

## **A STUDY ON DISABILITY IN INDIA**

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### **Abstract**

*Persons with disabilities are seen as being restricted in performing daily activities because of a complex set of interrelating factors, some pertaining to the person and some pertaining to the person's environment and social/political arrangements. The social concept of disability introduces the notion that society has built barriers, physical or attitudinal, which distress a person with disabilities. Consequently, government programs and policies have developed to include fixing the environment (e.g., making buildings barrier-free) and providing income aid or work-related supports to help persons with disabilities participate more fully in the community and the workplace. Hence, the study concisely throw lights on disability persons in India. Objectives were to study the state wise shares of total disabled population and disabled Children in India and to examine the state wise Work Status of Disabled Persons in India. Data for the study collected from the secondary sources. The state wise decadal data on educational status of differently abled person's not available and particular data available only in the 2011 census data. Hence, the period of the study was confined to the year of census 2011. Secondary data collected were tabulated and analyzed for giving precise and concise information. Besides, percentages and graphs, 't' test were used to fulfill the objectives of the study. To be concluded that, across the country, the highest number of disabled persons has been reported from the States/ UTs like Sikkim, Odisha and Jammu & Kashmir and the reasons behind this were due to lack of medical facilities, poverty and the political instability. The study found that the maximum number of union territories had shared very lowest shares of disabled children to the all India disabled children, the reason behind was these territories were directly cared by central government.*

**Keywords:** Disability, States, Gender, Work Force, Population

### **Introduction:**

Disability is part of the human condition. Almost everyone will be temporarily or permanently impaired at some point in life, and those who survive to old age will experience increasing difficulties in functioning. National and international initiatives – such as the United Nations Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities of Persons with Disabilities- have incorporated the human rights of people with disabilities, culminating in 2006 with the adoption

of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). According to UN Enable, around 10% of the world's populations, 650 million people, live with disabilities. Women and girls with disabilities are particularly at a risk of abuse. According to a UNICEF survey, 30% of street youth are disabled. Some countries where IMR rates are high, mortality rates for children with disabilities is as high as 80%. Some suspect that children with disabilities are being purposely weeded out. 90% of children with disabilities worldwide do not attend school. Conflict areas find that for every one child that is killed, three are injured and permanently disabled. Children with disabilities are at a 1.7 times greater risk of being subjected to some form of violence.

According to CRIN over 150 million children worldwide have a disability. 50% of children with a hearing impairment and 60% of those with an intellectual impairment are sexually abused. There are many medical professionals who kill children with disabilities and right them of as mercy killings. 90% of the children with disabilities will not survive pass twenty years of age. Children with disabilities face discrimination not only in services but also in the justice system as they are often not considered credible witnesses.

In India children with disabilities mainly comes under the purview of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. Some of the issues are dealt with by the health ministry. But no single ministry has been assigned the protection of these children, which leads to varying data about occurrence of disability amongst children. In India 1.67% of the 0-19 population has a disability. 35.29% of all people living with disabilities are children. Other estimates say that India has 12 million children living with disabilities. Only 1% of children with disabilities have access to school and one third of most disabilities are preventable. Under-nutrition is a severe problem with children who suffer from cerebral palsy. In India 80% of children with disabilities will not survive past age forty. There are many protection issues that also lead to disability, especially mental disabilities. Children who are trafficked, abused and sexually exploited are at risk for psychological effects as well as physical retardation. Other forms of violence against children can also lead to a disability such as corporal punishment in schools, children living on the streets, and purposefully created disabilities for begging. Children from poor families face a double disability.

Disability in India is still functioning in the realm of social welfare instead of a rights perspective. Teachers are not trained and schools don't have the infrastructure to deal with children with disabilities. Neither are pediatric wards of hospitals equipped to deal with them. There is not enough data on the number of children living with disabilities to allow the government to provide the necessary services. Mental health disorders account for one sixth of all health disorders yet India spends 0.83% of its health budget on mental health. Child Labourers are also at a higher risk of becoming disabled especially in hazardous industries. Hence, the study concisely throw lights on disability persons in India.

## **Review of Literature**

**Chhabra (2016)**, being differently abled is a complex phenomenon and also concept of disability has shifted from individual impairment to social phenomenon. The study aims to get information for planning services and to share. The study discussed that the numbers vary across countries, lowest reported incidence is from Lithuania (0.58%), highest from Poland (4.0%). European Academy of Childhood Disabilities reported a disabled child rate of 2.5%, additional 8% child population has learning and/or behavioural disorders. In India with lack of awareness, lack of resources, lack of community based services, many babies born with abnormalities continue to live without proper diagnosis, therapy. Sometimes it goes beyond childhood to adulthood, years beyond. There are many disabilities which make person differently abled. Hearing loss is one of the most common birth disorders. There are 285 million people with visual impairment worldwide. Limb deformities vary. Psychiatric disorders, by virtue of their very nature, display different patterns of disabilities when compared to physical ailments. At present many disability studies are growing as multi-disciplinary field in view of various issues involved. The study found that having differently abled child in a household affects family's quality of life, parents' gender roles, financial resources and employment status use of time, health, even occurrence of demographic life events, divorce or birth of another child. The study suggested that disability must be seen in wider context of human development and social justice. Those working in community disability programmes have responsibility to look into local cultural factors affecting disabled people, communicate findings to policy makers, program managers. There is need for thinking about disabilities as social issue so that needs of disabled persons are met by inclusive rather than exclusive social attitudes, coupled with individually focused rehabilitation process where necessary. Problems are many in resource poor countries. There is need to do community based research.

**Janardhana, et.al, (2015)**, examined persons with disabilities comprise at least 4 to 8 percent of the Indian population. Children with disabilities in India are subject to multiple deprivations and limited opportunities in several dimensions of their lives. Their families and caregivers also go through lot of stress and challenges in having a person with disability at home which ultimately leads to grave discriminatory practices towards these children. The study attempted to analyze and describe the common discriminatory grounds that children with disabilities commonly face from their immediate families and from the larger community through analyzing the filed visit reports of the Basic Needs India Staff providing on job training (handholding support) for the community based rehabilitation workers. The case studies describes the various ugly forms of the discriminatory practices seen in the community towards differently abled children, same been categorized as denial of disability, physical restraints, social boycott, denial of property rights, decreased marital life prospects due to disabled member in family, implications on sexuality of people with disability, women with disability, discrepancies in state welfare programs, and problems in measuring disabilities. During the last two decades, there has been a growing realization that institutional care for the disabled is not entirely suitable for their individual needs, dignity and independence. A movement towards community based rehabilitation has picked up

pace and contribute toward greater independence and self-sustainability of the disabled.

**Amrita Randhawa (2008)**, examined Indian and American children acceptance of peers with disabilities through 108 interviews with preschoolers and survey data from 113 parents. Analyses of the data showed that children's perceptions of peers with disabilities varied with age, gender, and nationality. Overall, Indian children were more accepting of peers with disabilities than American children, and girls were more accepting than boys of peers with disabilities. Finally, contrary to the expectation that parents and children would have similar levels of acceptance of children with disabilities, Indian children were more accepting than their parents, whereas American children were less accepting than their parents.

**Kumar et al., (2008)**, assessed the prevalence and pattern of mental disability in a rural taluk of Karnataka district. This was a community-based cross-sectional study. One thousand subjects were randomly selected from four villages and IDEAS was administered. Overall prevalence of mental disability was 2.3%. Among the disabled, majority had mild disability, followed by severe, moderate and profound severity. All disabled subjects were previously diagnosed with one or the other mental disorder such as: Affective disorders, mental retardation, epilepsy, neurosis, schizophrenia, alcohol addiction.

### **Objectives of the study**

- To study the state wise shares of total disabled population and disabled Children in India.
- To examine the state wise Work Status of Disabled Persons in India.

### **Hypothesis of the study**

- There were no significant differences in the number of disabled population gender-wise in India and Tamil Nadu.

### **Methodology**

Data for the study collected from the secondary sources. The secondary data on total disabled population, literacy, employment, educational status and various types of differently abled persons across the states/UTs of India were available for the decadal census year 2011. The state wise decadal data on educational status of differently abled person's not available and particular data available only in the 2011 census data. Hence, the period of the study was confined to the year of census 2011. Secondary data collected were tabulated and analyzed for giving precise and concise information. Besides, percentages and graphs, 't' test were used to fulfill the objectives of the study.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **State wise Disabled Population in India**

The National Policy for Persons with Disabilities (2006) recognizes that Persons with Disabilities are valuable human resource for the country and seeks to create an environment that provides equal opportunities, protection of their rights and full participation in society. To facilitate the

national objective, there is a need for collection, compilation and analysis of data on disability.

The below table shows that the proportion of disabled population in total population.

**TABLE 1****STATE WISE SHARES OF DISABLED POPULATION IN INDIA**

State /UT	Number of Disabled	Total Population	% Disabled to Total Population
<b>INDIA</b>	<b>26814994</b>	<b>1210854977</b>	<b>2.21</b>
JAMMU & KASHMIR	361153	12541302	2.88
HIMACHAL PRADESH	155316	6864602	2.26
PUNJAB	654063	27743338	2.36
CHANDIGARH	14796	1055450	1.4
UTTARAKHAND	185272	10086292	1.84
HARYANA	546374	25351462	2.16
NCT OF DELHI	234882	16787941	1.4
RAJASTHAN	1563694	68548437	2.28
UTTAR PRADESH	4157514	199812341	2.08
BIHAR	2331009	104099452	2.24
SIKKIM	18187	610577	2.98
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	26734	1383727	1.93
NAGALAND	29631	1978502	1.5
MANIPUR	58547	2855794	2.05
MIZORAM	15160	1097206	1.38
TRIPURA	64346	3673917	1.75
MEGHALAYA	44317	2966889	1.49
ASSAM	480065	31205576	1.54
WEST BENGAL	2017406	91276115	2.21
JHARKHAND	769980	32988134	2.33
ODISHA	1244402	41974218	2.96
CHHATTISGARH	624937	25545198	2.45
MADHYA PRADESH	1551931	72626809	2.14
GUJARAT	1092302	60439692	1.81
DAMAN & DIU	2196	243247	0.9
DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	3294	343709	0.96
MAHARASHTRA	2963392	112374333	2.64
ANDHRA PRADESH	2266607	84580777	2.68
KARNATAKA	1324205	61095297	2.17
GOA	33012	1458545	2.26
LAKSHADWEEP	1615	64473	2.5
KERALA	761843	33406061	2.28
TAMIL NADU	1179963	72147030	1.64
PUDUCHERRY	30189	1247953	2.42
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS	6660	380581	1.75

Source: Census of India, 2011

The above table represent that, the statistical data of total population and total number of disabled population in All States and Union Territories of India. According to 2011 census data, the total population in India was around **1,21,08,54,977**, in this the total disabled population was 2.21 percentage. Across the country, the highest number of disabled has been reported from the States/ UTs like Sikkim, Odisha and Jammu & Kashmir around 2.98, 2.96 & 2.88 percentage respectively and the states/UTs like Daman & Diu, Dadar & Nagar Haveli, Chandigarh and the National capita of Delhi has the least disabled population around 0.9, 0.96, 1.4 & 1.4 percentage respectively and in state of TamilNadu the disabled around 1.64 percentage. The reasons behind the highest disabled population in Sikkim, Odisha & Jammu & Kashmir were due to lack of medical facilities, poverty and the political instability. In the least populated disabled states has all the infrastructure facilities with greater perception.

**'T' test**

An attempt was made to see whether there were any significant differences in the gender-wise number of disabled population in India and Tamil Nadu by using t test. The hypothesis tested was:

H<sub>0</sub>: There were no significant differences in the number of disabled population gender-wise in India and Tamil Nadu.

H<sub>a</sub>: There were significant differences in the number of disabled population gender-wise in India and Tamil Nadu.

The estimated results are shown in table

**TABLE 2****GROUP STATISTICS & LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR DISABLED POPULATION IN INDIA AND TAMILNADU**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>t</b>	<b>Sig. (2- Tailed)</b>
<b>Male India</b>	8	4833235	4977	2.621	<b>.020</b>
<b>Male in TN</b>	8	215294	22077	2.621	<b>.034</b>
<b>Female in India</b>	8	3562860	4041	2.378	<b>.032</b>
<b>Female in TN</b>	8	162431	17477	2.378	<b>.049</b>

**Source: Estimated from Secondary data**

From the table it is evident that there were significant differences in the number of disabled population gender-wise in India and Tamil Nadu at 5 percent level. While the mean population was higher in India than in Tamil Nadu, the variations in the population was higher in Tamil Nadu, variation being 22077 for males and 17477 for females.

**State wise shares of disabled children in India**

The state wise shares of disabled children to the all India disabled children were obtained in the below table.

TABLE 3

## STATE WISE SHARES OF DISABLED CHILDREN IN INDIA

State Name	Disabled Population	Disabled children	Share of Disabled Children in the Disabled Population	State Shares of Disabled Children to the All India Disabled Children
INDIA	26814994	2042887	7.62	100
JAMMU & KASHMIR	361153	27939	7.74	1.37
HIMACHAL PRADESH	155316	7203	4.64	0.35
PUNJAB	654063	43664	6.68	2.14
CHANDIGARH	14796	933	6.31	0.05
UTTARAKHAND	185272	12164	6.57	0.6
HARYANA	546374	37733	6.91	1.85
NCT OF DELHI	234882	13760	5.86	0.67
RAJASTHAN	1563694	89791	5.74	4.4
UTTAR PRADESH	4157514	414824	9.98	20.31
BIHAR	2331009	290999	12.48	14.24
SIKKIM	18187	628	3.45	0.03
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	26734	2123	7.94	0.1
NAGALAND	29631	1930	6.51	0.09
MANIPUR	58547	5201	8.88	0.25
MIZORAM	15160	908	5.99	0.04
TRIPURA	64346	4389	6.82	0.21
MEGHALAYA	44317	5058	11.41	0.25
ASSAM	480065	35742	7.45	1.75
WEST BENGAL	2017406	132405	6.56	6.48
JHARKHAND	769980	73262	9.51	3.59
ODISHA	1244402	81105	6.52	3.97
CHHATTISGARH	624937	35229	5.64	1.72
MADHYA PRADESH	1551931	117731	7.59	5.76
GUJARAT	1092302	78316	7.17	3.83
DAMAN & DIU	2196	113	5.15	0.01
DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	3294	321	9.74	0.02
MAHARASHTRA	2963392	217361	7.33	10.64

<b>ANDHRA PRADESH</b>	2266607	127168	5.61	6.22
<b>KARNATAKA</b>	1324205	92853	7.01	4.55
<b>GOA</b>	33012	1519	4.6	0.07
<b>LAKSHADWEEP</b>	1615	77	4.77	0
<b>KERALA</b>	761843	26242	3.44	1.28
<b>TAMIL NADU</b>	1179963	62538	5.3	3.06
<b>PUDUCHERRY</b>	30189	1273	4.22	0.06
<b>ANDAMAN &amp; NICOBAR ISLANDS</b>	6660	385	5.78	0.02

**Source: Census of India, 2011**

The above table shows that, the data of State wise/ UTs shares of disabled children to the All India disabled children. According to the census 2011, the total disabled population in India was around 2,68,14,994, in which the total disabled children was around 20,42,887. The all India share of disabled children in the disabled population was nearly 8 percent. Among the states/ union territories, the highest share of disabled children in disabled population in Bihar, Meghalaya and Uttar Pradesh were around 12.48, 11.41 and 9.98 percentage respectively and in the lowest share of disabled children in disabled population in states like Kerala, Sikkim and Puducherry were around 3.44, 3.45 and 4.22 percentage respectively. Across the country, the state shares of disabled children to the all India disabled children was highest in the states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra were 20.31, 14.24 and 10.64 percentage respectively and in the lowest shares in state Daman & Diu were just 0.01 percent and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Andaman Nicobar Islands both the union territories together shared 0.02 percentage respectively and in Lakshadweep there is zero percent disabled children. From the table, the study found that the maximum number of union territories had shared very lowest shares of disabled children to the all India disabled children, the reason behind was these territories were directly cared by central government.

**State wise Work Status of Disabled Persons in India**

The working and non-working status of disabled persons are discussed on various aspects of their participation in an economic activity shown in the below table.

TABLE 4

## WORK STATUS OF DISABLED PERSONS

State/UTs Name	Workers					Non - workers	Total Disabled
	Total	CL	AL	HHI	Others		
INDIA	9744386	2274322	2977272	435053	4057739	17070608	26814994
JAMMU & KASHMIR	121532	37696	19171	5597	59068	239621	361153
HIMACHAL PRADESH	68917	41460	3955	1281	22221	86399	155316
PUNJAB	216320	40112	38180	10897	127131	437743	654063
CHANDIGARH	4641	37	21	77	4506	10155	14796
UTTARAKHAND	64888	27688	7125	2473	27602	120384	185272
HARYANA	170600	43740	32770	6397	87693	375774	546374
NCT OF DELHI	65573	650	589	2529	61805	169309	234882
RAJASTHAN	541842	235244	95010	15336	196252	1021852	1563694
UTTAR PRADESH	1446393	391424	432259	100898	521812	2711121	4157514
BIHAR	865347	170216	449657	40226	205248	1465662	2331009
SIKKIM	8918	4259	1082	148	3429	9269	18187
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	11948	6920	816	198	4014	14786	26734
NAGALAND	15384	10416	969	375	3624	14247	29631
MANIPUR	25582	11607	2091	2007	9877	32965	58547
MIZORAM	5499	3223	571	85	1620	9661	15160
TRIPURA	21627	3905	4637	690	12395	42719	64346
MEGHALAYA	16724	7619	2929	516	5660	27593	44317
ASSAM	162785	56262	27834	8157	70532	317280	480065
WEST BENGAL	685516	98499	195878	48320	342819	1331890	2017406
JHARKHAND	290133	79453	103768	12571	94341	479847	769980
ODISHA	427020	102195	162563	21288	140974	817382	1244402
CHHATTISGARH	240846	76795	101547	4525	57979	384091	624937
MADHYA PRADESH	613921	169627	232762	22542	188990	938010	1551931
GUJARAT	380064	71037	92115	7015	209897	712238	1092302
DAMAN & DIU	774	36	11	2	725	1422	2196
DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	1159	274	205	37	643	2135	3294
MAHARASHTRA	1248337	288569	341799	37672	580297	1715055	2963392
ANDHRA PRADESH	875187	129932	353904	36135	355216	1391420	2266607
KARNATAKA	503902	102038	122778	19029	260057	820303	1324205
GOA	9505	780	661	331	7733	23507	33012
LAKSHADWEEP	321	0	0	3	318	1294	1615
KERALA	179694	12517	23281	5556	138340	582149	761843
TAMIL NADU	442032	49519	124460	21814	246239	737931	1179963
PUDUCHERRY	9358	281	1770	269	7038	20831	30189
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS	2097	292	104	57	1644	4563	6660

Source: Census of India, 2011, CL- Cultivators, AL- Agricultural Labourers HHI-Household Industries

The table shows that, in all India level the total disabled persons were totally 2,68,14,994, in this

the total workers were 97,44,386 and non-workers were 1,70,70,608 numbers. Among the States/UTs the disabled workers were concentrated on Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh and the minimum number of workers were concentrated in States like Lakshadweep, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli. Among the disabled persons who were working as Cultivators were more in states /UTs like Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan and least in Daman &Diu, Chandigarh and Puducherry and there was no cultivate workers in Lakshadweep. Among the agricultural Labourers, the highest number were in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh and in the lowest were in Daman &Diu, Chandigarh and Andaman Nicobar Islands and in Lakshadweep none of the workers were agricultural Labour. In the Household Industries maximum numbers of workers were in Uttar Pradesh, west Bengal & Bihar and minimum numbers were in Daman &Diu, Lakshadweep and Dadra & Nagar Haveli. Among disabled non-workers were more concentrated in Uttar Pradesh Maharashtra and Bihar and least in Lakshadweep, Daman &Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

### **Conclusion**

To be concluded that, across the country, the highest number of disabled persons has been reported from the States/ UTs like Sikkim, Odisha and Jammu & Kashmir and the reasons behind this were due to lack of medical facilities, poverty and the political instability. The study found that the maximum number of union territories had shared very lowest shares of disabled children to the all India disabled children, the reason behind was these territories were directly cared by central government. Among the States/UTs the disabled workers were concentrated on Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh and the minimum number of workers were concentrated in States like Lakshadweep, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli. Hence, the government really wants to ensure justice and empower the disabled population, then it must have a robust institutional framework which can truly provide them all facilities to live their better life in the country.

### **Recommendations**

- The voice of the disabled needs to be recognized by the government.
- Strong encouragement and assistance needs to be given to people with mental disability and their representatives to form organization.
- Information regarding disability needs to be disseminated far and wide across the country.
- Organized monitoring of disability services and benefits disbursed is needed.
- There needs to be more research on factors associated with disability in India.

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