

From M. Oliver "The Politics of Disablement" (Macmillan 1990)

Table 1.1 Survey of Disabled Adults – OPCS 1986

Can you tell me what is wrong with you?

What complaint causes your difficulty in holding, gripping, and turning things?

Are your difficulties in understanding people mainly due to a hearing problem?

Do you have a scar, blemish, or deformity which limits your daily activities?

Have you attended a special school because of a long-term health problem or disability?

Does your health problem/disability mean that you need to live with relatives or someone else who can help look after you?

Did you move here because of your health problem/disability?

How difficult is it for you to get about your immediate neighbourhood on your own?

Does your health problem/disability prevent you from going out as often or as far as you would like?

Does your health problem/disability make it difficult for you to travel by bus?

Does your health problem/disability affect your work in any way at present?

Table 1.2 Alternatives to These Questions

Can you tell me what is wrong with society?

What defects in the design of everyday equipment like jars, bottles and tins cause you difficulty in holding, gripping or turning them?

Are your difficulties in understanding people mainly due to their inabilities to communicate with you?

Do other people's reactions to any scar, blemish or deformity you may have limit your daily activities?

Have you attended a special school because of your education authority's policy of sending people with your health problem or disability to such places?

Are community services so poor that you need to rely on relatives or someone else to provide you with the right level of personal assistance?

What inadequacies in your housing caused you to move here?

What are the environmental constraints which make it difficult for you to get about in your immediate neighbourhood?

Are there any transport or financial problems which prevent you from going out as often as you would like?

Do poorly designed buses make it difficult for someone with your health problem/disability to use them?

Do you have problems at work because of the physical environment and/or the attitudes of others?