YOUTH WORK FOR INCLUSION OF YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

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EMPOWERING FOR INCLUSION

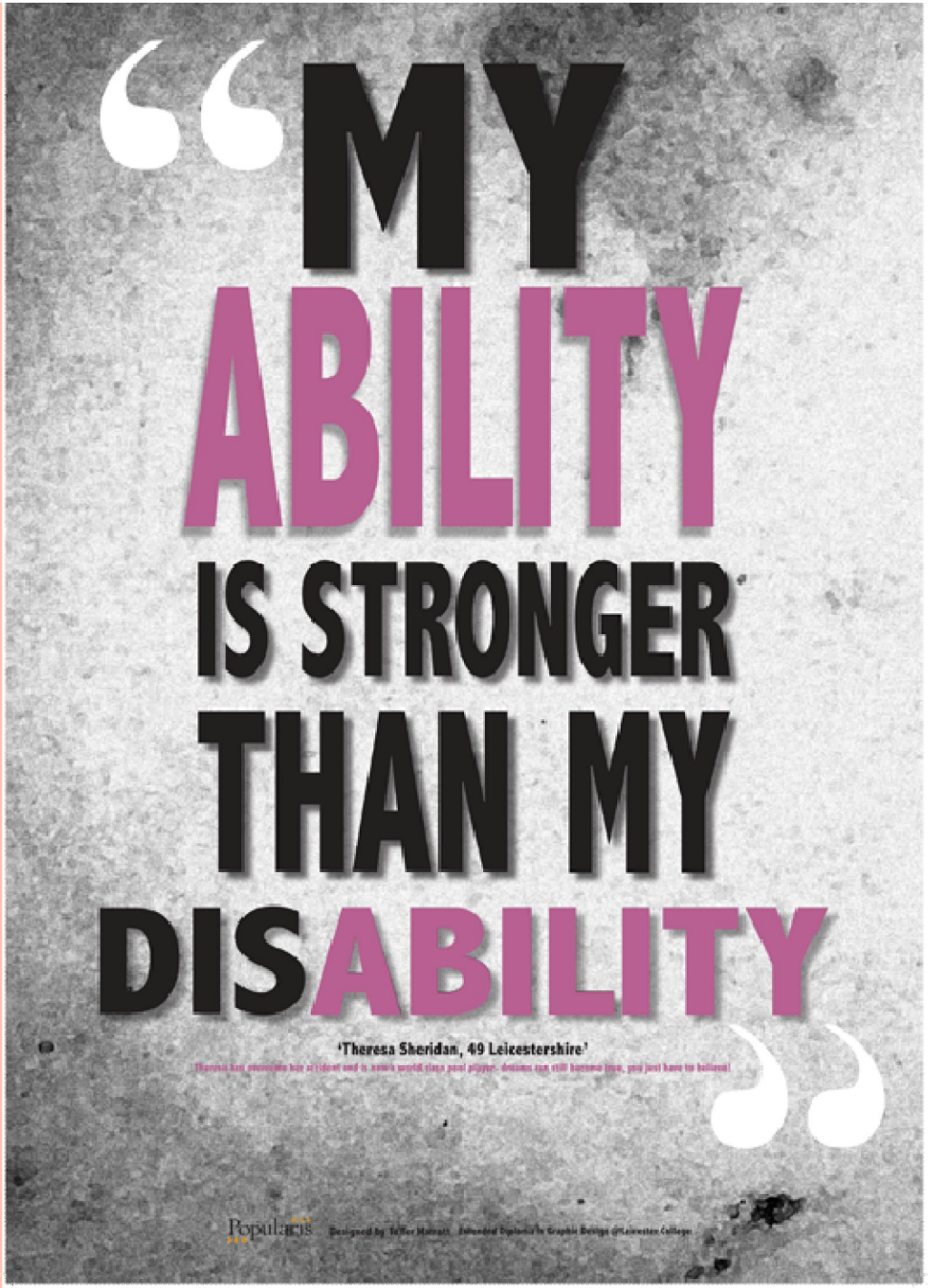
- Our role as youth workers is to mainstream mixed youth work.
- Youth work with young people with disabilities seeks to empower them and include them so they can fully participate in social, economic life and decision-making.

YOUTH WORK FOR INCLUSION OF YPD SEEKS TO DEVELOP:

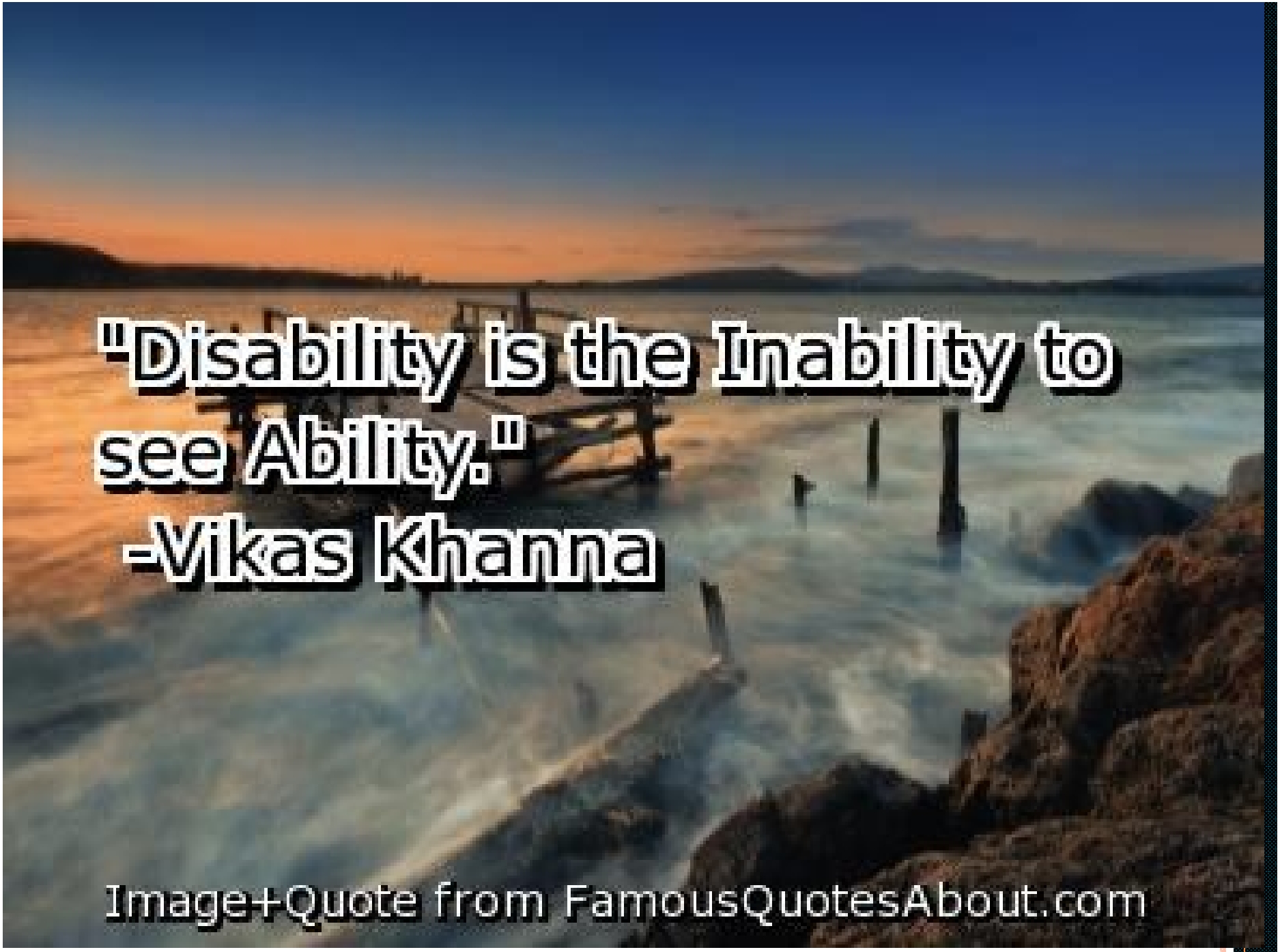
- Self-determination
- Independence
- Strengths
- Competencies
- Feelings of being valued
- Knowledge
- Networking

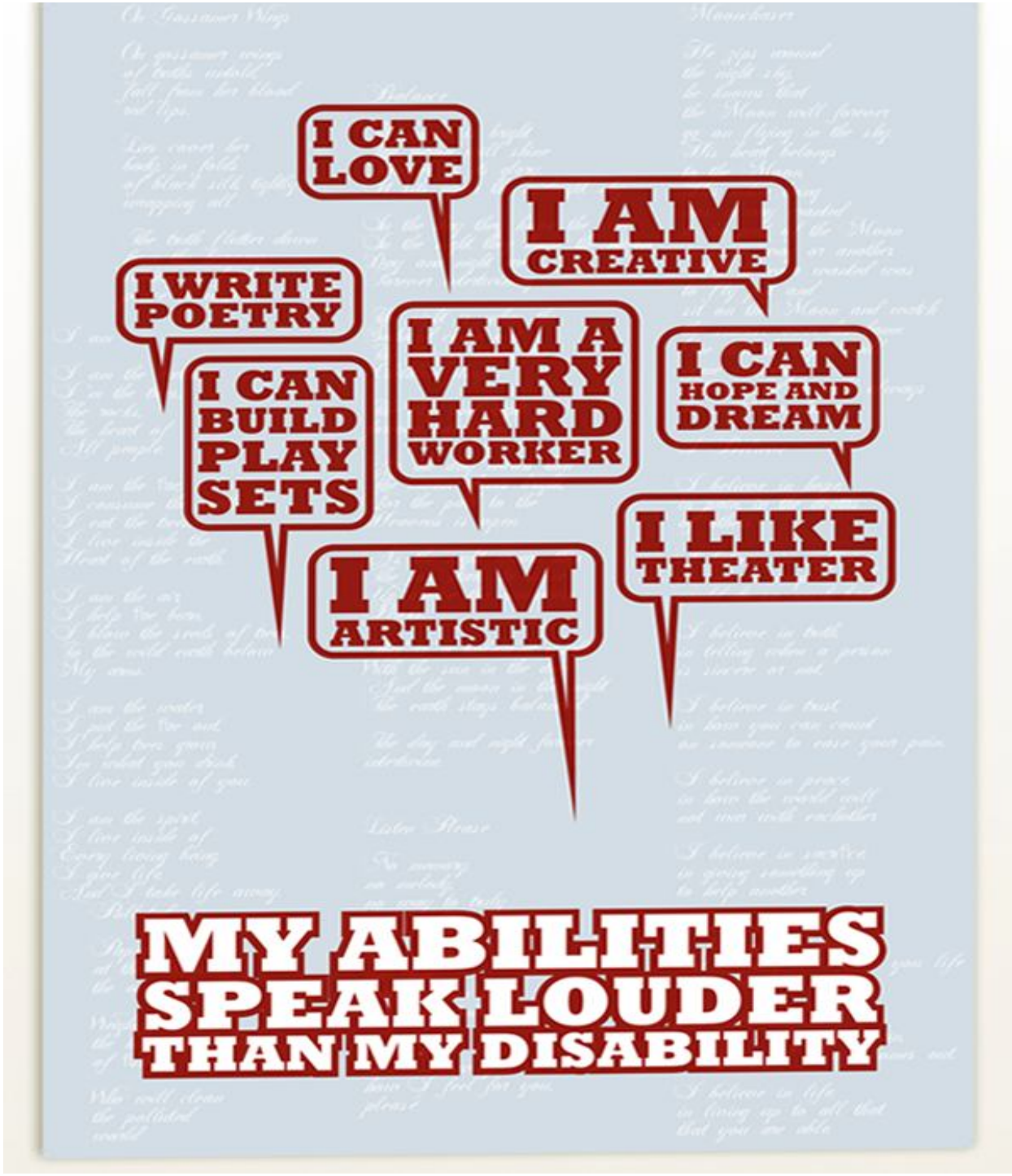
Addressing the issues of self determination in youth work

- Viewing the person with a disability as a person.
- Raising awareness among young people that the disability is one component of the life of YPD, not the only component.
- Addressing discrimination and stereotypes from society, which places emphasis on looks, speed, and being the same as everyone else.
- Addressing the self-esteem problems that YPD face: often placing additional pressure on themselves to try to meet society's impossible standards: either to look/behave as non-disabled or to be “super-cripples”.
- Empowering YPD to see themselves as capable to make decisions and lead independent lives.

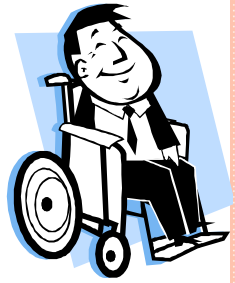


MAIN-STREAMING A PRO-ABLITY APPROACH IN YOUTH WORK


"Disability is the Inability to see Ability."
-Vikas Khanna
Image+Quote from FamousQuotesAbout.com


I CAN LOVE
I AM CREATIVE
I WRITE POETRY
I AM A VERY HARD WORKER
I CAN HOPE AND DREAM
I CAN BUILD PLAY SETS
I LIKE THEATER
I AM ARTISTIC
MY ABILITIES SPEAK LOUDER THAN MY DISABILITY

Encouraging young people with disabilities to express their views



- The social model of disability supports action, and for people with a disability to express their views in order to overcome barriers to their involvement in society

- Recalling the principles of the Social Model of Disability...

Social Model 1980s

Those with impairments disabled by society's attitudes and barriers

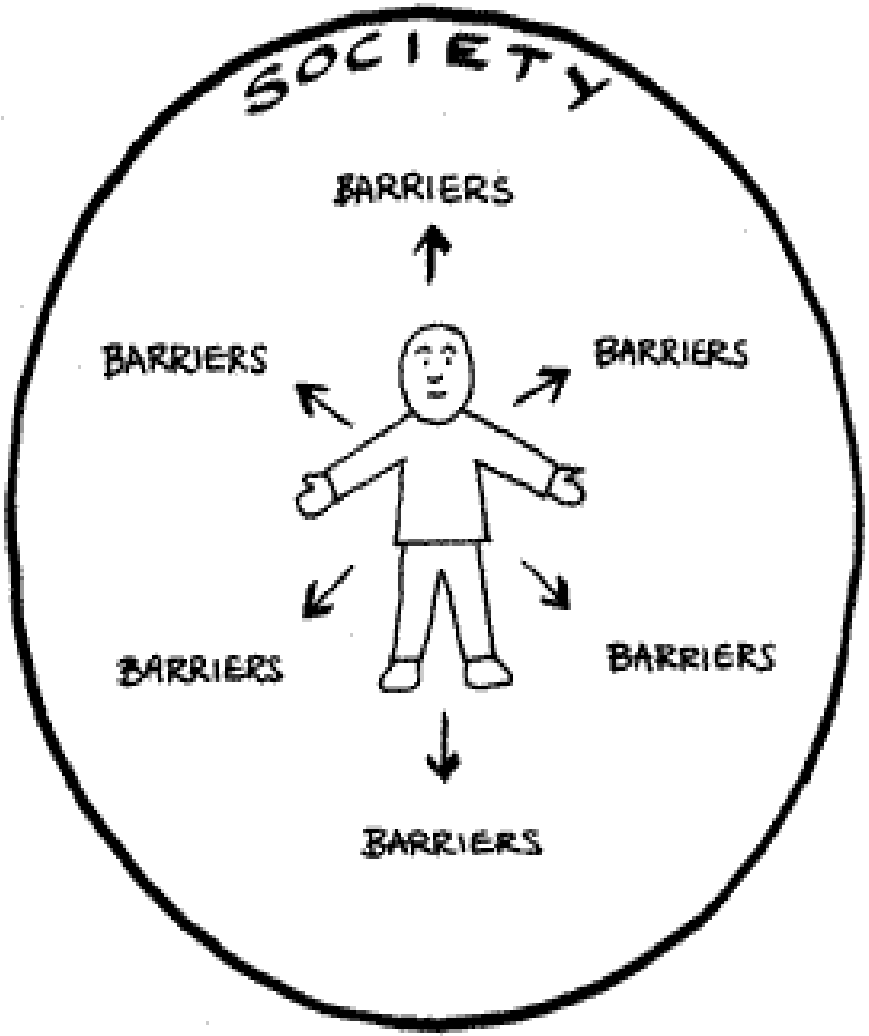
Roots: disabled activists and academics

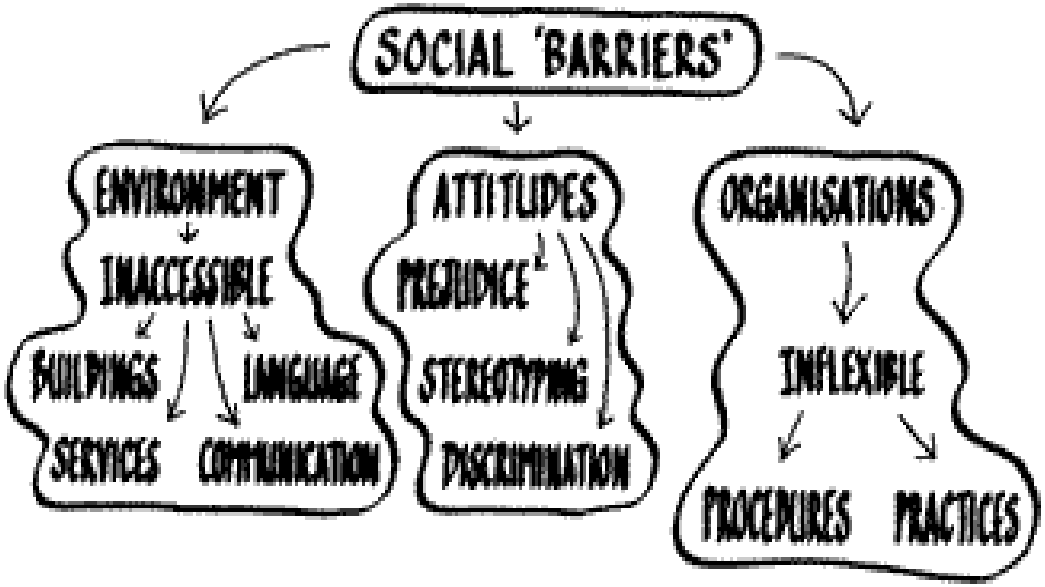
Problem: social and attitudinal barriers, capitalism/corporatism

Solution: activism, policy change, independent user-led organisations active in leading challenges

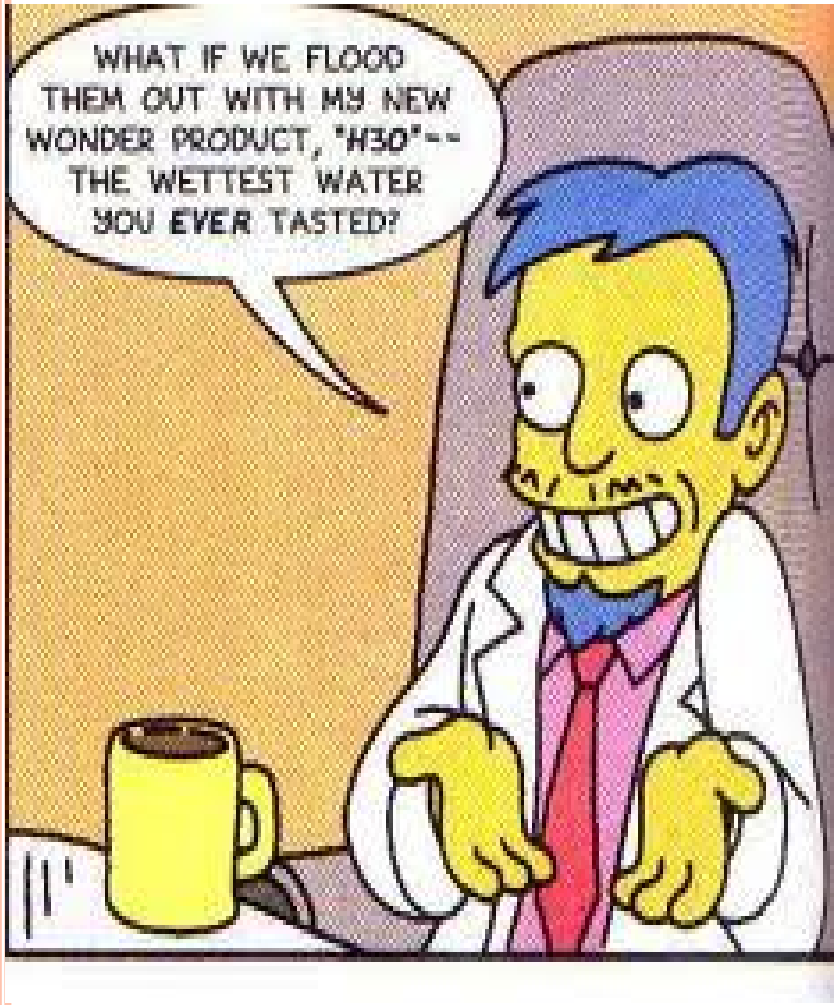
Attitudes are the Real Disability

THE SOCIAL MODEL OF DISABILITY





MEDICAL MODEL 1900S



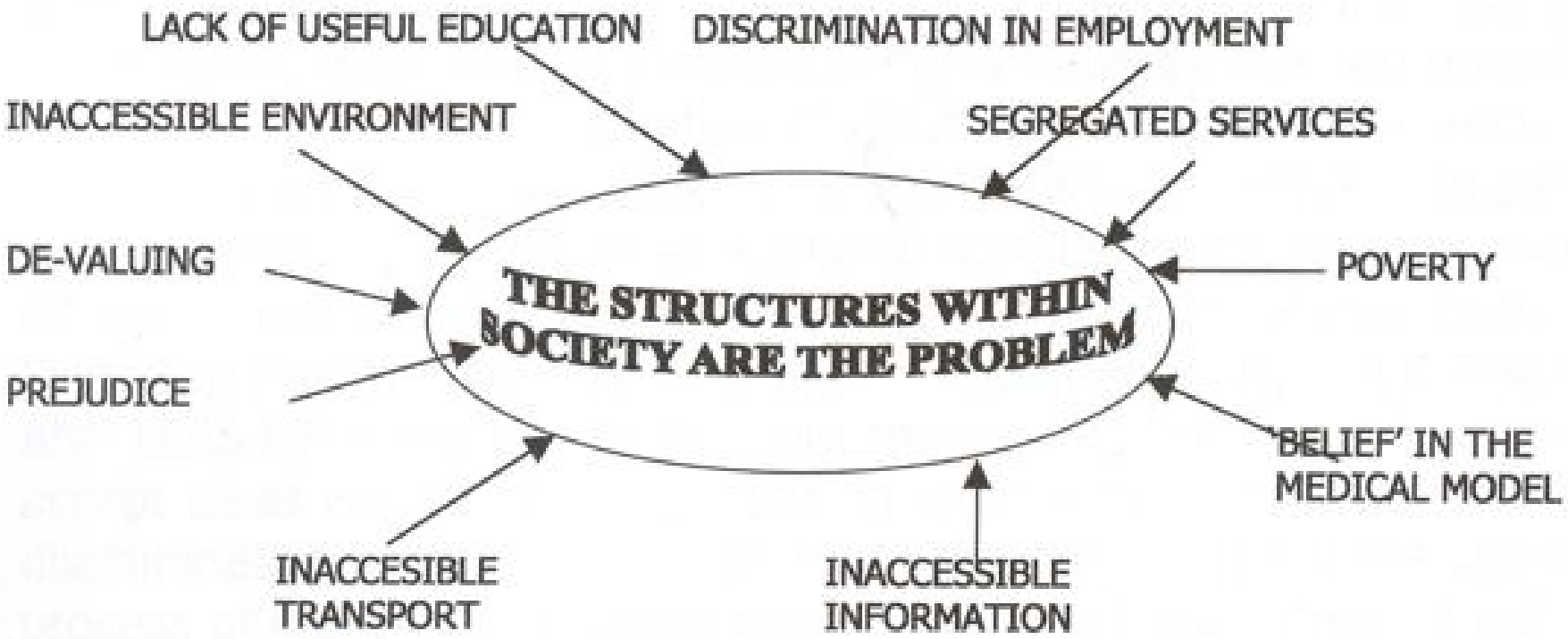
Bodies and minds to be fixed/cured

Roots: professionalism

Problem: individual and lack of function/ways we are not viewed as 'normal'

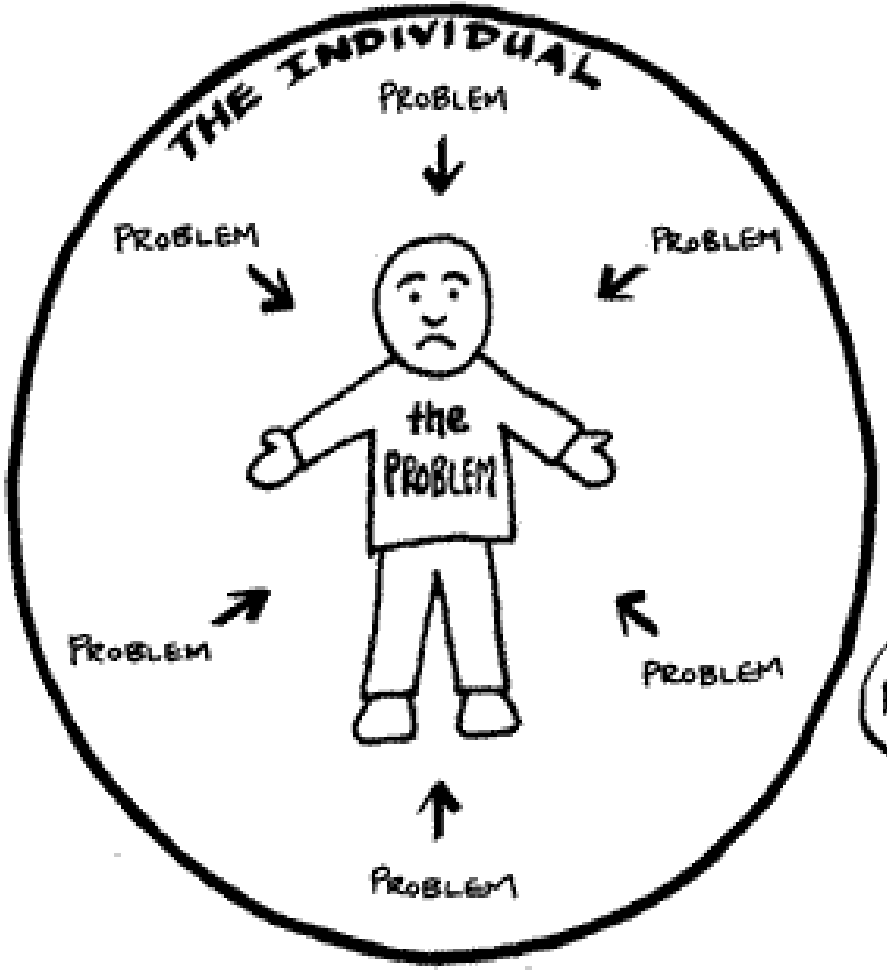
Solution: rehabilitation, drugs, therapy by professionals who 'know what's best'

The Social Model

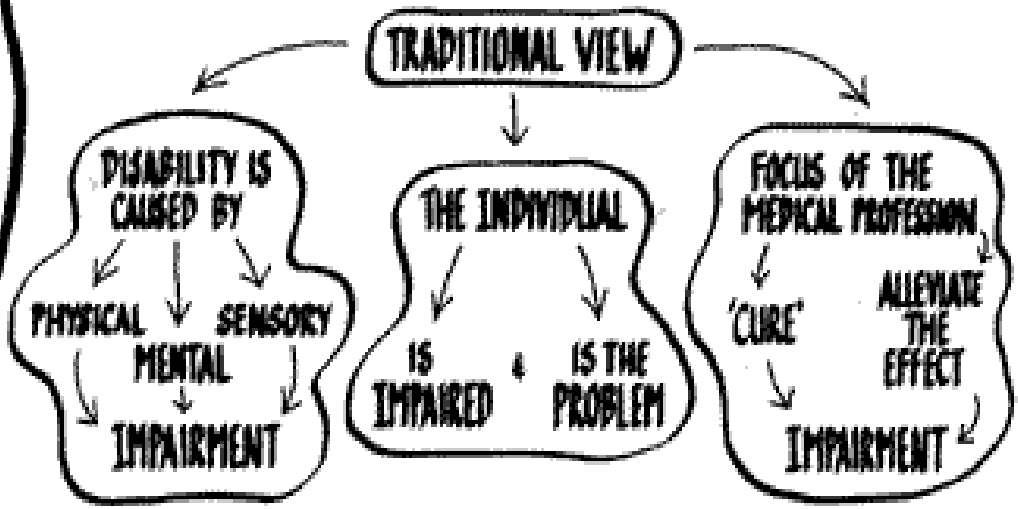


DISABLED PEOPLE AS ACTIVE FIGHTERS FOR EQUALITY
WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ALLIES.

THE MEDICAL MODEL OF DISABILITY

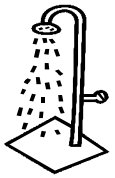


IMPAIRMENTS AND CHRONIC ILLNESS OFTEN POSE REAL DIFFICULTIES BUT - THEY ARE NOT THE MAIN PROBLEMS



Youth work for inclusion of YPD addressing skills development

- Life skills and social skills of YPD



- Communication skills of both YPD and their peers without disabilities: tips on mixing up and living together

- Vocational skills and professional training for better inclusion in the labour market

- Personal support skills

EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES…

- Using **person-centred** need assessment and planning
- Using a **strengths-based** approach
- Responding to the young people's lifestyle **choices, aspirations and goals**
- Understanding the young people`s **skills and capabilities**
- Providing **choice, independence and inclusion**

EMPOWERMENT AND ADVOCACY

- Universal access to public places and buildings
- Maximum mobility
- Options
- Self reliance
- Inclusivity
- Opportunities
- Being valued

Strategies to support and foster YPD`s independence

- Variety of approaches that take individual differences into account.
- Find indicators of success, based on strategies that enable YPD to lead better and more inclusive and valued lives
- Build on existing capacities and those of family, friends and networks in the community

Youth Work Strategies could include:

- Role modelling
- Education and training
- Development of self advocacy skills
- Provision of information to support views
- Linking with lobbyists
- Encouraging other youth workers and social support staff to promote independence of YPD
- Participating in youth events
- Identifying and utilising compensatory aids

Points for discussion and further reflection

- Identify examples of empowerment
- Describe strategies that can be used to promote a client's independence.
- Identify appropriate forums/groups that represent the interests of people with a disability
- Can you identify examples of people with a disability contributing to disability based legislation and policy
- Does you organisation have mechanisms in place for YPD to feedback to you their thoughts, concerns as consumers of disability services