



## DEFINITION OF DISABILITY

### AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) DEFINITION:

The term 'disability' means\$ with respect to an individual:

A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such individual. These major life activities include communication, walking, and self-care, -This impairment is likely to continue indefinitely, resulting in a need for supportive services.

### WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION'S DEFINITION OF DISABILITY

(adapted from Rev. William Gaventa. "Pastoral Care with People with Disabilities and their Families")

1. An impairment of some biological, physical or psychological origin, e.g. an extra chromosome leads to Down Syndrome, lock of oxygen at birth to cerebral palsy, an accident, environmental factors, and so many unknown causes-
2. Which then causes some (evel of "dis-ability/" an inability to function in some usual way, with the caveat that functioning level may be heavily influenced by context and culture, and
3. Finally, what we think about the impairment and difference, our assumptions, values and attitudes, are often the biggest issues and barriers faced by people with disabilities and their families.