

## Module 2 – Activity 2. *Disability throughout time, through us.*

### Handout 2 – Models of disability

#### Charity model

According to the Charity model, people may view persons with disabilities as not having the capacity to live independently or live together with other people without disabilities, with the implication that they must be ‘cared for’ in separate facilities from the rest of the community and that they are unable to make their own decisions.

#### Medical model

According to the Medical model, people may believe that persons with disabilities need to be ‘cured’ or need to be treated through medical interventions before they can actively join or participate in the community. In practice, this means that most persons with disabilities cannot access equal opportunities for participation in society.

#### Social model

The social model introduces a very different thinking: disability is recognized as the consequence of the interaction of the individual with an environment that does not accommodate that individual’s differences. Under the Social model, the focus is on removing barriers so that persons with disabilities have the same opportunities to participate as others. Society needs to change to eliminate physical, social and communication barriers that hinder participation in the community. With the social model, disability is not a “mistake” of society, but rather an element of its diversity.

#### Rights-based model

The human Rights-based model to disability builds on the social approach by acknowledging persons with disabilities as subjects of rights and the State and others as having responsibilities to respect these persons. It treats the barriers in society as discriminatory and provides avenues for persons with disabilities to complain when they are faced with such barriers. Under the Rights-based model, persons with disabilities are recognised as having the right to equal opportunities and participation in society. Accordingly, everyone has a responsibility to promote, protect and ensure that this right is actualised. Further, persons with disabilities are viewed as having the capacity to claim their rights and make decisions that affect their lives.