

Historical Development of Dependency Care Services: From the Internment Model to The Community Model

Abstract:

This article portrays a historical overview of care services to people with disabilities or people in situations of dependency in recent years, in order to show the paradigm shift that has existed from (firstly) the hegemony of a model of institutionalization or internment (in where the person with disabilities or at risk of functional dependence, either of mental, physical or sensory character, received specific attention in a regime of internment usually permanent in a more or less closed institution) to a more recent model in which the community approach predominates, characterized by the permanence of the disabled person or person with dependency status in their own homes, receiving the services and care required in the same or in their immediate environment. Both approaches, on the other hand, have coexisted with care and family support that was and is still dispensed in the family.

However, these two paradigmatic conceptions, rather than dissociated realities are two ideal types, although theoretically opposed, coexist in real life due to a variety of regulatory, social, cultural, economic and political conditions. Thus, we can now observe that there are at least two fundamental variables that affect this phenomenon of attention to situations of dependency, pushing in two opposite directions. On the one hand, the regulatory provisions under the community approach, that are oriented to the permanence of the person in a position of dependence in his or her usual environment, in line with the aspirations of the people affected and with public opinion; on the other hand, economic interests, mainly from the private sphere, aim at recovering investment costs of those residential infrastructures that have been built, and that in a context of economic crisis have not met their expectations of coverage.

Keywords: Dependency, disability, community model, internment model, dependency care services.