

## **Disability in India: An Overview**

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According to World Health Organisation Manual, disability is defined as any restriction or lack (resulting from an impairment) to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being. In a developing country like India, with low per capita income and slow economic growth rate, disabled population is a matter of concern. Therefore it is important to study the background of disable person and their occupation. The National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO 1991) revealed that 1.9 percent of the India's total population were affected with physical and sensory disability, which accounts almost equal to the total population of a country like Australia.

In the present paper, disability analysis has been done using data from National Family Health Survey (NFHS), India, 1992-93. NFHS gives the information about blindness (partial and complete) and physical impairment of limbs for each members (5,00042) from all over the country. Bi-variate and multivariate (logistic regression) analysis of data is carried out to have an insight into the demographic an occupational status of the disabled population among the different socio-economic groups.

The overall prevalence of partial blindness and complete blindness is 2585 and 416 (per 100000 population) respectively. Females are more prone to partial as well as complete blindness than males. As expected age shows the highly positive correlation with blindness. Prevalence of persons with physically impaired limbs is 639 per 100000 population. People impaired by legs are more than double than people impaired by hand. Males were found to be more physically impaired by limbs than female (776 compared to 494 per 100000 population). Logistic regression results substantiate the significant differential of disabled persons by education, age and sex.

Despite of reservation policy in occupation for the disabled in India (3 percent), blind and orthopaedically handicapped people are either unemployed or being absorbed in household works and other unorganized sectors. A substantial proportion of blind and physically impaired limb people are also beggars. Therefore, to enhance the physical quality of life of the overall population, disabled persons should be incorporated in a more comprehensive manner for their welfare.

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