Digital Inclusion, Social Media and Technology Enabled Transitioning toAdulthood by Persons with Intellectual Disability

Abstract
Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) such as social media have become part of our everyday life. For the larger society, social media keeps us connected, enriches our relationships and interactions, and empowers us to act and participate in citizenry discourse [8, 9]. This is however not exactly the same for people with intellectual disability (PWID); they face many barriers that keep them digitally excluded [3]. There is evidence that social media supports the digital inclusion, socialization and participation of PWID [4,5]. However, social media participation and adoption among the group is still low, and its characterization is unclear [1, 2]. In the same vein, digital inclusion becomes essential for PWID who are transitioning to adulthood. As a particularly sensitive period perplexed with complex interaction patterns between a person and their environment (family, support workers, other institutions), transition to adulthood has a stressful influence on the entire family system [6, 7].

Our research focuses on enhancing digital inclusion and participation for PWID exploring the use of social media, increasing their opportunities for social interaction and connectedness during the process of transitioning to adulthood. Understanding the patterns
of use, non-use, motivation, strategies and competences of PWID in the use of ICTs as they transition to adulthood has implication not only for their digital inclusion, social participation and effective transition to adulthood, but it also informs effective design interventions to support this group.

The overall objective contributes to the digital inclusion of PWID providing a holistic understanding of social media use in the process of transition, designing value-centered interventions to support and enhance such experience.

References