

Examination of Teacher Candidates Attitudes Towards Disabled Individuals Employment in terms of Various Variables

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Abstract : The concept of disability is a concept that has been the subject of many studies in national and international literature with its social, sociological, political, anthropological, economic and social dimensions as well as with individual and social consequences. A disabled person is defined as a person who has difficulties in adapting to social life and meeting daily needs due to loss of physical, mental, spiritual, sensory and social abilities to various degrees, either from birth or for any reason later, and they are in need of protection, care, rehabilitation, counseling and support services. The industrial revolution and the rapid industrialization it brought with it led to an increase in the rate of disabilities resulting from work accidents, in addition to congenital disabilities. This increase has resulted in disabled people included in the employment policies of nations as a disadvantaged group. Although the participation of disabled individuals in the workforce is of great importance in terms of both increasing their quality of life and their integration with society and although disabled individuals are willing to participate in the workforce, they encounter with many problems. One of these problems is the negative attitudes and prejudices that develop in society towards the employment of disabled individuals. One of the most powerful ways to turn these negative attitudes and prejudices into positive ones is education. Education is a way of guiding societies and transferring existing social characteristics to future generations. This can be maintained thanks to teachers, who are one of the most dynamic parts of society and act as the locomotive of education driven by the need to give direction and transfer and basically to help and teach. For this reason, there is a strong relationship between the teaching profession and the attitudes formed in society towards the employment of disabled individuals, as they can influence each other. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to examine teacher candidates' attitudes towards the employment of disabled individuals in terms of various variables. The participants of the study consist of 665 teacher candidates studying at various departments at Marmara University Faculty of Education in the 2022-2023 academic year. The descriptive survey model of the general survey model was used in this study as it intends to determine the attitudes of teacher candidates towards the employment of disabled individuals in terms of different variables. The Attitude Scale Towards Employment of Disabled People was used to collect data. The data were analyzed according to the variables of age, gender, marital status, the department, and whether there is a disabled relative in the family, and the findings were discussed in the context of further research.

Keywords : teacher candidates, disabled, attitudes towards the employment of disabled people, attitude scale towards the employment of disabled people

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