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Original Research Article

Perception of People with Disabilities towards Operation Wealth Creation Services in Masindi District

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Abstract: Chronic poverty and disability in Uganda are inextricably linked. Despite impressive economic gains made by the country, majority of disabled people are miserably poor. This study investigated the perception of People with Disabilities (PWDs) towards Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) services, a government program aimed at alleviating poverty. A cross-sectional survey was adopted to collect data from 66 PWDs. Descriptive statistics such as frequency count, means and percentages were used to characterize PWDs and their accessibility to OWC services. A logistic regression model was run to establish the influence of socio-economic and institutional characteristics of PWDs on accessibility to services offered by the OWC. Perception of PWDs towards OWC services was as well measured using of a 5-point Likert scale. The binary logistic econometric model was applied for analyzing factors influencing perception of PWDs towards OWC services. Results showed that majority of PWDs (57.58%) were males with average age of 35years. Primary was the highest level (56.06%) of education and 96.97% of them were married with average land size was 1.39acres. 42.42% were ranging between 1-10 years of farming. Most of the PWDs (71.21%) positively perceived services by the OWC. Logistic regression analysis revealed that age ($P \leq 0.05$), farm size ($P \leq 0.05$), and extension contact ($P \leq 0.01$) had positive and significant influence on accessibility of PWDs to OWC services, whereas, farming experience ($P \leq 0.05$), participation in other off farm ($P \leq 0.05$) and distance to the nearest market ($P \leq 0.01$) negatively and significantly influenced accessibility of PWDs to OWC services. Logistic regression analysis showed that the coefficient of access to extension services ($P \leq 0.01$), farm size ($P \leq 0.05$) and farming experience ($P \leq 0.05$) positively and significantly influenced perception of PWDs towards OWC services. Distance from the nearest market ($P \leq 0.05$) and age ($P \leq 0.05$) negatively and significantly influenced their perceptions. Inconclusion, integrative planning should be initiated by the implementers of operation wealth creation; to involve the PWD community in the decision making process.

Keywords: Accessibility, perception, people with disabilities, and operation wealth creation.

BACKGROUND

It is estimated that over 600 million people or approximately 19% of the world's population have a disability of one form or another and over two-thirds of these live in developing countries (United Nations, 2006; Harvard University, 2009; World Health Organization & World Bank, 2017). 12.4% of Uganda's population is estimated to be living with disability (World Bank, 2014; GoU, 2014; Uganda Bureau of Statistics, 2017). Disability is inextricably linked to limited access to services and very poor livelihoods (Palmer et al., 2015; Banks et al., 2017), and in low income settings, the relationship is strong (Filmer, 2008; Moses et al., 2014). One of the major factors contributing to this intersection is limited access of

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people with disabilities (PWDs) to public services (Mizunoya and Mitra, 2013). Evidence suggests that limited access to services by PWDs is higher in most settings (Braithwaite and Mont, 2009; Mizunoya & Mitra, 2013). In a number of low income countries, over 80 % of PWDs of working age are out of work and have limited access to services (Lamichhane & Okubo, 2014; Mont, 2014). Literature notes multiple barriers to accessing services by people with disabilities, including low levels of education, limited self- expectations and confidence; physical inaccessibility of workplaces and negative social attitudes (Goertz et al., 2010; De Jong, 2011). The perception of higher costs of putting a platform for a PWDs to access services is often common, and in many cases, once allowed to access services, the costs are transferred to them, creating additional barriers to seeking formal services (Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development 2004; Mizunoya and Mitra, 2013; Mont, 2014). Uganda put a number of strategies to promote equal opportunities and rights of PWDs (Abimanyi-Ochom, 2014). However, very few studies attempted to evaluate the impact of these initiatives on their social inclusion and quality of life (Mont, 2014). Operation Wealth Creation through National Agriculture Advisory Services (NAADS) was set up an intervention to support households with various agricultural inputs to enhance household incomes, food security and agricultural transformation (Museveni, 2016). However, despite the attention and resources devoted to the NAADS/OWC program to improve access to services for enhanced productivity and welfare, there is limited public information on perception of People with Disabilities (PWDs) towards Operation Wealth Creation services, a government of Uganda program that is aimed at improving people's livelihoods.

METHODOLOGY

Study Design

A cross sectional study design that involved in-depth face to face interviews was employed to collect quantitative data using a pretested and structured questionnaire as a survey instrument.

The area of Study

The study was conducted in Masindi district which is located in the mid-western part of Uganda. It borders Kiryandongo in the North, Kyankwanzi in the South-East, Nakaseke in the South-Southern East, Kiboga in the South, Hoima in the South-West and Buliisa in the West. The District is at an average altitude of 1295 meters above sea level, situated between 1^0 22' and 2^0 20' North of the Equator, longitude 31^0 22' and 32^0 23' East of Greenwich. Masindi district covers an area of 7,443.0 km^2. The choice of the study area was guided by the fact that it has been intensively involved in Operation Wealth Creation.

Sampling Procedure

In this study, a two-stage sampling technique was employed, and this involved purposive selection of district specifically because it among those where Operation Wealth Creation programs have been thoroughly implemented. This was followed by random selection of four sub divisions which are intensively involved Operation Wealth Creation from which 66 People with Disabilities were selected randomly following a formula provided by Yamane (1967).

$$n = \frac{N}{[1+N(e^2)]} \quad \text{..... (I)}$$

Where
n: Sample size
N: Population size
e: Level of precision

Data collection and analysis

Data on PWDs' socio- economic characteristics (age, education level, land size, marital status, etc.), institutional factors (access to credit, market and extension services); accessibility to operation wealth creation services and perception on services provided by operation wealth creation were collected. With regard to perception, statements were provided on various attributes of perception towards operation wealth creation services by PWDs'. These were on a 5- point Likert scale (1= strongly disagree, 2= disagree, 3=not sure, 4=agree, 5= strongly agree).

Data were subjected to analysis to separate the means using Fischer's protected least significance difference (lsd) and descriptive statistics like: frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviation were carriedout. T-test and chi- square tests were also carried out to determine level of significance. A logistic regression model was run to establish the influence of socio-economic and institutional characteristics of PWDs on accessibility to services offered by the operation wealth creation as specified as follows while using STATA version 13;

$$Pi = E(Y = 1|\chi_i) = \beta_o + \beta_i\chi_{i\rho} \quad \text{..... (II)}$$

Where
Y=1 indicates accessibility
Xi is a vector of independent variables
β_o is a constant
β_i=1, 2…n are the coefficients of the independent variables to be estimated.

$$Li = Z(i) = \beta_o + \beta_1\chi_1 + \beta_2\chi_2 + \beta_3\chi_3 \ldots + \beta_4\chi_4 + U$$
..... (III)

Where
X1: Age of household head
X2: Access to extension services
X3: Access to credit
X4: Market distance
X5: Farm size

X6: Farming experience
X7: Education
X8: Supporting aid
X9: Off- farm activities
U: error term

Cronbach's Alpha analysis was done to determine the reliability and internal consistency of questions regarding Perception of People with Disabilities towards Operation Wealth Creation services (Olaniyi, 2019).

$$\propto = 1 - \frac{kr}{(1+(k-1)r)} \quad \text{..... (IV)}$$

Where
k: Number of indicators or number of items
r: Mean inter-indicator correlation

The value that was obtained for α indicated the percentage of the reliable variance. It was revealed from a survey of 66 farmers that the reliability test for 11 statements of operation wealth creation attributes. The four Alpha values indicated a high reliability of the questionnaire instrument and internal consistency of the 5-point Likert scale.

Table 1: Cronbach Alpha values for the Operation Wealthy Creation attributes

Production technology	Cronbach's Alpha value
Operation Wealth Creation	0.767
Improved variety	0.620
Fertilizer use	0.713

Source: Survey 2020

Arithmetic means were calculated from the Likert scale to get the overall perception of PWDs. The data were then dichotomized to get binary responses. This was done through collapsing responses 1, 2 and 3 from the original scale to 0=disagree (negative perception) and 4 and 5 to 1= agree, following procedures of Jeong and Lee, 2016. The rationale for rubric dichotomization was that people who answered higher than or equal to 4 where positive while those who were green and those who scored below 4 where negative. The binary logistic econometric model was applied for analyzing factors influencing perception of people with disabilities towards Operation Wealth Creation services. Logitic regression model was fitted to determine the relative influence of various explanatory variables (socio-economic and institutional factors) on the dependent variable (Perception). The dependent variable in this case is a dummy variable which takes the value of 1 for positive perception and 0 for negative perception. The binary logistic model as detailed below was used to determine perception of People with Disabilities towards Operation Wealth Creation services farmers' perception as follows:

$$Pi = E(Y = 1|\chi_i) = \beta_o + \beta_i \chi_{i\rho} \quad \text{..... (V)}$$

Where
Y=1 perception of PWDs
Xi is a vector of independent variables
β_o is a constant
β_i=1, 2…n are the coefficients of the independent variables to be estimated.

$$Li = Z(i) = \beta_o + \beta_1\chi_1 + \beta_2\chi_2 + \beta_3\chi_3 \ldots + \beta_4\chi_4 + U$$
..... (VI)

Table 2: Description of explanatory variables used in the logit model and their measurement

Variable	Apriori
Age of household head	+/-
Access to extension services	+
Access to credit	+
Market distance	+
Farm size	+
Farming experience	+/-
Education	+
Supporting aid	+
Off- farm activities	+

Note: The Apriori signs in table 3 indicate a positive, negative and mixed effect on perception
To avoid the problem of multicollinearity, both continuous and dummy variables were checked prior to executing the logit model.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-economic characteristics of the respondents

Results in Table 3 indicated that most (85.85%) of the PWDs had attained formal education. Education of an individual plays a significant role in improving access to information (Ogundele and Okoruwa, 2006). It also aids the decision making process of a farmer (Kibaara, 2005 and Okunlola 2009). The average land size was 1.39 acres which indicates

that the study area consisted of generally small-scale farmers. These findings corroborate that of Jamilu et al. (2014) who found that maize farmers operate on small scale. Results further indicated that 57.58% of the farmers were males while females were 42.42%. This indicates that males dominated PWDs in the study area. This finding is similar to that of Idrisa et al. (2012) where the percentage of male respondents was more than half. The average age for PWDs was 35yearswith most (45.45%) of them in the range of 19 to 32. This shows that the farmers were young and expected to have more energy to practice farming. These results are similar to the findings of Olaniyi and Adewale (2010), Idrisa et al., (2012), Jamilu et al., (2014). Similar to these findings, Onyedicachi (2015) found almost the same mean age among rural farming households in Abia

Table 3: Distribution of PWDs by Socio-economic characteristics (n=66)

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Mean
Gender			
Male	38	57.58	
Female	22	42.42	
Age			
19-32	30	45.45	35years
33-46	28	42.42	
47-60	7	10.61	
61- above	1	1.52	
Marital status			
Married	64	96.97	
Single	1	1.52	
Divorced	1	1.52	
Education level			
No formal education	10	15.15	5 years
Primary	37	56.06	
Secondary	18	27.27	
Tertiary	1	1.52	
Off farm activities			
Yes	35	53.03	
No	31	46.97	
Supporting aids			
Yes	26	39.39	
No	40	60.61	
Land size			
Non	39	59.09	1.37acres
1 to 3	18	27.27	
4- above	9	13.64	
Farming experience			
1to 10	28	42.42	15 years
11 to 20	21	31.82	
21- above	17	25.76	

Source: Survey 2020

State, Nigeria. 96.97% of the PWDs were married. This implies that married people concentrate a big percentage among the PWDs in Masindi district and are engaged in farming probably to provide food for their family members. This finding is similar to that of Umar et al., (2014) who found that majority of the farmers were married. Majority (42.42%) of PWDs had 10 years of farming experience and above. One's experience in doing a given activity contributes towards risk reduction. The longer a person stays on the job, the better that person becomes better in management and decision making. This finding is similar to that of Komolafe et al., (2014) who also found a high farming experience among farmers. Most (53.03%) of the PWDs were carrying out other off farm activities with only few of them (61.61%) having supporting aids.

Institutional characteristics of the respondents

Results in Table 4 showed that most of the PWDs (74.24%) were not members of a farmers' group. Belonging to an association is associated to reduced risks that are involved in agriculture especially in rural areas. This is by pooling resource to access inputs and help in marketing of output (Helfard and Edward, 2004). In some areas, groups provide labour to fellow farmers such that activities can be timely done. Being a member therefore provides an incentive to produce efficiently. Belonging to cooperative association have

been reported to improve on efficiency in Brazil (Helfard and Edward, 2004). These results are in line with Rahji and Fakayode (2009).

Table 4: Distribution of PWDs by Institutional characteristics (n= 66)

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Membership in a farmers' group		
Yes	17	25.76
No	49	74.24
Access to credit		
Yes	23	34.85
No	43	65.15
Access to extension services		
Yes	25	37.88
No	42	63.64
Access to market		
Yes	39	59.09
No	27	40.91

Source: Survey 2020

Results revealed that only 34.85% of the respondents could access agricultural credit. Where inputs are missing in rural areas due to structural or institutional constraints, provision of seed credit improves access of certified inputs. The seed credit that is being provided in Uganda has been associated with increased rates of adopting several farming practices because it enables the resource poor to have access to important inputs (Kijima et al., 2006). Credit availability therefore is considered to influence positively efficiency of farmers by providing them with quality seed and if possible in required quantities. Slow rates of credit availability were found to restrict the level of production and growth of rice producers in Vietnam (Kompas, 2002). A small number of PWDs (63.64) had access to extension services. Access to extension education plays a big role in determining accessibility of recommended agricultural practices. Rahman (2003). Most (59.09) had access to the market. This finding is similar to that of Komolafe et al. (2014) who explained that maize farmers who adopted the technologies benefited a lot from increased awareness from extension agents.

Accessibility of people with disabilities to Operation Wealth Creation services

Figure 1 indicated that majority (77.61%) of the PWDs had access to operation wealth creation services.

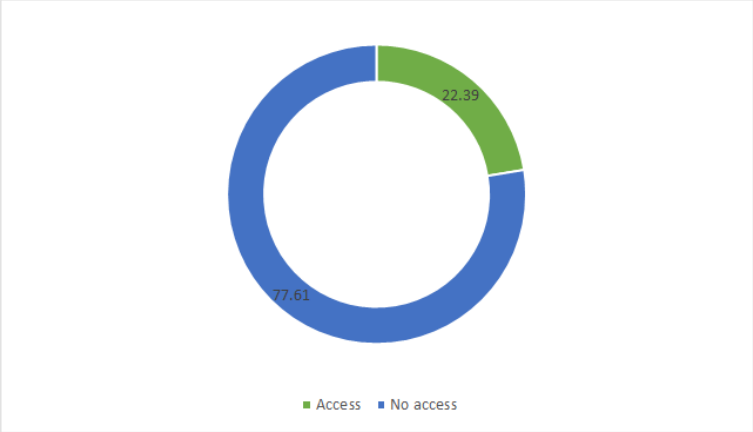

Figure 1: Accessibility of people with disabilities to Operation Wealth Creation services

Results in Table 5 showed that he coefficient of age was significant (0.3211525, $P < 0.01$) and relates positively with accessibility of people with disabilities to Operation Wealth Creation services. This confirms that accessibility to Operation Wealth Creation services increases with age of the PWDs. The finding is in line with Ofuoku et al., (2006) who found that age is related to innovation utilization because the stage of life of farmers affects their attitude towards innovation usage. The older the farmers are the more likely they are willing to put farming related innovation into use. This finding does not agree with Lemchi et al., (2003); Asiabaka et al., (2001); Odoemenem and Obinne (2010) who stated that the older the farmer becomes, the more risk averse he/she is, to utilize agricultural innovation.

Table 5: Logistic regression for factors influencing accessibility of people with disabilities to Operation Wealth Creation services

Variables	Coefficient	Std. Err.	P>Z
Gender	-0.81229	1.26606	0.521
Age	0.32115	0.14768	0.030**
Marital status	0.41460	1.29523	0.749
Education	0.15707	0.20833	0.010**
Farm size	0.81086	0.36936	0.028**
Farming experience	-0.23819	0.12160	0.050**
Off farm activities	3.43987	1.32849	0.451
Credit	4.09576	1.43063	0.004***
Extension	2.48661	1.10813	0.025**
Distance to the nearest market	-0.13447	0.04679	0.004***
Membership in a farmers' group	2.08790	0.99068	0.035**
Support aid	1.40014	1.23783	0.258
Constant	10.6800	6.35812	0.003

Number of obs = 66; Prob > chi2 = 0.0011; Log likelihood = -64.347688; Pseudo R2 = 0.70743; Sig. Code *** (1%), ** (5%), and *(10%)

Source: Survey 2020

Results also revealed a positive and significant (0.1570739, P < 0.01) relationship between level of education and adoption of agricultural innovations. The positive and significant relationship between level of education and agricultural innovation utilization also agrees with earlier studies (Ofuoku et al., 2006; Abdul et al., 2003) that level of education of farmers has significant relationship with innovation utilization by them, because educational level influences innovation utilization. Farm size positively and significantly (0.8108613, P < 0.05) influenced accessibility of people with disabilities to Operation Wealth Creation services. Farm size has bearing on the capacity of farmers to utilize agricultural innovation and new farm practices. PWDs with large farm sizes can afford to devote part of their farms to try innovations they received without significantly affecting their total land area. This finding is in agreement with the findings of Onu (2006); Bamire and Manyong (2003); Surri (2005). They reported that farm size significantly influences farmer's innovation utilization. The coefficient of extension contact was found to be significant (2.486605, P < 0.05) and relates positively influenced accessibility of people with disabilities to Operation Wealth Creation services. Extension contact determines the information that farmers obtain on production activities and the application of innovations through counselling and demonstrations by extension agents. The result is in consonance with findings by Onu (2006); Ouma et al. (2006) that the number of extension contact positively influenced the utilization of improved technology by farmers. The Study established that people with disabilities who were more experienced in farming were more likely to access Operation Wealth Creation services as compared to those with low farming experience (-0.2381992, p<0.01). These findings are similar to those unveiled by Nhemachena and Hassan (2007) that farming experience enhances the probability of uptake of adaptations as experienced farmers have better knowledge and information on changes in climatic conditions, crop and livestock management practices. Since the experienced farmers have high skills in farming techniques and management, they may be able to spread risk when faced with climate variability across crop, livestock and off farm activities than less experienced farmers.

Perception of people with disabilities towards Operation Wealth Creation services

Most people with disabilities (71.21%) positively perceived services by the Operation Wealth creation in Masindi district. On contrary, 28.79% perceived it negatively (Figure-2).

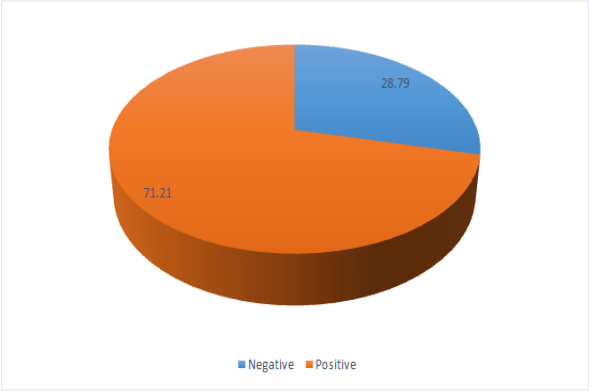

Figure 2: perception of people with disabilities towards Operation Wealth Creation services

Results in table 6 revealed that age of the household head negatively and significantly (p<0.05) influenced perception of people with disabilities towards Operation Wealth Creation services. The study found out that the probability of perceiving Operation Wealth Creation services reduced with an increase in age of household head. Therefore, the probability to positively perceive Operation Wealth Creation services

was found to be higher for the younger farmers as compared to the older farmers. The findings are contrary to those of Adesina and Forson (1995) and Gbetibouo (2009) attest to these findings when, in their respective studies, they observed a positive relationship between age of the household head and the adoption of improved agricultural technologies. They have noted that older farmers have more experience in farming and are better able to assess the attributes of modern technology than younger farmers. Hence, older farmers have a higher probability of perceiving and adapting to climate change.

Table 6: Logistic regression model for factors influencing perception of people with disabilities towards Operation Wealth Creation services

Variables	Coefficient	Std. Err.	P>z
Gender	0.77226	1.04377	0.459
Age	-0.10533	0.07466	0.018**
Education level	0.35628	0.16636	0.032**
Farm size	0.04863	0.21003	0.017**
Farming experience	0.03491	0.06677	0.601
Off farm activities	0.12561	0.75495	0.868
Credit	0.91024	0.89116	0.307
Extension services	0.54733	0.76402	0.007***
Distance to the nearest market	-0.0012	0.02347	0.053**
Membership in a farmers' group	1.13665	0.85399	0.183
Constant	6.76974	4.25002	0.001***

Number of obs = 66; Prob > chi2 = 0.0054; Log likelihood = -69.534436; Pseudo R2 = 0.6195; Sig. Code *** (1%), ** (5%), and *(10%)

Source: Survey, 2020

The study established that the probability of more educated farmers to perceive Operation Wealth Creation services was higher than that of less educated farmers (0.356274, p<0.05). More educated farmers were also more likely to positively percieve Operation Wealth Creation services than farmers with not as much education (0.356274, p<0.05). This is because higher education is likely to expose farmers to more information on Operation Wealth Creation services. Komolafe et al., (2014) also found that farmers with high level of education adopt new technologies easily and use them effectively while farmers with more years of farming experiences will be more efficient in farm production. These findings agree with those by Norris and Batie (1987) and Igoden et al., (1990) who have noted that higher levels of education is likely to enhance information access to the farmer for improved technology up take and higher farm productivity. They have also observed that education is likely to enhance the farmers' ability to receive, interpret and comprehend information relevant to making innovative decisions in their farms. Farm size had a positive and significant (0.04863, p<0.05) relationship with perception of people with disabilities towards Operation Wealth Creation services. This implies that the larger the farm size, the higher the probability of a PWD to positively perceive Operation Wealth Creation services. Similar to the findings of this study, Bawa and Ani (2014) and Olusegun et al., (2014) reported that farm size had a bearing on the capacity of farmers to utilize agricultural innovation and new farm practices. They indicated that there was positive and significant relationship between farm size and agricultural innovation utilization. However, these results contradict with findings of Idris et al., (2012) who found out that farm size had nothing to do with adoption.With regard to the distance to the nearest input/output market, the study results indicate that PWDs residing far away from the nearest input/output market were less likely to perceive Operation Wealth Creation services than PWDs residing closer to the market (-1.13665, p<0.05). These results are in line with an observation made by Madison (2006) that long distances to markets decrease the probability of farm adaptation in Africa and that markets provide an important platform for farmers to gather and share information. Nyangena (2007) made a similar observation that in Kenya, long distances to the markets negatively and significantly influence the adoption of agricultural technologies of soil and water conservation. The study revealed that the accessibility to extension services by PWDs had positive and significant (0.54733, p<0.01) relationship with accessibility of people with disabilities towards Operation Wealth Creation services. Farmers with access to information through extension workers were more likely to perceive Operation Wealth Creation services without access to information. Several studies agree with these results such as those by Adesina and Forson (1995), Gbetibouo (2009), Maddison (2006) and Nhemachena and Hassan (2007) who have separately noted that farmers' access to information on climate change is likely to enhance their probability to perceive climate change, and hence adopt of new technologies and take-up adaptation techniques. The results further indicated that distance from market had a negative coefficient (-0.1344723) and significant (P≤0.05). The negative coefficient is an indication that as distance to market decreases it invariably means a close proximity

thereby with accessibility of people with disabilities towards Operation Wealth Creation services increases. This implies that short distance to the nearest market centre and the frequency of contact that the farmer maintains with it has contributory influence on adoption of production techniques. The closer they are to the nearest market, the more likely it is that the farmer will receive valuable information (Roy et al., 1999). This agrees to Rahimeto (2007) who opined that adoption of technologies is expected to increase as distance to market decreases. Access to credit services was found to have a positive and significant influence on the likelihood of PWDS to access Operation Wealth Creation services. The results computed indicated that increase having access to credit by 1 percent increases the probability of adoption and intensity of accessing Operation Wealth Creation services by 4.10% percent. This is due to the fact that access to credit service commands the farmers' financial resources to buy inputs for improved farming activities. With the availability of credit a household can purchase improved seed and hire extra labour.

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