

Questionnaire on the Concept of Disability. (Concepts of Disability, CoD)

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Summary

The term disability is a construct that has historically evolved. Depending on perspective, *zeitgeist* and context, there have been different definitions of the term disability. This questionnaire utilizes the categories of disability that are commonly used in the scientific discourse in the field of special needs education in Germany, i.e. the individual-medical, social, systemic and cultural concepts of disability. The questionnaire uses closed and open questions to assess peoples concepts of disability in terms of these four categories. In the first instance, it is meant to provide all persons active in the fields of special needs education with dialogic access to their own concepts of the term disability to support detached reflection. Second, insights into the quality of teacher education and areas for potential improvement can be garnered with regards to students' concepts of disability.

The questionnaire includes five open and 25 closed questions. The scale of the individual-medical concept consists of six questions, while the scales of the systemic, social and cultural concepts comprise seven, five and, again, seven questions.

The categories and concepts are discussed in an open, joint research process and their operationalization in the questionnaire is constantly being refined, which is why this is the **third version** of the questionnaire. All items and open questions of the questionnaire are specified hereafter. All data can be found in the OSF project, see:

Version 0.1: <https://osf.io/dm4cs/>

Version 0.2: <https://osf.io/y5egu/>

Version 0.3: <https://osf.io/j76t3/>

Literature relating to version 0.1 of:

Gebhardt M., Schurig M., Suggate S., Scheer D. & Capovilla D. (2022). Social, Systemic, Individual-Medical or Cultural? Questionnaire on the Concepts of Disability Among Teacher Education Students. *Frontiers in Education*. 6:701987. doi: 10.3389/educ.2021.701987

What is disability?

Write down your own definition in five sentences.

	Do not agree at all (1)	Somewhat disagree (2)	Neither disagree nor agree (3)	Somewhat agree (4)	Strongly agree (5)
To what extent do you agree with the following statements?					
Disability is the result of innate impairments/disorders.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A disability manifests as long-term physical, emotional, mental or sensory impairments.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disability is the result of missing or changed bodily structures/ functions, chronic physical or mental diseases.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disability is mostly caused by biological and medical impairments.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disability is compensated for through medical treatment and/or therapeutic measures.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disability is the result of cognitive and motivational impairments, such as working memory, (previous) knowledge and action control.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disability is a social construct.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disability is not inherited, but comes from society outside.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disability is the product of social interaction and convention.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disability originates from prejudices and attitudes of people without disabilities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disability mostly has social and situational causes.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Do not agree at all (1)	Somewhat disagree (2)	Neither disagree nor agree (3)	Somewhat agree (4)	Strongly agree (5)
To what extent do you agree with the following statements?					
Disability originates form environmental barriers.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disability originates from the accumulation of different obstacles.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disability is simply a label that is utilized to provide individual learners with support services in both standard schools and schools for children with special needs.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disability depends on how someone's private or institutional environments respond to their being different.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disability mostly has systemic and institutional reasons.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disability is a construct/category to identify people with special needs and provide them with assistance.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disability originates from social and socio-economic inequality (poverty).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disability, as a relative dimension, may only be validated against the backdrop of social, financial and cultural environments.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disability is a construct that has evolved historically and undergoes constant change.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disability is a is a lense applied by the majority-dominated society.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disability is reduced by improvement in cultural participation.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disability mostly has cultural, societal and political causes.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disability is lessened by exposing, highlighting and reducing exclusive mechanisms and stigmatization.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disability is defined by the majority-dominated society that determines what is normal.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

“Disability is the result of innate or acquired impairments and disorders.”

Discuss this statement and explain to what extent you agree or disagree with it.

“Disability is not in-born, but comes from society outside.”

Discuss this statement and explain to what extent you agree or disagree with it.

“Disability depends on how someone’s private or institutional environments react to their being different.”

Discuss this statement and explain to what extent you agree or disagree with it.

“Disability is a construct that has evolved historically and undergoes constant change.”

Discuss this statement and explain to what extent you agree or disagree with it.

Do not agree at all (1)	Some- what disagree (2)	Neither disagree nor agree (3)	Some- what agree (4)	Strongly agree (5)
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“Kim is ten years old and has a congenital physical disability. As Kim can neither move nor feel his lower body, he has to use a wheelchair and for instance needs to be assisted when using the toilet. Kim does not have any cognitive limitations or learning difficulties. He shows average performance in reading, writing and mathematics.”

What concept of disability applies best to Kim?

Medical concept of disability	<input type="radio"/>				
Social concept of disability	<input type="radio"/>				
Eco-systemic concept of disability	<input type="radio"/>				
Cultural concept of disability	<input type="radio"/>				

“Toni is ten years old and has trisomy 21 (aka Down syndrome), a congenital disease. He has an accompanying mental disability which manifests as cognitive impairments in learning, reading, writing and communicative skills.”

What concept of disability applies best to Toni?

Medical concept of disability	<input type="radio"/>				
Social concept of disability	<input type="radio"/>				
Eco-systemic concept of disability	<input type="radio"/>				
Cultural concept of disability	<input type="radio"/>				

“Alex is ten years old. He has major difficulties in reading, writing and mathematics and needs more time to take new learning matter in. Alex has been diagnosed with special (educational) needs due to his learning difficulties needs and a developmental disorder in learning skills.”

What concept of disability applies best to Alex?

Medical concept of disability	<input type="radio"/>				
Social concept of disability	<input type="radio"/>				
Eco-systemic concept of disability	<input type="radio"/>				
Cultural concept of disability	<input type="radio"/>				

“Dominique is ten years old. She has great difficulty in observing classroom and school rules, often resulting in conflicts in which she shows aggressive behavior towards fellow learners. Often, she does not follow teachers’ instructions and is easily distracted during lessons. Dominique appears inattentive, shows a lack of concentration and is hyperactive.”

What concept of disability applies best to Dominique?

Medical concept of disability	<input type="radio"/>				
Social concept of disability	<input type="radio"/>				
Eco-systemic concept of disability	<input type="radio"/>				
Cultural concept of disability	<input type="radio"/>				