

University of Groningen

Participation of adults with visual and severe or profound intellectual disabilities

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DOI:
[10.33612/diss.134517652](https://doi.org/10.33612/diss.134517652)

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Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Publication date:
2020

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Hanzen, G. (2020). *Participation of adults with visual and severe or profound intellectual disabilities*. [Thesis fully internal (DIV), University of Groningen]. University of Groningen.
<https://doi.org/10.33612/diss.134517652>

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Propositions accompanying the dissertation

Participation of adults with visual and severe or profound intellectual disabilities (VSPID)

1. The participation of adults with visual and severe or profound intellectual disabilities (VSPID) can not be studied if the concept of participation is not defined and operationalized for this target group (*this dissertation*).
2. Participation for adults with VSPID means more than just inclusion in society (*this dissertation*).
3. The level of participation of adults with VSPID is suboptimal; there are more possibilities than previously imagined (*this dissertation*).
4. To improve participation, professionals should first focus on the wishes and abilities of individuals with VSPID and only then on their disabilities (*this dissertation*).
5. A broader understanding of existing and potential roles for adults with VSPID, combined with activities appropriate to those roles, is necessary in order to actually improve their participation (*this dissertation*).
6. Participation of adults with VSPID will only improve if direct support professionals are willing to think 'out of the box', transcending their regular care support (*this dissertation*).
7. Without the conviction of professionals that they can learn from a training, any training is meaningless.
8. In experimental research, the researcher controls the nature of interventions and environmental changes, whereas in pragmatic trials, participants may unexpectedly decide for themselves.
9. Improvement of participation of adults with VSPID is a societal responsibility and requires effort from all people involved both within and outside residential facilities (*this dissertation*).
10. Change does not necessarily assure progress, but progress implacably requires change (Henry S. Commager).
11. Een promotieonderzoek is vergelijkbaar met de overgang: je maakt een ontwikkeling door, je krijgt er regelmatig een verhit hoofd van, je raakt af en toe je verstand kwijt en uiteindelijk kom je er door heen.

Gineke Hanzen