

Medical vs Social Model of Disability

The two most commonly discussed models of disability are the medical and social model.

Medical

Disability is the problem of the disabled person and they're disabled by their impairments.

Professionals are the experts and in control. Disabled people are passive receivers of services aimed to cure.

If the person can't be cured, they must adjust to a society of inequalities, barriers and discrimination.

Exclusion, segregation, lack of independence. Impairment becomes the focus of attention.

Society remains unchanged

Social

People are disabled by societies barriers, policies, and attitudes.

Disabled people are the experts of their lived experiences, should make their own choices and have informed consent.

Communities have the responsibility to identify their barriers and biases, and develop solutions.

Disabled people should have equal rights, independence, and full access to society.

Society evolves