
POSTER ABSTRACT

Employment of working-age adults (18-65 year old) with a visual impairment at an ambulatory visual rehabilitation centre (de Markgrave) in Belgium

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Ilse De Veuster¹, Caroline Bastiaens

1: De Markgrave, Antwerpen, Belgium

Aim of the study: determining the rate of employment in adult people with a visual impairment who are using the services of de Markgrave. Examining associated characteristics and gathering data to better understand the problems (and improve our support to enhance their chances on the labour market.)

Methods: we review the records of adults between 18 and 65 years of age who consulted our visual rehabilitation centre between September the first 2020 and October the first 2022. Separate attention is given to the records of people who seek our support in case of a work-related care demand. The studied population is divided into three different age groups : 18 to 35 years of age, a second group of people between 36 and 50 years and the last group of 51 up to 65 years.

Results: we look at the type of work, previous work experiences and employment status defined as paid work (including self employment) versus not employed (no paid work including retirement, student, active work seeker, disability benefits, volunteered work, ..).

Barriers to work or to continue working together with facilitators (like social benefits for the employer) are being analyzed. We look separately at personal factors and work related issues. Visual problems are divided according to age of onset, stable or progressive, degree (mild, moderate, severe) and associated with additional health problems. For the work related items architectural issues and mobility problems together with social difficulties (conflicts with colleagues and leading) and adaptation of the working place will be listed.

Conclusion: the results of our study will give us insight in the problems visually impaired people encounter during their working age. The gathered / collected knowledge will help us to improve/ameliorate our support in their quest for more suitable working environments.