Understanding Disability Policies

Understanding Disability Policies

Robert F. Drake

palgrave
macmillan

© Robert F. Drake 1999

All rights reserved. No reproduction, copy or transmission of this publication may be made without written permission.

No paragraph of this publication may be reproduced, copied or transmitted save with written permission or in accordance with the provisions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, or under the terms of any licence permitting limited copying issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency, 90 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 9HE.

Any person who does any unauthorised act in relation to this publication may be liable to criminal prosecution and civil claims for damages.

The author has asserted his right to be identified as the author of this work in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

First published 1999 by
MACMILLAN PRESS LTD
Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS
and London
Companies and representatives
throughout the world

ISBN 978-0-333-72427-9 ISBN 978-1-349-27311-9 (eBook)
DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-27311-9

A catalogue record for this book is available
from the British Library.

This book is printed on paper suitable for recycling and
made from fully managed and sustained forest sources.

Editing and origination by
Aardvark Editorial, Mendham, Suffolk

This book is dedicated to my parents

Robert and Audrey Drake

Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	x
1 Introduction	1
The structure of the book	2
PART I: THE MEANING OF DISABILITY AND THE CREATION OF POLICY	
2 Theoretical understandings of disability	9
Introduction	9
Defining disability: the 'personal tragedy' model	10
Ethics and the personal tragedy model	11
The social model of disability	13
The exercise of power	14
The state, power and the creation of policy	18
What is policy?	21
How is policy made?	22
Conclusion	31
PART II: DISABILITY POLICY, MODELS AND DEVELOPMENT	
3 Models of disability policy	35
Introduction	35
A spectrum of approaches to disability policy	37
Citizenship	41
Conclusion	44
4 The development of disability policies in Britain	45
Introduction	45
The historical context	46
Conclusion	67

5	Contemporary disability policies in Britain	68
	Introduction	68
	Contemporary disability policies and social institutions	69
	Conclusion	91
6	Contemporary British policy in the international context	93
	Introduction	93
	Negative policies: Nazi Germany and China	94
	Contemporary Sweden: a maximal welfare state?	98
	Australia: a hybrid welfare/civil rights approach	103
	The United States: a civil rights approach	105
	Conclusion: the United Kingdom's piecemeal approach in context	108
 PART III: POLICY OUTCOMES AND DISABLED PEOPLE'S RESPONSES		
7	Social class and disability	113
	Introduction	113
	Social class and disability	115
	What is 'class'?	116
	Social class and the impact of disability policies	118
	Conclusion	128
8	Gender and disability	130
	Introduction	130
	Differential treatment and impacts of policies on women and men	131
	Responses to the impacts of disability policies	141
	Policy impacts on gay and lesbian disabled people	145
	Conclusion	146

9	Minority ethnic communities and disability	148
	Introduction	148
	The disabled ethnic minority population	149
	The impacts of disability policies	151
	The response of black and Asian disabled people	160
	Conclusion	161
10	Age and disability policies	163
	Introduction	163
	The population of older disabled people	163
	Policies and their outcomes	164
	The concerns of older disabled people	165
	Older people with cognitive impairments	170
	Responses of older people	171
	Older people and policy making	173
	Conclusion	177
11	Disabled people and the policy process	179
	Introduction	179
	Causes of exclusion	180
	Possible remedies: from exclusion to inclusion	183
	Methods adopted in seeking to influence policy	187
	Obstacles in seeking to influence policy	192
	Successes	195
	Conclusion	195
12	Conclusions	197
	Introduction	197
	Outcomes in perspective	199
	Prospects	200
	Conclusion	206
	<i>Bibliography</i>	207
	<i>Index</i>	235

Acknowledgements

Our universities are underfunded and undervalued. Increasingly, research is judged in terms of the money it brings in rather than the benefits it confers. One feels deep gratitude therefore for being given the space and time to attempt a volume that may be assayed on its own merits. In particular, I appreciate the support of my colleagues at the Department of Social Policy, University of Wales, Swansea. Notwithstanding the inordinate pressures confronting them, Ken Blakemore, Anthea Symonds and Mike Sullivan gave freely of their advice, wisdom and experience, and heartened me throughout the whole process of writing this book. Equally, our social policy students relished the chance to turn the tables and criticise early drafts of chapters, and the magnificent Eryl Evans, with her usual serenity and aplomb, held back the administrative tide that threatened to swamp us all.

According to the pre-eminent Greek scholar H.D.F. Kitto, Aeschylus described his own work as being 'slices from Homer's banquet'. I have no hope of approaching Aeschylus' greatness, but may perhaps emulate his modesty by recognising how much my studies owe to the solicitous help of several distinguished colleagues. I should particularly mention the encouragement I have received over many years now from Professor Michael Oliver, Professor Len Barton, Dr Tom Shakespeare and Dr Colin Barnes. I am equally grateful to a host of other friends, some disabled, some not, in the academic, statutory and voluntary sectors here in Wales who freely gave me their advice and offered new insights. They discussed some of the thorny issues addressed in the book and challenged my misconceptions and prejudices. Accordingly, whatever degree of understanding this volume reveals, they have taught me. Any errors are, of course, entirely my own.

Next, I must thank several colleagues from library and information services who aided my search for much of the material used in the book. I am especially grateful to Lis Parcell at Swansea University Library, Sue Johnson at the Policy Studies Institute, Philip Pinto at the Commission for Racial Equality, Brenda Ellis from the Greater London Association of Disabled People, and Claire Williams at Mind Cymru.

Third, formal acknowledgements are due to those who granted permission to use copyright material. I am particularly grateful to

Harvester Wheatsheaf for allowing me to adapt some of my ideas in the book *Understanding Equal Opportunity Policies* and to Carfax Publishing Limited (PO Box 25, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 3UE) for permission to use material from my article on power and disabled people first published in *Disability and Society*. My thanks also go to the Office for National Statistics for permission to reproduce Tables 7.1 and 7.2, and to Dr Tom Shakespeare for allowing me to quote from two of his works, as well as for his kindness in reading and commenting on Chapter 8. I also owe thanks to Bill Bytheway for extensive and helpful comments on the material I use in Chapter 10.

For her infinite patience and sage advice, I am especially grateful to my editor at Macmillan, the superb Catherine Gray, and last but not least, I must also acknowledge the forbearance and support of my family – my parents and my partner Gillian – all of whom have now heard enough about disability policies to last them a lifetime.

ROBERT FRANCIS DRAKE
Swansea 1998