Women With Physical Disability, Social Media And The Making Of Preferred Identity

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Research Aim
To understand how disabled women strengthen their preferred identity via social media.

Research Objectives
1. To understand how disabled women narrate and mediate their preferred selves via social media in terms of their self-presentation and positive social interactions.
2. To understand how active and constant social media experience can facilitate disabled women to acquire the qualities to resist normative stigma and oppression.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

WHAT QUESTION
Dimension I: Symbolic Resources Involved in the Identity Construction

HOW QUESTION
Dimension II: Agency in the Process of Identity Construction on Social Media

METHOD

GOAL
To identify successful cases who are living under multiple stigmatized identities.

SUPPORT & RESOURCES

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Protagonists

Birthday Girls
The Making of Disability Identity
1. To exhibit their potential and capacity to play stereotypical social identities
2. To promote the positive side of the “sick role”
3. To communicate for social acceptance and status

Shopoholics
The Making of Intersectional Identity
1. To build a “semi-private space” to own their voice
2. To search for alternative cultures
3. To co-create a favourable socio-cultural context and co-ordination of resources and support for identity exploration
4. To archive their trials on identity exploration to identify success keys

Jewel Makers
The Making of Authentic Identity
1. To review their life stories and creating a redemptive sense of self
2. To create their novel symbols to signify their authentic self in selfies as dedicatedly crafted self-portraits.
3. To act as catalysts of the constructive evolvement of collective culture in their community and mainstream culture.

FINDING

Qualities For The Making of Preferred Identity

Cultural Humility
Cultural Awareness to Identify The Ideology
Cultural Knowledge as A Broad Understanding Of Culture Landscape
Cultural Skills for Communication
Cultural Desire to Diversify Semiotic Meanings of Symbols

Wisdom of Life
Solid Knowledge of Self & Lifelong with Ownership
Wide-ranging & Effective “Know-how” for Autonomy
Rigorous Autobiographical Reasoning

Identity Politics Competence
Political Vision & Altruism
Political Knowledge and Judgement
Political Action Skills

Practice Implications

Co-creation of a Desired Socio-cultural Context
Reinforcement of Mutual Support & Resources

Mezo Level: Online Community

Micro Level: Capacity Building

Macro Level: Political Participation

Digital Literacy & Digital Storytelling
Critical Thinking: Cultural Humility And Self-reflexivity

Bridging Cultural and Language Gap of Prophetic Culture
Promoting Disability Politics Of Disabled Women