

Disability: The Social Model vs The Medical Model

Disability vs Impairment

Impairment is...

- 📌 Impairment is the functional limitation within the individual caused by physical, mental or sensory impairment.

(Disabled people's International 1981)

Disability vs Impairment

Disability is...

- 📌 Disability is the loss or limitation of opportunities to take part in the normal life of the community on an equal level with others due to physical and social barriers.

Disability vs Impairment

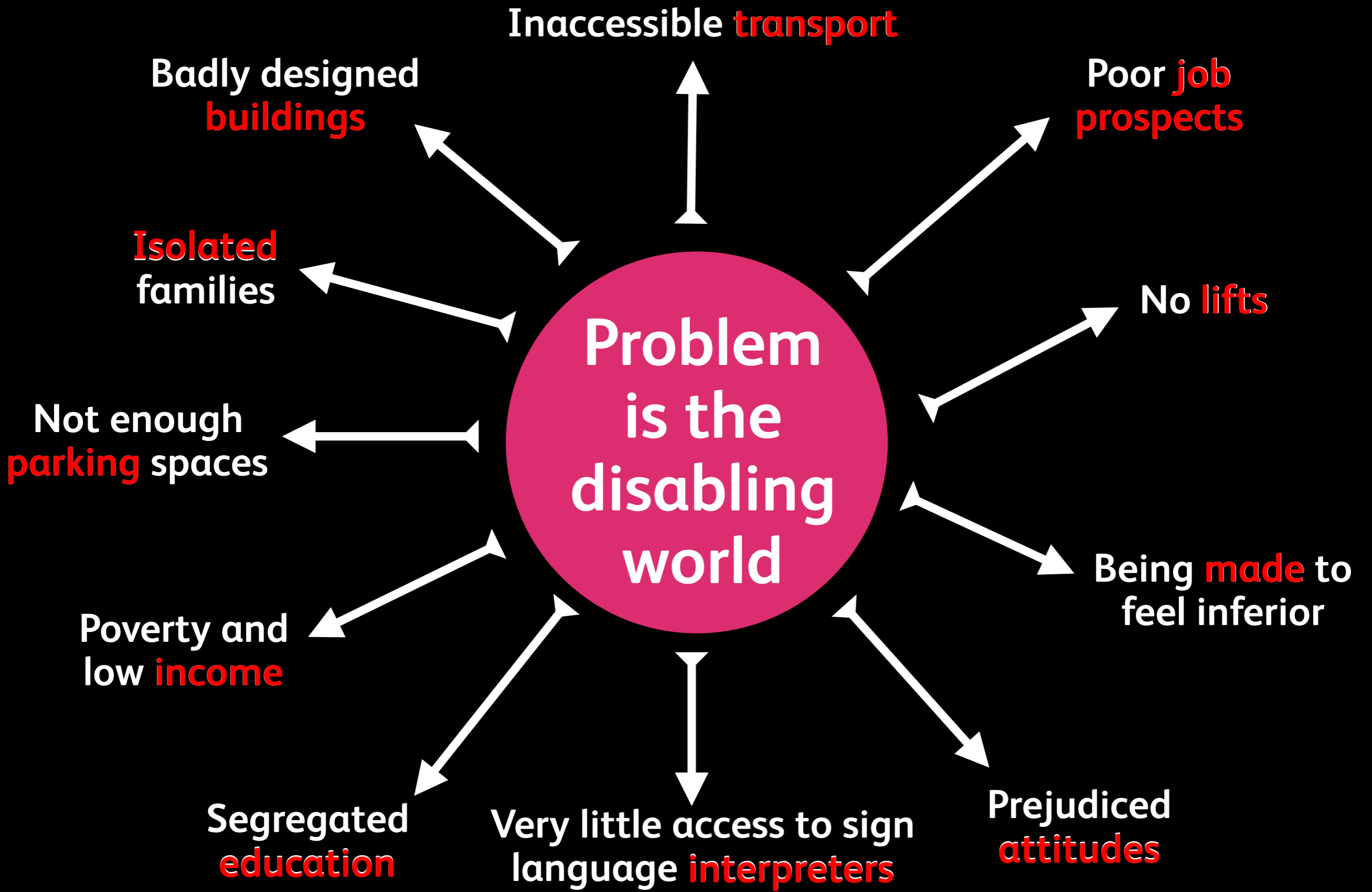
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The Medical Model of Disability

- 📌 Disabled people are not 'normal'
- 📌 Segregation of disabled people from society - 'special' schools, etc
- 📌 Organisations and charities created to 'cure the afflicted'





The Social Model of Disability

- 📌 Society can be changed
- 📌 Attitudes can be changed
- 📌 Physical barriers can be removed or altered

Blaming and Non-Blaming Statements

(Social Model vs. Medical Model)

X Don't bother asking him for a signature, he takes so long to sign it, we might as well go on a coffee break and come back when he's finished.

OR

✓ It's not a problem to allow time for him to sign without pressurising him.

X There's no point giving her a leaflet,
she won't be able to read it.


OR

✓ Let's find out whether she would
prefer a large print or audio version of
the leaflet.


X Why would Deaf people want to go to a music gig when they can't hear anything?

OR

✓ Providing Sign Language Interpreters and/ or Palantypist at a gig makes it accessible to Deaf people.

 Why would someone in a wheelchair go to an outside concert, how can they see what's going on if everyone else is standing up?

OR

 Raised viewing platforms allow wheelchair users to have a better viewing positions than a standing person and they can be safer if there's a large crowd and/or mud*

End