

Understanding disability

Introduction to disability

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Introduction to disability

Individual models:

- Medical or charity view point
- Problem = the individual
- Social exclusion considered as resulting from the limitations imposed by impairments

Social model:

- « It is the society that disables us, not our impairments »
- Disability is part of life
- Exclusion is created by external and environmental barriers

How do people in your country consider persons with disabilities?



« Handicapped people are poor and helpless. Somebody needs to spare a penny and help them. They are a real burden to society.»



How do communities generally respond?



« We see a growing number of amputees due to traffic accidents. It's a terrible problem because we don't have enough prosthetics to go around! »

How do communities generally respond?



« Yesterday my neighbor went to register her child for primary school. She was frustrated that the school director only handed her printed material (my neighbor is blind) instead of explaining the important information to her. »

How do communities generally respond?



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Suresh's story

My name is Suresh. My back broke when I fell down a cliff whilst cutting grass to feed my cattle.

I am now unable to walk due to problems with my legs. I am a teacher and the school where I work has 15 steps between the road and the classroom.



Disability Creation Process (DCP)

The DCP is based on a human development model which considers that:

- Human development results from an **interaction** between different personal and environmental factors
- The purpose is social participation

Quizz on terminology

For each situation, identify what is:

1 - A cause

2 - An organic impairment

3 – A functional impairment

4 - An obstacle

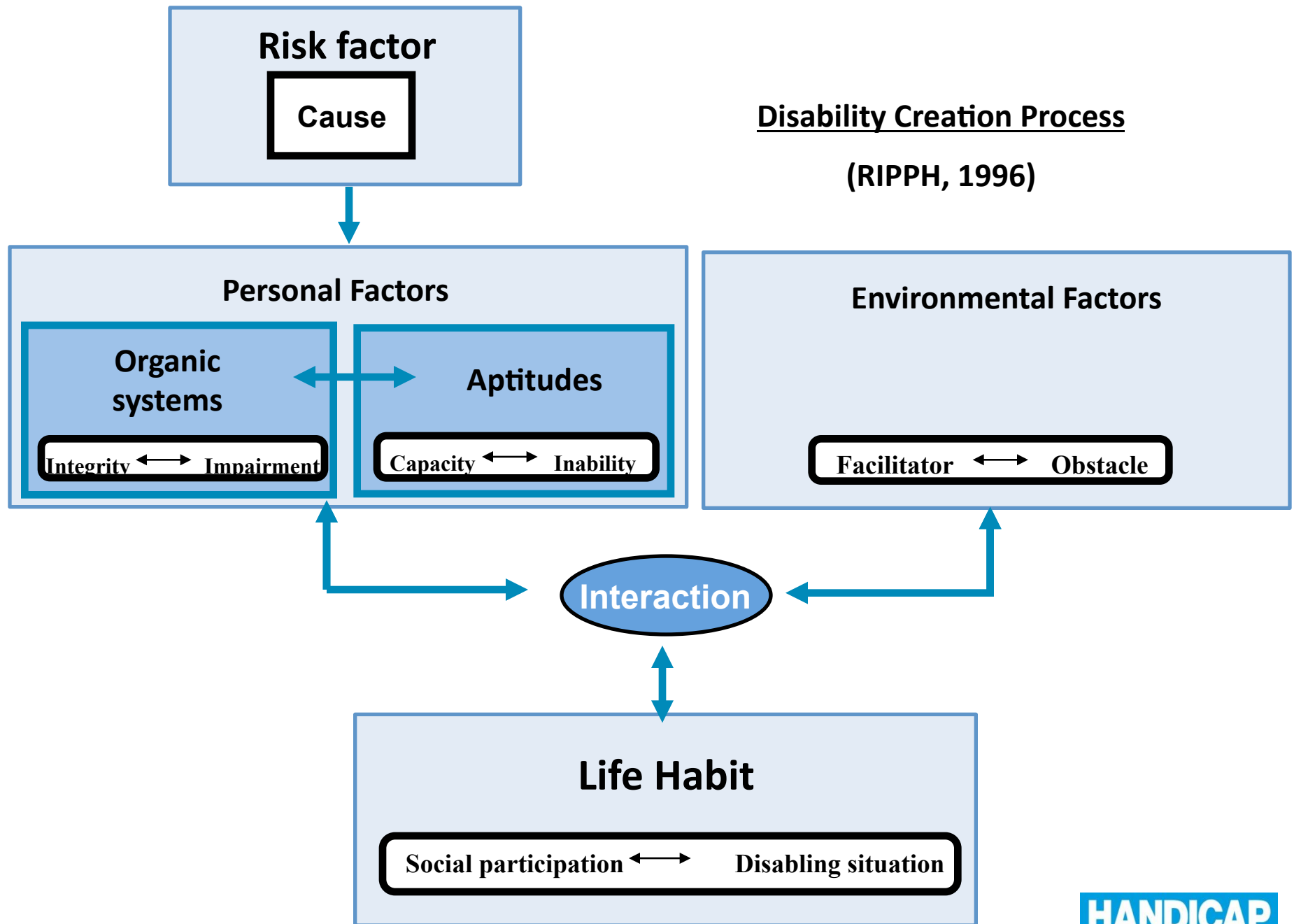
5 - A disabling situation



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Office Word 97 - 200



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Defining disability

- “A **disabling situation** corresponds to the partial or non-realisation of life habits”.
- Article 1, CRPD :
«Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others”.
- »

What terminology should be used?

- DCP
→ people in a « disabling situation »
- CDPH
→ persons with disabilities
- DPOs (different views)
→ disabled people

Key messages

- Disability should not be considered as a personal attribute and limited to impairment, but as **a situation which results from the interaction between the person and his/her environment.**
- To reduce situations of disability, it is essential to **reduce external and environmental barriers which prevent participation** of people with disabilities on an equal basis with others.
- Disability is a **relative concept**; hence there is no strict definition.
- The English preferred terminology is “**person with a disability**” or “disabled person”.

Categories of impairments



Disability movement

- **1970s: in the US and UK, individuals with disabilities started carrying out self-advocacy against discrimination and inequality and claimed for independent living and accessibility**
- **Creation of numerous Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs)**
- **1981: 'Disabled Peoples' International' (DPI) founded as the first international advocacy organization of this 'new generation of DPOs' emerging out of the social model of disability**
- **In their function of representatives of persons with disabilities, DPOs mostly see their role as raising awareness in society and advocating for equal rights as citizens.**



« Nothing about us without
us »

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