

**Robert W. de Miguel Moyer**  
**E-mail: [demiguelrobert@gmail.com](mailto:demiguelrobert@gmail.com)**  
**Tel: 717 708 297**

## ACCESSIBILITY IS POSITIVE

I wrote this for people to pay attention towards the discrimination that suffer people with functional diversity. Is a subtle discrimination but without us noticing is very present every day. Is comparable to the discrimination of woman that still suffer professionally and personally. To take into account woman and people with functional diversity is an advantage to everybody as they contribute different points of view and experiences.

For example, the bible is very important for Christians, but it is a story with hardly any people with functional diversity. The angels have all their capabilities and there are perfect. Supposedly you lose all your disabilities when you go to heaven. Perfection, heaven, is the homogeneity and not having functional diversity issues. Why heaven is perfect and it is in sky? Earth is the world that people with functional diversity live, but it is always seen as negative world.

Almost every situation or place is a challenge for people with functional diversity. For example, to put stairs instead of thinking about ramps shows a lack of commitment of architects to make buildings accessible and politicians that guarantee equality between all the people specially those who have a functional diversity. Society has to see the world more accessible and inclusive.

In sports is commonly understood that everyone is more than capable. But the fields, the athletes, and facilities are not ready for people with functional diversity. The paralympic games is an exception that help to notice these people, but the problem is mindset. For example, Tarzan is seen as a model of athlete, tall and blond. He is a model without any disabilities. Is a fake model that create an unreal sport.

Communication for people with a speech impediment is different. Normal communication is commonly understood only through oral words. This model is challenged by multimodality where communication is done also through writing, gestures and poses. The people with functional diversity educate society showing other ways to communicate specially in work environments.

Sexuality also looks for an ideal image of people without disabilities. Sexuality typically looks for a diversity of situations and places but hardly it includes people with functional diversity.

They're very few models to look at people with functional diversity. Why most presidents are men with abilities? The exception is president Roosevelt (FDR) or the former president of Ecuador, Lenin Moreno, that displace with a wheel chair. History must be told explaining notable people with functional diversity.

The people with functional diversity are not disable. Disable is a concept that discriminates people but functional diversity take into account people and benefits society. People with functional diversity create new initiatives, and are more creative in a more inclusive and accessible world. So, people become able and not disable.

Functional diversity becomes positive in our society when it tries solve problems and allow people to participate in the economy and the workforce. For

example, Google and online conference were created for people with functional diversity and now everybody uses them because of Covid.

Another reason for thinking accessibility is positive during this Covid 19 is the design the space. Today more than ever is important to keep security distance to avoid contagion. Every time I cross a door or walk in an aisle, I realize how important is space for people with functional diversity. The design of doors and wider aisles is proposed in the regulations for functional diversity people but it also complies with 6 feet as security distance against covid. This distance allows us to move with security and freely. So, then the regulations for an accessible space by architects help positively against this pandemic era.

---

(608 words)