

The Social Model of Disability

Future Ready Module 1 - Text-only accessible diagram

Core message

The person is not the problem. The barrier is the problem. We can change barriers.

The Social Model of Disability helps us look at barriers created by environments, information, systems, processes, and attitudes.

Text-only diagram structure

Barrier created by the system	Possible accessibility change
Unclear information	Use plain language. Add Easy Read. Use clear headings and short sections.
Inaccessible form or website	Use accessible labels, headings, keyboard access, readable layout, and a contact option.
Blocked path	Provide an accessible path, ramp, lift, or alternative access route.
Too noisy or overwhelming	Offer quieter options, breaks, low-sensory spaces, or flexible times.
Too fast	Give more time. Pause. Check understanding respectfully. Offer written or visual steps.
Wrong assumption	Listen to the person. Do not assume capacity, communication method, or support needs.

Plain text diagram

Person + barrier in the system -> change the barrier -> more participation

Use this diagram to ask:

- What is making participation hard?
- Is the barrier in the information, environment, process, technology, or attitude?
- What can be changed in the system?
- Who should be involved in checking whether the change helps?

Accessible description

A text-only diagram titled "The Social Model of Disability." It explains that the person is not the problem, the barrier is the problem, and barriers can be changed. It lists barriers such as unclear information, inaccessible forms, blocked paths, noisy environments, rushed communication, and wrong assumptions, then matches each barrier with an accessibility improvement.