

Main Disability Models

Model	Charity Model	Medical Model	Social Model	Human Rights Model
Appearance	Early 20 th century	Mid-20 th century	Late 20 th century	Late 20 th -start 21 st century
Description	PWDs seen as victims at the grace of society's charity. PWDs viewed as suffering people to be pitied and cared for. Whatever is done for PWDs is done out of charity.	Disability seen as problem of the individual, directly caused by disease, trauma or other health condition. Medical care of the impairment is required. Management of the disability is aimed at cure or the individual's adjustment and behaviour change.	Disability seen as the result of the limitations imposed by environmental barriers. The problem is placed on discrimination and exclusion coming from the society. The response is to remove barriers.	Model derived from the social model and based on the principle that all people must have equal opportunities to participate in society. Main goal is to empower PWDs and to guarantee their right to equal and active participation in political, economic, social, and cultural activities. Access to services and participation is seen as a right and not an act of charity.
Possible response to following problem: A farmer has lost one leg during an earthquake. He is now begging in the street.	Donate some food or money	Physical rehabilitation: fit a prosthesis and train the person on how to utilize and maintain it.	In addition to physical rehabilitation, adjust the environment to facilitate the person's participation: • universal design in reconstruction activities; • awareness campaigns aiming to reduce discrimination.	Empowerment: in addition to adjusting the environment: • Needs based training for inclusion in livelihood activities; • Psycho-social support to enhance self-esteem; • Train DPOs to advocate for rights of PWDs.