

Bar-Ilan University

**Emotional intelligence and psychological capital
amongst students with intellectual disabilities (ID)
who participate in adapted academic enrichment and
students with ID who are fully integrated in regular
courses**

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Abstract

In the last decade, the trend of "post-secondary education" for adults with special needs, including those with intellectual disability is gaining momentum worldwide. As part of this trend, the School of Education at Bar-Ilan University is conducting a the empowerment project called "Otzmot", which enables students with intellectual disabilities to study in academic studies

The present study, as part of an array of studies in this new field, examines the emotional intelligence and psychological capital of 28 students with intellectual disabilities who study in the project. 19 students who are in academic enrichment courses and 9 who are fully integrated in regular courses. 18 of them with intellectual disabilities without specific etiology and 10 of them with Down syndrome.

The study combines quantitative research with qualitative research. The research data were collected using seven research tools: three different emotional intelligence questionnaires and four questionnaires, each examining a different component of psychological capital: optimism, hope, self-efficacy and mental strength. In the qualitative part of the study, the students were asked to relate to seventeen open-ended questions designed to understand the students' meanings, perceptions and feelings about their studies in their designated project.

The results indicate mainly similarities and a lack of different lines in the results relating to the two research groups. It was found that the students in both groups reported on the level of emotional intelligence and psychological capital resources in each of its four components in the high-grade range. With regard to the differences, it was found that the level of hope and self-efficacy was significantly higher among students who were fully integrated than those who were partially integrated