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Selective Neurodiversity Glossary

Neurodiversity

The intrinsic diversity in the physiology of human nervous systems, brain function, and cognition.

Neurodivergent

An adjective used to describe human nervous systems, brain function, and cognition that are significantly different from society's "normal". Not a medical term.

Neurotype

The name given to one individual form of wiring, e.g., ADHD, autism, dyslexia, neurotypical, highly-sensitive.

Neurodiverse

An adjective used to describe a group that includes people of different neurotypes.

Medical Model of Disability

Under the medical model of disability, people are disabled by their differences. The goal of interventions in this model is to enable individuals to access the social environment as it is.

Social Model of Disability

Under the social model of disability, disability exists in the interactions between an individual and society. Disability issues stem from individuals trying to function in a society that is inaccessible to them. In the social model of disability, redesign of the environment is a necessary component of disability reduction.

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Neurodiversity Inclusion

The practice of creating environments and processes that address each person's cognitive uniqueness, including listening to and incorporating each person's needs based on their lived experiences.

Neurohumility

A genuine humbleness toward the lived experience of other body-minds.

Neurodiversity Paradigm

The neurodiversity paradigm is a perspective on neurodiversity built on the foundational principle that neurodiversity is a natural and valuable form of human diversity. The neurodiversity paradigm rejects pathologizing elements of this diversity that are largely innate and form intrinsic and pervasive factors in an individual's psyche, personality, and fundamental way of relating to the world. The idea that there is one "right" style of neurocognitive functioning is rejected as a culturally constructed fiction. The neurodiversity paradigm does not reject the pathologizing of forms of neurodivergence that could be removed without erasing fundamental aspects of the individual's sense of self if the individual would be happy to be rid of such forms of neurodivergence. The neurodiversity paradigm is the philosophical foundation for many of the positions held by participants within the neurodiversity movement.

Neurodiversity Movement

The neurodiversity movement is a social justice movement that seeks civil rights, equality, respect, and full societal inclusion for neurodivergent people.