

This essay will look at people who suffer from physical disabilities, it is important to state that there are lots of different groups that are prone to the risk of exclusion in society such as, female genital mutilation victims, sex workers and cults. It will explore the barriers that these groups face in their life time. The document will also contain characteristics of people who suffer from physical and mental disabilities. Then, it will introduce multiple parts of significant policies and legislation that has directly affected people who have disabilities. Also, it will look at the barriers that relate to euthanasia with the United Kingdom. The essay will touch on the sociological theories that have strong links to the disability community for example, their employment and their personal well-being. Lastly, it will finish with a conclusion in which it will evaluate a hard to reach group in society, disabled individuals.

During the twentieth century, the claims of racism and feminism have shown the inequality within their respected field. Then, professionals researched the inequality that occurred with a person who suffers with a mental and physical disability. Barnes and Mercer 2002 state that there is no, to little reversal in the general thinking of the policy and legislation for people with these particular issues. (Barnes. C, Mercer. G, 2002, p20)

Disability has been linked as a form of social oppression, multiple authors have highlighted the direct link between anti-racism and the feminist theory by moving away from the class-based bank accounts. Also, a relevant piece of theory is diabolism has specific identifications for individuals who are disabled for example, people have been branded in a way that is marked with a distinct social group. This occurs of their body differences or irregularity in contrast to society. it will alter how they will be treated in a way that is very different to their non-disabled counterparts, such as not being able to take part in sports activities (Barnes, C. Mercer, G. 2002).

Within the United Kingdom, fifty-seven per cent of disabled people cannot participate in sports. The statistic covers just over half of the disabled population,

a person with disabilities can face many barriers with daily objectives in society. However, twenty-four per cent of people without a disability do not participate. Although they have no active barriers restricting them from sports. Then, forty-one per cent of people with disabilities stated that “there are no opportunities suitable for them”. This shows that there is an unequal amount of opportunities due to the introduction of a disability for example, sports and social policies are highlighted. If services were accessible to a disabled person, it could improve their mental health and well-being, lifestyle and help those who suffer from isolation and loneliness. (Leonard Cheshire Disability, No date).

Within the United Kingdom eleven-million people who are disabled reside within it, one in five people require better homes that are liveable for their conditions (Gov.uk, 2014). Euthanasia is a very serious topic in the United Kingdom with a large suicide rate of people who are disabled. In the United Kingdom it is an illegal act and if a person is caught trying to help commit assisted suicide, which comes under the suicide act (1961) they will be put into jail and the sentence will be up to fourteen years (NHS,2017, *Euthanasia and assisted suicide*).

Disability can affect anyone, regardless of their age, skin colours or life choices, in such places as Leonard Cheshire Disability residential home has a mixture of residents who suffer from mental health problems or a physical disability reside there. In other organizations such as Hafal, in which has more of a senior citizen clientele who suffer from schizophrenia. This is because of the stigma of mental health in the young adult community, in which applies a stigma to mental health by stating that if a person suffers from mental health, that they are weak or not a part of their society.

The British government have created the five steps of well-being that will attempt to help anyone who is suffering from any disability. The five steps are to take notice, keep on learning, give back to the community and to keep active in your daily life. (Issuu,2010, *Five Ways To Wellbeing*)

The early form of social barriers model of disability, which is the failure of sociological approaches to the medical sociological model. The aim was to test the individualization and medicalization of disability. A functionalism view by Talcott Parson in his academic book named the social system (1951) in which displayed a change in the social system in which would go in any direction. Parson had an idea on the functionalism view and it's order that will presume, that the effective operation of the social system that will rest on the individual's performance of necessary social roles (Barnes, C. Mercer, G. 2013, p43).

The social model of disability is viewing the world in the eyes of a disabled person by people who are disabled, the model states that disabled people will face barriers in the society within the United Kingdom. The barriers can be physical such as buildings, toilets, reaching stuff on the shelf. They can also be caused by other people's attitudes to the differences, an example of this is that people assuming that disabled people cannot do most things for themselves, such as cleaning themselves, paying bills and looking after themselves in their general life. The theory of the social model makes it easier to recognise the barriers that will help make overall life harder for disabled people, by getting rid of these barriers will help create true equality, independence and give them control and choices. The changing of the attitudes towards the negative emotions that are based on prejudice, stereotype also known as disablism, that will halt the true equal opportunities. The negative attitudes that people who are disabled will face are employment, having intercourse, children and living independently from parents or other organizations (Oliver, M. 2006,p165).

The medical model will state that people who are disabled by their impairments or differences, it will look at what is the wrong with the person, rather than what the person needs, it can be argued that this theory will give little expectations and will also lead people to lose their independence. (Scope = equality for disabled people, No date)

The other barriers people who are disabled will face, is the Maslow Hierarchy of needs theory in which Abraham Maslow, states that there are five stages that a human being will need to have to be a healthy individual. Maslow wanted his theory to be viewed from the bottom to the top. It is made out of five layers in which the bottom is the physiological level which is made out of sleep, air and sex, the next level is the, safety needs, then love and belonging, then the forth level is esteem and the very top is self-actualization. Which is to become the best version of yourself that a person can be. The barriers that people who are disabled will face is a mixture of things. The theory from Maslow is sex, personal security, freedom, health, sleep and self-actualization . These are all important to have in your life, but certain people who are disabled will only be able to gain some of these (Harambis, M. Holborn, M. 2000, p185-p188).

The conflict model or as it's also known as The Karl model, was created by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engelswho, who believed that society is in a state of the eternal conflict, with the resources that are controlled by the one percent. Marx. K and Enhelswho. F who supported the idea of the one percent controlling the wealth, power and will try and do anything to keep a hold of it. The theory by Marx. K and Enhelswho. F who is used to explain a lot of different ranges of social issues, such as wars, wealth, poverty, medication, education, violence and discrimination. It will attribute the majority of the essentials of human history, an example of this is the civil rights movement and the capitalistic efforts to control the masses, rather than help the society and social order. The main part of the theory is the worry of the gap in social inequality in the separation of the properties. And It will look at the differences amongst the social classes (Harambis, M. Holborn, M. 2000, p120).

It can be argued that this theory has a strong link to people who are at the bottom of the social system, and classes such as the people who are disabled. Because they will never be able to reach the top of the Marx model. This is because they cannot, fully engage in the workforce and to the one percent that controls the overall majority of things. This is because disabled people will not be able to make money for the capitalistic system. In such places as factory's, but they will make a huge

profit in medication, medical equipment and in organisations that will rely on donations (Oliver, M. 2006, p75-76).

People who are disabled are much more likely to be employed now rather than in (2002). If it is compared to (2012) it shows that, sixteen-point three percent of disabled people within the United Kingdom. Are attempting to try and become more inclusive such as within work where the figures state that nineteen percent of people were faced with unfair treatment in the workplace, this will come under the equality act (2010) (Corker, M. Shakespeare, T.W. 2006, p234-p236).

The equality act (2010) is a part of British Government legislation that protects people from the act of discrimination in the workforce and in other parts of society. The Equality act replaces the previous legislation and revamps the anti-discrimination legislation with one overall act, it will make the legislation of discrimination much simpler to understand. It will also strengthen the protection in most conditions. It sets out the different behaviours in which it is unlawful to treat a human being (GOV.UK, 2015).

The well-being of future generation Wales act (2015) makes all fifty-four public bodies within Wales to think about the lengthy impact of their choices. The aim is to work more positive within the communities and the people who resign within them, the main goal is to prevent issues before they become serious, such as poverty, inequalities, within health roles and within society such as people who are disabled being mistreated. This legislation is the first of its kind and only is being implemented within Wales, which is putting Wales on the world stage for this unique legislation which is showing positive and long-lasting changes to Wales (Future Generations Commissioner For Wales, 2015).

The disability discrimination act (1995) was updated (2005) will cover people who are in education and will give them access to goods, services. They have four specific types of discrimination, they are direct, failure to make certain adjustments, disability-related discrimination and victimisation (RNIB, No date).

The human rights act (1998) brings the law rights for people who are disabled, it comes from the European Convention On Human Rights (E,C,O,H,R) which is not mandatory for countries to adopt but they have to make a decision to implement this legislation. If a person is discriminated against they will come under the human rights act and the disability discrimination act (Citizens Advice, No date).

The policy in Leonard Cheshire Disability home has a very strong policy when it comes to the policy of the residents who live there, also with the employees of the company. It clearly states that the staff must have a tour of the building, fire procedures, first aid, being able to do a risk assessment, handover, health and safety, dress code, the location of the emergency equipment and an introduction into the people who use the building. The main policy is that the staff must be able to not disclose any important information to anybody, who is not a member of staff such as other residents, their family members or any other person who is not a member of staff.

some of the other policies for children who are disabled is the special education needs and disabilities (s.e.n.d) is that all of the public schools and the authorities across the United Kingdom must, attempt to identify and give them complete access to the services if they come under (s.e.n.d) they can also help a child who will have an education plan, health and care (e.h.c.p) (Gov.uk, No Date, Disability Rights).

The policy they must follow will be looked at annually, the child must get a review to understand their condition and the support that they will be entitled to receive. This will happen in such places as the University of Wales Trinity Saint David. (University Of Wales Trinity Saint David, No Date, Equivalency test) (University Of Wales Trinity Saint David,2015, Services for Disabled Students.)

To conclude that within the United Kingdom needs stronger legislation and policy to help the people who suffer from a disability. They could also help the family's that suffer from looking after people who are brain dead by allowing euthanasia in the United Kingdom for people, who are suffering from serious disabilities. It

would give the families that see their loved one, who used to be full of life. It would also reduce the overall population and create peace for the victims of a serious internal or external disability, the question is that is it fair that the government can have that much control over a persons life. That will come into the conflict theory that the one percent want people who are disabled because they can provide a huge amount of profit. As the evidence has shown that we need much more help when it comes to the disability community, such as better support, better job and volunteer opportunities, that will give meaning to their life such as stated in the Hierarchy of needs theory. The legislation and policy are getting better, but it will need a long-term approach to solve these issues. Because Wales has the well-being of future generation act (2015) is showing very strong promise in these areas. The United Kingdom needs to become more forward thinking, therefore only time will tell. The United Kingdom's government will have to solve the poverty crises first, then all the other problems they can try and solve them. The barriers that the disabled community will face are slowly decreasing. Because of this the disabled community are overcoming some of these issues by getting out of the house and trying to achieve the five steps to well-being.

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