



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Professional
Training Center
for Disabled of
Athens



MANPOWER
EMPLOYMENT
ORGANIZATION

Historical Review Of Disability



The Change **Starts With Us**

PROJECT NO. 2017-1-UK01-KA201-036838

Historical Review Of Disability

Disability refers to a functional impairment, lack or disorder, congenital or acquired, usually as a result or remnant of illness or accident, an abnormality that somehow prevents the fulfillment of basic social needs (Charttoles, 1981).

Even in antiquity, the problem of disability was known, while the person with a disability but also his family was being raped by racism from the social environment (Kypriotakis, 2005). Typical is the presence of god Hephaestus, who was disabled by a young man, yet his disability did not prevent him from becoming the god of fire. An important influence on the life of Greeks, Homer brought about his work, although he was blind (Roumeliotis, 2001). The first concern to address the problem of disability is made by the Athenian State in the framework of a democratic society, with

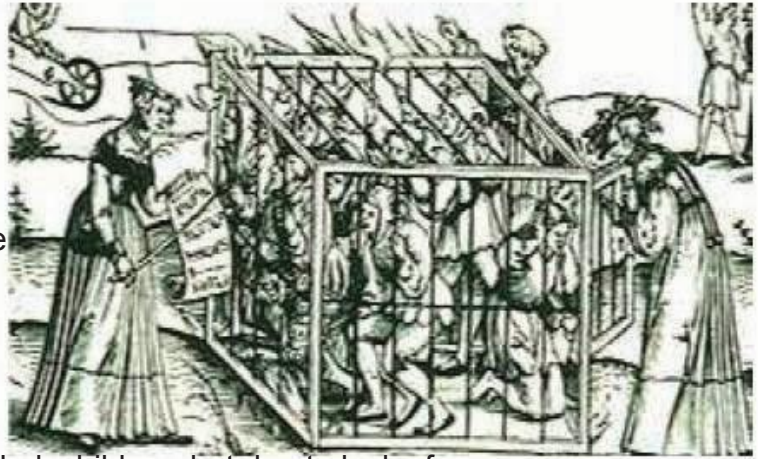
organized public care that guarantees citizens' freedom of life, individual freedom and equality.

In the 6th century BC the State was obliged, according to Solon's law, to maintain the war-wicked, assessing their degree of disability and their financial situation. If one

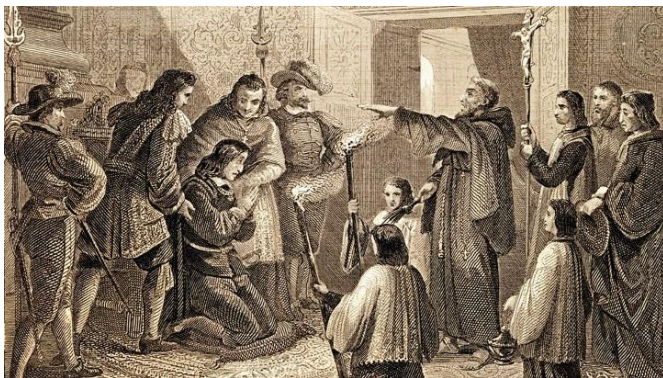
was judged to have been unable to work and his income was less than three months, then the Treasury would (1) pay an ounce a day. A typical example in our country,

with a strongly negative and dissuasive attitude towards disability, was the Spartans who ended the lives of their disabled children, throwing them in Keada. When Christianity first appeared, it was possible for the disabled to participate in certain forms of production. But the lack of organization of the welfare state and the prevalence of a metaphysical ideology have developed the feeling of charity by

stigmatizing this era. The care of widows, orphans and the disabled is done by the deacons and ministers with community support for the reduction of human pain (Kroustalakis, 1998, Roumeliotis, 2001). The Christian gospel created a favorable climate for the care of the disabled and the sick. In the beginning, disabled people were not categorized, nor were there specific institutions for each category.



Emperor Constantine was the first to try to provide publicly-funded education to disabled children, but due to lack of money he had to give up the effort (Kaiser, 1927; Roumeliotis, 2001).



The Roman Empire and the Middle Ages were the period when the treatment of disabled children was inhuman. The Romans killed the disabled or distorted children, believing that there is not a healthy body without living a healthy mind.

In addition to death, the punishment of children was the use of violence to cause disability (breaking bones or dislocating the shoulder), to bring good beggars, ensuring their life is pitying. In the Middle Ages disabled children were used as jelly or sold as slaves.

Historical Review Of Disability

While the Eminent Romans bought the mentally retarded for their entertainment (Bateson, Baker, Clutton - Brock, Deb, D Udine, Foley, Cluckman, Gobjrey, Kirkwood, Lahr, Namara, Metcalfe, Monaghan, Spencer & Sultan, 2004).

In the 3rd century, the disabled were isolated in asylum so that they did not move between the healthy ones. Beggars, unemployed, heretics, mentally ill and disabled. were the groups that were marginalized and many times worked under exhaustive and inhuman conditions.



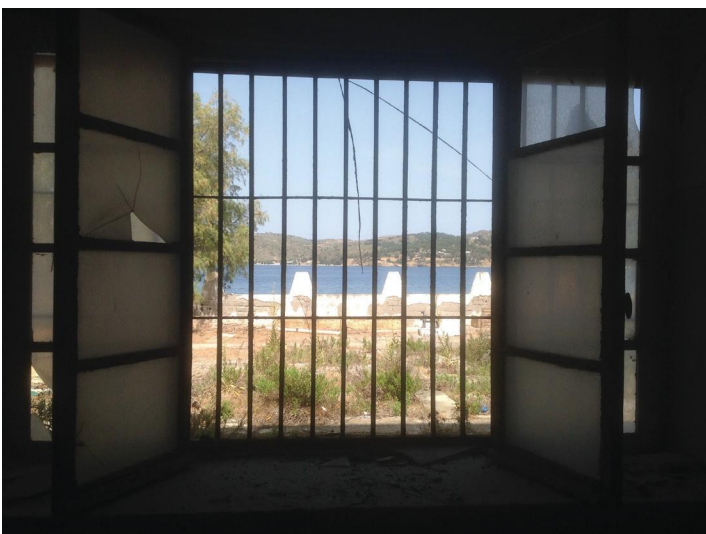
In the Byzantine Empire, based on the principles of Christianity, the state was obliged to take care of disabled citizens. Various rehabilitation institutions were established, which belonged to the public or the church, but also to individuals who found accommodation, food and medical care for the disabled.





In modern times of Greece (1828 - 1864), the number of disabled people is increased due to the liberation struggle. In the struggle of the newly established State to rehabilitate the disabled, the absolute support of the rich Greeks abroad (Great Benefactors) is decisive (Dareis, 2001). In 1880, the International Red Cross was born, the first example of international cooperation for the social protection of the disabled.

After World War II, social welfare began to develop new structures and find new ways of dealing with the enormous social problem of disability-rehabilitation. Great progress has been made in the field of social services in hospitals where their welfare supply is enormous and invaluable (Richardson, 1975; Rigatos, Kappou-Rigatou Thouas, 1987; Roumeliotis, 2001).



Historical review of disability

According to the 2006 UN Convention, persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. They constitute 15-20% of the world population.

In the past, common ways to deal with people with disabilities were infanticide, torture, inclusions, abandonment, ridicule, exploitation, isolation, alms.



Since the last century these views and attitudes have changed, and most modern views are characterized by the acceptance and respect for diversity and human rights. From the historical review is obvious that attitudes and support for people with disabilities vary according to the historical period. They seem to benefit mainly in bright breaks of humanity when prevailing higher ideals and policies. The progressive views of the ancient Greek philosophers, expressed in periods of flowering of democracy, science and philosophy, are characteristic. The same trend is observed in the Renaissance period, and the period of large claims on human rights in the last 40 years of the 20th century. Contrast is apparent in times of darkness, decline of rationality and democracy, as in the Middle Ages and Hitler's Germany.

It is interesting to see the consequences of the current economic crisis in our country and the Western world, the views will prevail and practices implemented to support the disabled. We, however, let's stay firm to the constant support of human rights and the doctrine that "a society's civilization criterion is the care provided to the weak members"