

Models of disability – 1

Medical model of disability

Focus on ‘fixing’ or ‘curing’ individual impairments



Disability is within the individual

Example: a child is born deaf and is given a cochlear implant at the age of two



Models of disability – 2

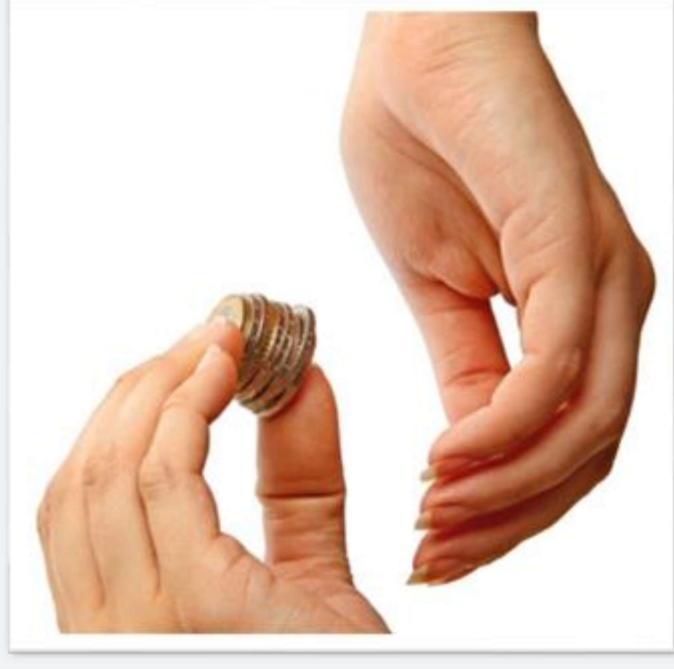
Charity/welfare model of disability

Focus on **perceived individual limitations**



People with disabilities seen as **victims needing care and protection**

Example: a child is born deaf and people assume they will never be able to attend school like “normal” children



Models of disability – 3

Social model of disability

Focus on removing barriers in society

➤ “It is society which disables physically impaired people. Disability is something imposed on top of our impairments.”

Vic Finkelstein (UPIAS, 1975)

➤ Disability movement: **Nothing about us without us**

Example: a qualified Deaf woman doesn't get a job because employers are not willing to provide reasonable accommodations (e.g. sign language interpretation)

Models of disability – 4

Human rights model of disability

Focus on **inalienable human rights**



Disability is seen as a **natural and common aspect of the human experience**



People with disabilities are seen as **rights-holders**

Example: a child is born deaf, and their right to health care, social inclusion and education must be guaranteed

