

Visual simulation experience

The simulation activities, which I bring to schools, libraries or social gathering environments, as well as increasing awareness of the skills necessary for the management of disability, allow us to give an idea of the potentials of people with disabilities who, very often, they are neither considered nor exploited. But above all to change negative and stereotypical attitudes towards people with disabilities. To improve communication and interpersonal relationships between young people it is important to foster the development of understanding through the "doing" of how disabled people learn to adapt and respond by tackling the problems that handicap entails.

<https://youtu.be/k19ijzCzguk>

"Understanding how you can move and what tests you have to face a person with serious visual problems (visually impaired), thanks to the help of simulators that reproduce the different pathologies and the white cane, becomes simple. It allows children to enter my world without misunderstandings, without filters. The perception of the known environment and of what animates it changes, necessarily. Even the most familiar place for us can hide obstacles and unpleasant difficulties when our field of vision is compromised. Our senses adapt more or less quickly to allow us to survive the change and get by, always and in every situation, as we become familiar with our changed condition. This happens to anyone.

Being projected in this new dimension provokes a series of predictable, inevitable, yet surprising reactions. The discomfort, the annoyance, the disorientation of the first moments are gradually replaced with attention to the present, to what we "feel" around us without being able to see it, and with a sudden change of our logical process (for example, rapid research of solutions for overcoming that obstacle that impedes movement) to a total listening of the sound, tactile, olfactory solicitations that would usually pass into the background. The transformation becomes evident: we are the same as before, but we are different. We have been forced to reduce our field of action, we have narrowed our objective visual boundaries, and we have become aware of our limitations, it is true. We have also, however, discovered new resources within ourselves to adapt and overcome even what might seem insurmountable. We are ready to welcome another vision of ourselves, ready to offer ourselves to the world as we are. Without fear and without shame. The inalienable right to existence expressed in the condition of dignity proper to every human being. "