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**ATTITUDES AND OPINIONS OF THE PUBLIC IN THE
REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA TO THE BARRIERS FACED
BY PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
CASE STUDY**

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INTRODUCTION

Right to live in the society represents a basic right for all people with disability. In the society where we live, there were and still there are people with disability, which their integrity is threaded as a human being and by that they are disabled to become part of the society.

Negative attitudes toward differences and the balance of the disability, expressed by the community, the high degree of prejudice, and the indifereent relationship, containing elements of the open discrimination and marginalization towards the persons with disability.

The worldwide stigmatization and discrimination represent the general barriers for the social inclusion for people with disabilities.

The people with disabilities are facing many barriers, starting from the education, employment, disabled access to public places, lack of support services necessary for managing their daily activities.

All these barriers that people with disabilities are facing are product from the social attitudes and stereotypes for their possibilities and needs.

Through this our study believe that will contribute to advancing the general knowledge of the problem, the daily barriers faced by people with disability.

Rapid and complex changes in the social, economic and political life that occurred in the last quarter of this century, contributing to a more efficient approach, critical thinking and basic learning in public to identify many problems in the community.

All this is possible through organized workshops, public events and opportunities for critical thinking.

The study will contribute to improving the care and support of people with disabilities as by conducting questionnaires and open discussion is actually established education, expansion of knowledge, awareness and information to the general public in the Republic of Macedonia.

METHODOLOGY

Subject to this poll, the stances and opinions of the public in relation to the barriers faced by young persons with disability in the Republic of Macedonia, more precisely at individuals with intellectual cross pollution, individuals with the damaged vision, the individuals with the damaged hearing and people with physical anomalies.

The aim of the survey is:

- to present themselves to the public stances of the barriers which people with disabilities are facing in the Republic of Macedonia.
- To be compared stances and opinions of the public to the level of the problems which people with disabilities are facing.

METHODOLOGY

In the investigation encompasses the sample of 62 respondents, 31 persons of the population survive on parent and 31 persons with disability in the Republic of Macedonia.

Within our research we used: descriptive and comparative methods.

We used questionnaires as technique that were surveyed respondents from the general population and families of people with disabilities.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis of the given results showed us the stances of the public opinion, that the people with disability every day, meet certain barriers.

Given that they were applied two types of questionnaires, will be presented the results obtained from the parents of people with disabilities and the general population to determine their attitudes and opinions about the barriers faced by everyday people with disabilities in the Republic of Macedonia.

Based on data obtained from the survey, it can be analyzed and interpreted of the data obtained.

Parents

| <i>Attitudes</i> | Yes | No | Don't know | Accompanied by | Summary |
|----------------------------------------|----------|---------|------------|----------------|---------|
| High education | 19(61%) | 6(19%) | 6(19%) | 0(0%) | 31 |
| Night clubs | 16(52%) | 4(13%) | 0(0%) | 11(35%) | 31 |
| Administrative services | 15(48%) | 0(0%) | 0(0%) | 16(52%) | 31 |
| Public transport | 16(52%) | 4(13%) | 0(0%) | 11(35%) | 31 |
| Communication barriers | 24(77%) | 2(6%) | 5(16%) | 0(0%) | 31 |
| Summer vacation | 23(74%) | 8(26%) | 0(0%) | 0(0%) | 31 |
| Establishing heterosexual relationship | 21(68%) | 5(16%) | 5(16%) | 0(0%) | 31 |
| Visiting cultural manifestations | 22(71%) | 4(13%) | 5(16%) | 0(0%) | 31 |
| Number of friends | 18(58%) | 11(35%) | 2(6%) | 0(0%) | 31 |
| Going for a walk | 28(90%) | 0(0%) | 3(10%) | 0(0%) | 31 |
| Employment barriers | 28(90%) | 0(0%) | 3(10%) | 0(0%) | 31 |
| Summary | 230 | 44 | 29 | 38 | 341 |
| P | 0,000000 | | | | |
| S.E. | 0,000000 | | | | |

Social population awareness

| It is necessary to: | <i>Yes</i> | <i>No</i> | <i>Accompanied by</i> | <i>Summary</i> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------------------|----------------|
| People with disabilities to attend high education | 20(65%) | 11(35%) | 0(0%) | 31 |
| People with disabilities to have access to vacation destinations | 12(39%) | 4(13%) | 15(48%) | 31 |
| Do you know the rights of the people with disabilities? | 13(42%) | 18(58%) | 0(0%) | 31 |
| Do you agree your child to sit next to disabled child? | 22(71%) | 9(29%) | 0(0%) | 31 |
| What does special educator mean? | 24(77%) | 7(23%) | 0(0%) | 31 |
| Is disability contagious? | 0(0%) | 31(100%) | 0(0%) | 31 |
| Do you communicate with people with disabilities? | 25(81%) | 6(19%) | 0(0%) | 31 |
| Do you make fun of people with disabilities? | 0(0%) | 31(100%) | 0(0%) | 31 |
| Should people with disabilities conduct with motor vehicle ? | 5(16%) | 8(26%) | 18(58%) | 31 |
| To have disabled roommate? | 26(84%) | 5(16%) | 0(0%) | 31 |
| People with disabilities to have equal working rights? | 20(65%) | 11(35%) | 0(0%) | 31 |
| Summary | 167 | 141 | 33 | 341 |
| P | 0,000000 | | | |
| S.E. | 0,000000 | | | |

CONCLUSION

The relationship of social environment on people with disabilities, can clearly be considered as social isolation, discrimination in respect of their dignity, disadvantage and specificity.

Young people with disabilities in the Republic of Macedonia don't have always conditions and possibilities for active participating in many areas in the daily life as the rest of the citizens.

People with disabilities daily encounter certain barriers, and they usually stem from negative attitudes and prejudices of the social environment, lower educational achievement, communication, employment, lack of public accessibility, inadequate policies and standards, as well as many others.

The biggest problem for this population represents integrating in this society as adults.

CONCLUSION

Public attitudes, inaccessibility of the environment and society, together with the difficulties in getting adequate services intercepted their diverse needs, are always subject to discussion.

The frequency of these problems in the respondent population would have goal to identify them and to take measures for improving the quality of living.

In the future, it is necessary to implement the education of the public about the rights and opportunities of people with disabilities to provide them adequate information to enable contact and acquaintance with people with disabilities, which will raise public awareness and people with disabilities will experience as a entire person.