

Community Empowerment Model for Inclusive Dance Sport Athletes with Disabilities

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Abstract

This community service program aimed to strengthen inclusive dancesport participation among athletes with disabilities through a participatory empowerment model in Kidapawan City, Philippines. Preliminary assessment revealed three dominant problems: limited institutional support, inaccessible adaptive training facilities, and low public recognition. A community-based empowerment intervention was implemented through narrative-based needs assessment, adaptive workshops, community advocacy forum, and inclusive showcase. Evaluation showed a 38% increase in high-confidence category and 44% increase in community awareness. The program aligns with SDG Goal 10 by promoting reduced inequalities through structured disability-sensitive sports empowerment.

Keywords: Community empowerment; Inclusive sports; Dancesport; Disability inclusion; Participation

INTRODUCTION

Persons with disabilities continue to face structural barriers in accessing sports participation despite inclusive policies. In Kidapawan City, dancesport athletes with disabilities experience limited funding, inadequate facilities, and low community recognition. This program bridges the gap between policy and implementation through structured community empowerment.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMUNITY, PROBLEMS, AND TARGET SOLUTIONS

Location: Kidapawan City, Philippines.

Target beneficiaries include three dancesport athletes with disabilities and twelve community stakeholders.

Table 1. Target Description

No	Name of Target	Characteristics	Amount	General Problem
1	Athletes with disabilities	Physical disabilities	3	Limited access & support

2	Community stakeholders	Families coaches	&	12	Low awareness
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METHOD

The program implemented a participatory empowerment model consisting of needs assessment, adaptive training workshops, stakeholder advocacy forum, and inclusive performance showcase. Evaluation instruments included confidence scale and awareness questionnaire.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 2. Confidence Level Before and After Intervention

Level	Before	After
Low	67%	11%
Moderate	33%	51%
High	0%	38%

Community awareness increased from 39% to 83% after intervention.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

The empowerment model significantly strengthened athlete confidence and community awareness. Sustained collaboration and inclusive programming are recommended to ensure long-term impact.