



Understanding Disability in Public Sphere: A Sociological Perspective

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Abstract:

The present paper is mainly focused on understanding the disability as social inequality in sociology of disabilities studies. The aim of this paper is on the sociological conceptual discourse of disability as social practices level. It is mainly concerned with the theoretical perspective of sociological understanding on disability models as knowledge building in current relevance. Sociologists have been writing on this issue for some time and explaining about practices of disability as social inequality. The paper deals with how sociologists understand disability as social inequality and its current relevance new economic political practice. How have sociologists understood the disability as social inequality in critical traditional discourse? By analyzing the new politics of language the present processes of social inequality and it has been undertaken in this paper. The purpose is to understand the sociological perspectives on disability and social inequality for restructuring the social structure in different contexts. In this article stress is on the evolution of sociological perspectives on disability experience and reality, by assessing the various organizations as well as individual attempts towards capability on the part of new economic liberation and the attempts to forge independent identities to challenge discrimination based in the public sphere. This study is based on analysis of literature written by sociological perspective coupled with empirical observation and discourse analysis. The researcher argue sociological perspectives have constructed, re-framed and represented a disabilities consciousness in broader areas of their public spears.

Keywords: *Disabilities, Social Inequality, Capacity, Restructuring, Exploitation, Humiliation, Identity.*

Introduction:

The present paper is mainly focused on understanding disability as social inequality in the sociology of disability studies. The aim of this paper is to examine the sociological conceptual discourse of disability as social practice. It is concerned with the theoretical perspective of sociological understanding

of disability models as knowledge builds in current relevance. Sociologists have been writing on this issue for a long time and explaining the practices of disability as social inequality. The paper deals with how sociologists understand disability as social inequality and its current relevance to new economic and political practices. How have sociologists understood

disability as social inequality in critical traditional discourse? By analyzing the new politics of language and the present processes of social inequality, it has been undertaken in this paper. The purpose is to understand the sociological perspectives on disability and social inequality for restructuring the social structure in different contexts. In this article, stress is placed on the evolution of sociological perspectives on disability experience and reality by assessing the various organizations as well as individual attempts towards capability on the part of new economic liberation and the attempts to forge independent identities to challenge discrimination based in the public sphere. Historical evidence gives proof related to the changing human relations with the changes in socio-economic and cultural systems. Sociologists have identified different models of disability as social inequality in various ways: structural functional approaches, conflict approaches, symbolic interactionism, interventionist theory, and feminism. In this research paper, the sociological perspectives and articulation of disability and social equality in knowledge construction are studied in the public sphere.

This study is based on an analysis of literature written from a sociological perspective, coupled with empirical observation and discourse analysis. The researcher argue show sociological perspectives have constructed, re-framed, and represented disability consciousness in broader areas of their public spheres.

Review Of Literature On Disability Studies:

The researcher from various academic have grabbed the attention on disability study in the different level. The concept of disability an multidisciplinary area based on humanities in social sciences which is contextualization of social, cultural and political rather than way's to perspective of medicine and psychological discipline. The disabilities research to contributed by the Colin Barnes and Mike Oliver (1993) article title on "Disability: A Sociological Phenomenon Ignored by Sociologist" was sociological analysis of disability have been presented theoretical and methodological level. He argued that sociologist have ignored to understand the disabilities is an issues concern with the analysis as race, gender, caste and sexuality.

Lea Barton (1996) edited book title on "Disability and Society" Routledge was concerned with theoretical development, disability and education and disability, charities, normalization and representation in disability and society. This study introduced to alternative perspectives reselecting increasing sociological inters for disability, development policy and challenging current practices.

Tome Shakespeare (1998) Edited a book title " Disability Reader: Social Science Perspective" O London New york was collected articles introduction of disability with explores the intellectual implication of a disability equality perspective. To includes social theory, disabling architecture, feminist theory and body,

cultural representation, identity and interaction and employment and education. The Author one studied by **Dan Goodly** (2014) Edited book title on “**Disability Study**” Routledge on understanding the disabilities study to intersectional and critical theory analysis about the phenomena of disability and ability. He argued that disability/ability categories expanding to global politics in new capitalisms.

Tome Shakespeare (2015) edited book title on “Disability research Today” Routledge Publication was focused on the current research of disabilities engaged with the illness and impairment is vital to a multidisciplinary understanding of disabilities as a social process. And also disabling process, struggle, experiences, care and control. He attention on international policy, experience and research in way’s greater understanding disability’s contextualization, complexity and multidisciplinary.

Tom Shakespeare (2018) written book title “Disability Routledge the aims of this study to understand the disabilities which focused on the border historical, social, environmental economic and living with the impairment or illness basic living experience in contemporary society. He focused on the disability people have challenged the social responded as advocacy and resistance of disability.

The present review of literature focused on the conceptual framework of disability with the different issues and context. This research paper focused on the disability study in the lance of sociological

perspectives on disabilities study with qualitative interpretative methodology. This paper has concentrated on disability as social inequality at public sphere.

Objectives of This Study:

1. To understanding the concept of disability concerned with social inequality in different level.
2. To explore the effectiveness of sociological perspectives on disability as social inequality level.
3. To examine the disability as social inequality in public sphere.

Research Methodology:

This research employed the qualitative research methodology, which interprets the concept of ‘disability’ with social inequality at different levels. As a qualitative methodology for describing and observing basic information, action, behaviors and changing phenomena, to examine disability with experience, assertion and resistance to social inequality as fundamental human rights in the public sphere. The secondary data is collected from various books, journals, articles and research documents regarding the concept of disability in the public sphere.

The Definition of Disability:

Understanding the concept of disability with the issues around illness and impairment is vital to a multidisciplinary analysis of disabilities as a social process. The World Health Organization (WHO) provides a definition: “*Disabilities is an umbrella*

term, covering impairments, activity limitations and participation restrictions. An impairment is a problem in body function or structure; an activity limitation is a difficulty encountered by an individual in executing a task or action; while a participation restriction is a problem experienced by an individual in involvement in life situations. Thus, disability is a complex phenomenon reflecting an interaction between features of a person's body and features of the society in which he or she lives”

Disabilities World news says that, “*definition of disability a word used in daily conversation that holds different meaning for different people.*”

The sociological discourse on disability needs to change the importance of these three discourses. First, normative / devence discourse represent question about rehabilitation and integration. Second, the equality/ inequality discourse represents the struggles for economic welfare and equal rights. Third, the us/them discourse represent value disability as a basis for identity formation and as a question of ethnicity. This discourse constructs power politics as binaries between ability and disability in everyday life.

International Classification of Impairment Disabilities and Handicaps (ICIDH)

The Three Dimensions of Disabilities:

I) **Impairment:** In the context of Health experience, impairment is any loss or abnormality of psychological, physiological or anatomical structure or

function. It is considered to occur at the level of organ or system function. Disability is concerned with the functional performance of an activity and affecting the whole person.

II) **Disability:** In the context of health experience, a disability is any restriction or lack (resulting from an impairment) of ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being.

III) **Handicap:** In the context of health experience, a form is a disadvantage for a given individual, resulting from an impairment or a disability, that limits or prevents the fulfillment of a role that is normal (depending on age, sex, an social and cultural factors) for that individual.

Models of Disabilities:

The WHO created the international classification of functioning disability and health concerns with forms like a medical model of disability and a social model of disability.

1) Medical model of Disabilities:

The medical model of disability or medical model is based on the biomedical perspective of disability. This model links a disability diagnosis to an individual's physical body. The model supposed that this disability may reduce the individual's quality of life and aims to diminish or correct this disability with medical intervention. This model focuses on curing or managing illness or disability with improved function to allow disabled person a normal life. The new medical model of disability indicates that simply

physical with attitudinal and institutional level.

The social model of disability has indicated systemic barriers, derogatory attitudes and social exclusion (intentional or in advert), which make it difficult or impossible for disabled people to attain their valued functions. The social model of disability diverges from the dominant medical model of disability, which is functional analysis of the body as a machine to be fixed in order to conform with normative values. The social model specifically look sat the way in which the lives of people with disabilities are affected by the barriers that social imposes. The social model effectively emphasizes the social, economic and environmental restrictions rather than the physical or mental restrictions of the impairment. The causes of disabilities are many and varied and affect people of all cultural and social backgrounds. Living and environmental conditions as well as financial circumstances affect how people are able to manage their disabilities, with the importance of access to resources.

Disability and Social Inequality:

The experience of personal disability concerns lower education levels, lower employment rate, lack of household resources and poor health. People without disabilities participate n delayed activities. It is a test of a social dissipative case suggested by a social model of disability. (Carrie L Shandra 2018). The disability live experience concerns distinct minority groups faced with multiple risks and overlapping

vulnerability affected by race, gender, age, caste and sexual minorities of disability onset geographical location and disability types and several live expertise in every life (Annica Gayle 2015). According to World health Organization, 20%of the world's poorest people live with the same disability in developing countries. It is indicated that the social status of disabled people become marginalized in living life.

Disabilities and Public Spheres:

The term disability is considered a social inequality practice in the public sphere. The concept of public sphere is generally conceived as a social space in which different opinions are expressed, problem are discussed, and collective solutions are developed. The term 'public sphere' was originally coined by German philosopher Jurgan Habermas, who defined the public sphere as made up of private people gathered as a public and articulating the needs of society with policy. This public sphere articulated with disability for discussion, collective action and policymaking for solving various problems. In ways to express their views and discuss the issues and information of the state government. They have collected for evidence for their demands and reconstruction of policy level. Socially and medically disabled people make the new assertion for their equal rights and identity as liberation.

Sociological Perspectives on Disability:

The sociology of disability emerged in the 1980's as a subfield in sociology. It has been a challenge to an important paradigm of special education.

(J Allan, 2010) The main aim of this concept is to learn difficulties and remedies the education level. The American Sociological Association (ASA) established a section on 'Disability and Society' in 2010. It seffectson sociologists work on disability from non-medical framework. Irving Kenneth Zola was the first sociologist who applied the non-medical framework in sociology of disability study (Sharon N. Barnartt, 2017). Many sociologists defined the term in the world after the definition of Zola and made a fruitful sociological discourse on disabilities. This field contributed by interdisciplinary scholars and prioritizes the voice of the people with disabilities. The other study of disabilities. Historically, the sociologist examine the disability through the narrow lenses of medical sociology and deviance (Egner 2016).

The sociologist has concentrated work on structural disability almost without exception. The overwhelming bulk of sociological writing on disability is rooted in the work of Parsons and his analysis of sickness-related behavior. This is because the Parsons paradigm has been a principally responsible but interdependent approach that has implicitly or explicitly influenced all subsequent analysis principally. They are the relevance of the sick role in relation to disability and its association with social deviance and the nation of health as adaptation (Bury 1981).

The sociologist worked on the symbolic interaction perspective in the

1960's with the emphasis upon meaning, identity and process of labeling the exploring the relation between disablement and social proscribed behavior attention twored the labeling process (Becker 1963). According to the sociologist Eliot Fredison (1965) how the people are labeled According to the sociologist Eliot Freidson (1965). How people are labeled results from three factors: (1) their degree of responsibility for their impairment, (2) the apparent seriousness of their condition, and (3) the perceived legitimacy of the condition. Freidson concluded that the definitions of and expectations for people with a disability arc socially constructed factors Lemart (1962) mad the distinction between 'primary' and 'secondary' deviance concern social role with the disability

Goffman (1963) developed the idea further with his use of the concept 'stigma' a term used traditionally to refer to a mark or blemish denoting morally inferiority necessitation avoidance by the rest of society. He has application of stigma is the outcome of situational considerations and social interactions between the 'normal and the 'abnormal concern with disability behavior.

Critical disability theory refers to divers interdiseplenary set of theoretical approaches. The contribution of critical theory to the analysis of disabilities as cultural, historical and socio-political phenomena. Critical disability theory is a methodology, not subject-oriented study (Schalk 2015). This theory is directed toward activism, from recommendation to

social justice work, including working in solidarity for the purpose of liberating people. The critical theory is emancipatory and develops discourses (MC Hall 2019)

Intervention theory of disability is an analysis of the problem of effectively intervening in a situation in order to secure a desired outcome. It also examines the effectiveness of different types of intervention, including health care, child protection, and law enforcement. The intervention theory of disability should generate a section in which the actor believes that they are working to exert internal rather than external influence on disability.

The Feminist theory of disability provides a unique introduction to the key debates in relation to both feminists and disability. The post-modern feminist can be usefully applied to the disability arena. This perspective addresses the issues of biological debates, equality, power, knowledge difference, subjectivity and the body interface in public and private communal politics, citizenship and identity (Barbara Fawcett 2000). We need a feminist theory of disability because 16 present-day women are disabled living life because the oppression of disabled people is closely linked to the cultural operation of the body. Disability is not a biological given, like gender; it is socially constructed from biological reality (Susan Wendall 1989).

The sociologist concentrated on the conceptual and theoretical discourse on disability in different contexts. The structural functional theory focused on the

social construction of disability theory. They have accepted medical models of disability to understand disability practices. But the critical theory has applied to the emancipation of disabled people on an equal right basis in the public sphere.

Conclusion:

Finally, sociologists have focused on disability studies. The concept of disability interlinks with sociological theory to understand the condition of disabled people. To realize the harsh reality that disabled people were hardly concerned with the various problems they faced. This has effects on traditional disability models and theories, which are based on personal levels. But the new medical models focused on personal, institutional, and public policy intervention levels. The sociologist came to realize that socio-cultural factors and the environment are responsible for disability because social disability is constructed in terms of social organization. Social construction has prohibited their inclusion. Gender and sexuality can be identified and used for this analysis of human behavior and the social environment in the public sphere. Disability groups have collective participation in the public sphere for individual social, cultural, and institutional issues. They have concentrated on the disability rights movement, demanding equal rights and opportunity for all people with disabilities in the private and public sectors. Sociological perspectives on disability experience and reality by

assessing the various organizations as well as individual attempts towards capability on the part of new economic liberation and the attempts to forge independent identities to challenge discrimination based in the public sphere.

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