



INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY IN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY (CHURCH)

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OUTLINE

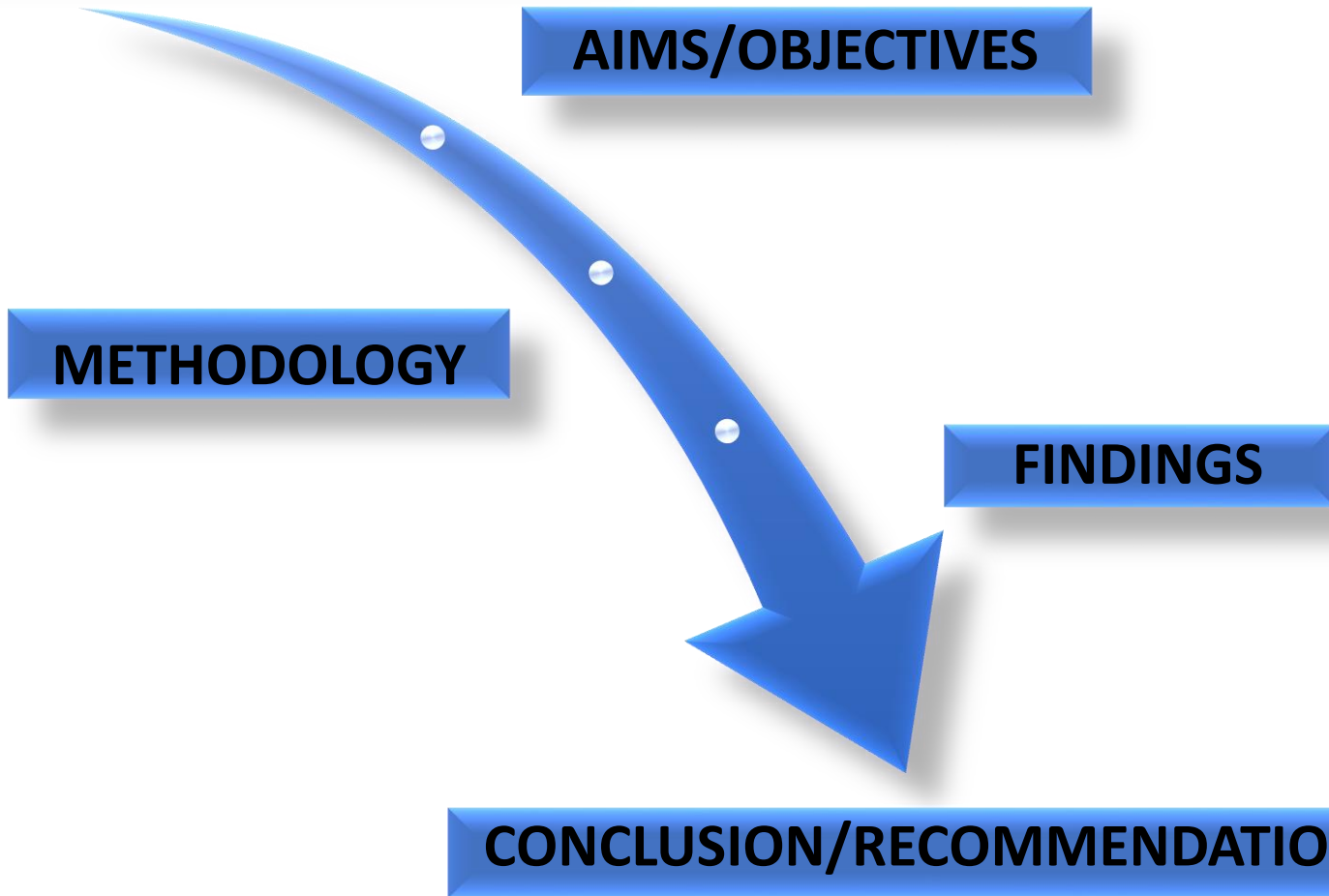
PROBLEM STATEMENT

AIMS/OBJECTIVES

METHODOLOGY

FINDINGS

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATIONS



PROBLEM STATEMENT

- Gordon et al, (2002) indicated that persons with disability and families of persons with disability cope with disability through their religious faith.
- Persons with disability gain strength and comfort from their spiritual believes through support from their religious community (Pargament & Brant 1998).
- The inaccessible nature of some churches prevent persons with disability from joining a church and engaging in their activities (Yong, 2010).
- Discrimination and stigmatization are the norm for persons with disability in the church and the society at large (Brown, 2005).
- In Ghana full inclusion of persons with disability in various aspects of life is a major challenge (Owusu & Owusu-Ansah, 2011).

AIMS/OBJECTIVES

- The aim of this study is to determine the Christian community's efforts towards inclusion of persons with disability.
- Objectives:
 - To assess the accessibility of the church to persons with disability.
 - To assess the members' knowledge of barriers faced by persons with disability in the Christian community
 - To assess church members attitude and doctrinal beliefs towards disability in the church.
 - To assess the activity participation of persons with disability in the church

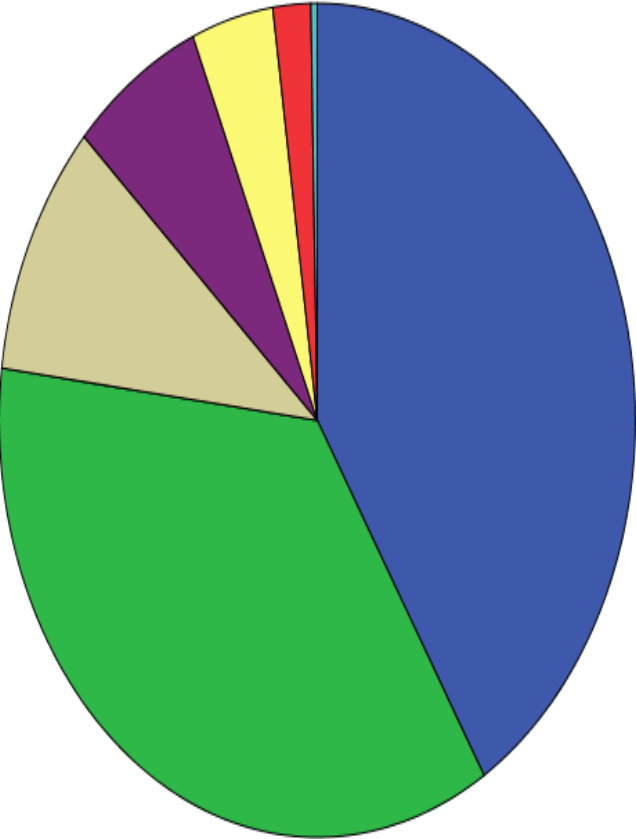
METHODOLOGY

- A cross sectional survey study design was used.
- The convenience and purposive sampling methods were employed.
- Estimated sample was 400 but 313 participant was obtain from ten churches for the study.
- The study included selected church premises that meet the inclusion criteria of the study.
- Data was collected using a modified questionnaire.
- Total responses for each item was analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 23.0 and Microsoft Excel 2010.

FINDINGS

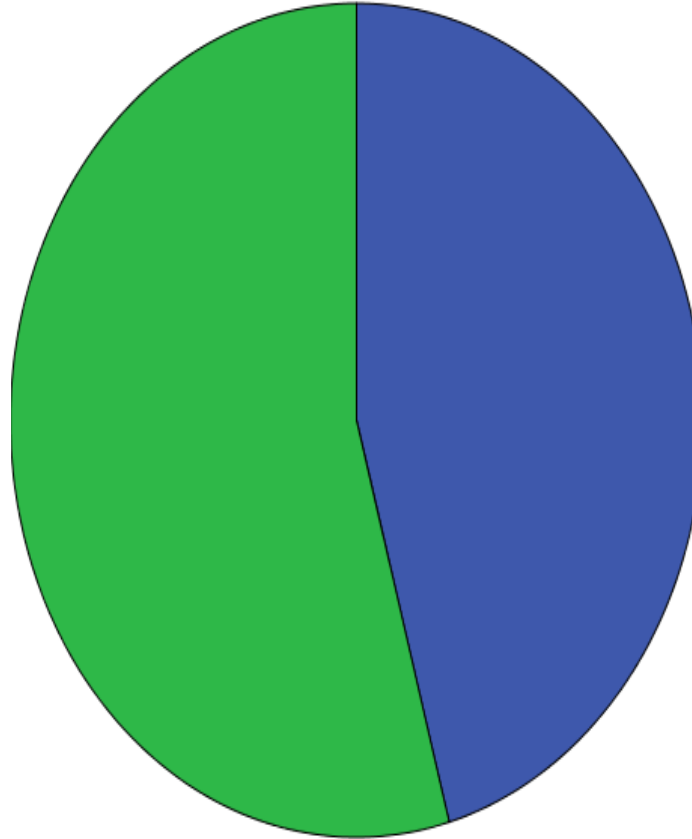
Age

15-24 yrs	41.1%
25-34 yrs	35.7%
35-44 yrs	9.9%
45-54 yrs	6.7%
55-64 yrs	4.2%
65-74 yrs	1.9%
75-84 yrs	0.3%



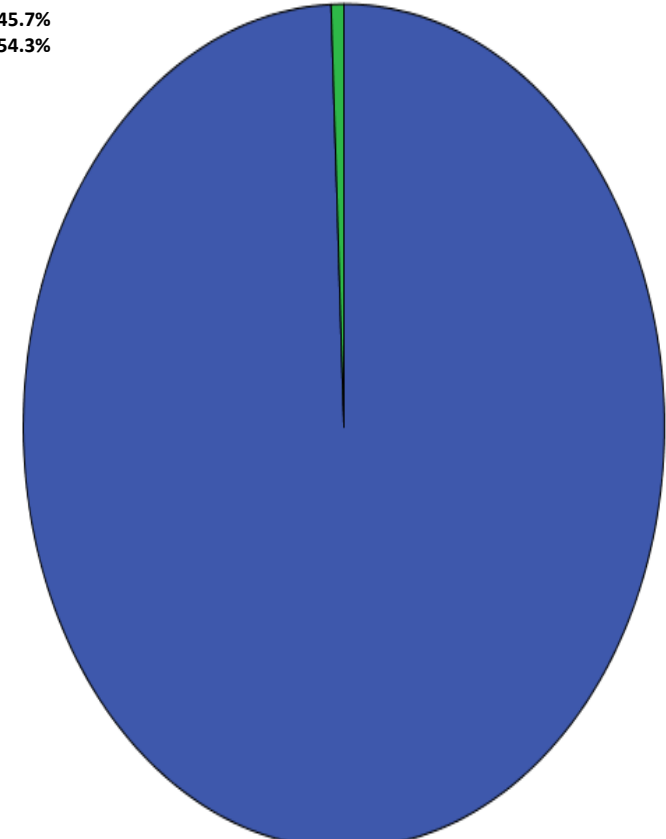
Gender

Male	45.7%
Female	54.3%



Disabled

No	99.4%
Yes	0.6%



FINDINGS CONT'D

- Participant response to most accessibility questions was a “NO” response indicating the churches were not accessible. 68.4% indicated that PWD are allowed to participate in church activities.
- Two hundred and fifty one (80.2%) of them acknowledged that architecture could be a hindrance to participation of people with disability followed by communication 126 (40.3), attitudes 45 (14.4%), policies 22 (7%) and publicity 13 (4.2%).
- Participant response to attitude questions indicated that they have positive attitude toward persons with disability.
- Most participant indicated that they have no negative doctrines concerning disability.

LIMITATIONS

- Only ten churches were included in the study which makes it not generalizable to the whole population of the Christian community.
- Researcher unable to assess the accessibility of the church by himself
- This study did not include all religious communities.

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION

- The study findings indicate that the Christian community have no inclusive framework in relation to persons with disability but have a positive attitude towards persons with disability.
- Occupational therapist must collaborate with other professionals and governmental agencies to build a framework for churches on how to include persons with disability in their activities.
- Future research must include other religious communities.

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