

A Study On People with Special Needs in Gaziantep, Turkey

September
2016

Content	Page
1. Introduction.....	1
2. Study/Survey objectives.....	1
3. Data collection methodology.....	1
4. Results	2
4.1 Demographic information.....	2
4.2 Marital status	3
4.3 Education	4
4.4 Health information	6
4.5 Prosthetic devices	7
4.6 Relying on oneself	9
4.7 Work	10
4.8 Rehabilitation and vocational training.....	11
5. Additional remarks.....	13
6. Recommendations	13

Acknowledgement

On behalf of Sanad organization and the Research and Management Team (RMTeam), we would like to thank Shafaq and New Start organizations for their participation in supporting the field work; the volunteers who helped in accomplishing this work; and .finally all those who helped developing this report

1- Introduction :

The number of Syrian refugees in Turkey is approximately 2.7 million, based on UNHCR March 2016 statistics¹. In the Turkish city of Gaziantep alone, (70 km from the Syrian border) there are almost 300 thousand Syrian refugees², many of them live under difficult conditions, especially those suffering from disabilities that negatively affect their lives and limit their chances of getting one or more job opportunities essential for their daily life.

2- Study/Survey objectives:

Many organizations are attempting to provide support to people with special needs, without relying on real data, causing assistance work to be fragmented, not always targeting those who most need it, and not comprehensive. This survey aims at filling a gap by carrying out a comprehensive mapping of people with special needs in the city of Gaziantep. It explores numbers, health, social and economic conditions, and needs, which may serve in directing the required support for this vulnerable category based on realistic information obtained by this survey.

3- Data collection methodology :

A total of 624 cases of people with special needs were confirmed in Gaziantep through a fieldwork carried out between 4 and 21 May 2016 for 15 working days. Some 35 volunteers participated in this survey, including 20 males and 15 females, in addition to the project coordinator and manager. Due to the difficulty of reaching all the people with special needs within the set deadline, an old database that contains the contact details of 900 persons with special needs in Gaziantep was used as a first step. This database was developed by Sanad organization in cooperation with Syrian Mukhtar (heads of neighborhoods) present in each neighborhood in the city. Many people could not be reached due to change of venue, migration or death.

To validate the data, the volunteers visited the homes of those with special needs, double-checking their information in the surrounding and with actors involved in the project. At

1- <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=224>

2- http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/director_general_meets_syrian_refugees_in_gaziantep/#.V4LbYZN96Rs

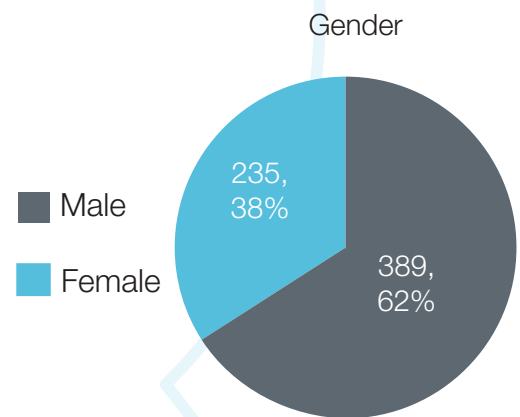
the end of this fieldwork, 32 cases were discarded for the time being and their health situation is being studied in order to be considered as special needs cases.

This report provides graphs and some analysis of the social, health, educational and economic conditions of 624 found cases. The fieldwork is ongoing at the time of writing this report. The data will be periodically updated until all special needs cases are covered in Gaziantep.

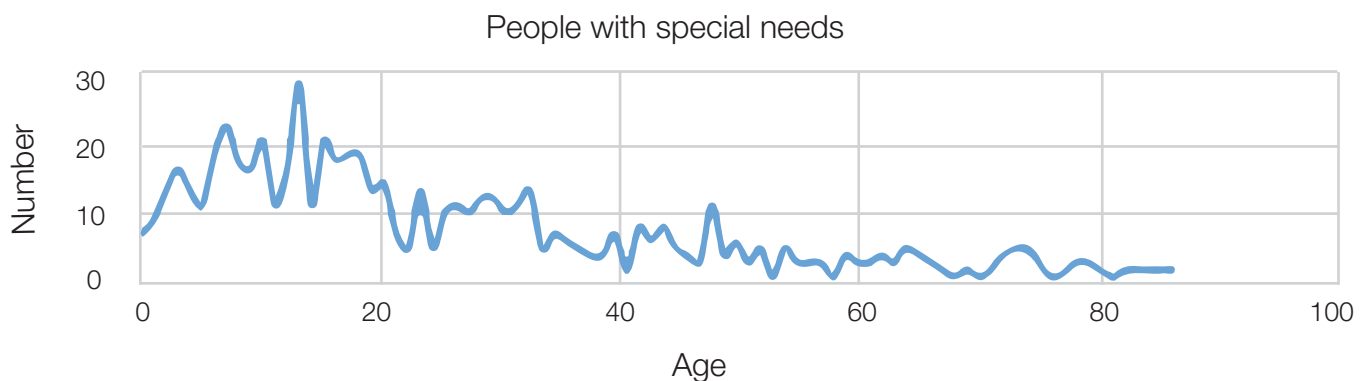
4- Results:

4.1- Demographic information:

- The confirmed number of people with special needs, as of May 2016, to be studied in this report, is 624. Males constitute 62% (or 389 cases) of all the cases, exceeding that of female cases (38% or 235), as shown in graph no. 1. The ages range between under one year old and 85.



Children up to 18 years old constitute 50% of these cases (301 cases). Graph 2 shows distribution of ages and numbers; for example, there are 130 cases aged between 7 and 13.



- Most of the cases are from Aleppo province (around 580 cases or 90%).
- Only 527 were able to obtain the Turkish temporary protection ID card, and the rest could not due to one or all of the following:

1- Crowdedness and long waiting hours in the service-providing centers that issue the cards. This forms a problem for people with special needs, especially that the waiting hours could last from morning to evening.

2- Lack of financial capacity to transport people with special needs to the centers.

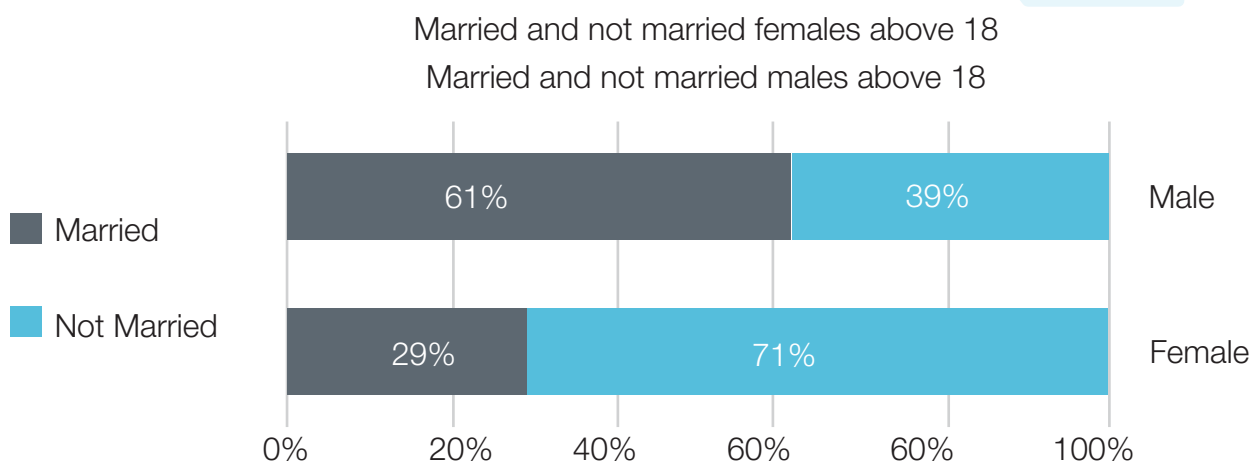
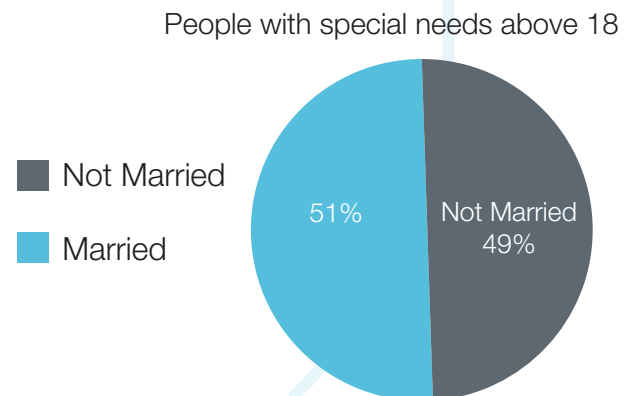
3- Lack of awareness on the importance of such cards and the locations of the centers that provide them.

4.2 The marital status:

- The survey shows that the number of married people above 18 is 173, constituting half of all the people above this age. (See graph 3).

- There are no marriages under 18.

- By comparing the marital status of males and females, we find that 29% of females (out of the total number of females above 18) are married and that 61% of males (out of the total number of males above 18) are married. (See graph 4).



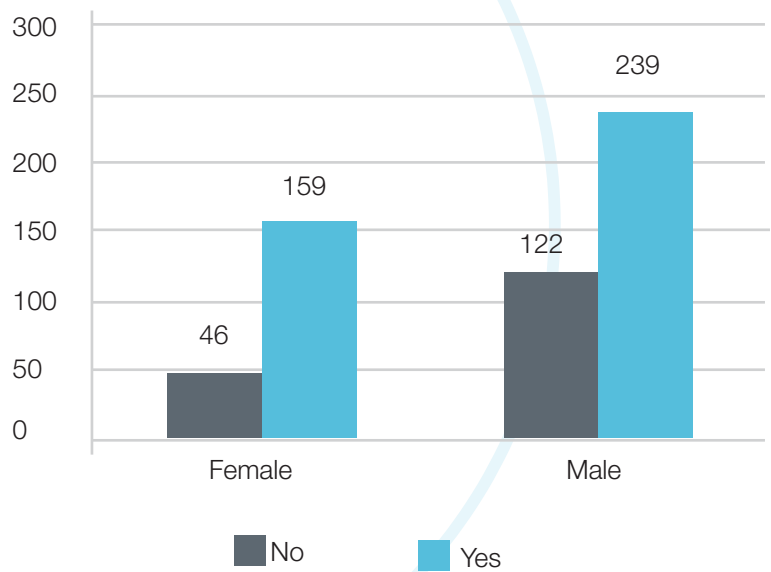
On average, 455 (i.e. 73% of all special needs cases) live with families of eight members (if married then living with the husband/ wife and children, if unmarried with the father, mother, siblings and relatives).

On average also, only one member of a family of a special needs person is working.

4.3 Education :

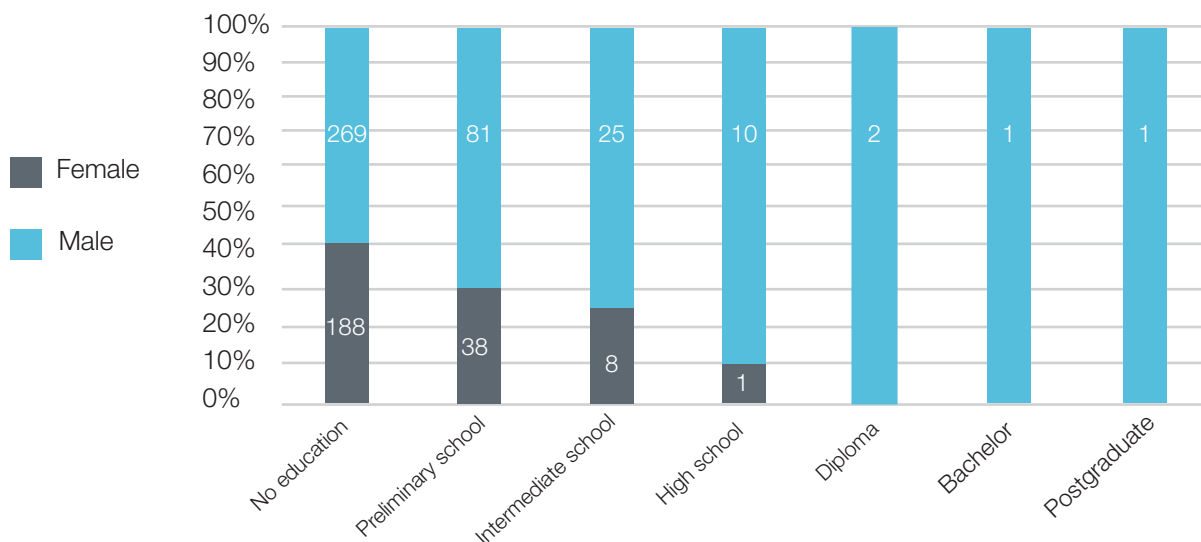
- The number of people with special needs above 6 years old and are able to read and write is 173, or approximately 30% of the total number of people above the age of 6.
- The percentage of literacy among males is 31% (122 cases) (out of the total number of males), while that of females is 20% (46) of their total.

Reading and writing ability for people with special needs and above 18



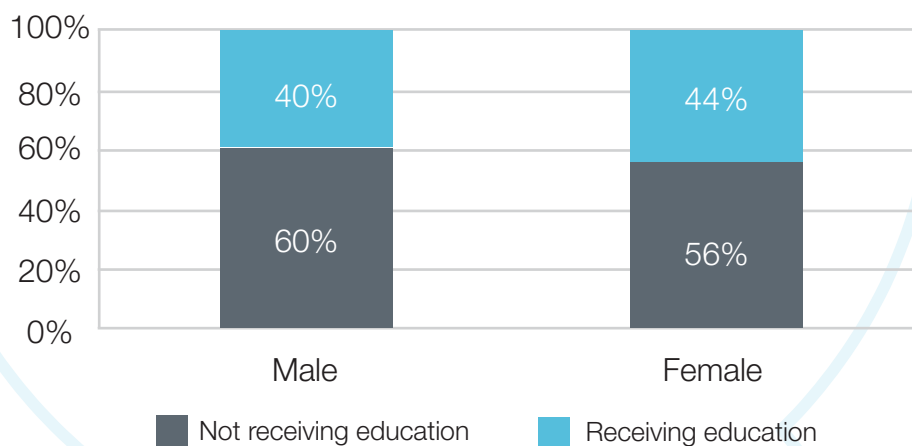
The graph below shows the educational level of the people with special needs based on gender. We notice that female participation decreases in the higher educational stages and disappears in the post-secondary stage:

Educational level (Male/Female)



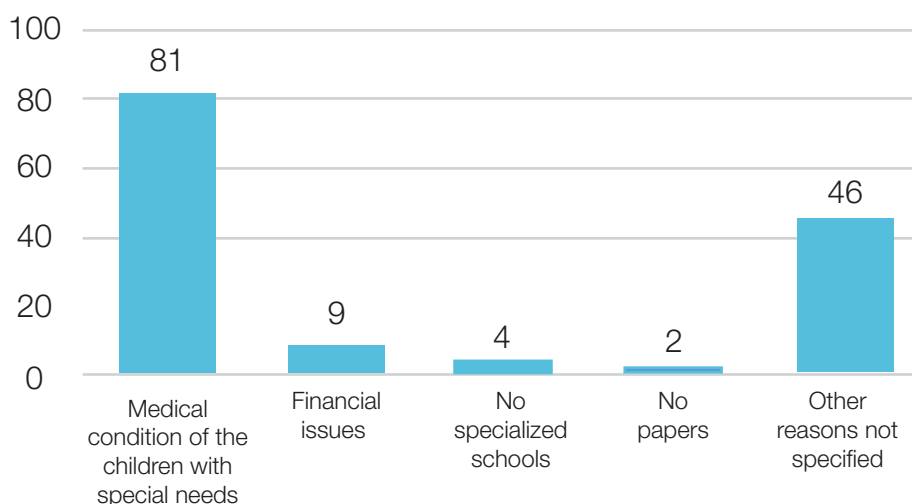
- On the number of children with special needs aged between 6 and 18 and not going to any educational center, we find that 142 (86 males and 56 females) i.e. 60% of those with special needs in this age do not go to any educational center.
- By comparing the percentage of males aged between 6 and 18 and not going to any educational center, out of the total number of males, and that of females in the same age, we find a small nuance, where the percentages are 60 and 56, respectively.

Respondants with special needs between 6 and 18 and not receiving education or going to education center Male/Female (Ratio out of each gender)



The graph below shows the causes for not attending any educational center or receiving any education for children with special needs under the age of 18, the main cause being the health situation:

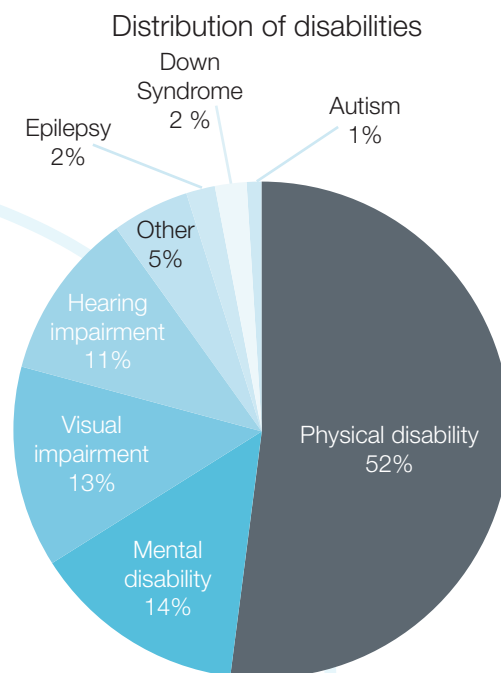
Causes for not attending school



4.4 Health information:

- The number of people with special needs having disability certificates is 181, of whom 97 took this certificate from Syrian associations concerned with special needs cases, while 84 have medical reports from hospitals.

- The table below shows the distribution and percentages of disabilities based on type.

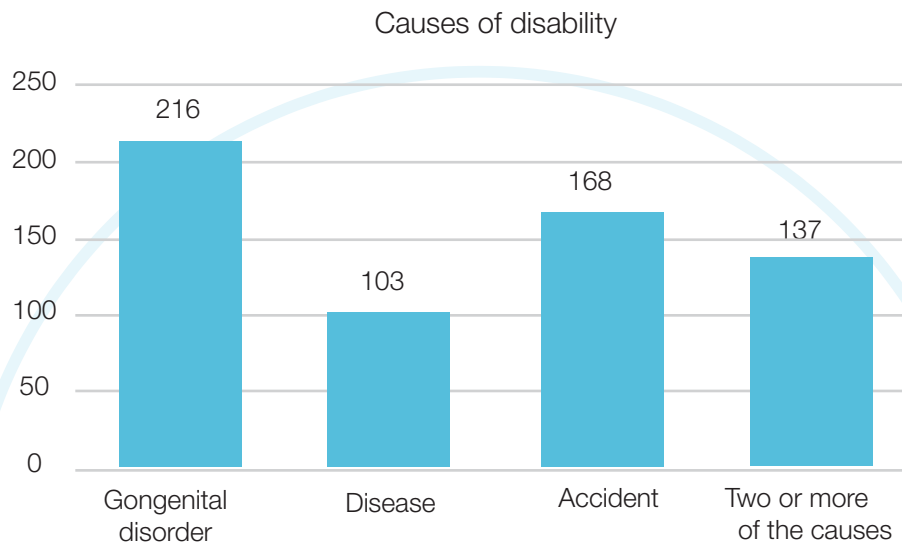


-We notice that more than 50% of those with special needs suffer from physical disabilities, and a very small percentage (1%) suffer from autism.

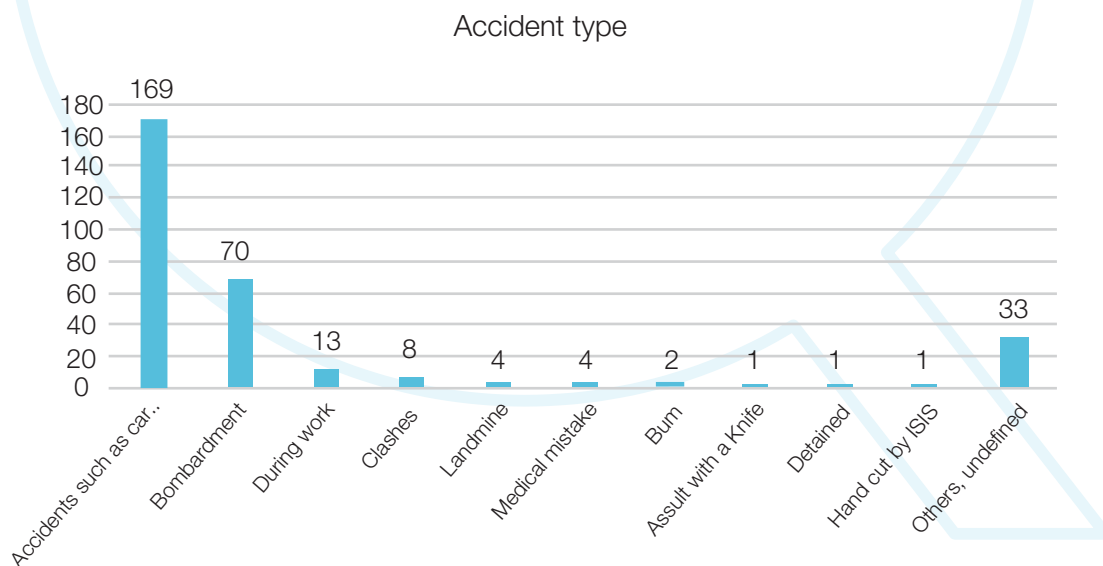
- The following table shows those with one or multiple disabilities:

First disability	No.	Second disability	No.	Third disability	No.	Fourth disability	No.
Physical disability	336	Mental disability	23	Hearing impairment	4	Visual impairment	2
		Visual impairment	16	Hearing impairment	1		
		Other	5				
Visual impairment	85	Mental disability	5				
		Hearing impairment	4				
		Autism	1				
Mental disability	74	Other	2				
		Hearing impairment	4				
Hearing impairment	63	Autism	1				
Autism	5						
Epilepsy	14	Mental disability	1				
		Hearing impairment	2				
Down Syndrome	11	Other	1				
		Hearing impairment	1	Physical disability	1		
Other	36						
Total	624		73		6		2

- The graph below shows the causes of one or multiple disabilities :



In general, 306 persons are disabled as a result of accidents (including those with multiple disabilities).

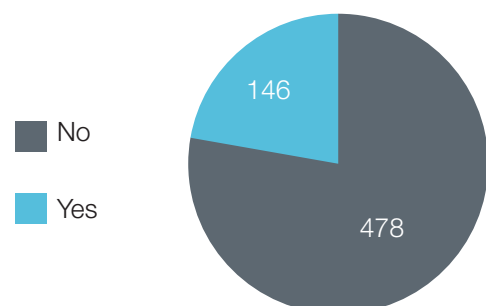


Note: Ten of the people with special needs in this survey were injured due to direct participation in military activities.

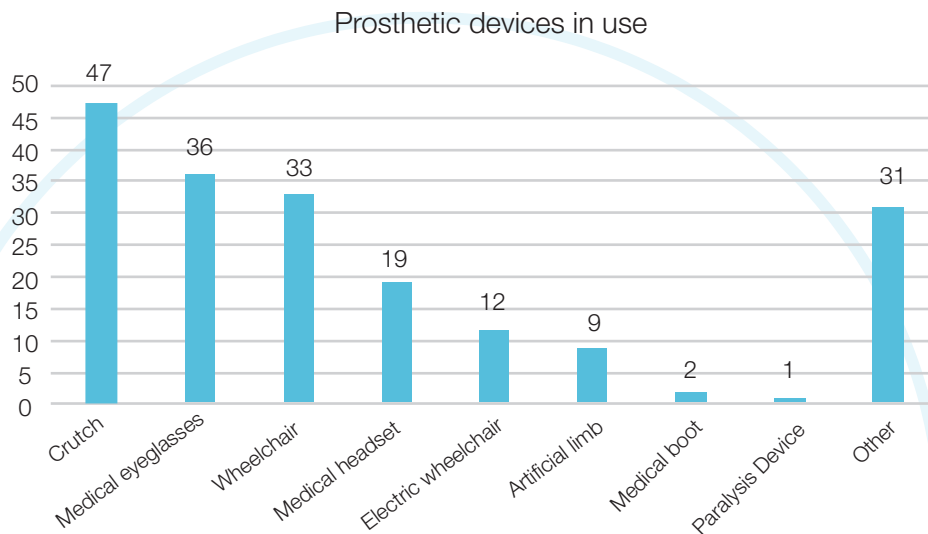
4.5 Prosthetic devices:

- 146 persons, around 23% of the total number of those with special needs, have and use prosthetic devices.

People using prosthetic devices?



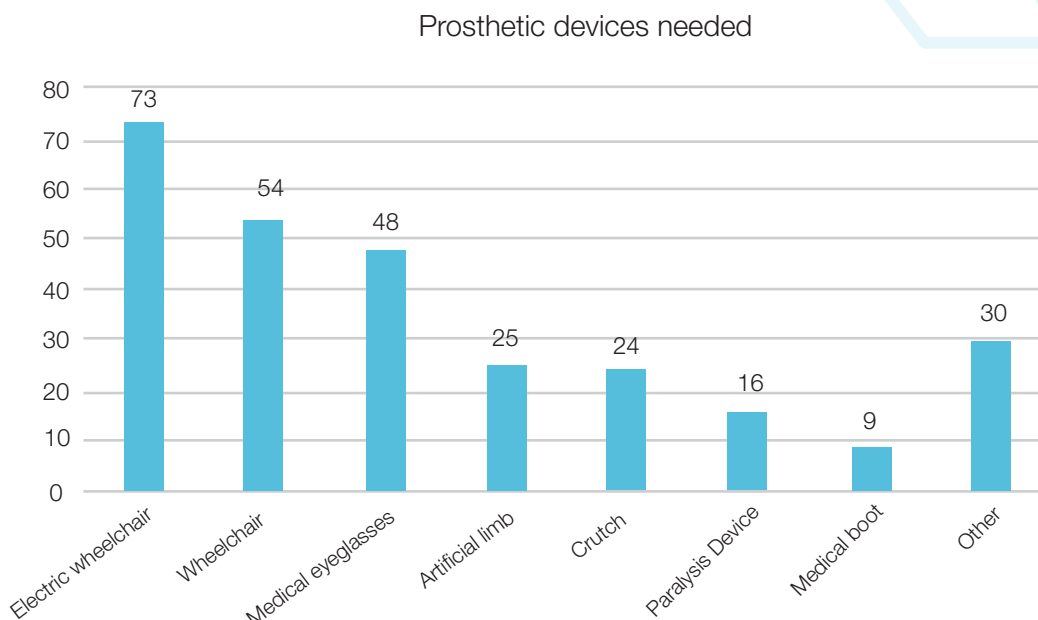
- The graph below shows that the number of prosthetic devices used by those with special needs is 190 as one person may have or need more than one device.



Note 1: More than one person use more than one prosthetic device. The other prosthetic devices used are: (mobility equipment, cervical collars, lenses, prosthetic devices for infants with cleft palates to enable lactation, defecation chairs).

Note 2 : Paralysis device is a device that helps the person to carry out massage and physical therapy.

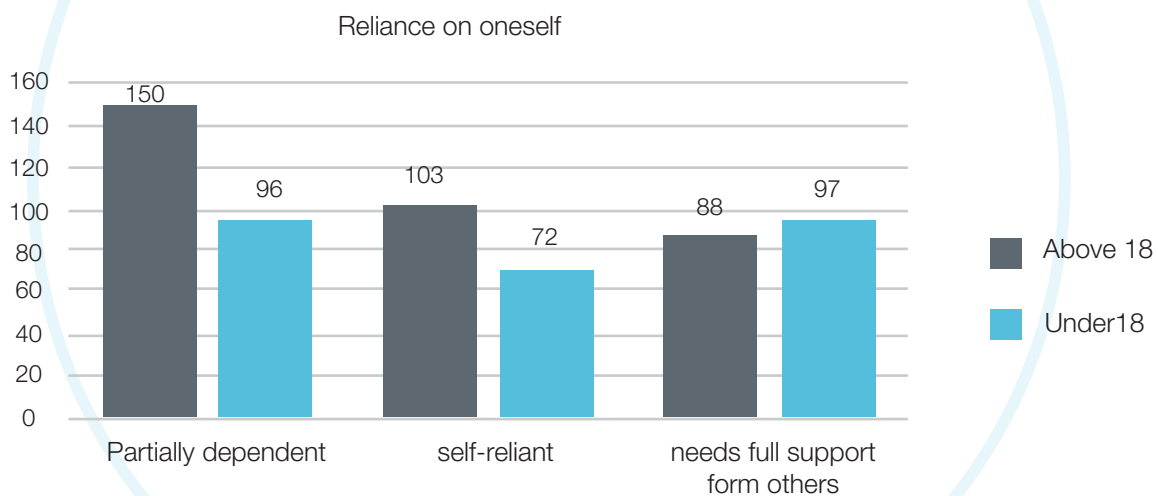
- The graph below shows that the number of the prosthetic devices required by those with special needs in this survey (279 devices) is more than the number of the available used devices (190). The electric and mobile chairs are the most needed:



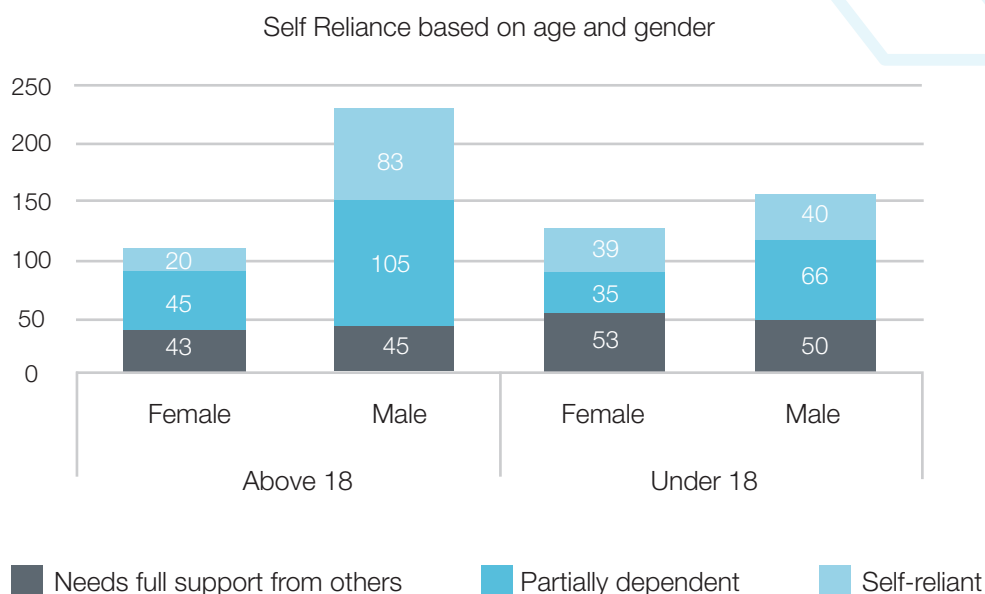
Other required prosthetic devices are: lenses, knee orthosis, a device to block the throat slot, special medical belt, baby's strollers, a pump to take out iron, a defecation chair).

4.6 Relying on oneself :

-The following graph shows the degree of self-dependency of those with special needs who are above and below 18 years old. The highest number depends partially on themselves, followed by those who are fully self-dependent and finally those who need full support from others:

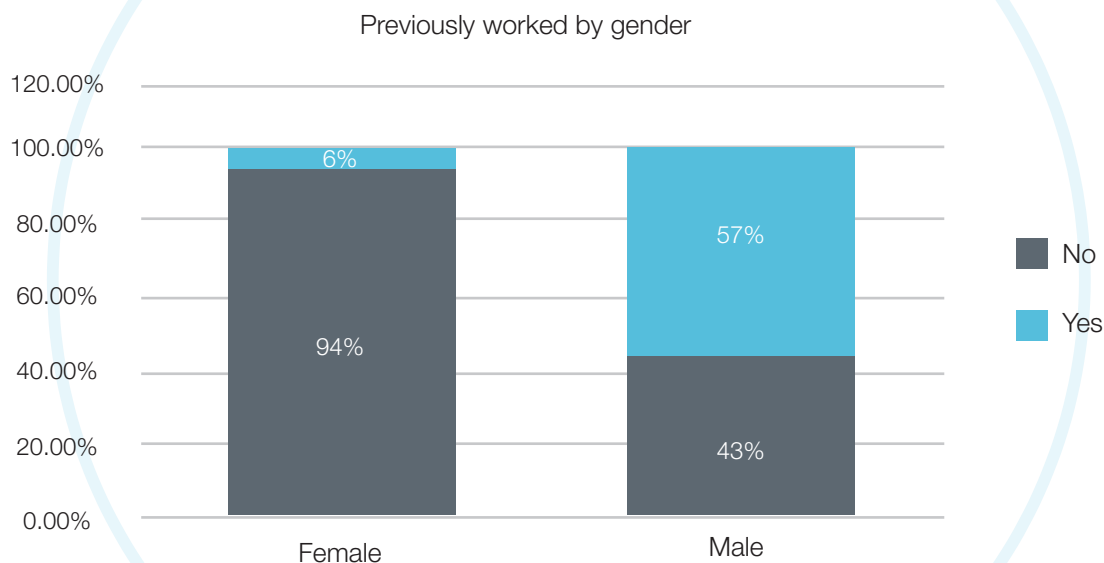


- The following graph shows the degree of dependency on others for those who are above and under 18 years old, based on gender. We notice that the numbers for males and females who are unable to depend on themselves are close.

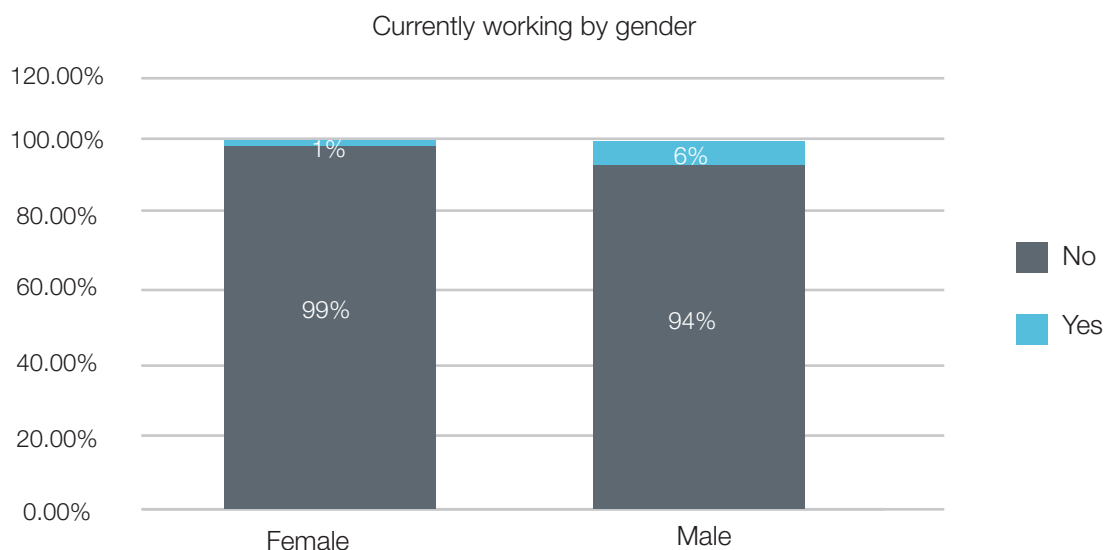


4.7 Work :

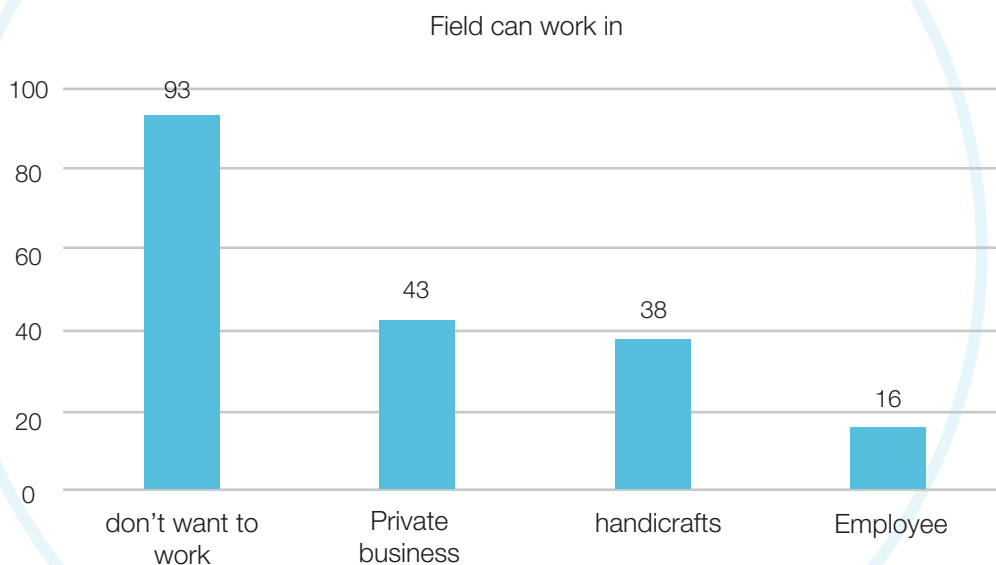
- Around 60% of those with special needs above 18 out of the total number of those with special needs above 18 have never worked (208 out of 330 persons). The rest (133 persons) have worked in the following professions (from top to bottom): worker, tailor, freelancer, driver, shoes repairing workshops, clerk, blacksmith, teacher, farmer, hairdresser, butcher, furniture carpenter, imam, translator, organist, student, electrician, leather tanning, painter, traffic police, soldier, concrete work.



- We notice that the percentage of males who worked, 57% of the total number of males above 18 years old, is significantly higher than that of females, which is 6%.
- Most of those with special needs above 18 (93%) are not working in any field (316 out of 341). Only 24 persons are currently working in the following professions (from the most to the least common): worker, tailor, shoes repairing workshop, freelancer).
- All of those who are currently working are working for private actors.



- The percentage of males working is small (only 6%), however, it is significantly higher than the female percentages (only 1%).
- Based on the researchers' experience and observation of the situation of people with special needs, only 131 of them are able to work (21%).
- The following graph shows some answers by those above 18 years old concerning work:

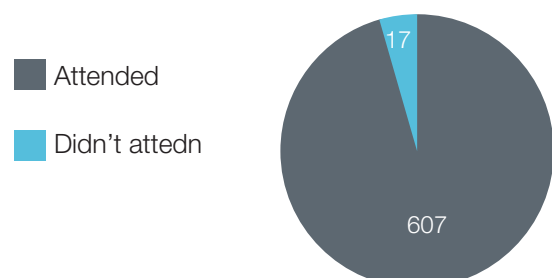


- Herein follows the vocations that the people with special needs would like to work in, rated from highly to least important: private business – handicrafts – any convenient work – tailor – student – teacher – shoes repairing workshop – hairdresser – guard – carpenter – servant in a mosque – librarian – driver – doctor – Ambalaj worker (packaging) – translator – accountant – worker in a charity or relief organization).

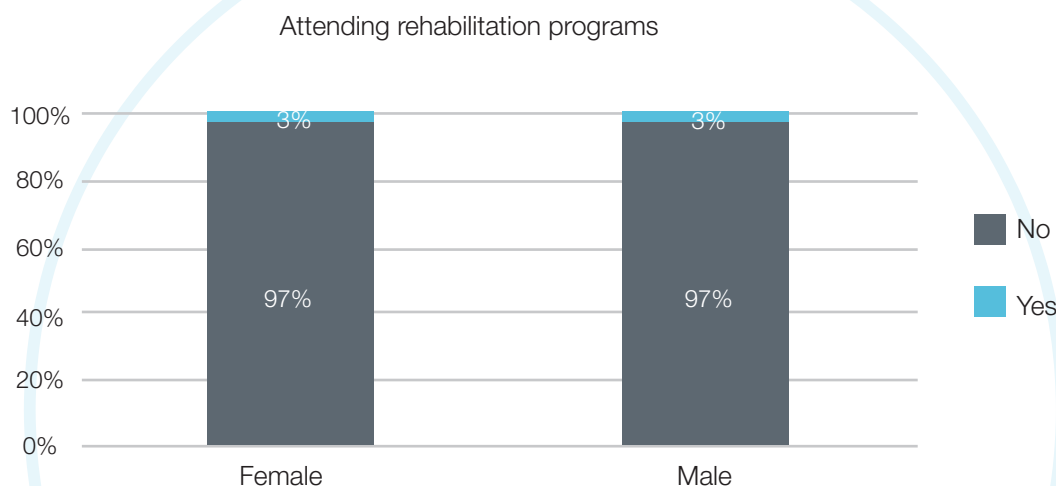
4.8 Rehabilitation and vocational training :

- In total, 607 persons with special needs (97% of the total) did not attend any rehabilitation trainings

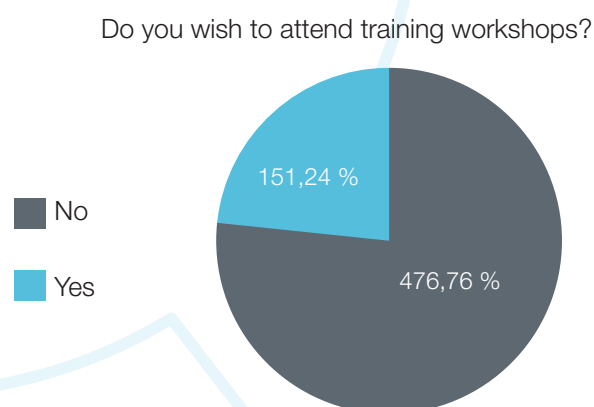
Number of people with special needs who went to and those who did not go to rehabilitation centers



- Only 11 males out of the total number of males (3%), in addition to 6 females out of their total number (3%) attended rehabilitation programs in the following fields: physical, psychological, vocational, blind association – training on pronunciation – schools for deaf and dumb.



- 151 of those who are able to attend training workshops (excluding young ages and mental disabilities) expressed their desire to attend training workshops, constituting 24% of the total number of people with special needs.



- The following table shows the topics they are interested in :

Required training workshops	#
Capacity building	142
Psychological support	124
Advocating for rights	6
Coordination with actors working on programs for people with special needs	1

Other workshops: Sewing – computer and mobile phones maintenance – training on pronunciation – handicrafts – hairdressing – sessions for reciting Koran – painting courses – languages – cars mechanics.

5- Additional remarks:

- Some families have more than one person with special needs in need of assistance, as shown in the following table:

# of those with special needs	# of families
2	52
3	10
4	4
5	2
9	1

- At least 50 people expressed a need for surgical operations to continue their therapy, in addition to physiotherapy and diapers.

- 142 people with special needs live under bad financial conditions, based on the researchers' field observations after considering the following: a breadwinner in the house, type of housing and assistance received.

6- Recommendations:

A- Humanitarian organizations in Gaziantep should implement projects to support people with special needs, including establishing vocational and rehabilitation centers, special paths and places in the streets, public transportation and shopping malls, as well as providing housing, food (distributing regular food vouchers) and diapers.

B- To provide prosthetic devices and surgical and physical therapy as well as needed medication, especially that half of them are physically disabled.

C- Competent actors should help those with special needs in obtaining the Turkish temporary protection ID card (the Kimlik), along with all the relevant documents. They should also explain and facilitate the procedures through coordinating with the Turkish government.

D- To have a closer look into the Turkish laws dealing with the people with special needs and apply them on the Syrian people with special needs.

E- To provide the needed support to help those with special needs attending schools and special educational centers.

