Section 3- From stairs to stratification: the social production of disability

Key points

Origins, definition and implications of the social model of disability
Sociological perspectives on the social production of disability: stigma, oppression, cultural representations
The social model as an occasion to reflect on the political underpinnings and implications of social science knowledge:
- Initial connection of the social model to disability activism, and its meaning for the disability movement
- Influence of the model on policy categories, based on the case of the evolution of the conceptualization of disability at the level of the World Health Organization (WHO)

“Turning the traditional definition of disability on its head”

Naming the traditional definition of disability: the medical/individual/“personal tragedy” model
- From nature to culture
- From individual to society
- The political meaning of the social model for the disability movement

Variations on the social production of disability: different sociological perspectives
- Disability as stigma
- Disability as oppression
- Disability as discourse

What influence did the social model have on disability as a policy category? Evolving WHO definitions
- The 1980 International classification of impairments, disability and handicap (ICIDH)
- The 2002 International classification of functioning, disability and health (ICF)

References