Handout 4

**Ability Equality Fact Sheet[[1]](#footnote-1)**

There are an estimated one billion disabled people worldwide, 80% of whom live in developing countries. International human rights laws make it clear that all people have the same human rights, regardless of ability or disability. However, disabled people are commonly the poorest of the poor in society, experiencing social exclusion and discrimination at all levels.

People with disabilities represent 15% of the world’s population.

#### In education

Disabled children and young people are some of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable people in society worldwide. They are often excluded from participation in social life and highly vulnerable to neglect and abuse. Disabled girl children are further marginalised within their families and communities and can face a double discrimination due to traditional gendered roles and responsibilities.

#### In work

Like all of us, people with disabilities need employment to earn a living, contribute to supporting their families and improve their self-esteem. Yet less than 20% of disabled people are currently employed.

#### In society

Inclusive education and inclusion through work are not enough by themselves to fully integrate people with disabilities into their communities. Access to information, leisure, buildings, and infrastructures are also important.

People with disabilities should be able to enter and move through their home, and in public spaces and public buildings (libraries, polling stations, schools, sports ground, health centres, etc). An accessible environment is also beneficial to people with reduced mobility such as children and elderly people.

1. **Source**: Handicap International <http://www.handicap-international.org.uk/what_we_do> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)