. The persons with disabilities in the state are vulnerable due to the absence of a disability Law to protect their interest. The state no doubt has a deficit of infrastructure even at the state capital which makes it worse at the rural community settlement. There is need for legislative interventions to push for passage while concerted effort is further required to demand assent and implementation.
35	Yobe	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	The state has all PAGE indicators ticked in affirmation but, the impact of the provisions of the Law is still scarce. Although the Law and the commission are relatively new, which informs the reason there is low implementation and enforcement. The state requires advocacy training and an understanding of the provisions of the law for better implementation and enforcement.

S/N	States	Status of Domestication of the Disability Act-(Legislative Process)	Status of Domestication of the Disability Passed by the Legislature	Assent to the Disability Bill by the Governor	Gazetted	Enforcement: Disability Commission; Status of Establishment	Challenges
36	Zamfara	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	The state still suffers infrastructure deficit. The impact of insecurity further reduces governance concentration for implementation. Education, transportation, and employment amongst many others that are not accessible or inclusive as the case may be. There is need to advocate to the government and other stakeholders on the need for multi-stakeholder approach implementation.
37	Federal Capital Territory (FCT)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	The FCT is covered by the national disability Law based on jurisdiction but it requires a commission at the FCT level to implement efficiently at the area council level. There is some level of implementation in the physical accessibility in some public buildings, and reserved parking lots but there is nearly absence of the Law at the area council other than the Abuja Municipal Area Council. The need to drive for the establishment of the FCT Disability Commission which will in return drive intervention to the area council of the FCT is very important as most implementation is limited to specific locations of the urban area.

5.1 State Summary Analysis

STATE SUMMARY ANALYSIS

S/NO.	STATE(S)	STATUS	SUGGESTED INTERVENTIONS
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Akwa-Ibom » Bayelsa » Cross-River » Ebonyi » Rivers 	Zero-level legislation on Disability Law. Full PAGE process required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Identifying champions: Having a successful intervention in the state requires identifying individuals through a power stakeholders mapping with interest and influence towards domestication of the Disability Law in the mentioned state. » Stakeholders' consultations: The consultations will assist in getting buy-in and get more support for the purpose of achieving the domestication. » Advocacies: This is an important aspect that is required for the legislative process. Strategic stakeholders will be mapped and met to influence the process of domestication. » Conducting Political Economy Analysis and Inclusion (PEAI): Conducting a PEA will assist in having an overall idea of the states and their peculiarities. This no doubt will enable proper engagement at specific states. » Drafting of a bill: This is a major deliverable required for submission at the various states' House of Assembly or an executive bill as the case may be. It also requires state peculiarities. » Legislative Engagement: This is a major requirement for domestication of a law. A collaborative effort is needed to ensure successful domestication. » Media interventions: The role of the media cannot be downplayed. The media will ensure that the issues are on the front burner to give it the required visibility. » Awareness and sensitization: These are required to be carried out amongst the Disability Community, Civil Society Organisations, and other stakeholders. » Get legislative sponsor for the Bill: This is very strategic to the process of the bill, especially for mention and presentation on the floor of the assembly.

2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Benue » Borno » Katsina » Taraba 	The states have an existing draft disability bill at the State Assembly in each state.	Considering that legislative processes are the same pattern, the suggestions above will be proposed for intervention at the various states' level with each State Assembly.
3	Delta, Imo and Ogun	Passed but no assent	More of the interventions needed are expected to target the executive arm of government as most legislative processes have been completed.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Jigawa » Kano » Adamawa » Edo » Enugu » Kwara » Niger 	The states have assented the Law but not gazetted it and means no commission established. This has made implementation difficult as the Disability Law are being implemented through specific ministries and its discretionary.	Major interventions are required to be made to the executive arm of government



6.0

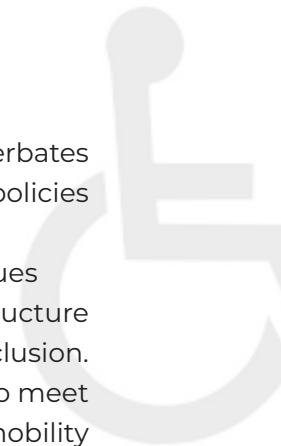
Comparative Analysis

6.1 Trends across States

The implementation and impact of the Disability Law vary across states in Nigeria, influenced by factors such as political commitment, public awareness, institutional capacity, and socio-economic conditions. While some states have made significant progress in passing and enforcing Disability Law, others are still in the early stages of domestication or have yet to take any concrete steps. This section highlights key trends observed across states, focusing on the level of implementation, challenges faced, and emerging best practices that can inform future advocacy and policy interventions.

a. Lack of Political Will and Commitment

- » Many political leaders are not interested in establishing or implementing the Law as it is not considered a priority. The perception of engaging the disability community on a charity model has eroded the right-based approach. This is largely because disability issues are not very popular like issues of youth and women. On the other hand, the cost of governance has also been a source of concern considering economic realities and basically, they just do not consider disability issues as a priority but have a charity perspective towards it.
- » In addition, the executive branch lacks the political will to drive enforcement. This is exacerbated by corruption that affects implementation and leads to non-enforcement of the law in some states.



b. Awareness and Sensitisation Issues

- » Lack of sensitisation programmes for government officials and the public limits implementation where laws have been domesticated and hinder any need to drive for implementation in states that do not have this Law or have initiated the legislative process.
- » Limited education and training on disability rights, accessibility, and inclusion: The absence of understanding of the provisions of disability rights has reduced the disability community to a beggarly community. Citizens and state actors engaged the community often from a non-right-based approach without making engagements on legislation. The deaf community particularly faces barriers due to inadequate access to information.

c. Challenges in Implementation and Enforcement

Many states have yet to pass, assent to, or gazette the law, while in states where the law exists, its implementation remains weak or entirely absent. Additionally, there are no effective accountability mechanisms to ensure compliance, and monitoring and evaluation structures are either inadequate or non-existent. Furthermore, some states lack a designated implementation agency, further hindering the enforcement of the law.

d. Institutional and Structural Gaps

In several states, disability agencies are being imposed instead of properly constituted disability commissions, leading to inefficiencies in governance and service delivery. Many existing commissions operate with inadequate personnel, as their members serve only on a part-time basis, limiting their effectiveness. Additionally, some state disability commissions lack a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities, further weakening their capacity to drive meaningful change. The absence of strong institutional frameworks

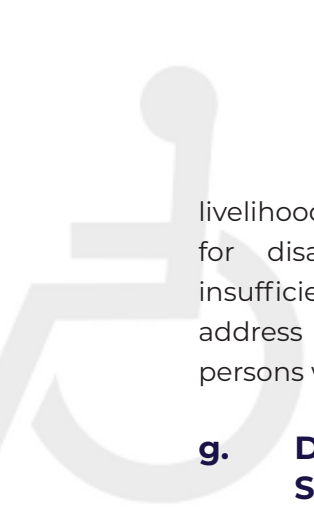
for enforcement further exacerbates these challenges, leaving many policies unimplemented.

e. Infrastructure and Accessibility Issues

The lack of disability-friendly infrastructure remains a major obstacle to inclusion. Public and private spaces often fail to meet accessibility standards, making mobility and participation difficult for persons with disabilities. Transportation systems are largely inaccessible and it limits their ability to move freely and engage in economic, social, and political activities. Furthermore, communication barriers persist, as there is a widespread lack of accessible communication methods, such as sign language interpreters, which further marginalises persons with disabilities.

f. Employment and Economic Challenges

Persons with disabilities continue to be excluded from government employment programmes successfully depriving them of vital opportunities for economic independence. There are no specific job quotas or designated employment opportunities tailored to their needs, leaving many unemployed or underemployed. Economic empowerment initiatives remain inadequate, failing to provide the necessary support to enhance their



livelihoods. Additionally, budget allocations for disability-related programmes are insufficient, further limiting efforts to address economic disparities faced by persons with disabilities.

g. Discrimination and Stigmatisation

Despite existing legal protections, persons with disabilities still face widespread discrimination in employment, education, and access to public services. Deep-rooted stigmatisation continues to hinder their opportunities, as societal perceptions often reinforce exclusion rather than inclusion. Negative attitudes toward disability remain a significant barrier, preventing the full integration of persons with disabilities into mainstream society.

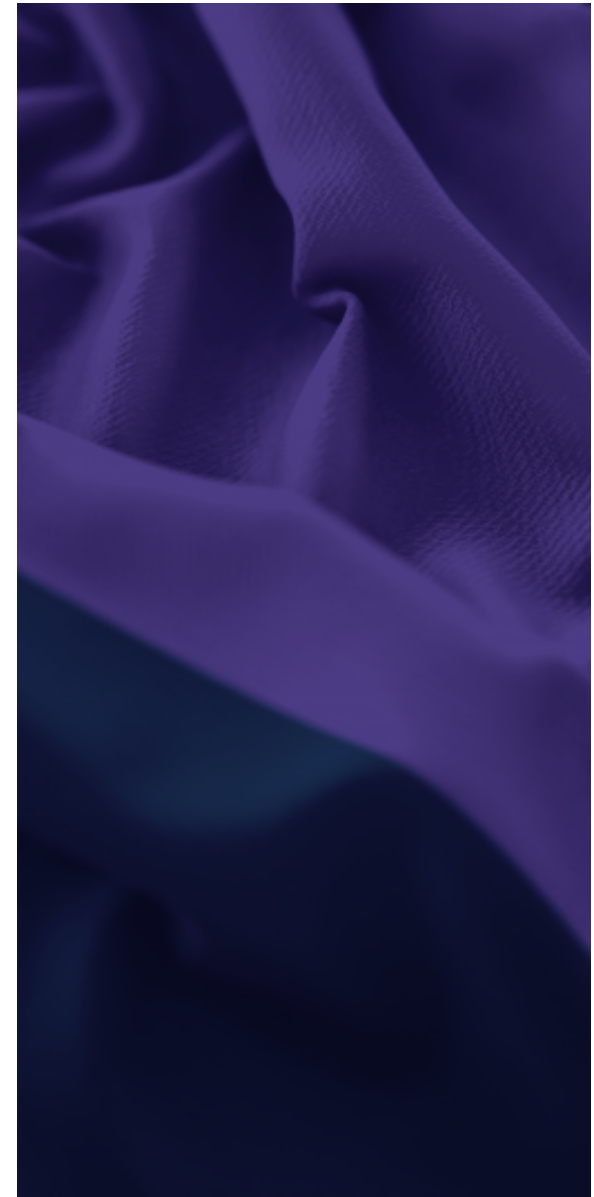
h. States Without Disability Laws

Many states in Nigeria have yet to enact a disability law, leaving persons with disabilities without essential legal protections. Even in states where such laws have been passed, delays in assent and gazetting prevent their full implementation. In some instances, legislative efforts to

pass disability laws have faced significant delays, further stalling progress toward comprehensive legal frameworks that promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities.

i. Funding and Resource Allocation

A critical challenge in disability inclusion is the inadequate funding of disability commissions, which hampers their ability to function effectively. The implementation of disability laws requires a greater financial commitment from the government to ensure that policies translate into tangible actions. Furthermore, disability programmes and initiatives suffer from a lack of financial support, limiting their reach and impact. Without increased investment, efforts to promote inclusion and accessibility will remain insufficient.



7.0

Key Recommendations

a.Strengthen Political Commitment: Engage policymakers to prioritise Disability Law implementation through advocacy, policy briefs, and stakeholder engagement to get the buy-in of state actors. This is required across all states even where PAGE has been achieved to ensure the disability community gets the full benefits of the law.


b.Increase Awareness Campaigns: There is need for increased and targeted awareness campaigns through social, traditional media, and TV-dedicated disability programmes to educate both the public and government officials and the disability community about disability rights.

c.Ensure Effective Implementation: Establish accountability mechanisms and monitoring frameworks to oversee the Disability Commission for effectiveness.

d.Legislative and Institutional Oversight on Disability Commissions: The relevant legislative committee at the state and national levels should provide adequate oversight function to the disability commission. This will enable closer interactions, oversee implementation, compliance, and enforcement, and strengthen both institutions as gaps will be identified early and mitigated at the right time.

e.Capacity training: There is a need to develop the capacity of the disability community as there exists a huge knowledge gap which has made the government capitalise on their docility.

f.Parliamentary Committees on Disability: Legislators should periodically review implementation progress and summon agencies for accountability.



g. Annual State of Disability Reports: Governments should publish reports detailing efforts, progress, and challenges in implementing disability Laws.

h. Data Collection and Performance Monitoring Disability Database: Disability Commission should maintain an up-to-date database on persons with disabilities to track inclusion in education, employment, and government social services.

i. Scorecards and Ranking Systems: Develop state and institutional scorecards ranking performance in disability law implementation. This should be an annual event that is presented on the 3rd of December of every year to celebrate International Disability Day.

j. Stakeholder Consultations: Include persons with disabilities, advocacy groups, and relevant stakeholders in decision-making and review processes.

k. Community-Based Monitoring: Train and empower local disability organizations to track implementation progress and

report gaps to the state and national disability commissions.

l. Legal and Enforcement Mechanisms Whistleblower and Complaint Mechanisms: Set up accessible channels where individuals can report violations or non-compliance with the disability provisions.

m. Disability Rights Tribunals: With the presence of an efficient legal prosecution process for offenders, compliance will be more effective, hence there is a need to establish specialised courts or tribunals to address disability-related complaints and ensure swift justice.

n. Accessibility Certification: The Commission should ensure that the public and private institutions obtain accessibility compliance certificates before operating. The certificate will authenticate structures that are compliant with accessibility.

o. Budgetary Allocation & Financial Accountability: The need to advocate for timely and realistic budget allocation is

important as this will enable the efficiency of the disability commission.

p. Dedicated Disability Inclusion Fund: Governments should allocate a percentage of the national and state budgets to disability-related initiatives.

q. Financial Audits and Reports: Conduct transparent reviews of funds allocated for disability programmes to prevent mismanagement, and speedy release of subsequent budget.

r. Enhance Employment Opportunities: Enforce job quotas for persons with disabilities, and create more inclusive economic policies.

s. Improve Funding and Infrastructure: Allocate adequate resources for disability commissions and accessible facilities.

t. Engage persons with disabilities in Policy Processes: Ensure meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in decision-making processes.

8.0

Conclusion

While some states have made progress in Disability Law implementation, others remain significantly behind, leaving many persons with disabilities without legal protection or institutional support. The research depicts that, gaps still exist in states that already establish a disability commission; hence, there is need for continued review and capacity development to the disability community and developing an interactive mechanism between government and the disability community. Strengthening legislative processes, ensuring timely assent and gazette, establishing Disability Commissions, and enforcing compliance mechanisms are crucial for achieving full inclusion and equal rights for persons with disabilities across Nigeria.



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