

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/lives-and-legacies-of-people-with-intellectual-disability/>

In a conversation recorded on August 20th, Ken discusses his experiences and insights regarding individuals with intellectual disabilities (ID). He shares his personal history, having grown up near a facility for people with intellectual disabilities where he interacted with them and later worked during his studies. His book, co-authored with his daughter, addresses the neglect and abuse many individuals with ID face, stemming from a long history of dehumanization.

Ken defines intellectual disability traditionally as subaverage intellectual capacity accompanied by impaired life skills, manifesting before the age of 18. However, he advocates for viewing it as a social construction, emphasizing the interaction between individuals and their environments. This video perspective highlights the need for supportive environments that help bridge the gap between personal abilities and community needs.

He mentions the evolving "supports model" in literature, emphasizing that creating an accommodating environment can lead to improved quality of life for people with ID. Ken calls for enhanced community services and integration within existing community frameworks to ensure meaningful participation for individuals with ID.

Looking ahead, he stresses the importance of research focused on enhancing quality of life, not just by describing it but by identifying effective supports that contribute to a new moral community. Ultimately, he wishes for readers to recognize that people with intellectual disabilities can lead meaningful lives and make valuable contributions to their families and communities, underscoring their legacies should be acknowledged like anyone else's.