

Physical Disabilities

action: creation of video

A physical disability is any condition that permanently prevents normal body movement and/or control. There are many different types of physical disabilities - they can be temporary or permanent, fluctuating, stable or degenerative, and may affect parts of the body or the whole of it.

What can you do to educate your fellow students about the types and causes of physical disabilities? How do the laws and provisions for people in Switzerland compare to another country (perhaps one in the third world?)

Often multiple barriers can make it extremely difficult or even impossible for people with physical disabilities to function. From a student's perspective, they may have experienced barriers to learning that relate to negative perceptions of their disability and low expectations. They may also have missed vital stages of learning during their schooling, affecting language acquisition and the development of literacy. One barrier experienced by many students with physical disabilities is physically accessing the learning environment itself.

GLOBAL CHALLENGE

We investigated the problem of attitude and treatment towards people with physical disabilities. People with a disability get treated differently, and are often wrongly judged by society, it is something that needs to be changed. Being disabled shouldn't make a difference and certainly does not justify the way some are treated. The problem isn't them but the barriers that we create. Those barriers make us treat them like they were different and sick people.

Everyone should be equal and no one should be discriminated because they have a disability. This statement is not true yet; a survey was conducted in Denmark in 2015 on 18,019 Danish citizens. 519 of them had a physical disability and 1398 had a mental disability. The people with disabilities reported higher levels of violence and discrimination. It was found that people with mental disabilities were subject to more violence and discrimination than the rest. Men with disabilities reported the highest levels of violence and women reported the highest levels of discrimination, humiliation and sexual violence. The severity of the disability didn't seem to have an impact on the way people were treated but they were all discriminated and treated unequally.

LOCAL ACTION

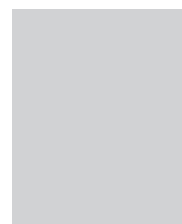
How does your local action link to your global challenge?

The link is that Noah has a disability and so we thought it was a good opportunity to help him feel better, as he is wasn't feeling good at the moment. We decided to make a video with the aim that it might cheer him up a bit and support him. Our local action was about treating him like everyone else, with empathy, and showing that everyone is equal and deserves to be treated as a person.

Why did you choose to do what you did?

Our action was about making someone with a disability feel more joyful and included while in quarantine. During quarantine many people can feel bored and even lonely. In our school we also heard that someone was dealing with these things therefore, we decided the best way to help him was to make a video for him that would brighten up his day. We wanted to cheer him up during this tough time and discover what he likes. We can share it to show people that those with a disability like the same things we do and we should include them.

EXPERT CONSULTED



Jorge Araya,
Secretary of the Committee
on the Rights of People with
Disabilities.

What did you discover?

We learned that we are the same and enjoy the same things. Just because you have a disability doesn't mean people should treat you differently. We often judge wrongly people with disabilities because we don't know enough about them and it is possible to change that just by sharing a video. If we can prove that social barriers can be broken even in quarantine then it will show people that it is possible to do it every single day. We just have to accept them as they are.

THE TEAM



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