

## SEMESTER-4, CC-10

### 1) WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN IMPAIRMENT AND DISABILITY?

Ans.: Impairment and disability are related concepts, but they have distinct meanings in the context of health and functioning. Here's a breakdown of the differences between the two:

#### 1. Impairment:

- Impairment refers to a loss or abnormality in the structure or function of the body or mind. It is often a medical or clinical term used to describe a specific health condition or a deviation from the typical functioning of a body part or system.
- Impairments can be temporary or permanent, and they may vary in severity. Some examples of impairments include visual impairments (such as blindness or low vision), hearing impairments (like deafness or hearing loss), physical impairments (such as limb amputations or paralysis), and cognitive impairments (like memory loss or intellectual disabilities).
- Impairments are typically assessed and diagnosed by medical professionals or specialists. They are objective and often have specific diagnostic criteria.

#### 2. Disability:

- Disability, on the other hand, is a broader and more multifaceted concept. It refers to the limitations or restrictions that an individual with an impairment may face in performing everyday activities and participating fully in society. Disability is not solely determined by the presence of an impairment but also takes into account the environmental and societal factors that can affect a person's ability to function.
- Disabilities can be a result of impairments, but they also depend on factors like accessibility, societal attitudes, and the availability of support and accommodations. For example, a person with a visual impairment may experience a disability if they cannot access information in a readable format or if they face barriers to mobility in public spaces.
- Disability is often assessed through a social and functional perspective, considering an individual's ability to engage in activities such as education, work, transportation, and social interactions.

In summary, impairment relates to specific medical or functional issues in the body or mind, while disability is a broader concept that encompasses the impact of impairments on a person's ability to participate fully in society. Disabilities can vary widely among individuals with the same impairment due to factors like environmental barriers and the availability of support and accommodations. Understanding the difference between these terms is essential for providing appropriate care and ensuring equal opportunities for individuals with impairments or disabilities.

## 2) WHAT IS IMPAIRMENT?

Ans.: Impairment generally refers to a condition in which something is damaged, weakened, or diminished in its quality, function, or value. It can apply to various contexts:

1. **Physical Impairment:** This refers to a condition in which a person's physical abilities or functioning is reduced or restricted. For example, someone with impaired vision may have difficulty seeing, or an individual with a physical disability may have impaired mobility.
2. **Mental Impairment:** This relates to conditions that affect a person's cognitive or psychological functioning. For instance, dementia is a mental impairment that leads to memory loss and cognitive decline.
3. **Impairment in Assets:** In accounting and finance, impairment refers to a reduction in the value of an asset, such as property, equipment, or investments, often due to a decrease in its market value or its ability to generate future cash flows.
4. **Impairment of Loans:** Financial institutions use this term to describe the situation when a borrower is unable to meet their loan obligations, leading to a reduction in the expected future cash flows from the loan.
5. **Impaired Driving:** This term is used in the context of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, where a person's ability to operate a vehicle safely is compromised.
6. **Impairment in Financial Reporting:** In accounting, impairment can refer to a reduction in the recorded value of an intangible asset, such as goodwill, when its carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount.

In all these contexts, impairment implies a state where something is not functioning or performing at its full capacity, whether it's a person's abilities, an asset's value, or the functionality of a system or process. The specific meaning and implications of impairment can vary depending on the context in which it is used.

## 3) WHAT IS DISABILITY?

Ans.: A disability is a physical, sensory, cognitive, or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of an individual. Disabilities can vary widely in their nature and severity, and they can be either congenital (present at birth) or acquired (developed later in life due to illness, injury, or other factors).

It's essential to recognize that disabilities are not inherently negative or limiting. Many individuals with disabilities lead fulfilling and successful lives, and various support systems and accommodations are in place to help them overcome barriers and participate fully in society.

The concept of disability has evolved over time, moving away from a purely medical model (which focused on impairments and limitations) to a more inclusive and social model (which emphasizes the importance of removing societal and environmental barriers to enable full participation). Legislation and policies in many countries aim to protect the rights and promote the inclusion of people with disabilities, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in the United States.

#### 4) WHAT IS HANDICAPPED?

Ans: The term "handicapped" was historically used to refer to individuals with disabilities or impairments that affect their ability to perform certain tasks or participate fully in society. However, this term is now considered outdated and insensitive in many contexts.

Today, it is more appropriate to use terms like "disabled," "person with a disability," or simply refer to the specific disability itself, such as "wheelchair user," "visually impaired," or "deaf person." These terms emphasize the person first and their disability second, promoting a more respectful and inclusive way of addressing individuals with disabilities.

Language evolves, and it's important to use terminology that respects and values the dignity and rights of all individuals, including those with disabilities.

#### 5) WHAT ARE THE 5 MOST COMMON LEARNING DISABILITIES?

Ans: Learning disabilities are neurodevelopmental disorders that can affect a person's ability to acquire, process, or retain information. While there are several types of learning disabilities, the five most common ones are:

1. **Dyslexia:** Dyslexia is perhaps the most well-known learning disability. It primarily affects reading and language-based processing. People with dyslexia may have difficulty with reading, spelling, and writing, despite having average to above-average intelligence.
2. **ADHD (Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder):** While ADHD is not exclusively a learning disability, it often co-occurs with other learning disabilities. It is characterized by difficulties with attention, hyperactivity, and impulsivity. These challenges can make it harder for individuals to focus on tasks and organize information for learning.
3. **Dyscalculia:** Dyscalculia is a learning disability that affects a person's ability to understand and work with numbers and mathematical concepts. Individuals with dyscalculia may struggle with basic arithmetic, math reasoning, and number sense.
4. **Dysgraphia:** Dysgraphia affects a person's writing ability. It can manifest as messy or illegible handwriting, difficulty with fine motor skills involved in writing, and trouble with spelling and organizing thoughts on paper.
5. **Auditory Processing Disorder (APD):** APD affects how the brain processes auditory information. Individuals with APD may have difficulty understanding spoken language, following verbal instructions, or distinguishing between similar-sounding words.

It's essential to note that learning disabilities can vary widely in their impact and presentation. They may also co-occur, meaning an individual could have more than one learning disability simultaneously. Early identification and intervention are crucial to help individuals with learning disabilities succeed academically and in other aspects of life.

## 6) WHAT ARE THE TYPES DISABILITY?

Ans.: Certainly, here are six examples of disabilities, along with brief explanations for each:

1. **Visual Impairment:**
  - Visual impairment refers to a wide range of vision problems, from partial sight to total blindness. It can be caused by various factors, such as eye diseases, congenital conditions, or injuries. People with visual impairments often use assistive devices like braille, canes, or screen readers to navigate and access information.
2. **Hearing Impairment:**
  - Hearing impairment includes various degrees of hearing loss, from mild to profound. It can be congenital or acquired due to factors like genetics, infections, or exposure to loud noises. People with hearing impairments may use hearing aids, sign language, or cochlear implants to communicate.
3. **Mobility Impairment:**
  - Mobility impairment involves difficulty or inability to move limbs or the entire body freely. Causes can range from conditions like cerebral palsy or spinal cord injuries to age-related mobility issues. Mobility aids such as wheelchairs, crutches, or scooters can help individuals with mobility impairments navigate their environment.
4. **Cognitive Impairment:**
  - Cognitive impairments affect a person's ability to think, reason, concentrate, or remember information. Conditions like Alzheimer's disease, autism, or traumatic brain injuries can cause cognitive impairments. Support may involve tailored therapies, assistive technologies, or caregiver assistance.
5. **Speech and Language Disorders:**
  - Speech and language disorders encompass difficulties in communication, including speech articulation problems, stuttering, or aphasia (language impairment). These challenges can be congenital or acquired due to injuries or medical conditions. Speech therapy and augmentative communication devices help individuals with these disorders express themselves.
6. **Neurodevelopmental Disorders:**
  - Neurodevelopmental disorders include conditions like autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). These disorders affect a person's development, behavior, and social interactions. Management typically involves therapy, behavioral interventions, and sometimes medication.

It's essential to note that disabilities can vary widely in their nature and impact, and each individual's experience is unique. Many individuals with disabilities lead fulfilling lives and make significant contributions to their communities with the right support and accommodations. Society is increasingly recognizing the importance of inclusivity and accessibility to ensure equal opportunities for all individuals, regardless of their abilities.

## 7) ROLE OF SCHOOL AND SOCIETY IN CREATING A BARRIER FREE ENVIRONMENT.

Ans.: The role of both schools and society in creating a barrier-free environment is crucial in ensuring inclusivity and equal opportunities for all individuals, including those with disabilities. A barrier-free environment refers to an environment where physical, social, and attitudinal barriers that limit the participation of people with disabilities are removed. Here's how schools and society can contribute to creating such an environment:

### 7. **Education and Awareness:**

- **Schools:** Schools play a fundamental role in educating students about diversity, inclusion, and the needs of individuals with disabilities. They can incorporate disability awareness and inclusion programs into their curriculum to foster understanding and empathy among students.
- **Society:** Society as a whole, including parents, media, and community organizations, should also promote disability awareness. This can be achieved through public awareness campaigns, discussions, and the portrayal of people with disabilities in a positive and respectful light in the media.

### 8. **Accessible Infrastructure:**

- **Schools:** Educational institutions should ensure their physical infrastructure is accessible to students with disabilities. This includes ramps, elevators, accessible bathrooms, and classrooms designed to accommodate individuals with different needs.
- **Society:** Society should advocate for and support the implementation of building codes and regulations that prioritize accessibility in public places, not just in schools but also in workplaces, public transportation, and recreational facilities.

### 9. **Inclusive Education:**

- **Schools:** Inclusive education practices involve providing students with disabilities the opportunity to learn alongside their peers in regular classrooms. Schools can provide necessary support services, such as special education teachers and assistive technologies, to ensure all students can access the curriculum.
- **Society:** Society should promote inclusive education as a fundamental right for all children. This involves advocating for policies and funding that support inclusive practices in schools and challenging stereotypes about students with disabilities.

### 10. **Anti-Discrimination Policies:**

- **Schools:** Educational institutions should have policies in place that prohibit discrimination based on disability and should provide clear mechanisms for addressing discrimination and ensuring accountability.
- **Society:** Society should support and promote anti-discrimination laws and policies at the national and local levels. This includes advocating for equal opportunities in employment, education, and public services for individuals with disabilities.

## 11. Social Inclusion:

- **Schools:** Schools should foster a culture of inclusion where students with disabilities are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities, clubs, and sports on an equal basis with their peers.
- **Society:** Communities should organize inclusive events and activities that allow people with disabilities to participate fully and interact with others. This helps break down social barriers and promote inclusion.

## 12. Empowerment and Support:

- **Schools:** Schools can provide support services, such as counselling and mentorship programs, to help students with disabilities build self-esteem and confidence.
- **Society:** Society can create support networks and organizations that provide resources, guidance, and a sense of belonging for individuals with disabilities and their families.

Creating a barrier-free environment is not the sole responsibility of schools or society; it requires a collaborative effort. When schools and society work together, they can help break down the physical, social, and attitudinal barriers that hinder the full participation of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of life.

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## 8) DESCRIBE THE GENERAL CAUSES OF DISABILITIES

Ans.: Disabilities can have various causes, and they can result from a wide range of factors, including congenital, acquired, or degenerative conditions. Here are some general causes of disabilities:

1. **Congenital Factors:** Disabilities that are present from birth or develop during pregnancy can be caused by factors such as genetic mutations, chromosomal abnormalities, maternal infections during pregnancy (e.g., rubella), or exposure to toxins and drugs in utero.
2. **Genetic Conditions:** Some disabilities are inherited from parents due to genetic mutations or conditions, such as Down syndrome, cystic fibrosis, or muscular dystrophy.
3. **Acquired Conditions:** Disabilities can also result from events or conditions that occur after birth. These can include:
  - **Accidents and Injuries:** Traumatic events like car accidents, falls, or sports injuries can lead to physical disabilities such as paralysis, amputation, or traumatic brain injury.
  - **Infections:** Certain infections, like meningitis, encephalitis, or polio, can cause neurological damage or impairments.
  - **Medical Conditions:** Chronic illnesses such as diabetes, cancer, or autoimmune diseases can lead to disabilities, particularly if they affect the organs or bodily functions.
  - **Stroke:** A stroke can cause damage to the brain, leading to physical or cognitive disabilities.

4. **Degenerative Conditions:** Some disabilities result from progressive degenerative conditions that worsen over time. Examples include multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease, and Parkinson's disease.
5. **Environmental Factors:** Environmental factors can contribute to disabilities, such as exposure to toxins, pollution, or hazardous substances. Prenatal exposure to drugs or alcohol can also lead to developmental disabilities.
6. **Malnutrition:** Lack of proper nutrition, especially during early childhood, can lead to physical and cognitive impairments.
7. **Aging:** As people age, they become more susceptible to certain disabilities, particularly those associated with age-related conditions like arthritis, hearing loss, and vision problems.
8. **Mental Health Disorders:** While not always considered disabilities, mental health disorders such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and severe depression can significantly impact a person's ability to function in daily life.
9. **Social and Economic Factors:** In some cases, disabilities can be exacerbated or caused by social and economic factors like poverty, lack of access to healthcare, and limited educational opportunities.
10. **Lifestyle Choices:** Some disabilities can result from lifestyle choices, such as substance abuse leading to addiction-related disabilities or risky behaviors leading to accidents.

It's important to note that disabilities can vary widely in their nature and severity, and individuals with disabilities can lead fulfilling lives with appropriate support, accommodations, and inclusion. Understanding the causes of disabilities can help society better address and support individuals living with disabilities.