

The Conceptual Framework of Disability and its Social Implications

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Abstract

A better understanding on the concept of disability is central to preventing and delaying the onset of disability. This article deals with the two models in the study of disability. In the medical model, disability is seen as individual characteristic that deviates from the medical norms, while a social model of disability treats disability as a gap between person and social environment. The relationship among morbidity, mortality, and disability is presented in the first section of this article, followed by a brief introduction on the disablement process and the measurement of disability. Different theoretical frameworks concerning disability are discussed as well.

Key words: concept of health, disability, disablement process, functional limitation