



The Social Model of Disability

The **Social Model of Disability** views disabled people as having impairments (physical, sensory, learning difficulties, frailty of old age and mental health problems) they are disabled by society because of inaccessible geographical, attitudinal, linguistic and institutional barriers.

In contrast the **Medical Model of Disability** views people as having disabilities which are medical problems needing a cure and preventing them from being considered 'normal'.

The '**Charity Model**' of Disability views disabled people as victims to be pitied and suffering bravely & heroically.

The **Social Model of Disability** implies:

- Access to all public buildings & community facilities and medical services.
- Trains and buses made accessible to Wheelchairs.
- Equal opportunities to employment for disabled people whatever their care assistance needs.
- Information always provided in a variety of formats - audio tape, large print, electronically.
- Use of appropriate language with which disabled people feel comfortable.
- Not making assumptions about people because of their impairments.
- Seeing disabled people as citizens with equal rights and changing attitudes and institutions of the past which act as barriers to this.

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