PUBLIC INFORMATION ACCESS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:

A CASE OF MERU COUNTY KNLS LIBRARY, KENYA.

BY

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Introduction

- 'Special needs'-those who need extra support because of Medical, Emotional or Learning disabilities.
- Partners supporting KNLS Meru-
- Book aid international www.bookaid.org
- World reader www. worldreader.org
- American friends of Kenya www.American friends of kenya.org
- Ripples international www.ripplesintl.or.ke
- Electronic information for libraries www.eifl.net

EIFL-PLIP 2016-2017 PROJECT

- ‘Promoting inclusive education through the training of children with special needs’-PARENTS SPECIAL NEEDS CLUB

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- To identify the ICT tools/other tools utilized by KNLS Library, Meru, to promote information access for Special needs young people.
- To establish the benefits accruing to special needs young people from using ICT tools at KNLS Library, Meru.
- To identify challenges faced by special needs young people when utilizing ICT tools at KNLS Library, Meru.
- To recommend strategies for overcoming challenges faced by special needs young people when utilizing ICT tools at KNLS Library, Meru

Target group

- 50 participants
- 10 pupils-primary school
- 10 students-secondary school
- 10 girls at rescue
- 5 children with autism
- 5 children with dyslexia
- 10 Hearing Impaired

	Group A	Group B
Secondary & primary school	20	
Ripples Int. rescue Centre	10	-
Autism Centre	-	5
Dyslexia	-	5
Hearing Impaired	-	10
Total	50 participants	

ICT TOOLS/OTHER TOOLS

Digital literacy class- E-readers and tablet training

E-resource centre

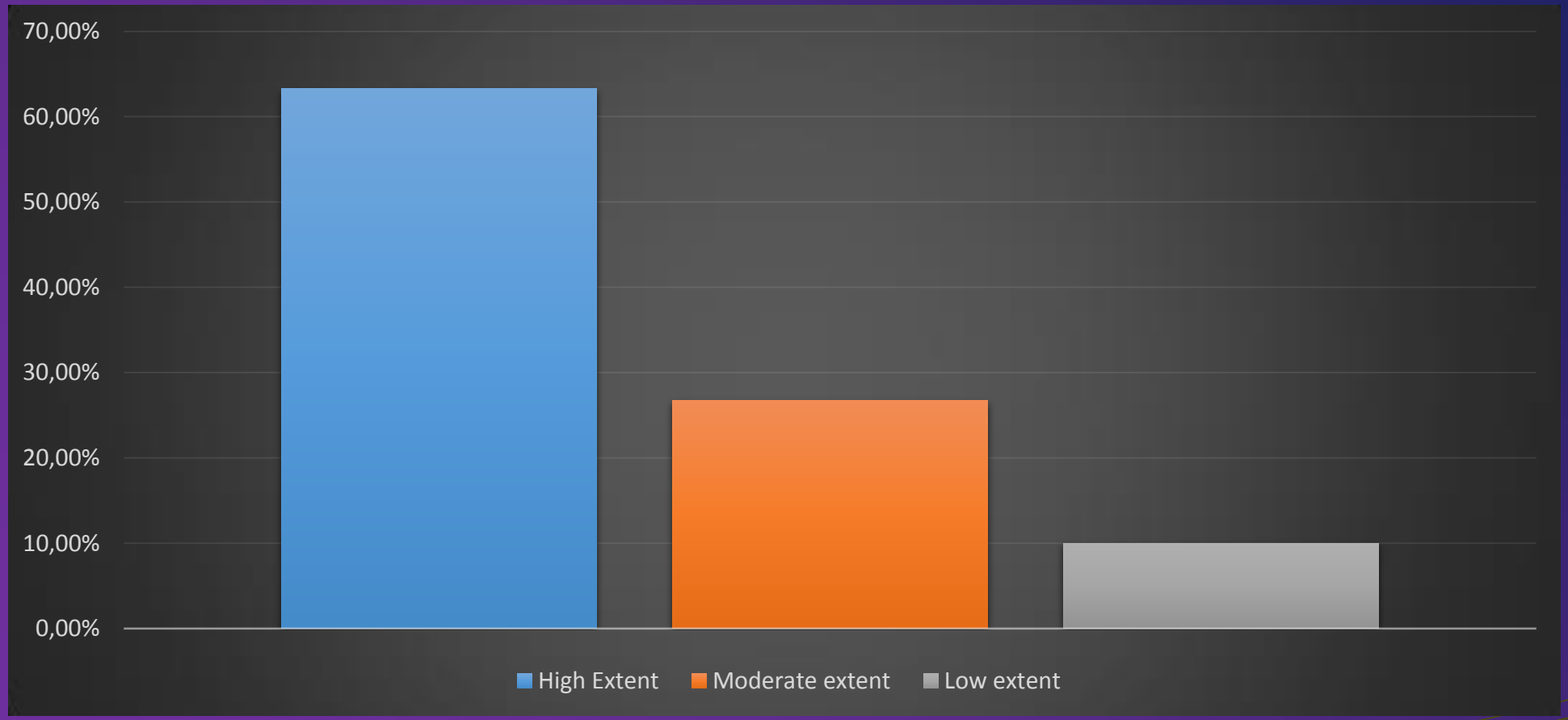
Wi- Fi internet

Toys services

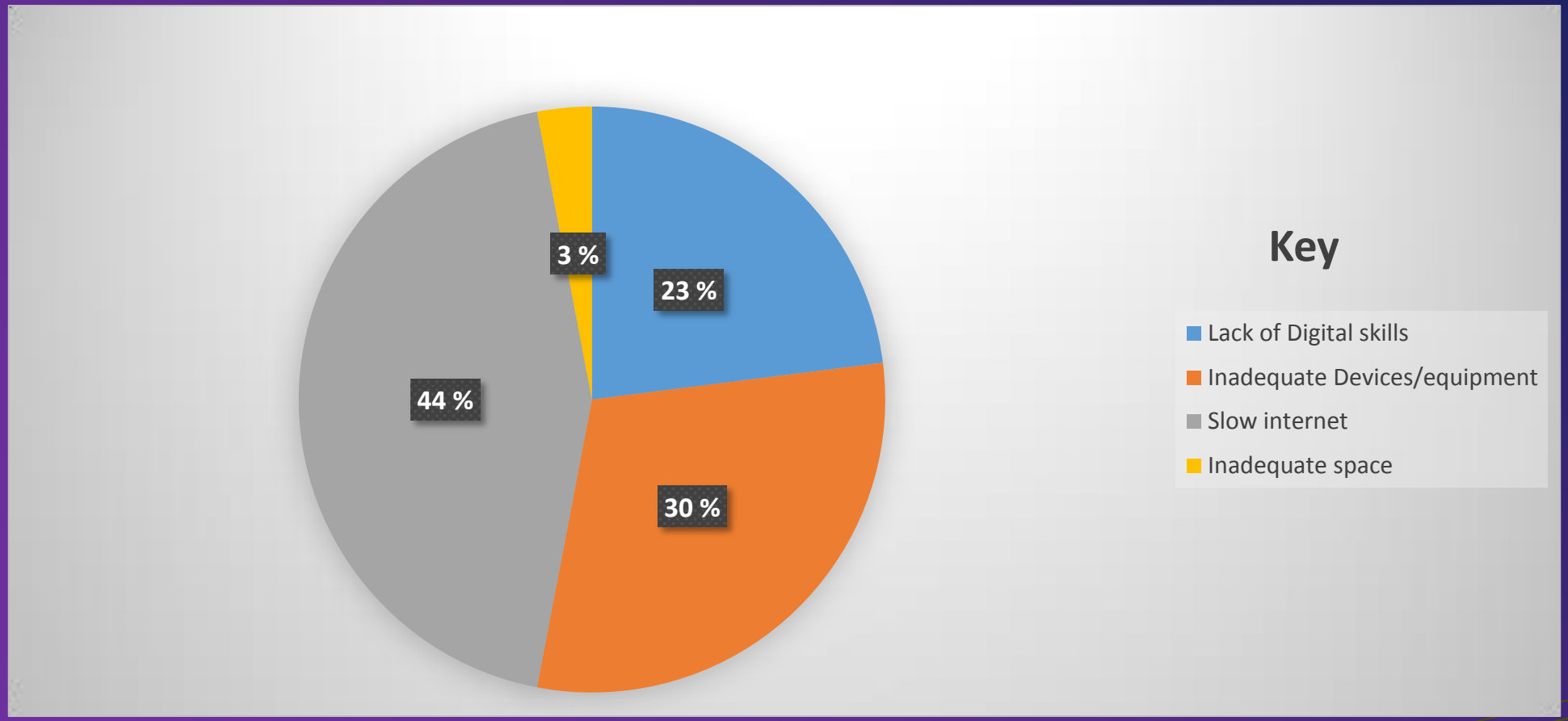
Books

Pupils from Kaaga school for the hearing Impaired reading a stories from E-readers

Extent to which users benefit from digital information as compared to conventional methods



Challenges Faced when accessing Information using ICT Tools



Recommendation

- Librarians to undergo regular training in Digital skills/communication skills for the special needs.
- Access to information through digital platform for children with special needs and young adults should be enhanced through more outreach programs (special needs schools)
- Libraries should lobby the government and partners to increase funding toward technological innovation to invest in more devices and faster internet connection.
- Create an international network to promote inclusive library services for special needs children & young Adults

CREATING AWARNESS ON SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN ON 4TH AUGUST 2018

CONCLUSION

it is important to note that special needs children are not less intelligent than their “normal” counterparts and educators and librarians must devise measures to assist them to receive information, process it and express what they have learnt and understood.

THANK
YOU