

Convergences and differences between ICF and DCP

The issue of environmental
factors' influence in the construction of
human functioning and disability

Patrick Fougeyrollas Ph.D

INDCP-CIRRIS-IRD PQ-Laval University-
Quebec Canada



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The issue of environmental factors' influence

- Is the Environmental Factors' influence the key for distinguishing personal intrinsic individual characteristics from the extrinsic outcomes of the person/environment interaction?
- Can we learn from the comparison of ICF and DCP for improving our conceptual understanding and orientating further research on the relevancy of mutual exclusivity and full inclusion of all conceptual domains in Human Functioning and its variation Disability?

CONCEPTUAL MODEL OF THE ICIDH (WHO, 1980)

The responsibility on the individual

**Disease
or
Disorder**

→ Impairment → Disability → Handicap

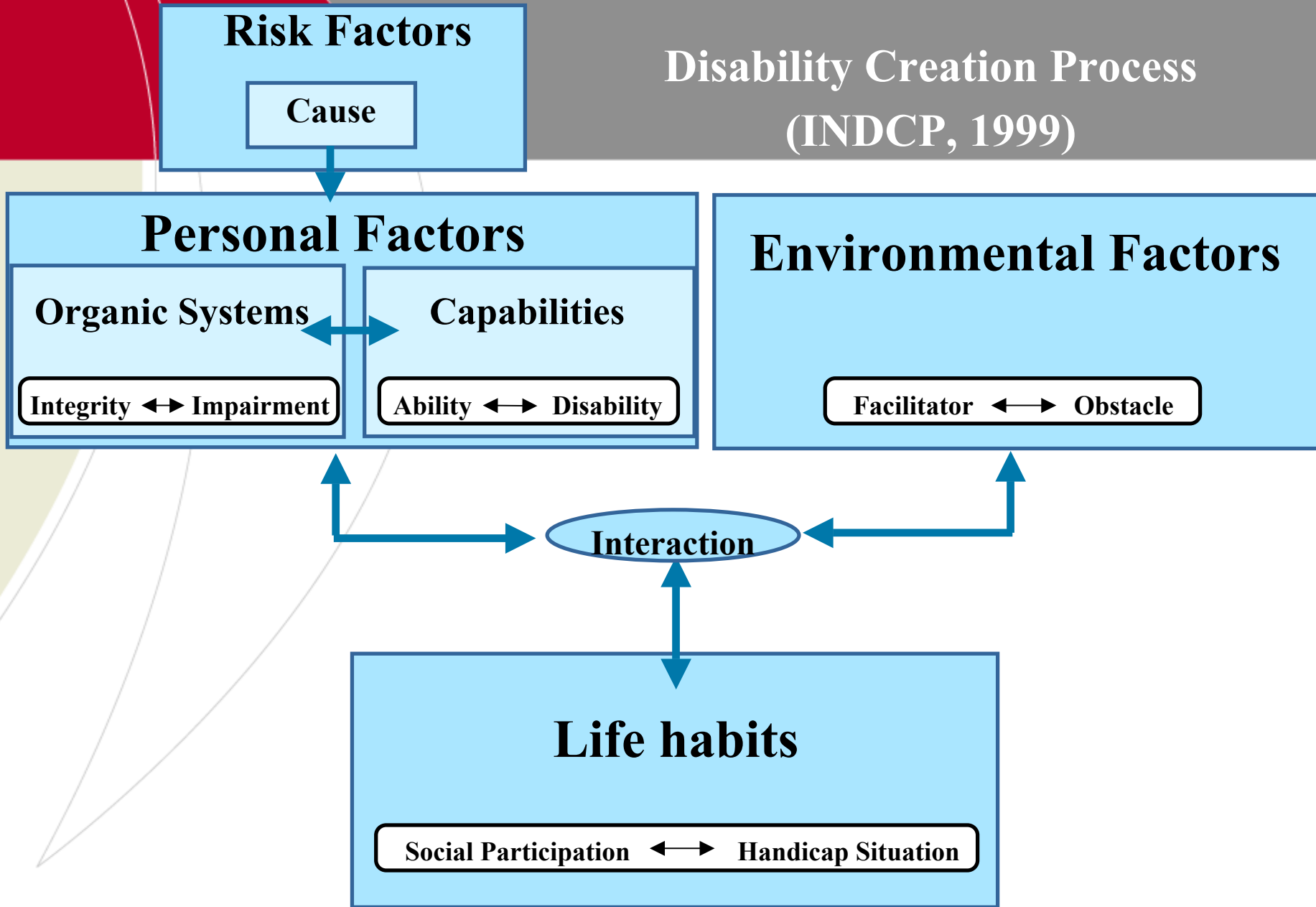
**Intrinsic
situation**

(exteriorized) (objectified) (socialized)

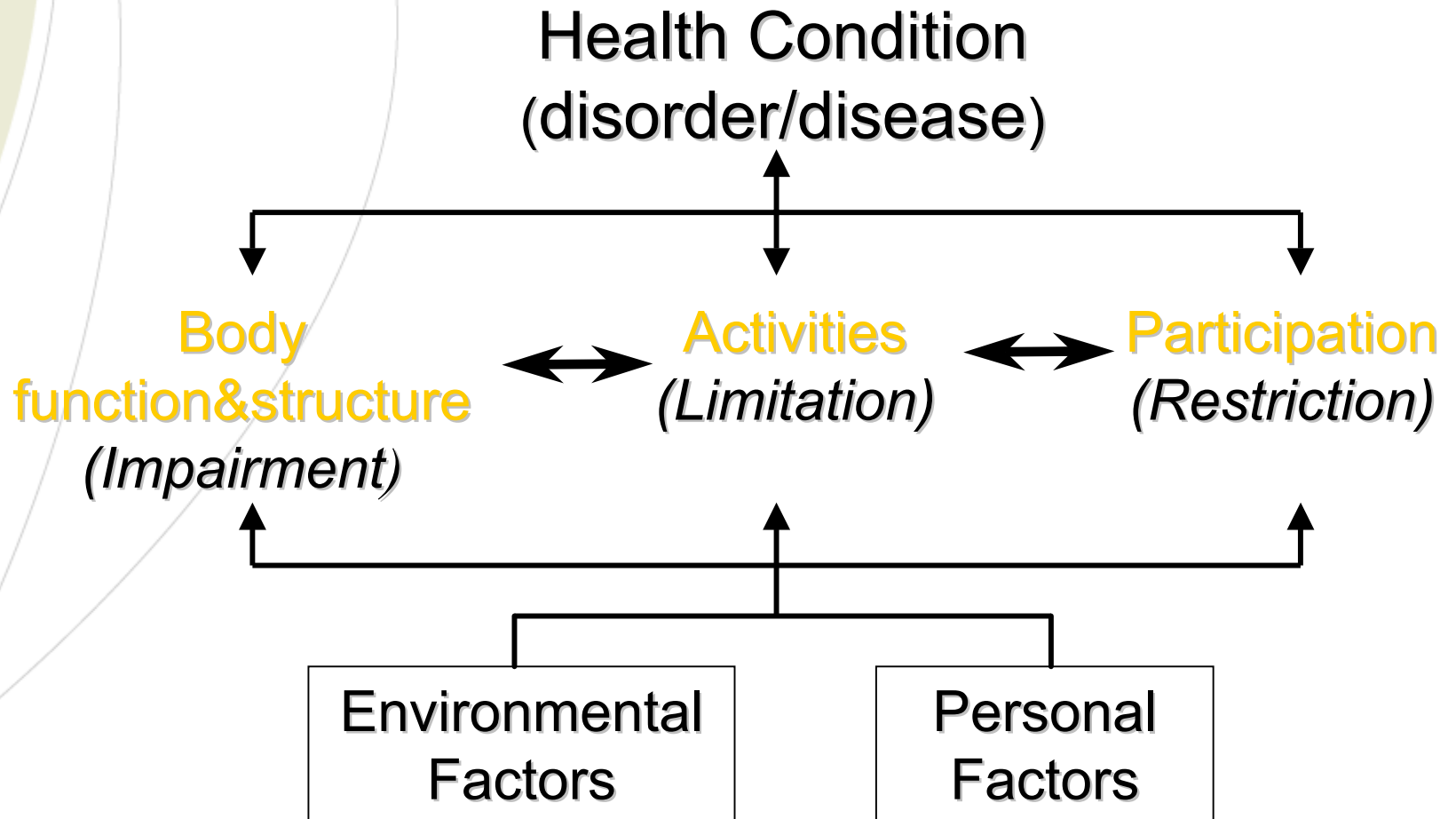
What were the main criticisms of ICDH ?

- Biomedical framework and responsibility upon the individual
- Cause and effect linear relationship
- Negative Concepts
- Conceptual dimensions overlap
- Innovative but embryonic conception of handicap or social disadvantage domain
- **Lack of Environmental Factors conceptual domain**

Disability Creation Process (INDCP, 1999)



ICF (WHO, 2001)



Convergences

- Universal conception applying to any human being
- Multidimensional systemic framework
- Disability phenomena explicative framework
- Positive wording of conceptual domains
- Hierarchical Classifications with taxonomies and definitions
- **Recognition of influence of Environmental Factors**
- Recognition of influence of Personal Factors other than body organs and functional activities
- Qualitative measurement codes

Differences

- ICF: classifies Health domains and Health related domains from a biopsychosocial perspective
- DCP: classifies the components of human development or disability creation process from an anthropological holistic and cultural perspective

Differences

- ICF: No change with the stratification Body/Individual/Society of ICIDH;
- Body structures and functions, Activities, Participation: same conceptual segmentation as ICIDH,
- Distinction between activity and participation made by qualifiers
- Health Problems and Contextual Factors are taken into account but are not included as full components of functioning and disability

Differences

- DCP: Risk Factors; Personal factors: Identity factors, organic systems (anatomic, physiologic), capabilities (physical and mental activities); Environnemental Factors; Life Habits (daily activities and social roles)
- All dimensions are included in the human development process and its variation the DCP; all have also to be considered either in a one shot profile either in a dynamic construction process

Conceptual crosswalk in the field of Human Development and Disability (Fougeyrollas, 2005)

(1)

	Risk factors	Causes	Personal factors (identity)
Nagi (1976)	∅	Diseases	∅
WHO ICDH (1980)	∅	Diseases Injuries	∅
NCMRR (1993)	∅	Diseases	∅
INDCP-DCP (1991-96-99)	Risk Factors	Causes	Identity Factors
WHO ICF (2001)	∅	Health Problems	Personal Factors (contextual factors)

Conceptual crosswalk in the field of Human Development and Disability (Fougeyrollas, 2005)

(2)

	Organs structures	Organs internal functions	Functional capabilities
Nagi (1976)	Impairments		Functional limitations
WHO ICIDH (1980)	Impairments		
NCMRR (1993)	Impairments		Functional Limitations
INDCP-DCP (1991-96-99)	Organic Systems (Integrity / Impairment)		Capabilities (Ability/Disability)
WHO ICF (2001)	Body Structures (structural integrity/ impairment)	Body Functions (functional integrity/ impairment)	

Conceptual crosswalk in the field of Human Development and Disability (Fougeyrollas, 2005)

(3)

	Functional capabilities	ADL IADL	Social Roles	Social and physical environmental factors
Nagi (1976)	Functional limitations	Disabilities		∅
WHO ICIDH (1980)		Disabilities	Handicaps Social Disadvantages	∅
NCMRR (1993)	Functional Limitations	Disabilities		Environmental barriers
INDCP-DCP (1991-96-99)	Capabilities (Ability/Disability)	Life Habits (social participation situation / handicap situation)		Environmental Factors (Facilitators/Obstacles)
WHO ICF (2001)		Activities (capacity in standard environnement) Participation (performance in actual environnement)		Environmental Factors (Facilitators/Obstacles) (contextual factors)

Differences

- ICF: Functionalist Perspective constructed on individual performance and conformity to the norm; pragmatic approach;
- DCP: Social Anthropology Perspective constructed on accomplishment of life habits which are valorised by the person, her/him self, (identity) in her/his context; interdisciplinary and social change perspective
- DCP : Explicit consideration of temporality and historical dynamics; diachronic understanding of Disability

Differences

- ICF, International Label– Symbol of scientificity and modernity
- DCP, Symbolic of advocacy associated to social model and Disability Rights movement

Shared Criticisms and possible improvements

- ICF and DCP are on the way of scientific classifications but are far to be mature .
- Many characteristics of each of them should have better, clear and explicit theoretical foundations, better explanation and coherency of construction and operationalisation and be validated in diverse fields of applications.
- External critics have noted in each of them « pseudo scientific » authority or taken for granted assumptions cosmetising two political or ideological background (more hidden in ICF and more open and explicit in DCP)

Shared Criticisms and possible improvements

- Need of validation of measurement scales and norms in each conceptual dimension, conceptually validated tools in different fields of application and convergence validity studies
- Personal factors in ICF and Identity factors in DCP should be developed; psychic life dimension construction and role in the interaction should be developed.
- Etiological dimension (should be better explained in DCP and developed in ICF). How to consider risk factors but also protection factors
- **Environmental factors' influence should be better explained and operationnalised** either in a synchronic approach (one shot picture or profile) either in a diachronic one (temporality, historical construction).
- Development and monitoring of ethical guidelines

INDCP'S point of view

- Positive evolution with adoption of systemic approach, universal perspective applicable for all human beings, positive or « neutral » conceptual wording and addition of environmental factors
- Disagreement with the « Body, Individual, Society » fundamental underlying conceptual reference and the reproduction of the same longstanding criticised conceptual segmentation and overlap of ICIDH.
- Disagreement with the status given to environmental factors which are not recognised as a full component of functioning and disability.
- Disagreement with the assertion of the relationships of Environmental factors with the three main conceptual domains, when only the influence on participation performance is operationalised

INDCP's point of view

- Major disagreement with the adoption of one single taxonomy for both activities (related to personal capacity and standard environment) and participation (related to performance in real life context)
- This decision perpetuates existing international conceptual confusion about intrinsic personal factors and outcomes of interaction of individual characteristics with environmental factors.
- Disagreement with inclusion of functional activities and social activities (ADL-social roles) in the activities/participation taxonomy.

INDCP's point of view

- Disagreement with the idea of applying standard environment for socio cultural defined « activities », this is only relevant for assessing functional physical or mental activity (in disciplinary assessment tools for instance).
- **ICF still makes possible to see or understand the responsibility of accomplishment of social activities as a personal capacity. This is not possible with DCP.**

Conclusion : Is Environmental factors' influence the key criterion ?

- **Clarifying the Environmental Factors' influence in a more coherent paradigm of human functioning and disability process understanding means further international scientific and sociopolitical collaborative research strategy and action for documenting comparative applications of ICF and alternative conceptual frameworks as DCP and for feeding future revision process towards ICF-2**

References

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- www.ripph.qc.ca
- ripph@irdpq.qc.ca
- patrick.fougeyrollas@irdpq.qc.ca