

ISSUE

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NEWSLETTER OF THE
LEISURE EDUCATION
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

LeisureEd

17th World Leisure Congress on 11-15th December 2023

We will be holding a symposium entitled: Leisure education and the right for leisure in the 17th World Leisure Congress on 11-15th December 2023. So far we have several presentations and we welcome all of you to join.

WEBINAR

We plan to hold a collaborative Webinar together with the Special Interest Group on Leisure and Human Rights in October. Anyone who wishes to contribute to this Webinar please get in touch with us.

CALL FOR ARTICLES

We plan to publish a Newsletter per term. Please send us a short article of your work or a project by 31 January 2024 to be included in the next Newsletter.

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Launch of the Leisure Education SIG Newsletter!

We are pleased to let you know that our SIG is launching a periodical newsletter. The aim of this initiative is to provide a platform for sharing themes of interest under the area of leisure education while bringing in global perspectives. We also wish to keep you updated on our activities and plans and encourage new initiatives. With the help of WLO Secretariat we will be posting the newsletter on the SIG corner of WLO website.

As a new initiative we will need your cooperation in providing your input. We aim to have representatives from different regions to ensure the global touch of the newsletter. Each newsletter will include our plans and call for participation as well as a short note of new research and or practice that you wish to share. We can also use this newsletter to accommodate your call for some collaborative project in the area of leisure education.

The first newsletter includes some information of our plans as well as giving credit to an emerging scholar in the field of leisure education. This scholar is Dr Makhaya Malema who is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Sport, Recreation & Exercise Sciences, University of the Western Cape, South Africa. Dr Malema is an emerging researcher in the field of Leisure and Recreation. He holds a PhD in Sport, Recreation & Exercise Sciences, with background teaching and qualification in the field of Sports, Leisure and Recreation management.

WLO ^{70th}
ANNIVERSARY

“Advocating for leisure worldwide”



Leadership Development for Youth with Physical Disabilities

Dr. M. Malema
University of the Western Cape
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"Young people with disabilities have great potential to overcome the stigma associated with them, often being neglected for leadership positions. The current research is a foundation to displaying their potential"



Figure 1: Leadership outcome through leisure education for youth with physical disabilities

Makhaya Malema recently completed his PhD entitled: **Guidelines for leadership development using leisure education as a tool for youth with physical disabilities in South Africa**. He was supervised by Professor Lisa Wegner and Professor Marie Young. The aim of his study was to gain an understanding of leisure education as a tool for leadership development amongst youth with physical disabilities to develop guidelines for use in the South African context. His study was undertaken using a sequential explanatory mixed-methods approach, this study consisted of phase I: scoping review; phase II: quantitative cross-sectional study; phase III: qualitative descriptive study; and phase IV: Delphi study. Through the conceptual framework, the researchers introduced a three-pillar approach to guide the implementation of leisure education programmes for youth with physical disabilities:

These three-pillars presented in Figure 1, aim to create a platform to build resilience, offer capacity development opportunities, and appreciate the available resources to promote leadership development amongst youth with physical disabilities. Activities that promote leadership development can include learning experiences through informal social experiences, peer role modelling experiences and meaningful roles. Therefore, based on the conceptual framework and the pillars presented, the study made the following recommendations for leisure service providers:

- Leisure service providers should focus on helping youth with physical disabilities identify the skills and abilities they can use in their leisure activities. It is essential to know their strengths and where they fall short in improving and developing those areas.
- This study recommends providing opportunities for youth with physical disabilities to identify their leisure time needs. This is important to align leisure education programmes with the participants to be impactful and beneficial.
- Activities should promote leadership development, including leisure, recreation, sports and physical activity programmes. The nature of these activities can be structured and intentionally designed for participants to be developed as leaders.
- Leisure activity programmes in an out-of-school context are recommended. Such activities can use a non-formal structure, making learning and development specific as per the participant, e.g. for youth with physical disabilities.
- Leisure education programmes can offer equal participation opportunities to youth with physical disabilities in mainstream societies. These programmes have the potential to allow youth with physical disabilities to be regarded as equals to their counterparts.
- The researcher recommends exploring why youth prefer certain leisure activities to others. This facilitates programme planning, and it can be beneficial in structuring suitable leisure education programmes.
- The researcher recommends that leisure education programmes offer a learning platform that promotes motivation, self-development, values and attitudes as the core focus. This can enhance leadership development and offers a sense of multi-dimensional learning.
- Leisure education programmes that offer the opportunity to develop creativity, communication, sound judgement, and psychological and social components should be prioritised.

Resources and support need to be in place to ensure that these recommendations are successfully implemented. Leisure service providers need to join hands with youth with physical disabilities for transparency and needs evaluations before implementing leisure education programmes.