



ANALYTIC NOTE

Time Use by People with Disabilities

Every country should ensure decent living conditions for the entire population, including people with disabilities¹. The level of their inclusion into the economic and social life is a critical indicator that defines the country's level of development and quality of life.

In this analytical note, we analyze the difference between the time used by people with disabilities and the rest of the population for employment, social life and use of public services, including transport.

In order to find answers to these questions, we will use the results of the Time Use Survey carried out by the National Bureau of Statistics².

How much time do people with disabilities spend for income earning activities?

The employment rate in case of people with disabilities is 3 times lower compared to the general

population: 10.6% compared to 38.4%³, which denotes a more limited access of these categories of population to the labor market. Besides limited employment opportunities, some differences are noticed in terms of the time used for income-related activities between people with disabilities and the rest of the population. According to the Time Use Survey, people with disabilities spend, on average, about 14% less time working for revenue, compared to the rest of the population.

These differences are even more obvious in villages, where people with disabilities allocate less time per day on the average to income generating activities (7 hours per day) compared to the rest of population (8.1 hours per day). Both low employment rate of people with disabilities and the shorter time spent on revenue-earning activities influence negatively the income level and, respectively, the living conditions of this category of population.

¹ Persons with disabilities are considered those who answered affirmatively to the question "Do you have a chronic disease or disability?" and those who answered "yes, very limited" to question "To what extent are you limited in daily activities because of these health issues?", for the Time Use Survey.

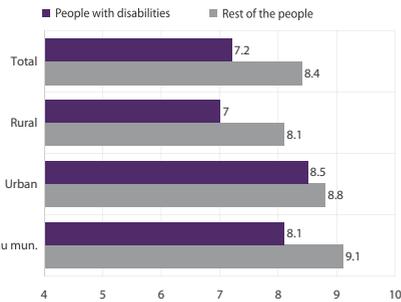
² The research sample covered 861 people with severe health issues: who answered affirmatively the question "Do you have a chronic illness

or disability?" and those who answered "yes, very limited" to question "To what extent are you limited in daily activities because of these health issues?", 106 persons of them live in the rural area, 755 people live in the urban area and 25 people live in Chisinau municipality. 280 were women and 581 were men.

³ NBS, Labor Force Survey, 2012.

At the same time, in towns people with disabilities spend daily an average of 8.5 hours for employment, with a small difference from the rest of population (8.8 hours).

Figure 1. Time spent for “employment” by people with disabilities, by area of residence, hours per day

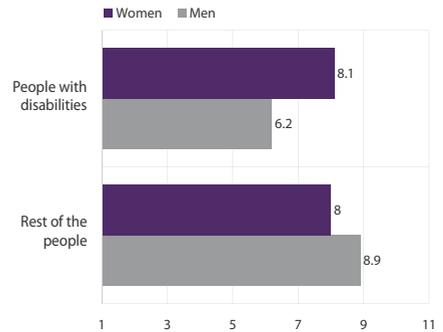


Source: NBS

The problem of people with disabilities accessing labor market is similar in terms of gender: participation rate in professional employment is 10.3% for men and 10.9% for women, compared to the average employment rates per country - 40.6% for men and, respectively, 36.5% for women⁴.

As well, some differences are noticed in the time spent for professional income-earning employment by gender. Thus, though on average men spend more time for employment (8.9 hours per day compared to 8.0 hours per day in case of women), men with disabilities spend only 6.2 hours per day on average for such activities. So, the average duration of disabled men's activity on the labor market is about 2 hours shorter than the average duration of these activities for women with disabilities (8.1 hours per day). At the same time, we notice that women with disabilities who obtained a paid workplace spend at work as much time as the other women do (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Time for “employment” activities spent by people with disabilities and the rest of the population, by sex, hours per day



Source: NBS

A possible explanation of these time differences could be the fact that men's disabilities tend to be more severe than women's, since men usually work in professions bearing higher risk of health harm. Respectively, men with disabilities usually have more severe forms of disability compared to women. Thus, 27.7% of men with disabilities have the first degree of disability, compared to just 16.1% of women⁵. For this reason, a larger share of men with disability cannot work long periods.

How much time do people with disabilities spend for entertainment and social life?

On the average, people with disabilities spend a similar amount of time for social life and entertainment⁶ (3.4 hours per day) compared to the general population of the country (3.3 hours per day) (Figure 3).

However, the situation is not similar in rural and urban areas. In Chisinau municipality and other towns, the time spent by people with disabilities for social life is longer compared to the time spent for this purpose by the rest of the population (3.4 hours per day compared to 2.8 hours in Chisinau

⁴ NBS, Labor Force Research, 2012.

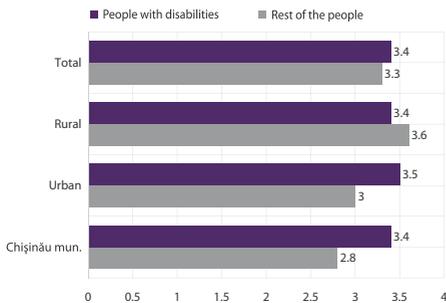
⁵ National Bureau of Statistics, Analytical Note no. 02-11/105 of 19 August 2009.

⁶ According to the Activity Classifier of the Time Use Survey, the activities in “social life and entertainment” category include the following: time spent with the family, visiting someone and having guests, parties, phone discussions, other social life activities or unspecified ones, cinema, theater and concerts, art exhibitions and museums, library, sport events, other entertainment or cultural activities or specified ones, such as time for breaks/resting during the day.

municipality and 3.5 hours compared to 3.0 hours in other towns).

The time dedicated by people with disabilities to social life and entertainment most often includes time spent with the family, visits and hosting guests. The main explanation of this is the health condition of people in this group, which implies a less active lifestyle and/or lower physical activity. Therefore they spend less time for economic and/or paid professional activities and, respectively, a longer average duration of other activities conducted by people with disabilities, such as having guests, paying visits, time spent with family members.

Figure 3. Time spent for “social life and entertainment” by people with disabilities, by area of residence, hours per day



Source: NBS

However, the situation is different in villages. Despite the fact that people with disabilities in villages spend less time for employment than the rest of population, they also spend less time for social life compared to the rest of population. Thus, the analysis highlights both economic and social isolation of people with disabilities in villages.

How much time do people with disabilities spend for commercial and administrative services?

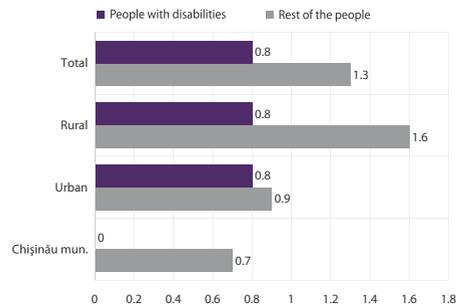
People with disabilities spend about 39% less time for commercial and administrative services,

⁷ According to the Activity Classifier of the Time Use Survey, the activities in “commercial and administrative services” include the following: services such as laundry and footwear cleaning; going to the bank, accountant, lawyer, mayor’s office, police, tourism agency, auto service, etc.

compared to the rest of the population (0.8 hours compared 1.3 hours).

These discrepancies are typical for rural areas (Figure 4), where people with disabilities spend, on average, twice less time for commercial and administrative services compared to the rest of the population (0.8 hours compared to 1.6 hours per day).

Figure 4. Time spent for “commercial and administrative services”⁷, by area of residence⁸, hours per day



Source: NBS

At the same time, no significant differences are found between the time spent for commercial and administrative services between people with disabilities and the rest of the population. In Chişinău municipality no people with disability were identified to use commercial and administrative services (Figure 4).

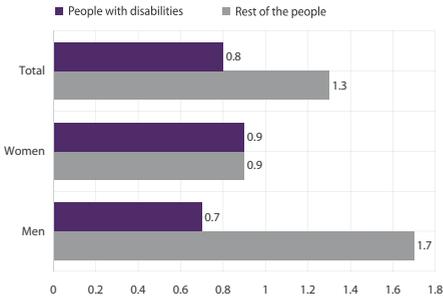
Though men allocate on average twice more time for various commercial and administrative services compared to women (1.7 hours compared to just 0.9 hours per day), in case of people with disabilities the situation is totally opposite. Thus, men with disabilities spend on the average only 0.7 hours per day, which is slightly less compared to women with disabilities (0.9 hours per day) (Figure 5).

As argued above, a possible cause of these differences is that men with disabilities tend to suffer of more severe forms of disability, which limits much more their mobility and capacity to benefit of

⁸ The sample of Time Use Survey did not include any person with disability from Chişinău municipality that used commercial and administrative services.

commercial and administrative services, compared to women with disabilities.

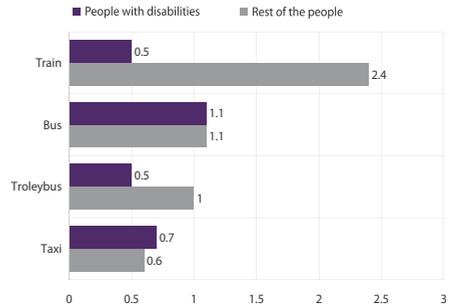
Figure 5. Time for “commercial and administrative services” activities spent by people with disabilities and the rest of the population, by sex, hours per day



Source: NBS

People with disabilities travel twice less by trolleybus and about 5 times less by train, compared to the rest of the population. The most popular means of transport chosen by people with disabilities, used for the same average duration per day as by the rest of population, is the bus (Figure 6). It can be explained by several factors: lower demand for transport services from these people, because of a less active lifestyle imposed by the health condition, which is different from the rest of the population; limited movement ability and dependence on assistance/help/accompanying needed to move; a narrower range of activities practiced daily; more limited and specific movement destinations; etc. Other factors that influence the chosen type of public transport and/or length of travel could be the partial adjustment of means of transport to the needs of people with disabilities; and limited disposable income. Such factors predetermine and intensify the effects of social exclusion of people with disabilities.

Figure 6. Time for “travel by public transport” activities spent by people with disabilities and the rest of the population, by sex, hours per day



Source: NBS

Still, there are quite few people with severe health issues, who travel by public transport and, consequently, the estimates include a high error margin. For this reason, it is not possible to disaggregate these indicators by genders.

Conclusions:

- People with disabilities spend about 14% less time working for revenue, compared to the rest of the population. The employment rate of these people is 3 times lower compared to the entire population, influenced to a large extent by the situation in the rural areas. It reveals a more limited access to labor market for the people with disabilities and influence negatively the level of income and, respectively, the living standard of this category of population;
- The average duration of professional activity on labor market for men with disabilities is about 2 times shorter than the average duration of income-earning professional activities conducted by women with disabilities;
- People with disabilities, particularly in urban areas, spend more time for social life (most often this

includes time spent with family, paying visits and having guests) than the general population of the country. The situation is opposite in the rural areas;

- People with disabilities spend about 39% less time for various types of services, including public ones, compared to the rest of the population and spend twice less time for travelling by trolleybuses and 5 times less for travelling by train compared to the rest of the population;
- The survey results reveal that people with disabilities spend less time for employment, studies and using services compared to the rest of the population. This is caused by the less active, less intense and different lifestyle and behavior of people from the researched group of population. Other explanatory factors could be the limited financial possibilities of the people with disabilities, as well as the infrastructure that is not adapted to their needs - all these factors have a negative impact of intensifying the social and economic exclusion and increasing the risk of poverty for these people;
- The public transport is not used to the same extent by people with disabilities because most transport units are not adequately adjusted to the needs of these categories of population.

Recommendations:

- The issue of economic and social exclusion of people with disabilities, particularly of the ones in rural areas, must be treated more carefully by the Government. Essentially, policies should focus on 2 main priorities: (i) improvement of an infrastructure adapted to the needs of people with disabilities (e.g. access ramps for wheelchairs in all public and private institutions, in public transport, traffic lights with sound signal, etc.) and (ii) creating opportunities for economic inclusion of these categories of people (e.g. development of social entrepreneurship);
- It is also necessary to encourage and create opportunities to participate in the society also by means of volunteering, arts and sports. These forms of participation can offer a better quality of life and can also help strengthening the capacity of adaptation, responsibility, integration, and aspiration - essential features needed for the disadvantaged groups in order to avoid social exclusion;
- The public transport infrastructure must be better adapted to the needs of people with disabilities.



This material has been developed on the basis of the Time Use Survey, conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and of the Swedish Government within the framework of the UN joint project "Strengthening the National Statistical System." The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the institutions of the United Nations, Swedish Government or National Bureau of Statistics.

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