

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

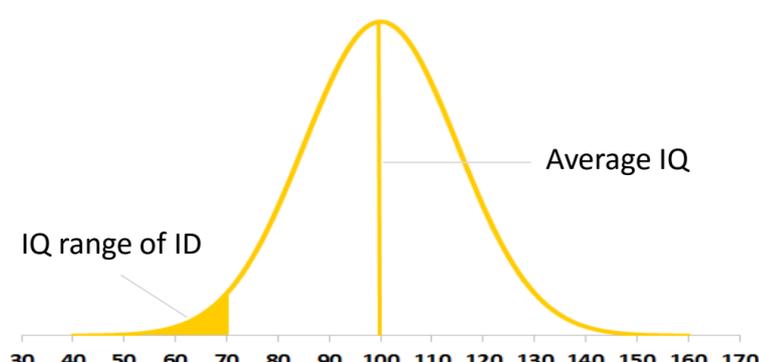
Intellectual Disability (ID) generally occurs before the age of 18 years and affects conceptual reasoning, social interactions and how well a person can deal with everyday tasks.

ID was earlier called Mental Retardation. Since the term was being used in a derogatory way, WHO changed the term in 2015.

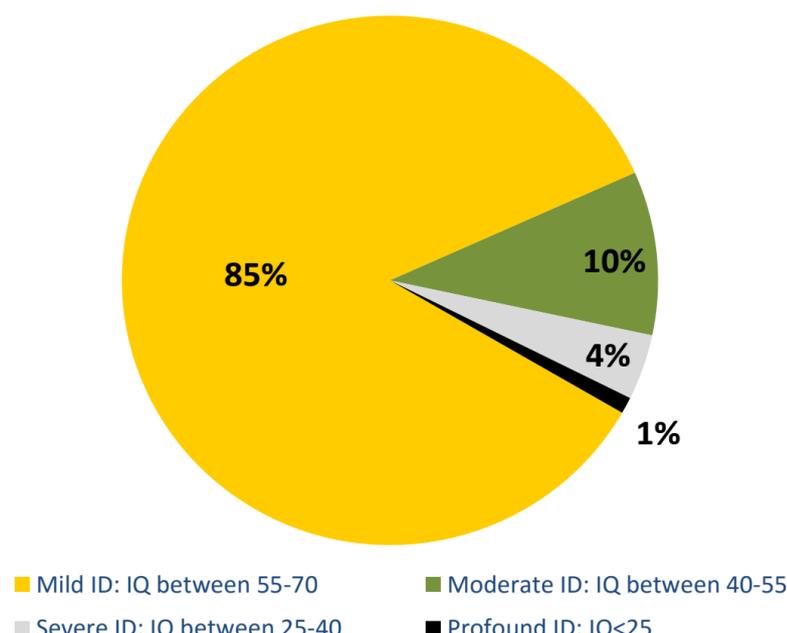
ID is diagnosed on the basis of Intelligence Quotient (IQ). An IQ test score of 70 or below suggests ID. However, the diagnosis is made only if the person has deficits in both IQ and everyday skills.

ID is categorized into mild, moderate, severe and profound based on the IQ test score of individuals. Approximately 85% of persons with ID fall in the mild category.

IQ distribution



Severity of ID



What is the Issue?



Are you aware that intellectual, social and practical skills of individuals with ID vary as much as these do in the general population?



Persons with ID form part of the bottom 2% of the population in intellectual functioning. With support and training, persons with mild ID can hold down jobs and live independently. Persons with higher degrees of ID require more support and supervision, but with the right attention and care, they too can participate in the community that we all build and own together.

Persons with ID are often pigeonholed and snubbed by others in their community, instead of being helped to access services to reduce the effect of the disability.

What needs to be done ?



Early diagnosis is required to understand the specific needs of the child, so that s/he can get the intervention that s/he needs.



An inclusive and adaptive work environment will enable persons with ID to better contribute to our society.



Diagnosis of ID must include both standard IQ test and clinical assessment. The severity of ID must be based on adaptive functioning, rather than only IQ test scores.



Each person's needs are very different. Support at home and in service settings should be customized to meet each individual's needs.

To further understand the reasons behind these statistics and their possible solutions, look out for our upcoming issues of Fast Facts by visiting the following links:

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