

## Results of the Survey on Accessibility at Higher Education Institution Campuses Among Students with Disabilities

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The Research and Evaluation Unit at Beit Issie Shapiro conducted a digital survey among students with disabilities at higher Education institutions in Israel. The survey was conducted for the 2017 International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Most surveys about accessibility assess the attitudes of persons without disabilities towards people with disabilities, but this survey was unique in that it assessed students with disabilities regarding their experiences of being students on campus. Based upon the findings of this survey, a questionnaire was developed to conduct a more comprehensive survey in cooperation with the Disabilities Unit of JDC Israel, the Israeli Students' Union with Beit Issie Shapiro. The survey was presented at the conference on Accessibility in Higher Education Institutions which took place on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

The objective of the survey was to assess the perceptions and experience of students with disabilities in higher Education Institutions in Israel regarding accessibility from the physical, academic, technological, and social aspects. Students were also asked about support centers on campuses – awareness, reasons for approaching the centers and their level of satisfaction with the centers' activities.

202 students with physical, sensual, mental or learning disabilities participated in the survey. The sample included students from various colleges and universities in Israel who are studying in various departments and disciplines. This was not a representative sample.

The survey findings point to a lack of an inclusive approach to accessibility in higher Education Institutions in Israel. The aspects of physical accessibility in the classrooms, lecture halls, cafeterias, and rest rooms, as well as technological accessibility were rated as relatively good, but the solutions that are offered are not always respectable. On the other hand, the categories of lecturers' attitudes and social life received lower ratings that point to inaccessible services and lack of human accessibility in higher Education institutions.

### The Survey Findings:

68% of the respondents felt that lecturers were ignorant and lacked knowledge regarding students with disabilities.

55% reported that lecturers failed to provide accessible learning material.

56% of the students reported that they did not receive the adaptations that they needed.

33% of the students reported that they were considering leaving their studies because things were not adapted to their needs.

32% of the students noted that classrooms and lecture halls were inaccessible.

26% of the students reported that the library was inaccessible.

22% of the respondents reported that the lecturers' rooms were inaccessible.

28.2% of the respondents reported that social events on campus were not accessible to them and that it was difficult for them to participate.

37% of the students with disabilities felt that students without disabilities avoid making social contact with them.