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Historical analysis of the construction process of the public policy on disability in Colombia (PPDC for its acronym in Spanish)

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Introduction

In Colombia the approach of disability as a topic of political interest emerges with the political Constitution of 1991, with structural, political, administrative and social changes. Legislative, academic and social initiatives are promoted to contribute to the formulation of the public policy on disability.

Objective

To analyze the political development of the disability category in Colombia over the past two decades, beginning with a critical eye on the events that mark the construction of its policy, and give meaning to the development of social inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Methodology

It's a historical study with an archaeological - genealogical method, to uncover links, relations, contradictions expressed in the discourses and practices of political development of the disability category in Colombia.

- The units of analysis are documents of complex and varied nature, and typology developed at local, national or international level.
- Chronologically ordered under the timeline.
- Time fractured in periods from political, economic or social events.
- With discourse analysis from the categories: Models of development, types of State, Public Policies, Citizen Participation, Human Rights and Disability.

Results

In the construction of the public policy, three periods are identified:

- Before 1991, known as "dispersion period", individual and sectoral work.
- Between 1991 and 2001, "transition period", change of political paradigm.
- After 2002, "consensus period", different actors and interests converge.

Conclusions

- There isn't a clearly defined policy to guide the country towards social inclusion.
- There is evidence of a political maturation process of disabled people as political subjects.
- The country has a dynamic of mobilization of discourses that are critical in different kind of scenarios that allow visibilizing the disability category.
- There is a clear emergence of new actors, discourses and practices.

Challenges of the disciplines

- Contextualize discourses and disciplinary practices in the light and in line with the historical transformations of the context.
- Recognize the transformation of the focus of attention of the discipline (occupational therapy) to the phenomenon (disability) of the person in his/her context.