



2013-1-ES1-LEO05-66586

SENDI - Special Education Needs and Disability Inclusion

UNITED KINGDOM MARKET RESEARCH



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

1. Introduction

In the United Kingdom there are two laws which ensure equality of opportunities for disabled people by banning disability discrimination. These are the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and the Special Educational Needs & Disability (NI) Order 2005.

Those laws ban discrimination by employers against disabled job-seekers and employees and by service providers against disabled service-users.

The main activities covered by the DDA are:

- Employment, including access to employment;
- Access to and use of goods, facilities and services, including access to public buildings, shops and leisure facilities and to healthcare, housing and transport;
- Certain other functions carried out by public bodies, such as policing and issuing licences;
- Membership of private clubs and use of their facilities.

Also according to this law, the employers must make reasonable adjustments to make sure disabled workers (including contract workers, trainees, apprentices and business partners) aren't seriously disadvantaged when doing their jobs.

2. Quantification of disabled population in the United Kingdom and the key socio-economic features

The Office for Disability Issues has updated Department for Work and Pensions estimates which show that there are 11.6 million disabled people in Great Britain (45% males and 55% females), of whom 5.7 million are adults of working age, 5.1 million are over state pension age and 0.8 million are children.

At least 56% of all disabled people have an impairment relating to mobility and 4 of 5 disabled people acquire their disability during their lives.

Disability in the UK is strongly related to age:

- 2.1% of 16-19 year olds
- 31% of 50-59 years
- 78% of people aged 85 or over

There are several types of disabilities. The most common in the UK are the visual impairment (1.86 million people in the UK with sight loss), hearing impairment (About 3.5 million people of working age (16 – 65 years) are deaf or hard of hearing), physical impairment, mental health and others. In the graph below, we can see the list of most common disabilities in the United Kingdom.

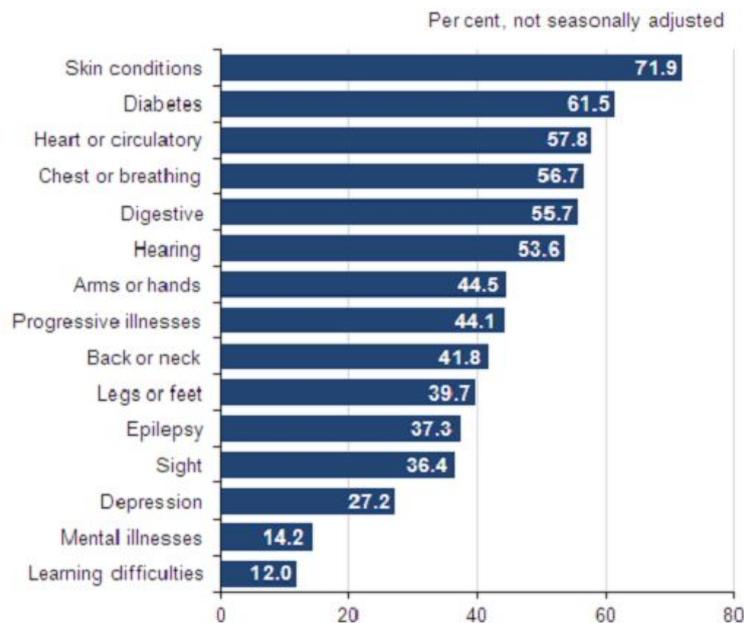


Image 1 Types of disabilities in the UK, source: www.gov.uk

As the result the survey also shows that only 17% of disabled people were born with their disabilities. The majority of disabled people acquire their disability later in life.

3. Level of education among people with disabilities in the United Kingdom

In the UK the special educational needs and disability (SEND) provides help for disabled children.

According to statistics from the Department of Education, the number of pupils with special educational needs continues to decline- 17.9% of pupils in January 2014 had special educational needs (equating to 1,492,950 pupils). This is part of a continuing decline since 2010 when 21.1% of pupils had some special educational needs.

Parents can decide whether the child will attend regular mainstream school or school for kids with special needs. Nowadays most of the parents are opting for the second possibility to ensure comfort and safety for their children.

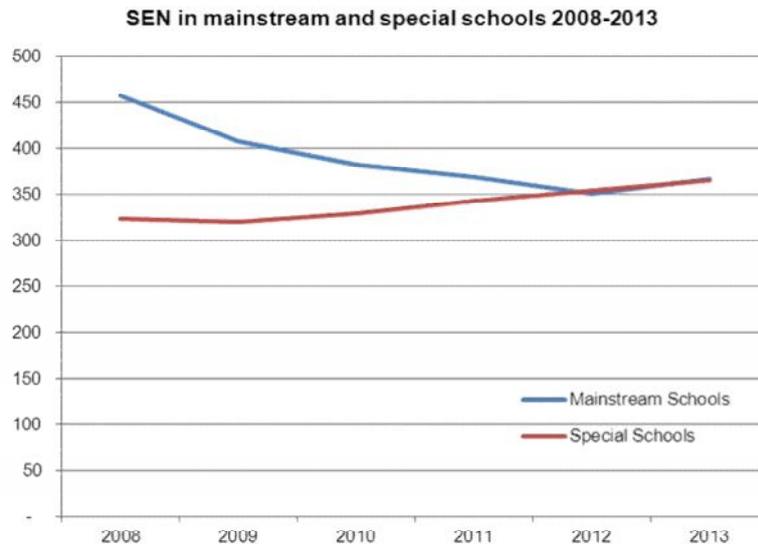


Image 3 SEN statistics in UK, source: www.bathnes.gov.uk

Disabled people are around 3 times as likely not to hold any qualifications compared to non-disabled people, and around half as likely to hold a degree-level qualification.

At the age of 18, disabled young people are more likely than their non-disabled peers not to be in any form of education, employment or training.

4. The Employment rate among people with disabilities

According to the Labour Force Survey, disabled people are now more likely to be employed than they were in 2002, but disabled people remain significantly less likely to be in employment than non-disabled people.

Some big UK companies started with the trend to employ more and more disabled people. For example, Sainsbury's has recruited over 2,000 disabled people within four years, Marks & Spenser's have taken on over 1,000 disabled people, and BT has provided sustainable opportunities for over 300 disabled people since 2003.

In 2012, 46.3% of working-age disabled people are in employment compared to 76.4% of working-age non-disabled people. There is therefore a 30.1 percentage point gap between disabled and non-disabled people, representing over 2 million people.

Statistics also show that only 33% of disabled people are employed full-time, compared to 60% of non-disabled people.

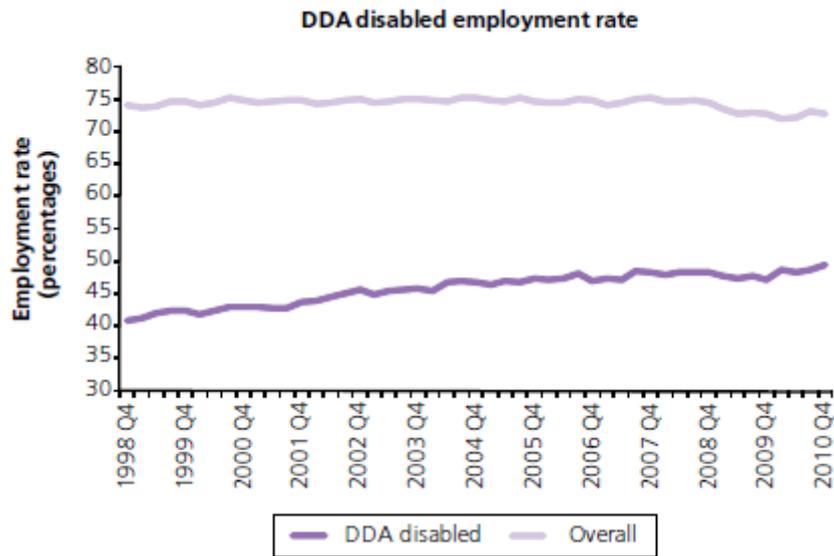


Image 2. Disabled employment rate in UK, source: www.gov.uk

According to the research, the 2 most common barriers to work among adults with impairments are a lack of job opportunities (43%), and difficulty with transport (29%).

The most offered positions in United Kingdom are in the fields of catering&hospitality, administration, agriculture and facilities.

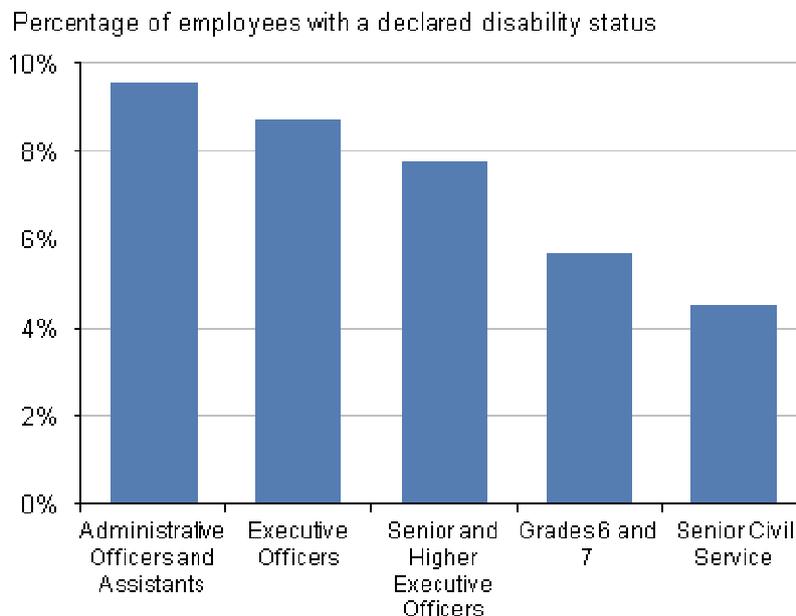


Image 3 Employment of disabled people, source: <http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/>

Government and local authorities can provide assistance to companies to encourage them to recruit more disabled persons. A good example of the resources available is the

Access to Work scheme launched by the government which compensates employers financially for any expenses they have incurred in assisting a disabled person into work.

5. Conclusion

Our market research shows that the 8 courses chosen for SENDI project satisfy the necessities of the labour market in United Kingdom. That means that the courses are provided with a stable basis and the future of the project is guaranteed by the demands of the labour market and the need of disabled people for education, certification and job opportunities.

6. Sources

www.gov.uk

<http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/>

British Crime Survey 2010 to 2011

Family Resources Survey 2011/12