

Over oppression for
disabled persons.
another important
contribution



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Over the years, movements in favour of disabled people rights started emerging. Pushed mainly by parents, the education system started embracing inclusion. The set up of the disability studies course in University is also a step in the right direction, enabling disabled persons to pursue their own research. As the children who have been included in main stream education become adults, they are taking over the battle that their parents mainly fought for them and making their voices heard as they realise that self advocacy can be their biggest weapon against oppression. Disabled people are also realising that their talents may lie within the Arts. This is manifested with emerging companies that show case their talents, like the local drama troupe, Open Doors. Another important emerging factor is the philosophy of independent living, or CILs.

The disabled persons themselves, usually run independent living concepts, include all types of disabilities to avoid segregation between the disabilities themselves and embrace the concepts of Universal Design. This appears to fit well within Bhattacharyya's conceptualization of community development as the promotion of solidarity and agency through self-help, felt-needs, and participation (Bhattacharyya, 2004). This model also moves away from the more traditional NGO's and organizations that are run and managed by non-disabled persons. These centres also assist people to move out of institutions and advocate for civil rights and accessible transportation that can be another form of oppression for disabled persons. Another important contribution resulting from these communities could be towards helping to create liveable communities for the local population as it ages, by drawing on their expertise in adapted living. (O'Day, Bonnie 2006) I also believe however,

that organizations and institutions can overcome this oppression. In reading up literature for this assignment, I came upon an interesting model emerging in China, where the trend is focusing on merging the two main players in disability issues, namely the government agencies which were traditional the only policy makers, and various disabled persons' self help organizations called DPO's.

This alliance is promoting change in both policies and social advocacy. (Xintong Zhao, Chao Zhang, 2018) Other organizations concentrate on empowering disabled people by providing legal help. Even though disabled people know their needs better than anyone else, they might not know their legal rights or how to use them. Further disadvantaging this situation is the imbalance between them and their opponents, usually large employment firms, or institution, like an agency, which has lawyers and multiple resources. Traditionally, social work comes from the school of sociological thought. Though meaning well, it sometimes fails to connect with the amount of oppression that disabled people feel. The vocabulary used, such as 'care', 'services', 'allowances' are also synonymous with the benevolent welfare state and system and this might leave the social worker distanced from the reality disabled people actually experience.

(Roulstone, Alan 2006). There is more need for disability studies professionals to engage with social workers and social policy makers to advocate the rights of disabled persons, even more so if these professionals are disabled themselves. In her research, she says " Disability scholars and activists argue that 'care' is a complex form of oppression and reject it as a term and concept. The possibility of salvaging care from its oppressive medical and <https://assignbuster.com/over-oppression-for-disabled-persons-another-important-contribution/>

charitable legacies is through a discussion of personal assistance. (Kelly, 2011). She further continues to highlight this statement giving the example of Socialworkers who need to rethink the services they provide in light of recentlegislation changes and the growing need for self-advocacy.

They need toconsider practice changes which give more say to the care receiver and realisethat the people in their care might really know what is best for them . One hasalso to consider whether a disabled client might actually want to liaise with adisabled counsellor, as many disabled persons find that they have to educatetheir counsellor about what it means for them to live in a disabling society (Withers, 1996).