

## INTEGRAREA PERSOANELOR CU DIZABILITATI PRIN ACTIVITĂȚILE EDUCAȚIEI NON-FORMALE - CERCETAȘIA

### INTEGRATION OF DISABLE PEOPLE THROUGH NON-FORMAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES - SCOUT

*Dana Ioana Cristea<sup>12</sup>*

**Key words:** disable people, integration, non-formal education, scout

**Cuvinte cheie:** persoane cu dizabilități, integrare, educația non-formală , cercetășie

#### **Abstract**

The number of disabled persons continues to increase in tandem with growth of the world population .Therefore certain measures are imposed witch came to help the disabled persons to facilitate their integration. Discussion of inclusive practices in school and work life is an ever current issue. Non-formal education along with the formal and informal provides a complete and balanced preparedness of child for adult life. This movement promotes an educational model through active methods based on pedagogical fundamentals adapted ages between 7 and 18 years old. Experience has shown that a Scout with a disability can have a positive impact on a Scout troop, and the Scouts take great pride in his accomplishments, which shows it was integrated very well in group.

#### **Rezumat**

Numărul persoanelor cu dizabilități este în continuă creștere în tandem cu creșterea populație globului. De aceea se impun anumite măsuri care să vină în ajutorul persoanelor cu dizabilități pentru a le facilita integrarea.

Discuțiile despre modalitățile de integrare în școală și muncă vor fi mereu de actualitate. Educația non-formală alături de cea formală și informală, asigură o pregătire totală, echilibrată a copilului pentru viața adultă. Această mișcare promovează un model educativ prin metode active bazate pe fundamente pedagogice adaptate vârstelor cuprinse între 7 și 18 ani. Experiența a arătat că un scoutist cu un handicap poate avea un impact pozitiv asupra trupei sale de cercetași, iar aceștia se mândresc cu realizările lui, fapt care demonstrează acesta s-a integrat foarte bine în grup.

#### **Introduction**

The complexity of human life in society today and the challenges of the contemporary world have resulted in a rethinking of the role and place of factors that contribute to lifelong learning. Both formal and non-formal must have as a basic acquisition by students of knowledge and skills that enable them to continue lifelong learning. Non-formal education along with the formal and informal training provides a complete, balanced child for adult life.[1]

Non-formal education is framed as a flexible and creative achievement of learning, through which the subject has greater discretion over the scope of action and strategies work better by answering such personal interests and generating intrinsic motivation. [1]

According to the authors, there are four options methodology for carrying out non-formal education: [2]

- Centered content (health, training in different areas);
- Centered on the problems of daily life;
- Centered awareness to knowledge and respect for fundamental human rights;
- Centered humanistic education issues-getting a proper self-esteem, confidence in their own abilities, integration and decision.

---

<sup>12</sup> University of Oradea, Geography, Tourism and Sport Faculty  
**Corresponding author:** email danacristea07@yahoo.com

**Scope**

There are over 500 million persons with disabilities., 10% of the global population. The number of disabled persons continues to increase in tandem with growth of the world population.[3] Therefore imposed measures to help the disabled persons to facilitate their integration. Discussion of inclusive practices in school and work life is an ever current issue. However, inclusion does not stop there, and for persons with disabilities to be able to actively participate in every aspect of society, organizations like the scouts must also do their part.[4]

**What is scouting?**

Scouting was established in 1907 as an open and inclusive organisation with the current Equal Opportunities Policy put in place in 1996. This policy supports the principle that no member should be discriminated against on the basis of their class, gender, ethnic background, nationality, sexuality, mental or physical ability and political or religious belief.[5] We can see from this interpretation that Scouting is an open door to all persons without restrictions.

Scouting is an organized movement led by young people with experience in this field, with its own regulation, which often took being near churches, being promoted by missionary priests, pursuing the development of children, young people from point of view physically, mentally and morally-volitional. Scouting is based on an education program based on the game, the outdoor life, the communion friendly. This movement promotes an educational model based on active methods adapted ages between 7 and 18 years old.

Scouting mission in the Romanian society is to help educate young people through a value system based on a promise and law to help build a better world where people are fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society. This is achieved by involving young people in an educational process non - formal throughout the years in which are formed as individuals, using a specific method that makes each child primary agents of their own development as a person motivated, responsible and open, to help young people establishing a system of values based on spiritual principles, social and individual as they are expressed through a mission and regulations. [6]

Scouting is a program based on life in nature, the hike sites (hiking) and fields (tented camps).

Wild, exotic, distant places have always attracted people. Experience the magic of sleeping outdoors in a tent, sunrise over the mountain and water, the feeling of greatness that you include on a mountaintop, the feeling of mystery when you enter a cave, remain in my heart and memories for life.[7]

Scouts have the opportunity to enjoy all this. And if for an "elf" (scout from 7 to 11 years) adventure can mean lighting a fire without a match with a magnifying glass, a patrol of "bold" (12-15 years ) may consist in making an adventure rafts wood and string, then driving a distance on the water with it. For "explorers" (16-18) mountain expedition in a difficult area offers the same satisfaction. [8]

**Scouting purpose**

The purpose of Scouting is to contribute to the development of youth, in order fulfillment to their physical, intellectual, social, spiritual, to become responsible citizens of local, national and international communities.

Method Scout is a system of progressive self-education based on: [6]

1. A Promise and Law;
2. Learning by doing;
3. Life in small groups, following the progressive discovery and acceptance of responsibilities, training the spirit of self-determination in character development, acquisition of knowledge and skills, gain self-confidence, adaptability and ability to cooperate and lead;

4. progressive and stimulating programs of activities based on the interests of participants, including games, useful practical knowledge and community service, taken in general, within the framework of nature, closely related to it;

Active method proposed is achieved through concrete activities children are encouraged to learn from the success and mistakes of their own. Scouting proposed action learning activities, thus giving precedence action. Activities are carried out with simplicity and relies on poor means to foster the participation of everyone, regardless of economic conditions. In this regard, Baden Powell says "Education Scout attract children of all classes, high and low, rich and poor, extends even to those who have a physical disability, deaf, dumb, blind, inspire in everyone the desire to learn". [9]

**Educational content of the proposal**

Baden Powell founded the Scouting proposal on four points: [10]

- Character building;
- Physical health;
- Ability manual;
- Serving neighbor.

**Scout and disability, brief history**

Integration of children with disabilities in Scouting is really old, which corresponds more or less with the integration of people with special educational needs in mainstream schools, around 1970 Baden Powel was convinced from the start of the importance of involving in this movement and those who experienced a disability, is considered quite advanced thinking for that time in 1919, resumed in 1940 the idea preface Scout for youth. [9]

At first it was used the term "extension scouting" for groups of scouts with disabilities, functioning within the hospitals or rehabilitation centers. After the meeting of the World Scout Conference in 1968, it was decided to integrate people with special needs in regular scout groups to facilitate their integration into society through active participation. More in support of this idea and to help them scout group leaders in their educational action, appeared in "We can" publication (We can) in 1989 and other newsletters, such as "Consciousness".[9]

Switzerland first scout association that addresses the issue of persons with special needs arise in 1924 but only in 1945 was officially opened section for Scouts with disabilities. After 1974, in Italy, it was decided to integrate children with disabilities into regular units. [9]



**Fig 2. Children with special needs doing home chores**  
source: <https://www.google.ro/scout+disability+awareness>

## **Can we speak about adapted Scout?**

The basic premise of Scouting for youth with disabilities and special needs is that they want most to participate like other youth - and Scouting gives them that opportunity. Thus, much of the program for Scouts with disabilities and special needs is directed at helping unit leaders develop an awareness of disabled people among youth without disabilities and encouraging the inclusion of Scouts with disabilities and special needs. Many special Scouting units are located in special schools or centers that make the Scouting program part of their curriculum. [11]

Most Scout camps and public campgrounds have accessible camp-sites to accommodate individuals with disabilities. Most camp operations work with the troop leadership to design a program for Scouts with disabilities if given adequate advance notice. Many Scouts with disabilities can accomplish the basic skills of Scouting but may require extra time to learn them. Working with these youth will require patience and understanding on the part of troop leaders and other Scouts. [11]

Troop leaders should know the limitations and strengths of the Scout and, in some cases, may need to discuss the extent of physical activity with the health-care provider, in addition to the parents or guardians. Permission of the parent is required to contact the health-care provider. Before a Scout with a disability joins a troop, the Scoutmaster (with parental permission) should explain to the members of the troop what they should expect. Experience has shown that a Scout with a disability can have a positive impact on a Scout troop, and the Scouts take great pride in his accomplishments.

Since the 1970s, mainstreaming or integrating individuals different from the majority population has been an important approach in special education schools and organizations.

In Scouting, mainstreaming has driven much of the programs of emphasis, i.e., Scouting for the Handicapped, Scoutreach, Soccer and Scouting, and so forth. The idea behind mainstreaming is in the use of extra adaptations/accommodations or services to help youth fit in. Today's preferred approach is inclusion, which focuses on building positive relationships with everyone.

Inclusion in Scouting supports the idea that all Scouting youth are unique individuals with unique abilities, all capable of advancing and having gratifying outdoor experiences. In general, this educational presentation's main thrust is to show how inclusion benefits all youth and adults, and explain the process in an easy-to understand approach. Let's begin by sharing inclusion's important place in Scouting.

Inclusion is a process that requires a conscious personal decision to treat everyone with dignity and respect. These values are important in creating and sustaining an environment in which everyone feels included, valued, and appreciated. Sometimes it's the small things, like a warm smile, that has the biggest impact on a Scout who has a disability.

For the most part, individuals with disabilities learn good social and life skills when they're able to bond with peers their age. Their friends become role models of good behaviors.

Their self-esteem and confidence begins to build when they feel a sense of belonging.

Tasks they once felt were difficult or impossible become manageable.

In Scouting, positive results can be seen as a youth with a disability starts to advance in rank and take on leadership positions. Genuine praise given to a Scout who has a disability can be very powerful.

In an inclusive Scouting unit, all Scouts stand to benefit from interacting with fellow Scouts with special needs. Strong friendships develop when a spirit of empathy abides. Scouts gain a deeper understanding and acceptance for people different from themselves.[12]

Reach out to all Scouts to be sure they are part of the group.[13]

- **R** – RESPECT
- **E** – ENCOURAGE
- **A** – ACCEPT
- **C** – CARE
- **H** – HONOR



## **Conclusions**

- The integration of disabled children into groups of scouts is achieved easily, as education Scout is to help their neighbor.
- For groups of scouts there are children with disabilities can say that both actors could be considered winners: on the one hand scouts learn to accept and work with people with disabilities and on the other hand they will gain confidence and their they will discover new abilities through Scouting activities.
- By the way work is done in small group smooth transition from family group represented by the person with special needs is usual group of scouts, thus developing self-confidence and sense of belonging to the group.
- It is proved that teamwork can lead to group cohesion because each member is motivated to bring his team in a favorable position.
- Conduct activities both outdoors and indoors with people with disabilities, requires additional training, thorough, even specialized, group coordinators.
- Conduct activities in the form of competition, increase self-confidence, team spirit in helping the conviction that every act for the good of the team, according to the principle "I will do everything as best I can."
- Scouting essentially fosters teamwork, without putting emphasis on individual success, and this supports people with disabilities who bring their own contribution as far as possible.

## **References**

- [1] Blândul V., coordonator (2008) Educația non-formală, de la teorie la practică, Editura Universității din Oradea
- [2] Marcu V., Orțan F., Deac A., (2003) Managementul activităților extracurriculare, Editura Universității din Oradea
- [3] Goyal, O. P. (2004). Understanding and scouting with physically handicapped. Gyan Publishing House
- [4] Wethal, E. B. (2014). Inclusion of children and youth with disabilities in scouting - A quantitative investigation of inclusive practices in Norges KFUK-KFUM-speidere
- [5] <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/510-071.pdf>. Guide to working with Scout with special needs and disabilities
- [6] [www.catholica.ro/](http://www.catholica.ro/)
- [7] [www.federatia-filatelica.ro/](http://www.federatia-filatelica.ro/)
- [8] [www.greek-catholic.ro](http://www.greek-catholic.ro)
- [9] [https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scoutismo\\_d'estensione](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scoutismo_d'estensione)
- [10] Baden-Powell, R.,(1997). Scoutismo per Ragazzi, Editura Nuova Fiordaliso, Roma
- [11] <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/SpecialNeedsInformationSheet.pdf>
- [12] [www.scouting.org/disabilitiesawareness.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/disabilitiesawareness.aspx) Inclusion – The Key to Disabilities
- [13] ([http://www.scouting.org/filestore/boyscouts/pdf/2015\\_Inclusion\\_Presenters\\_Notes.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/boyscouts/pdf/2015_Inclusion_Presenters_Notes.pdf))