

People with disabilities are the largest minority. Yet, their voice is rarely heard in scientific research. This is particularly the case in persons with intellectual disabilities (ID), who are commonly characterized by low levels of cognitive functioning, insufficient communication skills, and limited ability to make informed decisions. Therefore, they are sometimes regarded as unreliable research participants and excluded from research. For a long time, researchers in intellectual disabilities have focused on the perspective of the so-called third parties, treating them as a reliable source of information.

The shift towards recognizing the importance of self-report exploration and the growing importance of inclusive research involving people with ID is associated with the idea of normalization, emancipation, and the concept of social role valorization, according to which active participation in research has been recognized as a way to enhance these people's social image in the eyes of others. Nonetheless, critical analyzes have shown many methodological and organizational shortcomings of inclusive research, which, to various degrees, involve people with ID. This requires activities aimed at critical verification of the quality of prior achievements and experiences in the field of IR with the participation of people with ID, with an indication of their potential and limitations as described by the entities involved, i.e., researchers who conduct research with people with ID, co-researchers with ID, self-advocates and activists supporting people with ID. The current project aims to fill this gap. Its aim is to comprehensively develop a methodological and analytical conceptual framework for inclusive research with the participation of people with ID that would meet the assumptions of accessibility and implement the principles of equality, non-discrimination, and empowerment. To achieve the general objective, more specific objectives are proposed:

1. thorough justification of the importance of such research in relation to the assumptions of disability studies,
2. clarification of the ethical and methodological foundations of inclusive research,
3. determination of implementation difficulties (challenges) and methods of counteracting them.

The study will be divided into two phases, during which we will use qualitative methods: (1) meta-analysis and (2) interviews.

In the first phase a meta-analysis of inclusive qualitative studies with the participation of persons with ID will be conducted. Six English databases will be systematically searched for potentially relevant publications, using specific inclusion and exclusion criteria. Next, their quality will be assessed and chosen publication will be analyzed to determine the ethical and organizational aspects of inclusive research and understand its added value from the perspective of entities actively participating in it, including a) researchers with ID (co-researchers); b) non-disabled researchers, c) the population of people with ID.

In the second phase we plan to conduct interviews. The choice of the in-depth interview as the data collection method resulted from the research issues and the adopted paradigm assumptions (interpretive paradigm). We acknowledge that the use of this method is particularly useful in investigating a given topic in depth and allows to obtain detailed data on the thoughts and behavior of specific people, learn about their ways of perceiving and understanding reality. Data interpretation will be carried out according to the grounded theory guidelines.

The second phase will be divided into three paths:

Path 1: 25 individual, problem-focused interviews with adults with ID who have experience in taking part in research as research subjects or co-researchers.

Path 2: 25 individual, problem-focused interviews conducted with researchers, leading experts in inclusive research with persons with ID, involved in research embedded in various paradigms.

Path 3: 3-5 focus group interviews with at least 25 activists with ID (self-advocates) and activists supporting people with ID (representatives of institutions whose aim is to support persons with disabilities).

In the third phase we plan to develop a conceptual framework for inclusive research involving co-researchers with ID, which will concern its methodological, ethical and organizational aspects with guidelines for researchers.

We associate the significance of the current project with its innovative methodological approach. Both "those who do research" (non-disabled researchers and co-researchers with ID, with varying levels of experience in participatory research) and "those who are research participants" (representatives of self-advocacy groups and other adults with ID who participated in various research studies) will be surveyed. The multiple case study design method will allow to present the point of view of all parties involved in the participatory research process, taking into account their diverse points of view. This is also consistent with the assumptions of subjectivity, equality, respect for the rights of all members of society.