Individual Model: MEDICAL APPROACH

SOCIETY

People with disabilities
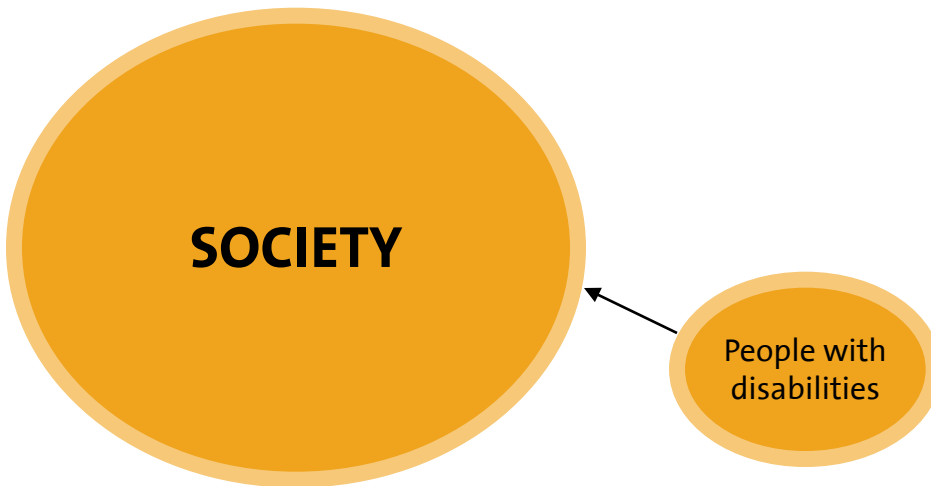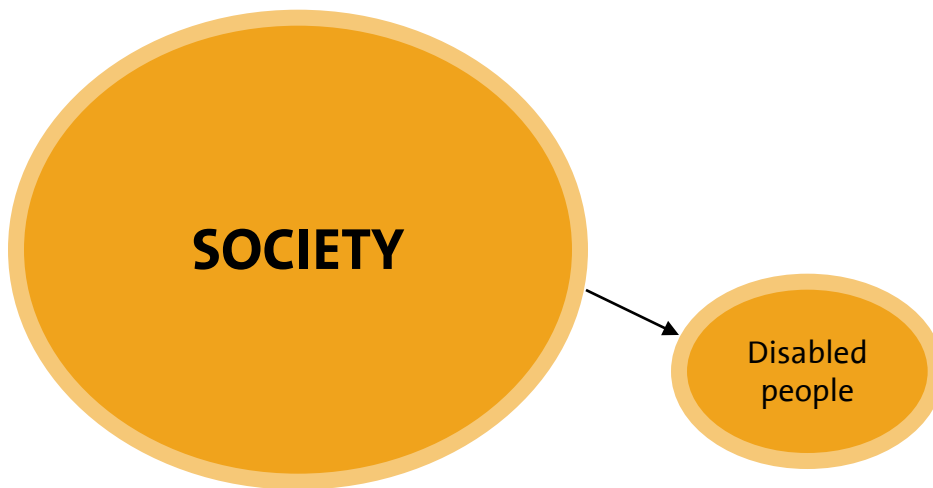
Under this traditional way of thinking, programs and projects were expected to 'fix' people with disabilities because they were 'unwell', so they can join 'normal' society.

This model:

▸ **suggests that disability is a problem in the person**
▸ focuses on a person's impairment as the obstacle
▸ seeks to 'cure' or 'improve' individuals to 'fit' them into society
▸ defines the person with a disability only as a patient with medical needs
▸ segregates people with disabilities from other people
▸ offers only medical help, carried out by specialists
▸ is expensive and tends to benefit relatively few.

Source: Adapted from *Travelling Together*, World Vision 2010
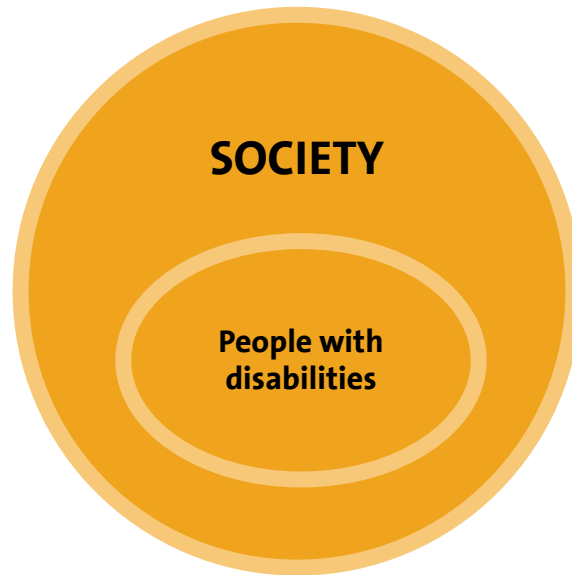
SOCIETY

Disabled people

Under this traditional model, projects and programs were expected to 'help' people with disabilities who are regarded as 'helpless' and outside 'normal' society.

This model:

- ▸ **suggests that disability is a problem in the person**
- ▸ considers that people with disabilities are 'unfortunate', 'dependent' or 'helpless'
- ▸ considers that people with disabilities need pity and charity (such as money, gifts, food or clothing)
- ▸ assumes people with impairments cannot contribute to society or support themselves
- ▸ contributes to disabled people becoming long-term recipients of welfare and support
- ▸ makes programs which provide specialist services separate from other programs
- ▸ keeps people with disability as a separate group.

Source: Adapted from *Travelling Together*, World Vision 2010

Individual Model: INCLUSIVE APPROACH

Under this model, programs and projects focus on inclusion, recognise the fundamental idea that people with disabilities are an integral part of society.

This model:

- **focuses on society, not people with disabilities, as the problem**
- regards people with disabilities as part of society, rather than separate
- considers that people are disabled by society denying their rights and opportunities
- sees disability as the social consequences of impairment
- is based on the recognition that people with disabilities have the same needs and rights as all people – e.g. love, education, employment, information, community involvement
- promotes the implementation of activities which focus on identifying and removing attitudinal, environmental and institutional barriers that block inclusion

Source: Adapted from *Travelling Together*, World Vision 2010