

Are disabled people really ‘disabled’?



‘Not deemed welcome.’ This is something Christina Lau, a paralysed mouth painter, has felt that others think about the disabled. People look down on them as they believe they are less able, qualified and knowledgeable than a ‘normal’ person. I am one who disagrees with this idea. People have many skills and ideas and it is not their handicaps that may be holding them back. Society is against them because they seem less capable. However just because one is handicapped it doesn’t mean that they don’t have the ability to do things that people without disabilities can do.

Disabled people aren’t that different to others, however sometimes we may think that they are less capable. People with disabilities are commonly treated as less important than people without them. Some people with a physical disability are seen to be ‘less smart’ than others just because they are sitting in a wheelchair. This doesn’t make them less qualified for a job, in fact they may be more qualified than someone else, but the fact that they may not be able to walk makes some people believe that they can’t think. While it is true that people like this may need help to move around, they are perfectly capable of thinking and deciding things for themselves.

There is a big issue with this topic because we are almost discriminating people for something that isn’t their fault. No one can control whether or not they are disabled, but people who are shouldn’t be seen as less valuable than others. They have already faced the challenge of being handicapped and they don’t need another one trying to be accepted into society. It is like there is a social divide between disabled and non disabled. While people with disabilities may always be there, we have never really truly accepted them. There are many disabled people who can do great things, and there could be more if we accepted them more openly.



Some may look down on them, but the disabled are capable of doing some very interesting things. Christina Lau is a mouth painter who is paralysed from the chest down ever since a tragic car accident in 2005. The accident had left her permanently disabled but she hadn’t given up and eventually started painting with her mouth. However the path getting there wasn’t easy for her. She had been a prison guard prior to the accident, and had

relatively little trouble getting a job. That was all changed after the accident when she became disabled. She had said that it was much harder for her to get a job since she was disabled, and this shows how society thinks less of people if they have a disability.

Lau's story shows us that people with disabilities have a much harder time in general. Not just because of their handicap, but also because people don't accept them. However it also exemplifies how people with a disability are just as capable of doing activities as people without them are. Painting is generally done with the hand, since Lau wasn't able to move her fingers, she had adapted to her disability and started painting with her mouth. The quality of the final products that she produces are not that different to those produced by someone painting with their hands. The main reason that she was able learn and become a successful mouth painter is because she had people supporting her. When she started this there was nobody discriminating her for her disabilities. This shows us that people that are disabled are perfectly capable of doing great things if we support them instead of shutting them down.

People with disabilities are perfectly able and capable of working and using specific skills as we are. They do not need or want us to take pity on them. What they need from others is their support and their respect. They just need the chance to be treated the same as non disabled people as they can be just as capable. There is no reason why they should be seen as any less qualified than anyone else. With others' support and the opportunity they will be able to do the best things that they can, and it may surprise some people what that is.