

This research focused on the factors contributing to the effectiveness of Meru North disability rehabilitation programme with particular reference to strategic management practice. Strategic management practice is the art of running the activities of an organization in accordance with the guidelines of strategic management theory. Strategic management practice comprises of three main tasks which are strategic planning, strategy implementation and strategic control (Gomes, 2006). Rehabilitation denotes the process of integrating disabled persons into the mainstream society. Community-based rehabilitation (CBR) is a rehabilitation approach that puts emphasis on rehabilitating disabled persons in the communities within which they live (WHO: 2004). The benefits of strategic management practice for organizational performance have been highlighted by various scholarly works (e.g. Aosa 1992, Karemu, 1993 and Shimba 1993, among others). In Kenya however, there is need to carry out research to assess the contribution of strategic management practice to the effectiveness of rehabilitation programmes for disabled people. The significance of this study was to investigate various variables of strategic management practices and evaluate their contribution in the management of disability rehabilitation programmes, which serve as major avenues for the integration of disabled persons into the productive life of mainstream society. The study involved a review of related works which was done in various libraries. Various books and journals deemed to contain relevant information were reviewed and any such relevant information extracted. Online sources were also similarly utilized. The researcher adopted a descriptive research design. The target population for this study was 248 persons. Out of this population, a sample size of 76 persons was selected using a combination of sampling techniques. These techniques include stratified random sampling, purposive sampling and simple random sampling. The study was conducted within the Meru North region and it involved actual data collection from respondents. The data collection procedure entailed a library research and administration of questionnaires. The data collection tool used was questionnaires. Data analysis was done using quantitative methods. The findings of the research indicated that strategic management contributes to the effectiveness of Meru North disability rehabilitation programme. It enables the existence of a streamlined system of programme operation. Due to a streamlined system of programme operation, there is improvement in the quality of services provided, improvement in the efficiency of service delivery system, increase in the level of coverage and stakeholder satisfaction. However, the main challenge facing the application of strategic management practice for disability rehabilitation is inadequate training for staff, limited resources, and inadequate support from government and other donor agencies. This project report will be used by different stakeholders in formulating community-based disability rehabilitation policies in future. The study also recommended measures that would assist policy makers and managers in addressing strategic management issues relating to the running of Community-based disability rehabilitation programmes in Kenya.