



“Positive side effects of covid on inclusion of  
VI people”

-good practices, opportunities,  
future plans, takeaways, etc.

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# Positive side effects of Covid in general

- IBOS is the Danish national knowledge, competence and rehabilitation center for young and adult persons with a visual impairment. Out of a staff of 130, I chose to ask 7. They were all surprised at the positive effects angle!

## **Themes differed by profession and target group, but common themes were:**

- Saving time and money from offering online meetings, courses, and consultations, which is why, these practices will continue after Covid.
- The higher awareness that good hand hygiene, fresh air, etc. prevents the spread of infections in general. Restrictions are gone in Denmark, but there are still containers with disinfecting alcohol at entrances, toilets, classrooms, training kitchens, cantina, etc.

# 1. Dep. manager, Department of Advisory

## **Target group: General**

- Online possibilities gives better acces for citizens living outside Copenhagen, so more can enjoy the services and it minimizes tiredness and expenses from travelling.
- The more anonymous online presence to e.g., study preparation days, makes way for esp. young people, who are not ready to accept the blind or mdvi image.
- An online preparatory meeting gives the involved a better preparation, before the nessesary physical appearances for accessments
- 72% of courses are now offered as online webinars

## 2. Special adviser, project man. labour market

**Target group: Adult VI citizens who needs assessment, counseling and/or assistance to get work experience or find a job**

- When the Covid closure came, it inspired the Pre-Employment Programme team to run an adapted version of the 15 modules online. The main challenge, they felt, was how to establish social togetherness online. The experiment turned out even better, than they dared to hope. Participants didn't have to leave their families, so more could participate. If online and physical meetings could be combined, it would be optimal for the depth of the relations.
- The effect in relation to finding a job has proven the online course just as effective as the physical. 56% are in a job within the first 12 months and up to 65% in the longer run.

# 3. Job counsellor

**Target group: Young unemployed VI with ADHD, autism, abuse problem and/or mentally ill**

- Less stress, because public Job Center demands were cancelled for a period. Their staff had more time to talk with the young about their situation and wishes, than before and after Covid. The common conditions around Covid made them feel less stigmatized and left out.
- The young VI with autism felt more comfortable behind the screen. The weekly call from their mentor during lockdown, helped them maintain some structure, they said. Calls were transformed into walks and talks with their mentor in their neighborhood. These walks have continued after Covid, since being in nature and movement has a positive effect on this target group.

## 4. Student counselor

### Target group: Pupils with low vision - Youth Educations

- Many students, except the few who has difficulties looking at a screen because of light sensitivity, have been happy for working and receiving counseling online from home, because of less transport, tiredness, noise and forced social contacts.
- Teaching resources can be found online now, which is a big advantage for our students. This will continue, it seems.

## 5. ICT- adviser

### Target group: Blind users

- Online or telephone ICT teaching or support demands, that the person already has a set of basic skills (e.g., IT skills and Ten Finger method) to do, what you want them to do, so that they feel secure doing it and has a good ability to listen and transform, what you say, into action.
- Assessment of problems and work situations can function all right online or on telephone, but you miss the observations you make, when present physically. Tests, keyboard, and other specific training works best physically. TeamViewer and JAWS has its limits.

# 6. Department manager - Living, Learning and Socialising

## Target group: Young and adult MDVI and VI

- Their citizens experienced more staff resources than usual, since staff from other departments offered a hand. It resulted in a better understanding of working and citizen's conditions across departments at IBOS.
- Activities had to be replanned and outdoor facilities and movement came into focus. More of their citizens have from these experiences become aware, that fresh air creates energy and more are now taking a walk without escort, than before Covid.
- Both staff and citizens became aware of the importance of social relationships and in maintaining them to avoid the loneliness many felt during restrictions. More have become friends and couples.

# 7. Team manager for Youth Team and math teacher

## **Target group: Young MDVI and VI**

- Teachers and other staff, parents, and the young have all become more digitally skilled, so online support and meetings have become an obvious possibility today after Covid.
- The students with VI, who are independent and have social network, are profiting from the online possibilities.
- For the target group with cognitive difficulties on the other hand, it's hard to find any positive effects.

# If you want to know more



Please contact us:

Info in English:

[www.ibos.dk/index.php/engelsk-side](http://www.ibos.dk/index.php/engelsk-side)

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