

## 8. Sport and the disabled, education of students with physical disabilities, the Paralympic games

Top rated problems the disabled have to face according to a US survey. Try to find a solution for some of them.

1. *Stereotyped Attitudes about PWD<sup>1</sup>s*
2. *Discrimination*
3. *Being Patronized<sup>2</sup>*
4. *Social Ostracization<sup>3</sup>*
5. *Ignorance*
6. *Bigotry<sup>4</sup>*
7. *Accessibility<sup>5</sup>*
8. *Teasing<sup>6</sup> and Bullying<sup>7</sup> (Peer Abuse<sup>8</sup>)*
9. *Unemployment (There is 60% to 70% unemployment in the PWD Community.)*
10. *Handicapped Parking Spaces being illegally taken by Non-PWDs (Outsiders).*

### Education of Students with Physical Disabilities

I. In the field of special education, physical disabilities refer to a wide variety of conditions that may **interfere** with a child's ability to perform everyday activities. Such conditions include problems with muscles, such as muscular dystrophy; problems involving the central nervous system, such as cerebral palsy; problems with the structure of the skeleton, such as spina bifida or missing limbs; and health problems, such as cystic fibrosis and heart disorders. For some children, physical disabilities are simply structural or health problems that do not require special **educational facilities** or services. For other children, however, the physical disabilities may interfere with their ability to walk, write, speak, or take care of their personal needs. Still others may be able to do all of these things but may not be able to accomplish one or more of them easily, or they may need more time or special assistance for certain school activities.

II. Some special **residential** schools for students with physical disabilities were developed in Europe and the United States in the 19th century, but most of these schools had closed by the 1970s. At that time, many children with physical disabilities in the United States attended classes at special education centers in their community school system. These schools were specially designed to **eliminate** stairs, narrow doorways, and other barriers to students in wheelchairs, and to provide a concentration of specialists in one building. Today, however, a higher number of conventional school buildings are designed to be "barrier-free." Many students with physical disabilities attend their regular neighborhood schools where they receive the same social and academic benefits as students without disabilities. Specialists travel to those schools to provide whatever special services and equipment the students may need.

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<sup>1</sup> PWD - Person With Disabilities

<sup>2</sup> patronize - chovat se blahosklonně/povýšeně

<sup>3</sup> ostracization - vyloučení ze společnosti

<sup>4</sup> bigotry - úzkoprsost

<sup>5</sup> accessibility - dostupnost

<sup>6</sup> teasing - posmívání

<sup>7</sup> bullying - šikana

<sup>8</sup> peer abuse - zneužívání vrstevníky

III. Most adaptive aids for students with physical disabilities are custom-designed to fit their physical size, abilities, and needs. The aids many children use are not very noticeable or unusual, such as pencils with specially designed handles for children with **impaired** motor skills. Other children, however, may need elaborate aids to perform any activity. These include aids to allow for greater mobility, such as electric or manually operated wheelchairs or crutches; seats specially designed to facilitate movement and posture; adaptive aids for turning pages, eating; and communication aids. Aids to assist in communication include materials and equipment ranging from simple books of pictures to **sophisticated** computer-based devices. The children use this equipment to interact with others in ways that take advantage of their individual abilities.

IV. While many students with physical disabilities have the same ability to learn as other students, some of them also have learning **disorders**, mental retardation, or other conditions that require special services. In these cases, specialists work together with the child's family to design a program for the child's unique situation. Often, education for children with such multiple disabilities **emphasizes** the development of language and communication, and personal, social, and **vocational** skills, rather than academic learning.

Sources: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/llc/>

## **Paralympic Games**

In 1948, Sir Ludwig Guttmann organized a sports competition involving World War II veterans with a spinal cord injury in Stoke Mandeville, England. Four years later, competitors from the Netherlands joined the games and an international movement was born. Olympic style games for athletes with a disability were organized for the first time in Rome in 1960, now called Paralympics. In Toronto in 1976, other disability groups were added and the idea of merging together different disability groups for international sport competitions was born. In the same year, the first Paralympic Winter Games took place in Sweden.

Today, the Paralympics are elite sport events for athletes with a disability. They emphasize, however, the participants' athletic achievements rather than their disability. The movement has grown dramatically since its first days. The number of athletes participating in Summer Paralympic Games has increased from 400 athletes from 23 countries in Rome in 1960 to 3,951 athletes from 146 countries in Beijing in 2008.

The Paralympic Games have always been held in the same year as the Olympic Games. Since the Seoul 1988 Paralympic Games and the Albertville 1992 Winter Paralympic Games they have also taken place at the same venues as the Olympics. On 19 June 2001, an agreement was signed between the IOC and the IPC securing this practice for the future. From the 2012 bid process onwards, the host city chosen to host the Olympic Games will be obliged to also host the Paralympics.

The Canadian city of Vancouver will host the next Paralympic Winter Games in 2010, whereas London will host the Paralympics in 2012 and Sochi will be the host of the 2014 Winter Paralympics.

## Paralympic Sports

There are 20 sports in the Paralympic programme for London 2012, breaking down into disciplines and events.

- Boccia
- Football 5-a-side
- Football 7-a-side
- Goalball
- Paralympic Archery
- Paralympic Athletics
- Paralympic Cycling - Road
- Paralympic Cycling - Track
- Paralympic Equestrian
- Paralympic Judo
- Paralympic Powerlifting
- Paralympic Rowing
- Paralympic Sailing
- Paralympic Shooting
- Paralympic Swimming
- Paralympic Table Tennis
- Volleyball - Sitting
- Wheelchair Basketball
- Wheelchair Fencing
- Wheelchair Rugby
- Wheelchair Tennis



Boccia



Football 5-a-side



Football 7-a-side



Goalball



Paralympic Archery



Paralympic Athletics



Paralympic Cycling - Road



Paralympic Cycling - Track



Paralympic Equestrian



Paralympic Judo



Paralympic Powerlifting



Paralympic Rowing



Paralympic Sailing



Paralympic Shooting



Paralympic Swimming



Paralympic Table Tennis



Volleyball - Sitting



Wheelchair Basketball



Wheelchair Fencing



Wheelchair Rugby



Wheelchair Tennis

### TASK!!!

From the following site choose 3 disciplines of Paralympic Sports and describe the related facts, rules etc. Click on one of the disciplines listed on the left panel.

<http://www.london2012.com/games/paralympic/boccia.php>

Sources: [http://www.paralympic.org/Paralympic\\_Games/](http://www.paralympic.org/Paralympic_Games/)