

# Can Sex Be Played? A Discussion of the Treatment of Sexuality for People with Intellectual Disability Based on Normalization Principle

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## Research Motive

- The over amplification on the sex of people with intellectual disabilities considering that sex is always linked with moral behavior by the society. Otherwise sexual desire not necessarily the same as morality.
- Given that sex is measured with morality alone, for example, sex and promise, sex and romantic love, sex and marriage, sex and fertility or sex and religious belief. With the result that sexuality is hard for people with intellectual disabilities.
- Even though the hedonism of sex is not the sufficient and necessary condition of sexual morality, the consideration of how to access sex agreement is also important. It is more difficult to talk about the sexual issue of people with intellectual disabilities on the assumption that the mutual sexual desire and pleasure is denied.
- Therefore it was normal considering that even sex is a fun game for intellectual disability, morality is also taken into consideration.

## Research Method

- To clarify the multi-function of sex, especially what function sex could have acted for people with intellectual disabilities.
- To people with intellectual disabilities what influence of Normalization.
- While avoiding hurt with the flirt of sex. How sexual agreement is possible for intellectual disability.

## Multi-definitions of Sexuality to Intellectual Disabilities

- Sexual behavior is an important way of self-definition for people with intellectual disabilities, especially in the highly industrialized modern society.
- According to Freud, The Sexual behavior of adult is essentially relevant to the early stage of children. For him, there are two motives for this kind of sexual behavior which become intuition and motivation: the pursuit of happiness and the relieve of nervousness for the people with intellectual disabilities they equally have the same sexual desire as the ordinary, only with the different socialization they experienced.
- For the ordinary, although they restrain their sexual desire, they can still have self-construction in the social network. It is hard for the people with intellectual disabilities to develop themselves considering the lack of learning ability, with no socialization as an outcome of no restraint of sexual desire, It becomes an improper "behavior issues" and it is further considered as the reason of asexuality of intellectual disability.
- For the intellectual disability, Self-value not only reveals at becoming the potential sexual partners of others, also the keen sense of self-existence. Most of the time the sexual behaviors of the people with intellectual disabilities don't mean to meet the sexual morality. It is possible to be the sensation of the body.
- Just like the sensory awareness of human being, only with the connection of external values like the social network, ordinary could rather ignore such needs. Otherwise, with the lack of social connection, self-construction is only possible by sensory awareness for the people with intellectual disabilities.

## Normalization Principle

- Proposed by Benk Mikkelsen from Denmark and Bengt Nirje from Sweden at 1970s .
- The normalization principle means making available to all people with disabilities patterns of life and conditions of everyday living

which are as close as possible to the regular circumstances and ways of life or society. Normalization involves the acceptance of some people with disabilities, with their disabilities, offering them the same conditions as are offered to other citizens. For example schooling, housing, employment, training, and entrainment.

## • Critique of Normalization Principle

- Normalization principle is a social frame that enables people to naturally express the cultural behavior, and there is an adjustment of the society that able the people with intellectual disabilities response equally.
- There are no unique ideas developed from Normalization principle, but a reflection of the occupying liberalism trend in the western society at that time. In order to satisfy the requirements of equality by the minority groups and some of the people with disabilities. Normalization cares about rights, living quality and formalized living ways, but not necessarily about integration and inclusiveness.
- Normalization principle is not a critical reflection of the current society, but a requirement to the people with disabilities to urge them learning in order to become ordinary in order to suit into the society.
- What forms such a result is the liberalism trend represented by Normalization principle.
- Individualism: Individual is the first priority to all morality even prior to society.
- Egalitarianism: Individual is alone and isolated, everyone is equal in the moral status.
- Universalism: Individual is the unit carrying in every right, and adaptive to everyone.
- Such hypothesis of what human being is a rational individual is not adaptive to people with intellectual disabilities, Given that considering public life in such a hypothesis, the people with intellectual disabilities who considered as irrational would be only the needy and minorities asking for charity.
- Normalization principle becomes the formalized regulation of requiring the people with disabilities to meet the expectation of society. But not actually accepted them for who they really are and integrated with them in a humanity value. Therefore it is not an innovation for people with disabilities in current society.

## The Criticism in Disabled Sexuality

- Tepper emphasizes that joy is the accreditation of life. The pleasure of sex empowered the people with intellectual disabilities.
- Sex is considered as an only function of fertility in western society, therefore LGBT, people with disabilities and elderly is marginalized. On the other hand, under the standard of contemporary popular culture and western middle class. Sex is described as the privilege of white people, heterosexuality, bachelor, and youth. Under the view of contemporary Consumerism, the pleasure of sex is considered as disposable income, as the rewards of purchasing products and acting as the market target.
- The people who are benefited from sex, are mostly protected by the society and enjoy citizenship. People with intellectual disabilities are excluded.
- The emphasis of the pleasure of sex of people with intellectual disabilities is actually the criticism of the hypothesis of the sex of western culture, and the cultural logic lead by the contemporary consumerism.

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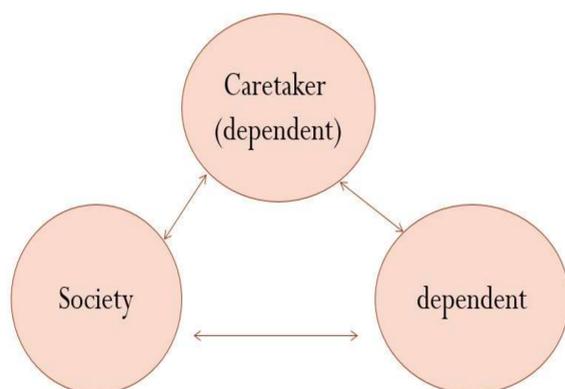
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## Sexual Consent of Intellectual Disabilities

- People with disabilities are considered as lack of ability, therefore they are not able to access sex agreement. Ability is the reason why people with intellectual disabilities are being doubted, excluded and disregarded.
- Using caring as a media to re-criticize liberalism, re-evaluate the rationality of the basis of personal autonomy.
- The caretaker must participate in the process of decision making in order to assist with the judgment. Otherwise how to make sure that caretaker won't avoid, restrain, distort and dominate because of all those reasons in under consideration.
- The triangle relationship of dependent-caretaker-society, to make sure that the dependent and caretaker won't dominate or endorse. Caretakers are responsible for the dependents and make an agreement on sex despite their different life experience.

## Iron Triangle



## Conclusion

- Löfgren-Mårtenson : People with intellectual disabilities face the situation of desexualization through some restrictive sexual scripts, the restrictions included: No sex, no one night stand, no LGBT, no gap on ages, not talk about sex publicly. The expression and behavior of sex and the potential tendency of sex, disobey the perspective of how people with intellectual disabilities express sex.
- Further involvement of sex access and subvert the normalization principle and the unequal treatment of restrictive sexual scripts.

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