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VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION OF REOPLE WITH MENTAL DISABILITY

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper is to explore the steps towards the vocational rehabilitation of People with Disabilities with an emphasis on the rehabilitation of People with Mental Disability. In today's world, work is an important condition for social inclusion and participation and taking into account the rights of people with disabilities we cannot exclude them from access to professional life, but in the context of social inclusion and non-discrimination we must create the appropriate conditions that facilitate it.

From the literature review it seems that Mental Disability has the lowest rate of vocational rehabilitation and it would be important to identify good practices that support people for a smooth transition to the free labor market, with successful vocational rehabilitation and long-term job retention, as well as those policies that support such a perspective.

It was therefore appropriate to refer to the particular characteristics of this type of disability (mental) and to the steps that need to be taken towards a successful transition from education to professional life, to the efforts made towards this transition both in Greece and in other countries as good practice and an example to be applied. Canada, and more specifically the province of Ontario, and Finland were selected as these are developed countries, considered to provide social welfare and with many years of experience in disability integration programs.

Of course, Ontario is not an independent country, but it is the most developed province in Canada and its capital is located there. Both Ontario and Finland have over twenty years of experience in developing a non-institutional model of education and several years of experience in implementing inclusive education and rehabilitation programs. Thus, there is sufficient writing based on research data to evaluate the programs implemented and their effectiveness.

Reference is made to the training programs implemented in the above countries, because the road to vocational rehabilitation cannot be seen in relation to the training provided and the opportunities for access to it. Education is a foundation of vocational rehabilitation, since depending on its type and quality it provides the corresponding supplies for the transition to professional life.

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