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Sociology of (Dis) Ability

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### Theories and Models of Disability

To summarize all the 5 different models of disability, I will start off with the Religious-Moral Model. This particular model has the longest history of all models. This model is based on authoritative and prestigious professionals, and considered disability and disfigurement to be the result of moral defect or sin of the PWD, his or her parents or ancestors. This moral model also was thought to be the result of sin and evil. An example of this is someone being born or developed a disability and they feel as if it was a punishment from God for something wrong they have done. The Biomedical Model is frequently seen as one in which professionals supply services to passive clients who must comply while receiving little information and few treatment options. Most bioethical issues about disability are based on a biomedical basis. The biomedical model provides a guide for how medical experts should approach a disability's physical and biological components. This model may be seen in the case of polio survivors who underwent long-term treatment, were separated from their families, and observed the fatalities of others, but despite their clear requirements, experts failed to recognize the importance of mental health counseling.

The Functional Model theorizes that the functions of the individual influence the definition of disability. Individuals who enjoy physical activities would probably be more affected by a mobility impairment than those who do not care for such activities. An example of this would be

visual learners could lose their sight and probably experience a greater sense of loss than the auditory learners who lose their sight. The Sociopolitical Model is a radical shift and, at first glance may be difficult to understand. Proponents of this model posit that disability is a societal concern. Society causes disability, and it is society, rather than individuals, who should bear the responsibility for dealing with disability. An example of this is an disabled individual who can't use stairs and wants to get into a building with a step at the entrance. Lastly the Environmental Model, this model posits that the individual environment both social and physical can cause, define, or exaggerate a disability. It is easy to see the relationship between disability and the physical environment. For example, if a person has the physical ability to see, but there isn't any light present in the person's environment, the interaction between the person and environment results in a disability. If that same person has 20/20 vision but is unable to see bacteria, adding a microscope gives them the ability to do so.

This model emphasizes the Enlightenment-era and conventional Western philosophical ideas that disability is a personal issue. The Functional Model is a perfect example of how important the individual is during the Enlightenment. There was a conviction that the faculties of reason and the mind were superior to the passions and accidents of the body. The social concept is where we start to see why disability was once thought of as solely an individual problem. According to the functional model, a person's impairment is largely determined by what they are capable of doing. The stakes of a person's impairment are smaller and they are more able than others if it has less impact on their job, behaviorism, or way of life. The definition of disability and the functional model as a whole have been impacted by the change in the American economy from one that

was dependent on physical work like farmland, miner, and production to an economy centered on service and information processing.

A problem and critique of this model is though I believe the model fails when disability is viewed as a personal matter, the philosophy of the impairment and what you are able to achieve is just. Since someone who has a disability must live with it every day, it makes sense that they would be concerned about it, but their concerns shouldn't be the only ones. Society must act with great empathy, education, engagement, and a commitment to greater accessibility. Another drawback of the functional model is that it may prevent people from receiving the accommodations they require. This is especially true if the disability is viewed somehow less acute.

The second model I will be discussing and talking about the history of is the Religious-Moral Model. The Religious-Moral Model is the earliest kind of model, and it may be found in many different religions. It may be argued that this model represents the first attempt by individuals to accept disability as a reality and devise strategies for dealing with it, rather than trying to understand it. The religious-moral model came from older generations who urged people to live morally upright lives and to behave well. Also the history of these models demonstrates how PWDs were used as living examples of sinners and evildoers at the temple gates in ancient times. These PWDs are receiving treatment despite the fact that they were once thought to be quote end quote dirty. If your impairment was thought to be an embodiment of the devil, you might have been slain, tortured, or even beaten.

This Religious-Modal Model had the history so in a scramble that the previous cultural reaction was to bless and pray for the individual with a disability in order to heal them or drive out the evil within them. Remorse and prayer were frequently used to overcome the impairment, which

only serves to highlight however much faith individuals had within religion at the time. Thinking about that now; they felt that religion was so potent that it could heal a disability. Possibly faith is so crucial that failing to follow it would result in you being cursed with a disability. Along with a particular religious powerful impact, ignorance of disabilities had a major role in this era's development of this model.

The Religious-Moral Model could be critiqued in some many ways but to keep it short and detailed this model is wrong in a lot of wrongful ways. This particular model is imperfect and so unbearably painful. People can develop problems as they age, not because they are cursed or guilty of wrongdoing. An individual who has a disability is just as fortunate as someone without one; there is absolutely nothing wrong with owning one. Simply because of a disability, no one should ever have to perish, endure humiliation, be outcast, or be banished to something like an institution. People with disabilities must be treated with kindness because they are also people. The fact that the religious-moral model puts religious views onto individuals who may not even be religious or who may practice a different belief system is also another issue I disagree with. The religious-moral model has many flaws due to the reasoning behind it and its history.

### Works Cited

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