The Medical and Social Models of Disability



The two models below are conceptual to show how disability has been conceptualized over time. The social model was created by the disability community as a response to the medical model to highlight the marginalization and oppression experienced by communities of disabilities is socially constructed (societal issues).

The medical model positions the person with the disability as the problem.

The Medical Model of Disability Is housebound Needs help Confined to a and carers wheelchair The problem is the Can't walk Disabled person Can't get up steps Looking for a cure Can't walk Can't see or hear This is a diagram of the traditional Medical Model of Disability, which the Social Model was developed to challenge.

The social model positions society as the problem for a person with a disability.



