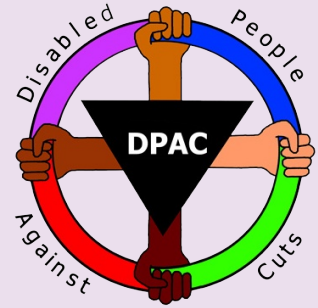


What is the social model of disability?



The **medical model** of disability says that disability comes from a person's **physical conditions** which stop them living a 'normal' life.



The medical model looks at a disabled person as if there is something **wrong** with them

Instead of this, the **social model** says that disability is the result of **barriers** in society that disable people with **impairments**.



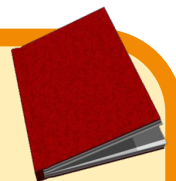
Barriers can come from the **physical environment**, the way things are organised, people's **attitudes**, and other things that **exclude** disabled people.



Another unhelpful way to see disability is the **charity model**.

The **charity model** looks at disabled people with **pity** and feels sorry for them. The charity model is about better off people having to **look after** disabled people.

What words and phrases mean

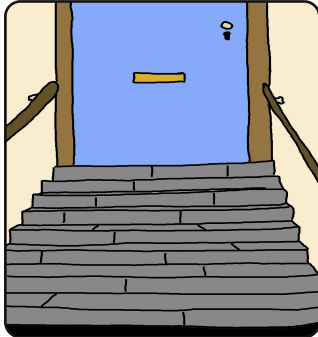


Model: A way of thinking about an issue

Impairment: Physical, sensory, intellectual, or psychological differences which mean a person can't do certain things the same way that most people can do.



The social model says that **society** needs to **change** **instead** of trying to 'cure' disabled people of their impairment.



The social model says that if **society changed**, then the **barriers** would be **broken down** and people with impairments would **not** be **disabled by society**.

An **example** of a barrier is when there are **steps** to get into a shop.



A **wheelchair user** would be disabled because the **steps** stop them getting into the shop. **If** there was a **ramp** then the wheelchair user would **not** be disabled in that environment.

Another **example** would be a person with **autism** having a '**buddy**' at work to **help** them **understand** workplace **culture**.



Having **adjustments** made to take account of impairments means that disabled people can **participate** in society.

Money to help disabled people with things like **personal care** or an **adapted vehicle**, is one way society can help **remove barriers**.



Disabled People Against Cuts

Disabled People Against Cuts (DPAC) is a national campaign led by disabled people **to oppose** the savage **attacks** against disabled people being carried out by the ConDem Government.

e-mail: mail@dpac.uk.net



The social model of disability comes from the **civil and human rights movements** of the 1960s.



The **Disability Discrimination Act** defines disability using the **medical model**. However, it also says employers and service providers have to make "**reasonable adjustments**", like in the **social model**.



The Government is moving to a **new way of thinking** about disability, called the bio-psycho-social model.



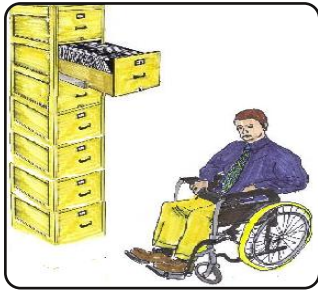
This model **says** disability is made up of **3 things**: a person's biological impairment, the way they think about their impairment (their **psychology**) and barriers in society.

What words and phrases mean

Civil and human rights movement: Campaigns that tried to find new ways of looking at how different groups are excluded from society.

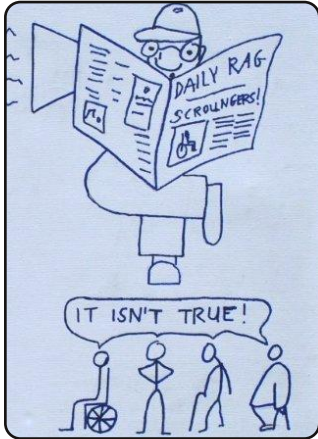
Disability Discrimination Act: The law on discrimination against disabled people (now called the Equality Act).

Psychology: Everything to do with how a person thinks and feels.



The **Government thinks** some disabled people could do better in life by **thinking more positively** about their disability.

They **ignore** the social barriers that **cause** disability.



Many people are **worried** that the Government is making it more **difficult** for disabled people to get **support**, by saying some deserve help but others are just **scroungers** who should think more positively.

Disabled people fought hard for the social model.



The **social model** has helped people to think more **positively** about disability and to treat disabled people with more **respect**.

DPAC is very **worried** that the Government is working from a **new model** of disability that **encourages bad attitudes** towards disability.



Experts by Experience



X by X is a **user led** group run by and for people who are **deaf, disabled**, or have **learning disabilities/difficulties, mental health** survivors and **carers**.



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