



WORLD REPORT ON DISABILITY



**World Health
Organization**



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About this report

The World Health Organization and the World Bank have written this report.



World Health Organization



The World Health Organization makes sure all people are as healthy as possible.



THE WORLD BANK



The World Bank gives money to help poor countries make their services better.



In 2006, world governments signed a **declaration** or list of promises about the rights of people with disabilities.

This report says:



- what we have found out about disability



- what governments need to do to make things better for people with disabilities



When we talk about **disability** we mean a health problem that makes it very difficult to do everyday things.



Very often, these difficulties are caused by other people, not just the health problem.



We use **intellectual disability** in this report. In some countries people call this a **learning disability**.

What we know about disability



There are more people with disabilities

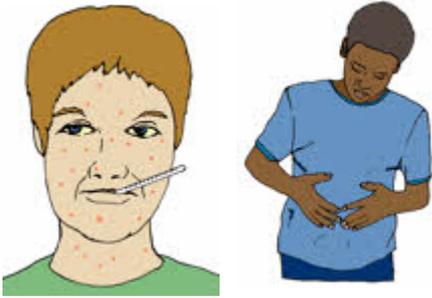
About 15 out of every 100 people in the world has a disability. This is more people with disabilities than we thought there were 35 years ago.



Between 2 and 4 people out of every 100 have really severe disabilities.

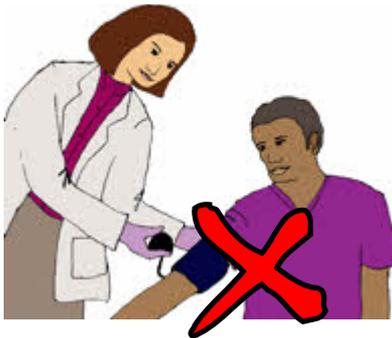


There are more people with disabilities partly because people live longer and are more likely to become disabled, as they get older.



Other reasons are:

- more people are getting diseases which can cause disabilities



- people cannot always get good health care



- people are disabled by war, road crashes or disasters like floods or hurricanes



- people do not eat the right food, or are taking drugs or drinking too much alcohol.

Every disabled person is different

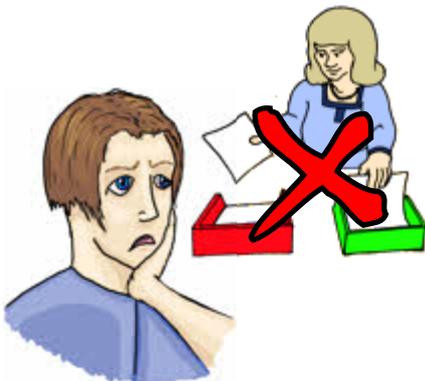
Disability can affect people in different ways:



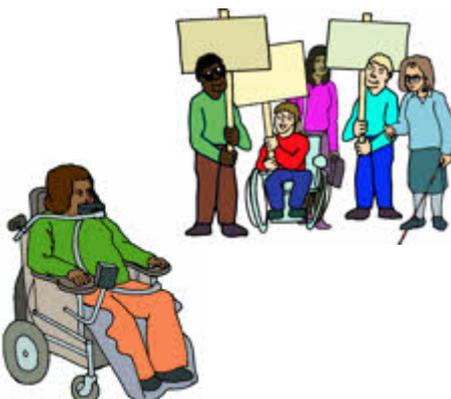
- disabled women are often treated unfairly because they are women and because of their disability



- children with hearing, sight or intellectual disabilities usually do worse at school than children with physical disabilities



- people with mental health problems or intellectual disabilities find it more difficult to get and keep jobs



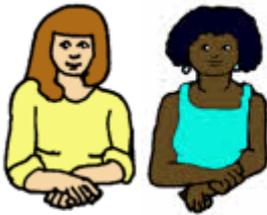
- people with severe disabilities have most problems getting the same rights as other people.

Some groups of people are more likely to be disabled

People are more likely to have a disability if they:



- are poor



- are women



- are older



- do not have a job



- did not do very well at school.



There are more disabled children from poor families or from minority ethnic groups.

Barriers for people with disabilities



It is usually other things that stop disabled people being included, not just things to do with their body or their health problem.



For example:

- people do not use rules properly to give children with disabilities the chance to go to school



- people do not expect children with disabilities to do well



- people with disabilities do not get the services and support they need



- people with disabilities do not get good quality services



- there is not enough money to pay for services



- people with disabilities can find it difficult to get around, communicate or use transport



- many people with disabilities are not involved or listened to. This stops them having choice and control



- people do not have enough information about disability, and how different things can affect disabled people.

What this means for people with disabilities



Their health is worse than other people.



They often do not do well at school.



They are often unemployed or in a job where they do not earn much money.



They are more likely to be poor.



Often they are not part of their local community. This can affect their families too.

How to change things



These ideas could help governments make the lives of people with disabilities better.

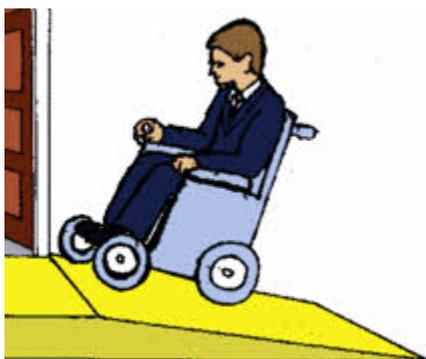
Getting good health care

People with disabilities need:

- good, clear information



- communication in the way that works best for them



- buildings and services they can get into and use



- health care in places near where they live



- more choice and control over their health care



- money to help them pay for their health care



- the chance to be involved in training people who give health care so they understand about disability.

People doing things for themselves

People need:



- early help and support before things get too bad



- services and support at home or close to where they live



- technology like wheelchairs and electrical gadgets that can help them be more independent



- more well trained workers who understand about supporting people to do things for themselves



- services and organisations that work together to make sure there is enough money for the support they need.

Getting help and support



People with disabilities need:

- more support to live in their community



- more services in the community



- better support for their families or other people who are not paid to care for them



- support that is planned around their individual needs.

Getting out and about and involved



People with disabilities need:

- to be able to use public buildings and transport



- good information and communication



- new technology like phones and computers to help them be more independent



- to be involved in planning services that everyone uses.



This will only happen if everyone looks for ways to include people with disabilities.



Doing well at school and college

Most disabled children do better in schools that everyone uses.



Because children grow up and learn together it can help other children understand about disability.

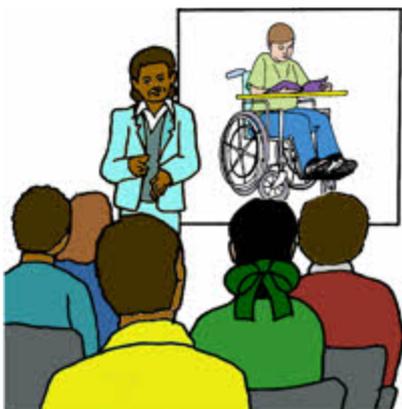


Children with disabilities need:

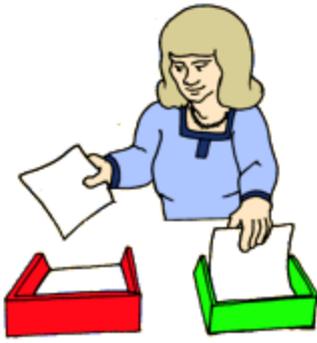
- rules to say they have the same right to learn as any other child



- schools, support and learning plans that meet their needs



- well trained teachers who know how to involve children with disabilities in ordinary schools.



Getting a job

Most countries have laws to say a disabled person has the same right as anyone else to get and keep a job.



People with disabilities need:

- people to think about changes that help someone with a disability do a job

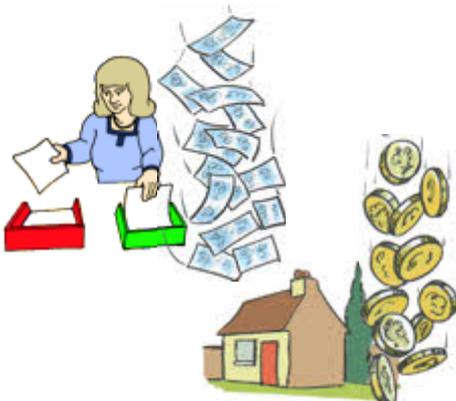


- training and support to do the job

- support to keep their job if they become disabled when they are working



- money to help them set up their own business



- benefits or other payments to make sure they have more money if they have a job than if they stay at home.

What needs to happen



Things will change if services like health, housing and transport work together.



Governments must work with services, disabled people and their families, the public and other organisations.



Sometimes governments will need to support each other and share what they know.



We have written 9 **recommendations** or things that need to happen.



1. Make sure disabled people can use the same services as everyone else.



2. Have services that support disabled people to do things for themselves.



This might mean giving people things like:

- wheelchairs or hearing aids
- training
- support workers.



3. Have a national plan for people with disabilities.



4. Involve people with disabilities in deciding laws and planning services.



5. Tell people about disability so that they understand it better. This might mean training staff so they can support people with disabilities.



6. Make sure there are good quality services that disabled people can afford.



7. Help the public understand disability.



8. Collect better information about disability.



9. Get better at research into disability.

Research is a planned and careful way of finding out about things.

Making things happen

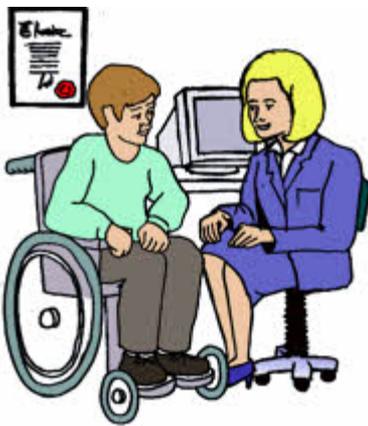


Governments can do a lot of this work but other people can also get involved.

Governments can:



- make sure their laws give disabled people the same rights as everyone else



- have plans to make sure disabled people can use ordinary services



- have a national plan for disabled people



- have rules about good quality services and check people stick to them



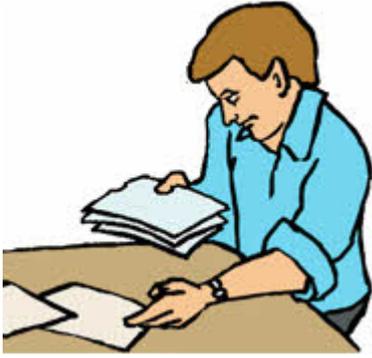
- make sure there is enough money, people and other things to make the national plan work



- have rules about making sure disabled people can use buildings, services, transport and information



- find ways to stop disabled people from being poor



- collect information about disabled people

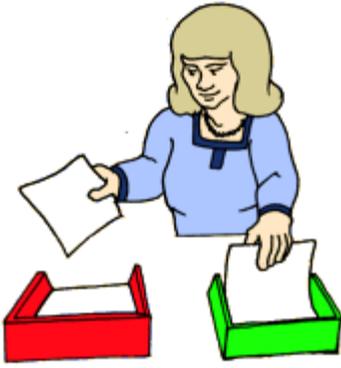


- help the public understand about disability



- set up ways for people to complain if they think disabled people are not getting their rights.

United Nations organisations can:



- use their work to support disabled people



- share information and work together



- help countries to get better at supporting disabled people



- collect information about disabled people and include this in their reports



- help with research on disability

Organisations for people with disabilities can:



- help disabled people find out about their rights and do as much as they can for themselves



- support disabled children and their families to be included in ordinary schools



- speak up for their members in their own area, in their own country and in the rest of the world



- get involved in checking the quality of services and help with research to make services better



- help other people understand about disability



- check how easy it is for disabled people to use buildings, transport and services.

People who run services can:



- find out what stops disabled people getting involved and having information



- involve people with disabilities in training staff. Make sure staff understand disability



- work with people and their families to write plans for their services and support



- work with other services to keep and share information to give people the support they need



- make sure people with disabilities know about their rights and how to complain.



Universities can:

- make it easier for disabled people to become students or staff



- make sure their training tells people about disabled people's rights



- work with disabled people's organisations to do research about disability

Local communities can:



- think about how they treat disabled people



- find ways to include people in the community



- make sure disabled people can use local schools and all the other things that other people use



- stand up against bullying of people with disabilities.

People with disabilities and their families can:



- support each other and other families to get support, information and advice



- tell their local communities about the rights of people with disabilities



- help people understand about disability



- get involved in groups and meetings that can change things for people with disabilities



- get involved in research to tell people about what has happened to them.



World governments have promised to support the rights of people with disabilities.



This report says what things are like now and what needs to change.



We hope these ideas will help make a better world where disabled people can get involved, develop and grow.



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mackenzier@who.int



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