

# **STIGMATIZATION**

There is stigmatization in Nigeria with PWA's subject to random abuses, verbal insults and public ridicule without provocation or any justification.

PWA's are cast as persons or portrayed as a social outcast whom anybody is free to insult and ridicule at will.

Songs are composed by children not in praise of albinism but in ridicule, derogation and insult.

## **SUBTLE VICTINISATION AND NARROWNESS OF BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Recruitments/securing jobs – there is no open policy to PWA discrimination against subtle social undertone against employment PWA's – usually PWA's get jobs due to special interest of the employer or act of the desire just to experiment with the novel idea of employing PWA.

Many employers want to avoid the stigmatization of employing a PWA's. Then in business – they can hardly stand on their own due to very limited patronage from friends, church members and even family members. They rarely get plum or major contracts. Even when a PWA sets up a company, it is usually considered wise that a PWA should not be the ND so as not to make the company lose business or reduce the corporate image profile.

The fact or conditions of albinism does not rule act any PWA of business acumen or enterprise or diligence.

In fact many PWA's are not wanting in enterprise, but the society has conspired to keep them on the fringe of business activities.

In certain communities, there are cases of actual physical violence and even ritual murder killings.

In the Yoruba culture for instance, a PWA is seen as a special spiritual person who is preferred by the gods for ritual sacrifices than the ordinary person. In such communities where such beliefs are undespread, it is not uncommon to come across instances where PWA's are killed for such purposes or the purposes of using their body parts to make special charms. When PWA's in such communities go missing, the euphemism used in communicating the true situation is that the PWA has been taken by the gods. It is also not uncommon that PWA's are sometimes addressed as "nkan orisa" – the property of the gods.

### **SOME INSTANCES**

- a) A school child (PWA) is punished by kneeling down in the sun with his/her face facing the sun
- b) Just to beat the stigma some PWA's have dyed their hair black.
- c) PWA's are usually given menial jobs – which further makes society think they are of no use. These menial jobs are usually done in the sun – which resultant effect is that many are at the various stages of skin cancer.
- d) PWA's can't do outdoor sports because of the effect of the sun on their skin.