

The realities of life for people with severe and profound intellectual disabilities and mental health problems

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Propositions accompanying the dissertation

The realities of life for people with severe and profound intellectual disabilities and mental health problems

1. Men and women who have severe or profound intellectual disabilities are among the most vulnerable people in our society. *(this dissertation)*
2. Institutional attitudes and practices die hard. If people with severe intellectual disabilities continue to be segregated from society they will remain vulnerable to abuse of all kind. *(this dissertation)*
3. In order to create a better future for people with severe intellectual disabilities it is necessary to identify and acknowledge the failures of past practices. *(this dissertation)*
4. Just because people cannot speak does not mean that they cannot communicate. *(this dissertation)*
5. We must ensure that children with severe intellectual disabilities today are enabled to retain their identities and to develop as socially included and emotionally healthy men and women.
6. In research, first impressions can be misleading; only over time can the seemingly bizarre and unrelated elements of people's lives begin to form a coherent and meaningful pattern.
7. Wherever one carries out ethnographic research, while remaining objective, at the same time one has to be aware of other people's spirits and be prepared to see other people's ghosts.
8. The strands of a person's life are too closely interwoven, and form a fabric whose pattern is too complex, to be understood by analysing its single threads.
9. Hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible, and achieves the impossible. *(Helen Keller)*
10. It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness. *(English proverb)*
11. Talk doesn't cook rice. *(Chinese proverb)*

Jane Hubert, December 3rd 2009