*disclaimer*

Sometimes, people that read resources assume that ALL the information in it is accurate.

When discussing personal and subjective experiences, it’s important to remember that everyone is different.

No single story can speak on behalf of all people.

Thanks!

*intro*

As part of our social world, we all experience gender in some way, shape, or form, and many authors theorize that nobody can escape ‘being gendered.’ So long as gender remains an important part of how we understand and categorize each other, but it does not stand alone.

Along with gender, there are other classifications: sex, age, race, sexual orientation, ability, and more, which all feed into each other in complex ways.

This zine is an exploration of the relationship between gender and ability (or rather, disability).
In effect, disability subverts and problematizes the idea of masculinity in its hegemonic form requires total independence from others, total control over oneself, and that each of these ideals are realistic to begin with.

When disability renders these oppressions visible, the system falls apart.

Disabled people are life lessons.

There is no wrong way to have a body. - Glenn Maria

Today I’m going to give it my some. And that’s okay.

- tumblr.
He has issues.
(The environment, immigration, and the deficit for starter)

This ad demonstrates a shift to portray disabled people as more nuanced than their disabilities.

Often social issues that affect a wide variety of people from diverse communities are also shared by disabled people, but those concerning their disability are seen as paramount in terms of its potential visibility.

Disabled people are members of every community. Not just the disabled community, and their stories and concerns don’t only involve disability.
As a physically disabled guy, how do I get over the fact that I won't get a girlfriend?

n33ds-support02

Replies:

Knowsnothing292 ⬤ Quit focusing on your disability and focus on your personality.

xxtotallyablexx ⬤ I agree, physical attractiveness is important to some people, but not everyone.

Today, masculinity also has very much to do with being physically attractive. This means that if you are white, able-bodied, tall, fit, and heterosexual, you are among the most privileged.

This example demonstrates how even solutions that disabled men are forced to navigate when trying to date continue to undermine their masculinities by insisting that they will never be attractive, so they need to everything else.

For many men, disability requires compensation in order to gain the respect and attention of partners.
And we condemn failure for no reason. We all fail...

So much pressure is put on disabled people to become independent, but there are so few ways for disabled people to achieve that, there are so few ways for able-bodied people to achieve that. Part of being human is being dependent on others sometimes, and I think that's important to remember...

It's not a bad thing to need somebody's help. It's not a bad thing for a man to ask for help. No one is actually independent. We just don't like the way disability makes people dependent.

-disabilityhealth, tumblr
“You gotta see this guy…”
- Donald Trump

Because masculinity is about strength and disability means weakness, disabled men come under heavy scrutiny. Their bodies and conditions are often used as an example of failure when condemning the appearances or behaviors of others.

“Calling me retarded... that's hate speech. You don't know anything about me. The R-word ignores individuality”
- Tumblr
As part of these categories, we often understand things through opposites. This is called a **binary**. Here are some common examples:

- Good – Bad
- Male – Female
- Up – Down

One side is usually considered to be better, or is more well liked. Binaries are usually unequal; one is better and one is worse. Sometimes broader categories feed into smaller ones, like these:

- Good – Bad
- Healthy – Unhealthy
- Able – Disabled

This creates all sorts of ideas about what is okay and what isn’t, and this influences how we view people.

- Masculinity (or manliness) is about being powerful and autonomous. These are good things.
- Disability is associated with being dependent and helpless. These are bad things.

So what happens when someone finds membership in both?