

# Assessment of Different Statements on Disability

## Objective

This tool is intended to initiate some reflections and discussions about disability. It can also be used as a means of evaluation during any disability awareness training. Using this tool at the beginning and again at the end of the training shows if and how the participants have changed their perception of persons with disabilities.

## Time

15 minutes

## Materials

Printed versions of the statements pinned on a pin board, etc.

Pens or small coloured stickers.

## Procedure

Each participant should first read all statements carefully and then choose the three that s/he agrees most with. Everybody marks their chosen three statements with a pen or by using small coloured stickers. This exercise should not be done individually; a discussion on the perception of or an explanation of the different models of disability needs to follow the individual choices.

## Statements

*All persons, regardless of the extent or severity of their disability, have the basic right to affect, through communication, the conditions of their own existence.*

*Disability is a natural part of the human experience and in no way diminishes the rights of individuals to live independently, enjoy self-determination, make choices, contribute to society, pursue meaningful careers and enjoy full inclusion in the economic, political, social, cultural and educational mainstream of society.*

*What is retardation? It's hard to say. I would say that it reflects problems with thinking. Some people think that you can tell if a person is retarded simply by looking at them. But if you think that way, you do not give people the benefit of the doubt. You may judge a person by how s/he looks or how s/he talks or what the tests show, but you can never really tell what is inside someone.*

*People with disabilities are different: their abilities are restricted. Therefore, they need a protective environment where they can learn and work according to their abilities. They cannot participate in normal society. Rehabilitation centres, special schools, special vocational training centres and special residences are suitable places for such people.*

*People with disabilities prefer to stick together. They cannot integrate themselves into normal schools and workplaces. They represent a burden for society, and would not like to live among "normal" persons.*

*People with disabilities are victims and suffer a cruel fate. They deserve our pity and help. We should show charity and relieve their burden.*

*We are people first. At first sight, you may think that we are different. But in spite of our disability, we have much more in common with you than may initially appear.*

*We want to be accepted as normal persons with personal feelings, needs, problems, interests and opinions. We want to participate in society and lead an independent and full life like other human beings.*