



A review of the situation of disabled people and the welfare system in Spain

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Date: 15th of January 2009.

INDEX

1.	Statistical Data	3
2.	Employment and education	4
3.	Spanish Welfare System for disabled people	6
3.1.	Contributory Pensions	7
3.2.	Non-contributory Pensions	7
3.3.	Law for Disabled People's Social Integration and Dependent Care Law	8

1. Statistical Data

According to the survey of the Spanish National Statistics Institute, "EDAD2008: Disabilities, Differences and Health Conditions Survey", in Spain there are 3.847.900 of disabled people, 8,5% of the whole population.

Disability is clearly associated with age: more than 37,4% of people who are 65 have a disability, while among those between 6 and 64 years, it doesn't reach 1,4%.

In general, there are more women than disabled men (58% against 42%), even the number of the latter increases among people between 6 and 44 years.

In the future, an increase of disabled people as consequence of ageing of the population has been predicted.

Disabled people, according to the age distribution, 1999-2008

	1999		2008	
	Number of persons (thousands)	% over the total persons with disabilities	Number of persons (thousands)	% over the total persons with disabilities
0 to 5 ages	49,6	1,4	60,4	1,6
6 to 64 ages	1.406	39,9	1.560	40,5
65 to 79 ages	1.320,50	37,4	1.201,70	31,2
80 and more ages	752,1	21,3	1.025,80	26,7
TOTAL	3.528,20	100	3.847,90	100

Source: National Institute of Statistics. Own elaboration based on EDAD2008: Disabilities, Differences and Health Conditions Survey.

The most frequent disability consists of the difficulty in moving, which affects more than the half of disabled people between 6 and 64 years. 74% of disabled people have difficulties to carry out the basic activities in the everyday life.

To establish each person's disability degree, there are 3 kind of disability:

- **Total Disability:** a person cannot carry out any activity;
- **Sever Disability:** a person who has a big difficulty to carry out an activity;
- **Moderate Disability:** a person who can carry out an activity with or without few difficulties.

Disabled people having difficulties to carry out basic activities in their everyday life, according to the level of disabilities, without receiving any economic benefit:

	TOTAL	Number of disabilities				
		1-2	3-5	6-9	11-13	14-18
TOTAL	2.803,40	851,7	753,4	566,9	342	289,4
Moderate Disability	543,5	371,1	135,9	31,2	4,6	0,7
Sever Disability	718	274,4	264,4	130,9	37,2	11,1
Total Disability	1.384,80	144,3	314,4	375	284,9	266,2
No evidence	157,1	61,9	38,6	29,8	15,4	11,4

Source: National Institute of Statistics. Own elaboration based on EDAD2008: Disabilities, Differences and Health Conditions Survey.

2. Employment and education

According to the survey, the big problem of Spanish disabled people related to the employment is **inactivity**. More than 87,1% of disabled people, in labour age, don't have a job and don't find it. Moreover, their situation is more complex than the other citizens, due to the several difficulties and every kind of barriers to their access to the labour market.

There are several factors which make the job placement difficult:

- Insufficient educational level and professional qualifications system adapted to the poor demands of the productive system;
- Disabled people and their families' lack of motivation and information which provoke difficulties to improve their professional qualifications or finding a job;
- Some employers or responsible of human resources' negative attitude that reveals an initial prejudice towards potential capacity of disabled people;
- Insufficient accessibility (related to transportation, training or work centres adaptation) which represents a serious obstacle for the labour integration;
- Difficulties for applying for subventions to create their own business.

Activity of disabled people older than 15) compared with the rest of population.

People with or without disabilities according their labour situation:

	People without disabilities	%	People with disabilities	%	Total	%
Total inactivity	12.745.042	43,3	2.974.089	87,1	15.719.131	47,9
Total activity	16.690.178	56,7	440.873	12,9	17.131.051	52,1
Active employed	13.978.634	47,5	327.497	9,6	14.306.131	43,5
Employed working	31.706.052	46,6	289.125	8,5	13.995.177	42,6
Employed but temporarily absent	272.582	0,9	38.372	1,1	310.954	0,9
Active but unemployed	2.711.544	9,2	113.376	3,3	2.824.920	8,6
Unemployed, searching 1 st job	559.357	1,9	18.205	0,5	577.562	1,8
Unemployed and has not worked before	2.152.187	7,3	95.171	2,8	2.247.358	6,8
TOTAL	29.435.220	100	3.414.926	100	32.850.185	100

Source: National Institute of Statistics. Own elaboration based on EDAD2008: Disabilities, Differences and Health Conditions Survey.

Disabled women, in labour age, are the most vulnerable group, in a worse position than disabled men, presenting a higher rate of inactivity (23,7% women in activity against 40,6% of disabled men).

People with disabilities, who are farther from having a job, are those who accuse limitations to take care of themselves; those with disabilities to learn, and to apply their knowledge and to develop tasks. In a similar situation are those who are disabled to communicate, to carry out the housework and to be connected with the society in general, increasing considerably the unemployment rates among these groups.

An important aspect is the clear correlation between educational level and the labour situation of disabled people. A higher educational level will correspond to a higher rate of employed disabled people and, consequentially, a lower rate of inactivity.

So, the illiterate population with disabilities suffers 28,6% of inactivity, over than 90% are inactive, whereas only 7,7 % are working.

If the person has at least primary education, the proportion of people working rises to 32,3%, against 20,9% of those who don't have any kind of education.

The most favourable situation is represented by those with university studies as it is the only group with a rate of employment of 62,4%. The data reveals the importance of adequate training in disabled people's labour market.

Disabled people according to their labour situation and level of studies reached:

	TOTAL	Activity			Inactivity	Rates (%)	
		Total	Employed	Unemployed		Activity	Unemployment
Illiterates	143.307	11.095	7.921	3.174	132.212	7,7	28,6
Non educated	320.488	66.931	47.296	19635	253.557	20,9	29,3
Primary	496.832	160.302	122.292	38.010	336.530	32,3	23,7
Secondary	258.920	123.719	87.502	36.217	135.201	47,8	29,3
Vocational Training	68.760	38.968	29.141	9.828	29.792	56,7	25,2
University	49.401	30.825	25.033	5.792	18.575	62,4	18,8
TOTAL	1.337.708	431.841	319.185	112.657	905.866	32,3	26,1

Source: National Institute of Statistics. Own elaboration based on EDAD2008: Disabilities, Differences and Health Conditions Survey.

On the other hand, we must highlight the remarkable growth, occurred in the last years, of the number of people with disabilities looking for a job. Most of them are men, exceeding the rate of women, which average age is 44.

Consequently, a higher number of men is benefiting from measures to promote employment.

Moreover, the Law for Disabled People's Social Integration (Law 13/1982, 7th of April) established that public and private companies with more than 50 workers have to hire at minimum 2% of disabled workers.

Sanctions have been foreseen in the case of non-fulfilment by employers (for example a fine which amounts to 3000 € or impossibility to receive a subvention). Finally, employers have alternatives measures to fulfil the law: civil contracts with Labour Specialized Centres or donations to foundations or associations for the labour insertion of disabled people.

3. Spanish Welfare System for disabled people

The Spanish legal framework foresees specific plans for disabled people, specific subventions to help and to introduce them in the labour market. It's a mixed system because the State and private companies (Work Accident Mutual and Work related Illnesses of the Social Security) are involved in it, and it's a decentralised system because it considers three action levels: the central, the autonomic and the local one.

Among the specialised services for disabled people, there is the medical rehabilitation, the psycho-social assistance to achieve their maximal physical and social development, training and professional recovery and the precocious stimulation of disabled children in the first period of their life; all these services are rendered in centres, clinics, etc.

Moreover, the Government has foreseen several individual economic subventions which can be divided in contributory pensions and the non-contributory ones.

Contributory Pensions

Contributory Pensions are economic benefits to receive during an unlimited period (usually but not always) whose granting is usually subordinated to a previous legal connection with the Spanish Welfare System (for example, proving a minimum amount in the contributions paid, etc.) and provided that the rest of the requirements are fulfilled.

The amount of these benefits depends on the contributions made by the worker and employer and they can be **pensions, pensions for permanent inability and death.**

Pensions for permanent inability

They are economic benefits for people who have reduced or cancelled their ability to work in a definitive way, suffering a pathological or traumatic process due to an illness or injury.

Disabled people receive their pensions according to the following disability degrees:

- **Partial:** 33% of decrease to carry out a job.
- **Total:** a worker cannot carry out his habitual job, but he can do another one.
- **Absolute:** disabled workers for any kind of job.
- **Major disability:** If you need further assistance from another person for the most part of the life.

Requirements:

- **Common illness or no industrial accident: 60 % of the regulatory base for the first 16 days and 75% from the 17^o day.**
- **Labour illness or industrial accident: 75% of the regulatory base.**

Suspension:

In case of finishing the disability period, no attending the check-up or death.

Non-contributory Pensions

Non-contributory Pensions are economic benefits for those who need protection and don't have sufficient subsistence resources. This kind of subvention is guaranteed to those people who have not provided any amount to the National Welfare System or whose contributions are below to the minimum amount established by the National Welfare System.

To receive a non-contributory subvention, all those interested have to receive an annual income less than 4.708,62 €. If they are living with other people (husband, wife or family), they have to receive an annual income less than the amounts foreseen in the following table:

Nº of members = 2	8.004,65 €/ year
Nº of members = 3	11.300,68 €/year
Nº of members = 4	14.596,71 €/ year



If they live with their parents or children:

Nº of members = 2	20.011,63 €/year
Nº of members = 3	28.251,70 €/year
Nº of members = 4	36.491,78 €/year

Requirements:

- Age: to be 18 or over and less than 65 years old.
- Residence: to reside in the Spanish country during a period of 5 years.
- Disability: to have a disability degree of 65% or more.

Law for Disabled People's Social Integration and Dependent Care Law

Moreover, there are **subventions, foreseen by the LISMI** (Law for Disabled People's Social Integration), Law 13/1982, 7th of April.

- **Subsidy for Minimum Income Guarantee** (art.14): for disabled people who have a high level of disability and who can not work. The subsidy foreseen is 2.098,04 € for 2009, 149,86 € per month.

- **Subsidy for aid to third persons** (art. 16): for people with a high level of disability who can't carry out their everyday actions. The subsidy foreseen is 818,30 € for 2009, 58,45 € per month.

- **Mobility and transport Subsidy** (art. 15): for disabled people with serious problems to move. The subsidy foreseen is 690,00 € for 2009, 57,50 € per month.

Moreover, the **Dependent Care Law** (Law 39/2006, 14th December) promote the personal autonomy and assistance to people in a dependent situation, establishing disabled people have the right to access to the Public Assistance Service.

The Dependent Care Law foresees the definition of the state of Dependency: permanent state of people who cannot carry out their everyday actions for reasons related to the age, loss of physic, mental, intellectual or sensorial autonomies, or disabled people who need personalized assistance.