

---

# LIVED EXPERIENCE OF PERSON WITH DISABILITY IN BARANGAY MAGSAYSAY, PLACER SURIGAO DEL NORTE VIS-À-VIS LACK OF OPPORTUNITIES TOWARDS ACCESSIBILITY: DISCRIMINATION AND PREJUDICE

Gian D. Bayeta<sup>1</sup>; Jomar S. Villaruel<sup>2</sup>; Harvey A. Cordoto<sup>3</sup>; Jeralyn S. Amante<sup>4</sup>; Niño T. Migullas<sup>5</sup>; Jonathan A. Sumalinog<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>Humanities and Social Sciences (HUMSS) students, Placer National High School

<sup>5,6</sup>Senior High School Teachers, Placer National High School

<sup>5</sup>[ninotorresmigullas25@gmail.com](mailto:ninotorresmigullas25@gmail.com)

DOI: 10.47760/cognizance.2024.v04i04.013

---

**Abstract**— The goal of this study was to understand the typical forms of discrimination that affect persons with disabilities and how they deal with all the prejudice and discrimination they encounter in society. Also, this research was looking for possible opportunities they can avail themselves within the society. The researchers would also know how to provide the assistance they need and what kinds of organization they can go to for help. The study focused only in the Municipality of Placer specifically in Barangay Magsaysay. In terms of informants, it focuses only on five Person With Disabilities (PWD) who are 30 years old or above. A quota sampling method was employed in the selection of the participants. The study was undertaken from April 2023 until May 2023. This study utilized a type of qualitative research that determined the opportunities that can be accessed by disabled people and the common types of discrimination they get from the society. A phenomenological type of research study was used which describes an experience as it is lived by the person using the Individual Interview Method. Based on Thematic Analysis, the themes are formed such as Harassment, Indirect Discrimination, Victimization and Ableism. This means that these types of discrimination are most frequently experienced by the PWDs. To deal with the discrimination they received from the society, they just cope up with stress-eating and they just rely on their mother's protection to fight for them against the bullies. One of their coping mechanisms as well is to watch TV to deal with loneliness. On top of that, they just isolate themselves and play with their own toys. Moreover, it's hard for them to apply for a job, because of their impairments. This means that no matter what they try to do for their own contentment, they still get rejected. They are also having a hard time in communicating with people due to their impairments. In spite of the fact that they are PWDs, they still get a discount from the transportation and in the drug store. But they still feel discriminated in the society. Based on the results, the recommendations are first, the Department of Social Welfare and Development must create more jobs and businesses for PWD for them to get more income and be financially independent. Second, the researchers would also like to recommend security for PWD. Third, the business establishments must have a discount for PWD for their necessities so they can afford it. For the LGU they must have a special program where they are given donations and support for PWD.

**Keywords**— Person with disability, Harassment, Indirect Discrimination, Victimization, Ableism

---

## I. INTRODUCTION

Disability is defined as a physical or mental condition that limits the individual's movements in doing daily and ordinary task. Some disabilities are acquired from birth and others are from the accident. But somehow the struggles are the same, many of these have difficulties with means of transportation, work, and services. The origin of disability is usually a disorder in mental and physical that adds extra burden to the individuals who suffer from it.

The disabled community struggles with rejection from many aspects of society that other people take for granted. The barriers that people with disabilities face are societal and no amount of positivity will be able to break these barriers down (Stella Young, 2021). Being disabled in a society brings judgement from other people and creates a bad effect on the person experiencing it. A person's environment has a huge effect on the experience and extent of disability (World Health Organization, 2022). With this being the case, many disabled people isolate themselves from society so they can avoid the inequality and discrimination by other people who separate them from the sodality.

The researchers observed that discrimination occurs when a person with a disability is treated less favourably than a person who does not have a disability. Many of these cases are common to the person with disabilities suffered.

According to Mokokoma Mokhonoana, an author in South Africa, "The most upsetting thing about society's attitude towards disabled people is that many millions of disabled people became disabled while trying to please society, the very some bitch that secretly regards them as subhuman" (Mokokoma Mokhonoana, 2022). He also argues that because society standardized each person's capacity, it was difficult for those with disabilities to make adjustments in all aspects.

The discrimination of and social prejudice against people with disability based on the belief that typical abilities are superior (Ashley Eisenmenger, 2022). Nearly everyone faces hardships and difficulties at one time or another. But for people with disabilities, barriers can be more frequent and have greater impact (World Health Organization, 2022). Accessibility towards Opportunities: All women and men with disabilities can and want to be productive members of society (JobStreet, 2022). In fact, there is an elected leader for the Persons with Disabilities (PWD's); so they can lend a hand onto the every Individual who suffered from it. If you are a family member who cares for someone with a disability whether a child or an adult, combining personal, caregiving, and everyday needs can be challenging (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020). Moreover, the People with Disability must give an effort; so they can avail to the opportunities that the society gave. Unfortunately, there are some Incapacitate people that can't able to avail on the opportunities due to their impairments.

Researchers want to suggest that the society must prioritize the needs of every people with disability to ensure their well-being. According to National Disability Institute (NDI), they need to learn to create a spending plan, effectively use banks in managed their depths and credits. In addition, they need to understand public benefits programs and the disability service system. Therefore, the Person with Disability must not depend on the government assistance. Instead, they must learn on how to use and secure their resources; so they can manage it properly.

In particular, the researchers refer to these ideas in the Municipality of Placer because there are some cases of discrimination and prejudice suffered by disabled people in the Municipality of Placer. Many of these cases affect elderly people without considering their disabilities and the judgement they got from society makes them afraid to reach out to other people. The researchers also discovered that in Barangay Magsaysay there are a lot of disabled that haven't been recognized by other whereas they treated the disabled people differently and don't consider their disabilities in means of work, transportation, and business because they didn't recognize them as a Person with Disabilities (PWD).

The goal of this study is to understand the typical forms of discrimination that affect persons with disabilities and how they deal with all the prejudice and discrimination they encounter in society. Also, this research is looking for possible opportunities that they can avail themselves of in society. The researchers would also know how to provide the assistance they need and what kinds of organizations they can go to for help. Furthermore, it also allows the researchers to know the solutions that can be laid out for them to make sure what they experienced will never happen again.

## II. FRAMEWORK

This study is grounded on Judith Butler's Theory of Embodiment. According to Judith Butler, that everyone, whether or not disabled, requires support for bodily activities from various kinds of things that are external to their bodies (2009). Such sources include the moral, medical, and social models, which seek to provide an external perspective of the way disability is understood within society. On the other hand, embodiment frames bodily change as a horizon for self-understanding, self-definition, and the body as an agent interacting with others and with the world more generally (Weiss 1999).

Furthermore, the model of Disability refers to the various perspective of each individual with its own set of assumptions, beliefs, and implications for understanding disability and developing policies and interventions to address it. These are the Models of Disability that can be classified into five categories: social, medical, biopscho-social, moral, ableism. The Social Model of Disability says that people are disabled by barriers in society, not by their impairment or difference. Barriers can be physical like buildings not having accessible toilets (Scope, 2019). Also, they can be caused by people's attitudes to difference, like assuming disabled people can't do certain things. The Medical Model of Disability focuses on the medical aspects of a disability and seeks to "cure" a person of their disability so that they can return as closely as possible to an able-bodied state (University of Illinois, 2022). The Biopsychosocial Model of disability is an attempt to account for both the social and biomedical models of disability. It suggests that to understand a person's medical condition it is not simply the biological factors that need to be considered, but also the psychological and social factors (George Engel, 1977). In The Moral Model of Disability, disability is seen as having meaning about the person's or the family's character, deeds, thoughts, and karma. From this perspective, disability can carry stigma, shame and blame, particularly if the disability is seen as a mark of wrongdoing (Rhoda Olkin, 2022). In Ableism Model of Disability refers to the attitudes result in reduced access to health care, education, employment, and increases in bullying, poverty, and violence against people with disabilities. Despite progress regarding disability awareness (Friedman, 2016).

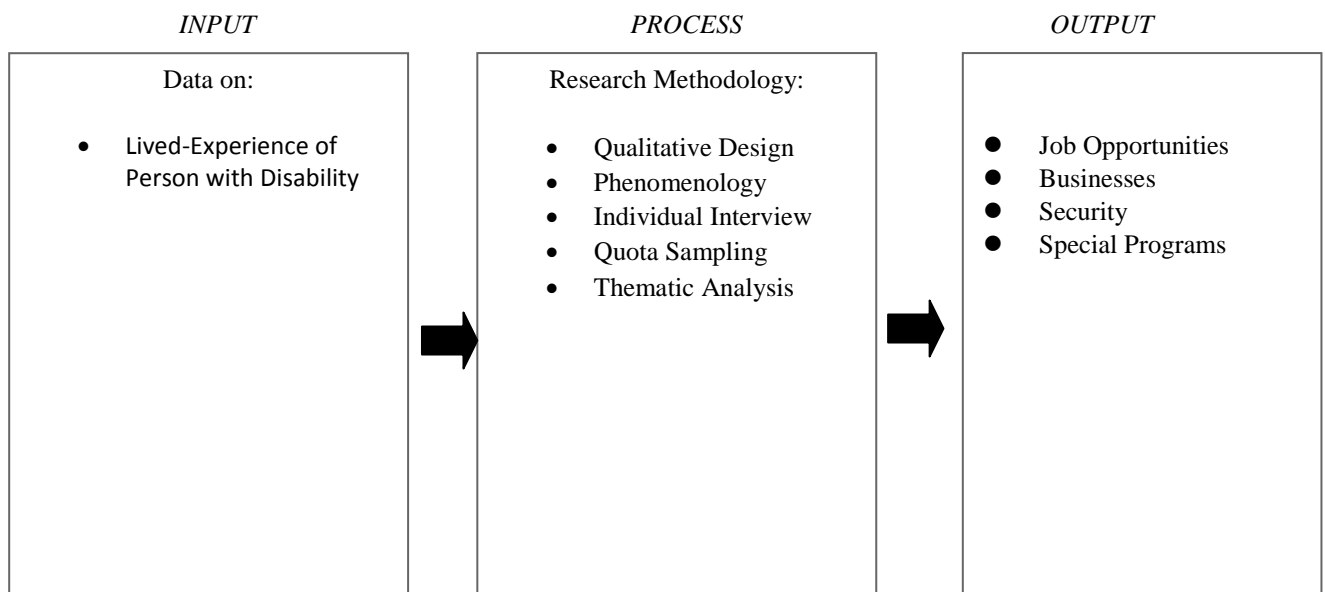


Figure 1. *Flow of the study*

### III. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

This study aims to determine the lived-experience of person with disability. Specifically it sought to answer the following question:

1. What is the Lived-experience of person with disability in Barangay Magsaysay, Placer Surigao Del Norte with regards to lack of opportunities towards accessibility?
2. What are typical forms of discrimination that affect persons with disabilities and how they deal with all the prejudice and discrimination they encounter in society?
3. How does a PWD living condition affect their daily lives?
4. What are the coping mechanisms of the PWDs towards lack of opportunities, discrimination and prejudice in the society?

### IV. METHODOLOGY

This study utilized a type of qualitative research that determines the opportunities that can be accessed by disabled people and the common types of discrimination they get from the society. The study focused only in the Municipality of Placer specifically in Barangay Magsaysay. In terms of informants, it focuses only on five Person With Disabilities (PWD) who are 30 years old or above. A quota sampling method was employed in the selection of the participants. The study was undertaken from April 2023 until May 2023. A phenomenological type of research study was used which describes an experience as it is lived by the person using the Individual Interview Method and Thematic Analysis. Through these experiences, the researchers can provide innovative and convenient information to understand the problem being focused on. The researchers gathered data by the means of survey and observation, which serve as a guide for conducting an interview that was given to the informants. The survey includes basic questions that are composed of information, idea, and solution. With this, the gathered information held the confidentiality of the informants as the researchers collected information about the opportunities for disabled people and the types of discrimination they get from other people in Barangay Magsaysay.

### V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

1. Based on the interview conducted by the researchers, the informants were deprived of lack of opportunities to following themes: Financial Assistance, Medicines, Basic Necessities, Protection/Security, Unemployment. Many PWDs are asking for help from the government, but most of them are asking for financial assistance to buy medicine, foods, and clothing even business to support their family and their needs. Foods and Clothing are just a primary needs to us, but still the PWDs are making strenuous efforts to buy for it. Nowadays, PWDs are experiencing money shortage, struggling in balancing it. Additionally, every PWD has maintenance, but how and where do they can find money if they can't apply for a job, even PWD that have a pension are struggling in balancing their money. Money is one of the most important issues that PWDs facing nowadays, even us. It is often said that they received assistance from the government; but, on the other hand, it's insufficient to support their needs even their maintenance medicine. Moreover, it's hard for them to apply for a job, because of their impairments. This means no matter what they try to do, they still get rejected. Despite their impairments, they still need a job to support their family and the needs.

2. Each participant had a different discrimination they received from the society. 2 participants out of 5 participants answered that he/she is being harassed. 2 out of 5 participants said that he/she experienced Victimization. 2 out of 5 participants answered that he/she experienced Indirect Discrimination. 2 out of 5 participants said that he/she experienced Ableism. The results reflect that the PWDs are experiencing Harassment, Indirect Discrimination, Victimization and Ableism. This means these types of discrimination are most frequently experienced by the PWDs. Moreover, it was also observed that they are also experiencing rejection and avoidance by the people around them. This means that PWDs are experiencing isolation.

3. Based on the interview conducted by the researchers, the informants' living condition affects their lives based on the following themes: Physical Barriers, Communication Barriers, Systematic Barriers, Physical Barriers and Attitudinal Barriers. Physical barriers affects their daily lives wherein they got bullied. Communication Barriers also affect their lives when communicating with people in the society. Systematic Barriers affect their lives when applying for a job. Attitudinal Barriers affects their lives when it comes to social interaction and some people don't like to interact with them because of their disabilities.

4. The themes were formed based on the coping mechanisms of the informants in dealing such condition are Leisure, Communication/Counseling, Social Support, and Isolation. They want to spend their free time in

watching Television, studying, playing basketball and playing with their toys. Another is they just talk to their family and ask for an advice. They received social support from their neighbors. And they just isolate themselves to avoid people and troubles.

**Table 1. On Thematic Analysis**

Area of Focus (Questions)	Verbatim Response	Themes
1. What is the Lived-experience of person with disability in Barangay Magsaysay, Placer Surigao Del Norte with regards to lack of opportunities towards accessibility?	<p><b>P 1.</b> I want to ask some <u>help</u> from the government.I want the bullies to be <u>arrested</u> by the police. I want the police to <u>arrest</u> them. I want them to stop bullying me.</p> <p><b>P 2.</b> If there was <u>cash</u>, they must add some, and for Christmas, they should have a program.</p> <p><b>P 3.</b> If i ever have a chance to ask for help from the government i prefer <u>money</u>, for buying <u>medicine</u>, <u>rice</u>, and for our <u>daily needs</u>.</p> <p><b>P 4.</b> If the government gave me an <u>financial</u>. I also want to be included in the PWD beneficiaries because my husband already in and I is not.</p> <p><b>P 5.</b> I just want to receive <u>money</u> from the government. <u>Money</u> is Important to us so we can buy <u>rice</u> and <u>medicine</u>. Life is hard. Today it's hard to find <u>money</u> so I want to avail from the government.</p>	FinancialAssistance Medical Basic Necessities Protection/Security Unemployment

Area of Focus (Questions)	Verbatim Response	Themes
2. What are typical forms of discrimination that affect persons with disabilities and how they deal with all the prejudice and discrimination they encounter in society?	<p><b>P 1.</b>The people around me usually called me that I " smell like poop" like yesterday. They always <u>hurt</u> me with their <u>hurtful punch</u> onto me and in my stomach.</p> <p><b>P 2.</b> When I was a child, <u>bullying</u> me was worse. Sometimes they would call me "dwarf" and then sometimes they <u>wouldn't talk</u> to me because I think they feel weird about me.</p> <p><b>P 3.</b> Now that I am already inadequate, many people said to me that I'm <u>not capable</u> of working in the company anymore because I have a disability that cuts my leg. That's why it's not good for me to work in the company. Even if the owner of the company sees my condition they will <u>not accept</u> it.</p> <p><b>P 4.</b> Sometimes my grandchildren tell me that my neighbor's always <u>backstabbing</u> me. I don't mind what they say because I can't hear it. Also, sir, it is difficult for me to apply for work because of my condition, they will <u>refuse</u>.</p> <p><b>P 5.</b> Even though I'm sitting in the corner they still <u>hurt</u> me. They always make me <u>angry</u>. Because of their <u>ridicule</u>, I accidentally <u>throw</u> something at the innocent person. Sometimes they <u>avoided</u> me and I don't understand. They always call the police <u>to scare</u> me.</p>	Harrassment Indirect Discrimination Victimisation Ableism

Area of Focus (Questions)	Verbatim Response	Themes
<p>3. How does a PWD living condition affect their daily lives?</p>	<p><b>P 1.</b> I received <b>money</b> from the government, they gave me <b>500</b>. The people also gave me 20, the rest are just for <b>snacks</b>. They have <b>clothes</b> and gave it only to my mother.</p> <p><b>P 2.</b> I have received assistance like <b>SAF</b> from the government, the <b>amount</b> I receive during Christmas is also big. Also the sponsor of the shell at the gas station, gives a different <b>class of things</b>.</p> <p><b>P 3.</b> I only received monthly <b>pension</b> from work, why didn't I receive it from the DSWD but my wife listed me to receive mine. <b>Medicine</b> has also been given from Surigao but it is not enough.</p> <p><b>P 4.</b> My husband and I are not the same, sir, I am the only one who can be receive <b>financial assistance</b> from the DSWD, the Senior has been with the DSWD for three months. It is very difficult that the government only receives enough for <b>medicine</b>.</p> <p><b>P 5.</b> Yes, first they gave <b>5,000</b> to mom, then they sent <b>7,000</b> to sister Em from other country. My sister em told that the <b>money</b> I received was from the foundation.</p>	<p>Financial Medical Basic Necessities</p>

Area of Focus (Questions)	Verbatim Response	Themes
<p>4. What are the coping mechanisms of the PWD'S towards lack of opportunities, discrimination and prejudice in the society?</p>	<p><b>P 1.</b> I ask my <b>mother</b> to buy me a puto, cutchinta, and fishball. Sometimes I <b>didn't go out</b> of the house so they will not hurt me. If my <b>uncle</b> won a cock fighting I immediately approach him to <b>celebrate</b> with him.</p> <p><b>P 2.</b> So that I can't think about everything they say, I will <b>play basketball</b> with my <b>neighbor</b> because the basketball ring is also close to us. The only thing I'm focusing on is to <b>study hard</b> and just let what they say. To get rid of my anger, I am having <b>fun</b> with myself.</p> <p><b>P 3.</b> Sometimes <b>watching TV</b> relieves boredom. Then I will ask my <b>grandchildren</b> to help me go outside to talk to the <b>neighbors</b>. I also enjoy talking to them.</p> <p><b>P 4.</b> Sometimes I talk to my <b>grandchildren</b> and <b>husband</b> to get rid of my anger. I will not go outside so I won't see their faces. Then if the others backstab me and I don't know it but my good <b>neighbors</b> is the one who scold them because scared to fight back.</p> <p><b>P 5.</b> I <b>always eat</b> a lot and <b>didn't go outside</b> because I'm afraid of them. I <b>play with my toys</b> so that I can have <b>fun</b>. There is a lot of noise outside so I <b>stay at home</b>. Sometimes I complain to my <b>mom</b> for them scold by my <b>mother</b>.</p>	<p>Leisure, Communication/Counseling , Social Support Isolation</p>

## VI. CONCLUSION

On the light of the findings discussed, discrimination and prejudice can happen in different aspects and the vulnerable to this problem is the PWD especially if they are being rejected from society which can cause a lot of barriers for them. In accessing the opportunities, the person with disabilities has difficulties in reaching their goals and applying for a certain type of job. That's why some PWD depends only on the support given by the Government and Non-Government Organization. In terms of the needs and wants of a PWD, they most likely want financial support from the Government and Non-Government Organizations whereas the money they receive from this association is being spent for their necessities like food, medicine, and house bills. That's why financial support is important to them to ensure their living.

## VII. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on findings and results from the interview on Person With Disabilities conducted by the researchers of Placer National High School, there are still opportunities that cannot be accessed by the PWD and most of them is not financially independent due to lack of Jobs and support from the government. Therefore, the following are recommended based on the results and findings:

1. The Department of Social Welfare and Development shall create more jobs and businesses for PWD for them to get more income and be financially independent.
2. The researchers would also like to recommend security for PWD so that if someone attempts to hurt them, there are security personnel to stop them from doing it.
3. The researchers would like to recommend that the business establishments must have a discount for PWD for their necessities so they can afford it. For the LGU they must have a special program like Christmas and New Year's Eve where they are giving donations and support for PWD.

# REFERENCES

1. A Systematic Literature Review of the Barriers to Job Placement for Person with Disabilities International Journal of Engineering & Technology (2018) [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/332683200\\_A\\_Systematic\\_Literature\\_Review\\_of\\_the\\_Barriers\\_to\\_Job\\_Placement\\_for\\_Person\\_with\\_Disabilities](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/332683200_A_Systematic_Literature_Review_of_the_Barriers_to_Job_Placement_for_Person_with_Disabilities)
2. Conceptualizing disability: Three models of disability The author explains different perspectives for understanding disability. By Rhoda Olkin, PhD (2022) <https://www.apa.org/ed/precollege/psychology-teacher-network/introductory-psychology/disability-models>
3. Disability and Health. Disability Barriers | CDC (2019) <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/disability-barriers.html>
4. Feminism Perspective on Disability (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy Judith's Theory of Embodiment (2009) <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminismdisability/#:~:text=The%20social%20model%20is%20compatible,are%20external%20to%20their%20bodies.>
5. Institute of Entrepreneurship Development SOCIAL INCLUSION & HUMAN RIGHTS 6 Barriers to Disability Inclusion Vasilis Bouronikos (2021) <https://ied.eu/project-updates/projects/it-in-touch/6-barriers-to-disability-inclusion/>
6. Intellectual Disability-Children Health Issue-MSD Manual Consumer Version(2022) <https://www.msmanuals.com/home/children-s-health-issues/learning-and-developmental-disorders/intellectual-disability>
7. Socialprotection.org.Social protection and community support system for inclusion of persons with disabilities (2021) <https://socialprotection.org/learn/webinars/social-protection-and-community-support-system-inclusion-persons-disabilities>
8. Types of disabilities There are many different types of disabilities such as intellectual, physical, sensory, and mental illness Aruma (2019) [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/308516711\\_Aversive\\_ableism\\_Subtle\\_prejudice\\_and\\_discrimination\\_towards\\_disabled\\_people](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/308516711_Aversive_ableism_Subtle_prejudice_and_discrimination_towards_disabled_people)



9. ResearchGate.Loneliness, Social Support, Social Isolation and Wellbeing among Working Age Adults with and without Disability: Cross sectional study (2020)  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/343446062\\_Loneliness\\_Social\\_Support\\_Social\\_Isolation\\_and\\_Wellbeing\\_among\\_Working\\_Age\\_Adults\\_with\\_and\\_without\\_Disability\\_Cross\\_sectional\\_study](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/343446062_Loneliness_Social_Support_Social_Isolation_and_Wellbeing_among_Working_Age_Adults_with_and_without_Disability_Cross_sectional_study)
10. Riseservicesinc.org Community Safety tips for adults with disabilities (2018)  
<https://riseservicesinc.org/news/community-safety-tips-for-adults-with-disabilities/>