



Disability: Facts

The term disability covers a wide range of different physical, psycho-social, sensory or intellectual impairments which may or may not affect a person's ability to carry out their day to day activities, including their jobs.

Women and men with disabilities work in all sectors of the economy and in all types of roles. Many have demonstrated that with the right opportunities and adjustment, where required, to a job or the work environment, they can make a valuable contribution to the world of work.

Facts about people with disabilities

- One billion of the world's population, or 15 per cent, live with a disability (WHO, WB 2011).
- Disabled people are at a higher risk of poverty in every country, whether measured in traditional economic indicators relative to GDP or, more broadly, in non-monetary aspects of living standards such as education, health and living conditions.
- Disabled women are at greater risk of poverty than men with disabilities (Mitra et al. 2011). Their poverty is linked to their very limited opportunities for education and skills development. Approximately 785 million women and men with disabilities are of working age, but the majority do not work. When they do work, they earn less than people without disabilities but further gender disparities exist. Women with disabilities earn less than men with disabilities.
- According to an ILO pilot study of ten low- and middle-income developing countries, excluding people with disabilities from the labour force results in estimated GDP losses ranging from 3 and 7 per cent (Buckup 2009).
- People with disabilities are frequently excluded from education, vocational training and employment opportunities.
- Fifty-one per cent of young boys with disabilities completed primary school, compared with 61 per cent of young boys without disabilities, based on World Health Organization (WHO) surveys in more than fifty countries. In the same survey, girls with disabilities reported 42 per cent primary school completion compared with 53 per cent of girls without disabilities (WHO, WB 2011).
- Disability affects not only the person with a disability, but also their families. Many family members who provide primary care to another family member with a disability have often left work due to their caring responsibilities. What is more, carers and the families of people with disabilities usually experience a higher level of financial hardship than the general population (Inclusion International 2007).

References:

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- Inclusion International. 2007. "The Human Rights of Adults with Learning Disabilities", Report submitted to The Joint Committee on Human Rights Committee Office, House of Commons, 24 May 2007, p. 2.

