Attitudes Regarding the Handicapped

Abstract

A survey was conducted on college students on attitudes regarding the handicapped. Subjects had to pick 18 of 25 characteristics listed as the least objectionable, leaving the remaining as most threatening. It is concluded that the subjects surveyed found a distinct hierocracy with persons of handicapping conditions citing mental illness as more threatening and hearing impairment as least threatening. Persons with brain damage, paraplegia, mental retardation, blindness and learning disabilities were rated from most to least threatening respectively as well. It is suggested that future studies deal with a smaller amount of variables to obtain more conclusive results.