

DROITS HUMAINS OCEAN INDIEN Submission on the Normative Content of Education, Training, life-Long Learning and Capacity-building

11th Working Session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing 2020

Definition

1. In Mauritius every citizen has the right to education, training, life-long learning and capacity-building.

This is a fundamental human right that all citizens, therefore all older persons, should have. This right allows them to live on an equal basis with the rest of the population so they can lead an autonomous and independent life, participate in the affairs of society, be employable and contribute to the socio-economic development of their country.

Scope of the Right

2. Availability

Older persons have the right to formal and informal education in the language and medium in which they best understand: basic literacy and numeracy, life skills, information and communication technology which is very important in a digital environment, vocational and professional training and refresher training, sports and recreational, management of entertainment activities and cultural programmes so they can participate on an equal playing field in society giving them the respect and dignity for which they are entitled.

Accessibility

Older persons have the right to the appropriate physical learning conditions so they can access at their will and give their fullest potential to learn.

Older persons have the right to information on the learning opportunities available so that they can access them and get enrolled.

Acceptability and Adaptability

Older persons with or without disabilities and given their level of prior learning have the right to tailor –made learning programmes to which they can adapt and go to higher levels gradually.

Existing Standards: the University of 3rd Age in Mauritius runs courses in literacy, numeracy, music, basic computer studies in a decentralized way so older persons can physically access.

State obligations

3. States parties shall take measures to ensure that
Non-discrimination: such that older persons have access to all forms of life-long learning including scholarships, educational tours and grants for undertaking studies.

Availability: such that all forms of life-long learning cutting across tertiary education, vocational and professional training and retraining, information and communication technology, sports and recreational, management of entertainment activities and cultural programmes, basic literacy and numeracy and life skills.

4. **Special Considerations**

Accessibility: older persons have access to life-long learning opportunities in the environment that suits them.

Acceptability and Adaptability: older persons to have access to life-long learning opportunities adapted to their specific needs as expressed by themselves.

Participation: older persons have the opportunities to participate in the decision-making processes regarding the content of the educational programme regarding their felt needs.

In the final analysis the State will ensure that there is no breakdown in the life-long learning programme aimed at older persons.

5. **Non-State parties**

The State will ensure that non-State parties comply with the considerations listed above while being involved in the provision of life-learning, education and skills building for older persons.

Implementation

6. **Best practices in life-long learning education in Mauritius:**

- i. Training in life skills for women (older women included) provided by the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare
- ii. Training in Human Rights open to all including older persons by Droits Humains Océan Indien.
- iii. Literacy programmes conducted by University of 3rd Age

Main challenges

- i Training of trainers
- ii Review of programmes in life skills to make it more attractive
- iii Availability of funds to sustain training programmes in human rights.