IMPLEMENTING THE SOCIAL MODEL OF DISABILITY: THEORY AND RESEARCH

Edited by
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Contents

The Disability Press iv
Acknowledgements v
Contributors vi

(The following Chapters are also available on the Disability Archive: see Authors or Titles).

1 Theorising and Researching Disability from a Social Model Perspective - Colin Barnes and Geof Mercer 1

2 The Social Model in Action: if I had a hammer - Mike Oliver 18

3 Developing the Social Relational in the Social Model of Disability: a theoretical agenda - Carol Thomas 32

4 In Search of a Social Model of Disability: Marxism, normality and culture - Bill Armer 48

5 Social Model Theories and Non-Disabled People: some possibilities for connection - Claire Tregaskis 65

6 Psycho-emotional Dimensions of Disability and the Social Model - Donna Reeve 83

7 The Dialectics of Disability: a social model for the 21st century? - Nick Watson 101

8 From Critique to Practice: emancipatory disability research - Geof Mercer 118

9 Learning more from the Social Model: linking experience, participation and knowledge production - Katy Bailey 138
10 Collectivising Experience and Rules of Engagement: close(d) encounters in disability research - Mairian Scott-Hill 157

11 Research with Children: ethnography, participation, disability, self-empowerment - John Davis and John Hogan 172

12 The Social Model, the Emancipatory Paradigm and User Involvement - Angie Carmichael 191

13 Madness, Distress, Research and a Social Model - Peter Beresford 208

Index 223
The Disability Press

The Disability Press aims to provide an alternative outlet for work in the field of disability studies. The Disability Press draws inspiration from the work of all those countless disabled individuals and their allies who have, over the years, struggled to put this particular issue onto the political agenda. Its establishment is a testament to the growing recognition of ‘disability’ as an equal opportunities and human rights issue within the social sciences.

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The social model of disability focuses on changes required in society. These might be in terms of attempts to change, “fix” or “cure” individuals, especially when used against the wishes of the patient, can be discriminatory and prejudiced. This attitude, which may be seen as stemming from a medical model and a subjective value system, can harm the self-esteem and social inclusion of those constantly subjected to it (e.g. being told they are not as good or valuable, in an overall and core sense, as others). Some communities have actively resisted "treatments", while, for example, defending a unique culture or set of