The Development of Movements of Persons with Psychosocial Disabilities in Africa: Focusing on its Relationship to Global Movements

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1. Background

There have been movements of persons with psychosocial disabilities in many places around the world, and they formed global solidarity alliances from the 1990s to the 2000s. However, most previous studies on movements of persons with psychosocial disabilities have only focused on movements in the UK and USA from the 1970s onward. The purpose of this poster is to describe how these movements have been expanding, focusing mainly on movements in Africa.

2. Movements targeted in this study

A. World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (WNUSP)

★aworldwide network and was established in 1999.
★composed of individual or organizations of users and/or survivors of psychiatry.
★mainly focuses on advocacy. For example, lobbying at the UN to draft and promote the implementation of the CRPD.
★holds a general assembly approximately once every 4 years.

B. Mad Pride
& MindFreedom International (MFI)
★have been holding parades every July in many places since the 1990s.
★are composed of persons with psychosocial disabilities and other stakeholders.
★work to celebrate and take pride in madness as a culture that has been discriminated against and despised.

3. Expansion of these movements

◆1st general assembly in August 1991, Mexico city
There were committee members from:
the Netherlands, New Zealand, Mexico, USA, and Japan
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◆6th general assembly held in July of 2001 in Vancouver
There were participants from 12 countries:
Austria, Belgium, the Netherlands, Norway, Germany, Denmark, Israel, Australia, Canada, USA, Japan, and Taiwan
It was resolved that WNUSP endorse Mad Pride events which were held in five nations in July.

◆7th general assembly in July 2004, Vejle (WNUSP 2004)
There were participants from over 50 countries.
It was decided to establish an organization of persons with psychosocial disabilities in Africa.

◆PanAfrican Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry was established in 2005, Kampala. (PANUSP 2011)
There were participants from 8 countries.

◆8th general assembly was held in March of 2009 in Kampala
(PANUSP 2011)

◆2nd general assembly of PANUSP was held in October of 2011 in Cape town. There were participants from 10 countries.
(PANUSP 2011)

◆Ghana
under Hil et al, 2014
NGOs, such as Basic Needs, started to support activities of persons with psychosocial disabilities from the 2000s. MF Ghana was established in 2004.

◆South Africa
(Lewis 2007)
Moosa Salie, who was co-chair of the WNUSP from 2004, identified there being only very weak movements of persons with psychosocial disabilities in South Africa as a problem.

4. Conclusion

◆Mad Pride in the 1990s
Simultaneously started in places where there have been active movements of persons with psychosocial disabilities since the 1970s
◆Mad Pride in the 2000s
Expanded to Europe and Africa, influenced by global movements and movements that were already active.

However, Mad Pride did not necessarily expand in the same way as other aspects of this global movement. There have been almost no Mad Pride parades in either the Netherlands or Japan, where there have been strong movements since the 1970s, and in most Asian countries, where there have been continental movements since the 2000s.
Comparing features of movements in different regions is a task to be taken up in the future.

References