

**PSYCHOSOCIAL ASPECTS
OF DISABILITY**

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

George Henderson, Ph.D., is Professor Emeritus of Human Relations, Education, and Sociology at the University of Oklahoma. He is the author or coauthor of thirty-one books and more than fifty articles. His books include *Our Souls to Keep: Black/White Relations in America* (1999), *Rethinking Ethnicity and Health Care* (1999), *Understanding Indigenous and Foreign Cultures* (2006), *Excellence in College Teaching and Learning: Classroom and Online Instruction* (2007), and *Race and the University: A Memoir* (2010). Dr. Henderson has taught cultural diversity courses and seminars throughout the world. His Ph.D. in educational sociology is from Wayne State University in Detroit.

Willie V. Bryan, Ed.D., is Professor Emeritus Health Promotion Sciences, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Dr. Bryan has authored several books on disabilities and helping relationships, including *In Search of Freedom, Multicultural Aspects of Disabilities, Sociopolitical Aspects of Disabilities, and Helping Relationships: The Fundamentals of Being an Effective Helper*. Before his thirty-nine years of service at the University of Oklahoma, he served as a vocational rehabilitation counselor for the state of Oklahoma and Director of Rehabilitation and Personnel for Goodwill Industries of Oklahoma City. Dr. Bryan has degrees in education, psychology, and counseling. Dr. Bryan has taught courses on disabilities and counseling, helping relationships around the world.

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PSYCHOSOCIAL ASPECTS OF DISABILITY

By

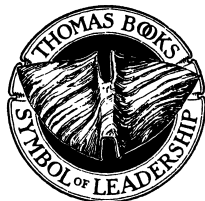
GEORGE HENDERSON, PH.D.

*Professor Emeritus
University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma*

and

WILLIE V. BRYAN, Ed.D.

*Professor Emeritus
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*



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*This book is dedicated to all persons with disabilities
and their families and advocates.*

W.V.B.

*For the many lessons of compassion, courage, and sacrifice that I have
learned from my students and colleagues who have disabilities,
I dedicate this book to their lives not wasted.*

G.H.

PREFACE

The fourth edition of *Psychosocial Aspects of Disability* strikes what we consider a balance of past, present, and future views of individual, family, societal, and governmental interaction and reaction to persons with disabilities. The past is presented in Part 1, Psychosocial Aspects of Disabilities, in which we present a view of the evolution of societal reactions to disabilities and persons with disabilities. This perspective is important because it explains how some of the beliefs and attitudes toward disabilities and those that have a disability have developed. Additionally, Part 1 makes us aware from a historical perspective why persons with disabilities have been subject to certain types of treatment from family, friends, and society. Although Part 1 primarily deals with explaining philosophical societal views of attitude development with regard to disabilities, there are some hints of attitudinal changes such as in Chapter 1, Psychosocial Aspects of Disability, when we discuss emerging disability models such as sociopolitics and empowerment. Also, in Chapter 4, Growth for People with Disabilities, we discuss changing attitudes of persons with disabilities, their families, and advocates. These positive attitudes, beliefs, and approaches to the world of disabilities and those who possess disabilities serve as a lead into Part 2, Empowerment.

Parts 2 and 3 provide discussion of present situations for persons with disabilities as they move toward better inclusion in society. Chapter 5 discusses the need for empowerment of persons with disabilities and how they can empower themselves. Chapter 6 discusses the need for better employment opportunities for persons with disabilities because this is a significant way of empowering persons with disabilities. Chapter 7 discusses federal legislation that has been developed to facilitate the empowerment of persons with disabilities. Chapters in Part 3, Psychosocial Intervention, discuss how helping professionals can assist persons with disabilities with regard to empowerment.

Part 4, Psychosocial Issues, to a large extent, represents the future for persons with disabilities. The chapters in this section discuss some disability issues that some persons with disabilities will encounter and/or by which

they will be affected during the twenty-first century. Additionally, there is discussion of the need for persons with disabilities to attain the full human rights to which they are entitled.

G.H.
W.B.

INTRODUCTION

When the first edition of this book was published in 1984, we discussed some of the negative attitudes and treatments persons with disabilities had received both historically and at that time. This was prior to the development and passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. In fact much of the groundwork by persons with disabilities and their advocates was being developed so that they could encourage the United States Congress to pass what would become the previously mentioned Act. Over the years since the publication of the first edition, we have seen significant progress made with regard to the reaction to and treatment of persons with disabilities.

As previously stated when the first edition of this book was published, persons with disabilities had begun to make significant progress with their disability rights and independent living movement. By developing and shaping their organizational and coalition building skill, a national disability agenda was established.

Similar to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s that produced, among other things, pride of their cultures within ethnic and racial minorities, the Disabilities Rights and Independent Living Movement increased the self- and group pride of persons with disabilities. This self-pride of persons with disabilities has led to their empowering themselves. Many persons with disabilities no longer rely on the non-disabled to determine their agenda with regard to attaining increased inclusion into society. Persons with disabilities are increasingly taking control of their lives and demanding full citizenship and all of the rights and privileges that go with citizenship. Many persons with disabilities are shedding the shame they once felt because of their disabilities and have begun to value themselves as persons who are capable of making significant contributions to the communities in which they reside.

Although significant progress has been made with regard to improved attitudes and treatment of persons with disabilities as well as improved self-esteems of persons with disabilities, this does not mean that there will not be issues and hurdles that persons with disabilities will have to overcome. This

simply means that everyone concerned about the human rights of persons with disabilities must continue to demand equal rights for persons with all types of disabilities.

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**PSYCHOSOCIAL ASPECTS
OF DISABILITY**

Part 1

PSYCHOSOCIAL ASPECTS OF DISABILITIES

Chapters 1 through 4 provide a glimpse at some of the beliefs about persons who have disabilities and their perceived worth to society. These beliefs, attitudes, and perceptions have an impact on how persons with disabilities are treated within a society. In Chapter 1 we present several models that have influenced perceptions of persons with disabilities and have influenced our reactions to them for generations. The aggregate of these perceptions and treatments has, to a large degree, defined the ways persons who

have disabilities are incorporated in our society.

Attitudes, perceptions, and beliefs play major roles in defining the status and positions persons who have disabilities occupy in our nation. For example, beliefs determine (1) how persons with disabilities are educated, (2) where they are employed, (3) where they live, (4) how they live, (5) with whom they socialize, and (6) types of leisure and recreational activities in which they participate.

Chapter 1

PSYCHOSOCIAL ASPECTS OF DISABILITY

Outline

- Introduction
- Disability Models
- Moral/Religion Model
- Charity Model
- Social Paternalistic Model
- Medical/Functional Limitation/Rehabilitation Model
- Minority/Cultural Group Model
- Empowerment Model
- Sociopolitical Model
- Summary
- Points for Discussion and Suggested Activities

Objectives

- To introduce several disability models that have influenced attitudes toward persons with disabilities
- To introduce several disability models that have influenced rehabilitation actions toward persons with disabilities
- To introduce several emerging disability models that are having a positive impact with regard to the interaction with persons with disabilities.

INTRODUCTION

The science of human psychology in many ways is devoted to understanding human behavior. To be more specific, a major aspect of human psychology is dedicated to developing a better understanding of why we as humans think and behave in the ways we think and behave. With advancements in our understanding of human behavior we are able to develop techniques and other methods of eliminating, controlling, or changing inappropriate thinking or behaviors. Additionally, we are able to replace faulty thinking and inappropriate behavior with more socially acceptable behavior. Therefore, a significant advantage of human psychology is its ability to focus a spotlight on our behaviors and demonstrate how behavior influences and produces the type of society in which we will live.

As members of a social order, we humans are both the producers and products of our societies. Stated in other terms, to a major degree we humans determine the type of society in which we will live and, based upon those determinations, influence how we live. With regard to persons with disabilities, they are members of every society in the world, and their existence has greatly been influenced by various views of how they fit into