



**People with special Needs in the University  
between Reality and Ambition**

**Prepared by**



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## **Abstract**

The research aimed to identify the situation of the University buildings and their suitability for the students with special needs (visual, hearing and movement disabilities). It included a sample of 100 teaching staff, ie 67 males and 33 females , from three colleges of AL Mustanservah University,namely (Science, Arts and Education). A special questionnaire with two parts was designed for the research; The first part contains an identification of the nature of this research and personal information about the individuals included in this survey while, the second part contains 16 articles asking about the situation of the students with special needs and the suitability of the universities' building to meet the requirements to those students. It also included an open question about the opinion of the respondents regarding to how to avail the suitable conditions for the students with special needs.

The results of the research showed that most of the contents of the articles were not achieved, and that students with special needs were unable to complete their university studies because of the current university buildings. This is because the current buildings lack for the movement, hearing and visual aids, as well as the pain that affects the special needs students because of the daily attendance to the university. Moreover there was an absence of a special system to allow those kind of students to follow up their lectures online.

The research came out with some recommendations, including emphasizing the provision of elevators, and escalators to help the disabled students to reach the upper floors and provide audio and video aids and tablets instead of blackboards and implementing electronic lectures instead of the traditional lectures.

**Keywords:** university buildings, students with special needs, visual aids

## **Research problem**

The problem of the current research is determined in answering the following questions:

1. Are the university buildings, specifically the buildings of Al-Mustansiriya University colleges, a suitable model for students with special needs, physically, audio, or visual?
2. What recommendations can be made to those in charge of universities and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research to implement them in a way that enables them to continue their university studies and qualify them academically?

**The importance of the current research stems from the following points:**

1. The importance of counting and identifying people with special needs at the university.
2. The importance of knowing the suitability of university buildings for people with special needs
3. Determine the proposals and recommendations from the faculty point of view at the university.

#### Research Aims

The current research aims to know the following:

1. The reality of people with special needs at the university
2. The extent of the availability of devices and support means to learn people with special needs
3. The reality of the buildings and the availability of the possibility to facilitate movement and movement for people with special needs.
4. Suggestions and recommendations to overcome the difficulties facing the enrollment of people with special needs at the university from the faculty point of view.

#### Search limits

The current research is determined as follows:

1. Spatially: Al-Mustansiriya University in Baghdad.
2. Timeline: Academic year 2018/2019
3. Human:
  - a. People with special needs movement, hearing and visual as a target group for research
  - B. Teachers as a sample to answer the research questionnaire

#### Define terms

A group of terms are included in the research, which the researcher finds it important to define as follows:

1. University buildings: These are colleges' buildings and include classrooms, library buildings, laboratories, sporting and artistic activities, and places of entertainment.

2. People with special needs:

The term people with special needs refers to all individuals whose performance deviates from the general average of their peers in the physical, mental, psychological or social aspects (Al-Zaraa, 2006).

The proposals of the faculty members of the sample to overcome the difficulties facing the enrollment of people with special needs at the university were summarized as follows:

1. Providing electric elevators and moving electrical tapes, in a way that allows wheelchair users to reach classrooms without difficulty or trouble.
2. Providing special places for parking for people with special needs near the school buildings.
3. Provide special seats for them in libraries and laboratories.
4. Moving from traditional lectures to lectures that include computer programs, and using tablets for assignments and writing.
5. Providing programs for blind people that convert script symbols into phonemic symbols.
6. Providing and distributing assistive devices for the hearing impaired in the form of sound reinforcement devices.
7. Allocating special seats in the various colleges for people with special needs, each according to the difficulty category he suffers from.
8. Change the mechanism of written exams to electronic exams.
9. Creating a study system for people with special needs that enables them to continue their studies without the need for regular daily work and to replace it with remote communication through computer programs that enable the student to communicate with the lecture without the need to attend the lecture.

10. Communicating with countries with advanced experiences in the field of teaching people with special needs, and getting acquainted with their experiences and benefiting from them.

11. Preparing a technical cadre specialized in the field of support and support for people with special needs at the university.

12. Providing appropriate service facilities for people with special needs, such as bathrooms, places to sit and rest, each according to his disability.

### **Proposals for future studies**

Based on the above, the researcher suggests the following:

1. Conducting a study on the reality of people with special needs in secondary and primary education.

2. Conducting a comparative study on the reality of people with special needs in universities in Arab countries.

3. Conducting a case study for some of those with special needs who have achieved success in their academic and professional lives and presenting their experiences for the benefit of their peers.

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