

## **Socio-Economic Status of Physical Disability in India: A Need of Social Inclusion**

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### **Abstract**

Person with disability means those who have long term physical, mental, intellectual or impairments, which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society. Legal regulations have basically been framed to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights. The study attempted to identify the status of the disability in India and to study the socio-economic impact on the disabled persons. The study is based on the secondary data collected from the books and journals and simple percentage method is used to analyse the data. It has been observed in the study that the impact due to disability is serious which hampers the growth of individual, family as well as the nation. The disabled person needs the support of the society for their independence. The social reforms should be introduced so that more and more disabled people will feel comfort in mixing with the non-disabled people. Disabled person are deprived form the formal education hence they should be provided the education which can reduce their feelings of exclusion from the society. Poverty is the main cause of disability and eradication of the poverty will bring disabled person in the mainstream along with the non-disabled persons.

### **Introduction**

Every person in the world wanted to enjoy good life with more comfort and less hardship. Some are successful with their hardworking and with blessing of god. However without their fault some faces hardship in their life due to their inborn physical and mental defects or due to some tragic accident occurred in their life. The hardship which has to face by the person due to physical disability may overcome with the willingness of the person to live and overcome the defects in their life either physical or mental. The government has made some act and measures which provides some benefits and also rights under the act in the employment due to physical disability of person. Physical disability hampers the life of the person and brings the poverty, unemployment and makes the life of the person unstable.

Person with disability means those who have long term physical, mental, intellectual or impairments, which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society. Legal regulations have basically been framed to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights.

### **Key words: Disability, socio –economic, exclusion, inclusion and poverty**

The Persons with Disability (Equal Opportunity, Protection of Rights and Full Participation)Act 1995 defines the term Disability as:

Blindness

- Low vision
- Leprosy cured
- Hearing impairment
- Locomotor disability
- Mental retardation
- Mental illness

A Person suffering from not less than forty percent of any disability as certified by a medical authority is defined as disabled person.

**Objectives of the Study**

- 1) To identify the status of physical disability in India.
- 2) To identify the socio –economic impact on the disabled person.
- 3) To suggest remedial measures for social inclusion of disabled persons into mainstream.

**Review of Earlier Studies**

G.M.MonawarHosain, David Atkinson and Peter Underwood revealed that disability had a devastating effect on the quality of life of the disabled people with a particularly negative effect on their marriage ,education, attainment ,employment and emotional state . Disability also jeopardized their personal, family and social life.

Annaikumar Ray Laskar and others conducted study with the objective of assessing the psycho-social and economic burden of parents of children with locomotive disability .the study conflicts among the family members arising from the burden of rearing a disabled children and estimated burdens are financial, family activities, family leisure family interaction physical health and mental of parents .

NilikaMehrotra found that disabled people were effectively excluded from being in paid employment due to the fact that they were not able to maintain the pace set by the factory system. The study observed that having mental illness has a strong negative impact on the probability of employment.

**Problem 1:** To identify the status of physical disability in India

**DISABILITY STATUS IN INDIA**

As per the census 2001 over 21 million people in India suffering the disability from one or the other. As per the census 2011 the differently-abled population in India is 26.8 million .In percentage term, this stands at 2.21 percent. There has been marginal increase in the differently-abled population in India, with the figure rising from 21.9 million in 2001 to 26.8 million in 10 yrs.

TABLE 1

As per census 2001 highest rate of Disability state in India

states	Disability	percentage
Uttar Pradesh	3453369	15.76
Bihar	1887611	8.61
West Bengal	1847174	8.43
TamilNadu	1642497	7.49
Maharashtra	1569582	7.16
Madhya Pradesh	1408528	6.42
Rajasthan	1411979	6.44
Andrapradesh	1364981	6.23
Gujrat	1045465	4.77
Orissa	1021335	4.66
INDIA	21906769	100

Source:-

Above table shows the disability exists in India according to state wise of top 10 states it has been observed that Uttar Pradesh has recorded 15.76 percent of disability followed by Bihar with 8.61 percent and west Bengal with 8.43 percent. In Tamilnadu disability population is 7.49 percent and Maharashtra 7.16 percent followed by Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Gujrat and Orissa.

Table 2

Disabled population according to type of Disability in India 2011

Type of disability	Persons	Male	Females
In Seeing	5032463(18.8)	2638516(17.6)	2393947(20.2)
In hearing	5071007(18.9)	2677544(17.9)	2393463(20.2)
In speech	1998535(7.5)	1122896(7.5)	875639(7.4)
In Movement	5436604(20.3)	3370374(22.5)	2066230(17.5)
Mental retardation	1505624(5.6)	870708(5.8)	634916(5.4)
Mental Illness	722826(2.7)	425732(2.8)	307094(2.6)
Any other	4927011(18.7)	2727828(18.2)	2199183(18.6)
Multiple Disability	2116487(7.9)	1162604(7.8)	953883(8.1)
TOTAL	26810557(100)	14986202(100)	11824355(100)

Source: census of India, 2011

The table shows that the disability in seeing and hearing in females is higher than males. In movement, mental retardation and mental illness the male's disability is higher than females. Multiple disability and others disability in females is higher than males

Problem 2: To identify the socio –economic impact on the disabled person

#### IMPACT OF DISABILITY ON ECONOMY

##### 1) Loss in GDP

There is loss in the GDP of the country. The disabled person does not have the income generation capacity which non-disabled person has. If there is no physical disability h exists in the society than the income of the people would have increased. Thus due to the disability the income of the economy goes down or falls .thus the Gross domestic product of the economy lowers

Table 3

GDP Lost due Disability

Value of GDP lost (us\$)	Low estimate (bn)	Proportion of total GDP lost (%)	High Estimate (bn)	Proportion of total GDP lost (%)
High Income countries	1224.01	4.77	1594	6.21
Medium Income countries	377.70	7.34	492	9.56
Low Income countries	110.49	9.41	144	12.26
Total	1712.20	5.35	2230	6.97

Table shows that loss in GDP in low income countries is higher than other whereas the in case of high estimate of low income countries is higher than low and medium income countries. It is estimated that India is losing the GDP of\$ 510 bn due to disability

#### Poverty

The disability makes the person weaker in terms of financial resources. It not only lowers the income of the person but loss of earnings of one male members of the household can result in debt and if any saving has made by the any household members spent on the medical expenses .. Poverty in the families makes the life of person uncomfortable due to person did not have adequate income to satisfy the basic needs of the family.. The disabled person is the victim of the poverty due to his or inability and unable to get the employment. People living in the poverty line or below are involved with higher risk of acquiring the disability. The health care measures taken by the family of the disabled person is less or absolutely nil due to low income or poverty exists in the family. People in the rural area are more affected with poverty as compared to urban people and disability rate is higher in the rural area as compared to urban. The education which is considered as effective medium to overcome or eradicate poverty but the disability keeps the people away from the formal education and later on it affect their employment. Due to lack of education they are denied the jobs and the poverty remains in the family of the disabled person, Thus it is a vicious circle where the disabled person are considered as exclusive of the basic necessity of the life. Physical disability and poverty is an vicious circle.. The major economic impact of the disability is the poverty in the family. The disability has direct and indirect impact on the family of the disabled person as well as on the society as whole.

- 1) The cost of treatment on the disability and rehabilitation including travel and service fees, cost of equipment etc. are direct cost incurred by the disabled person.
- 2) Persons with disability have to forgone the income due to disability. The disabled person is unable to get the employment due to the physical disability .hence their income contribution to the family and the economy has a whole is negligible.
- 3) The family members who takes the care of the disabled person also loses the income of their due to looking after the disabled person .hence it is a loss to the supportive members of the family with regards to the income generation.
- 4) Beside these there are other effect due to disability of person are as follows
  - 1) Family leisure

When there is disabled person t in the family the family members cannot enjoy the daily leisure such as watching TV, going for movies or outdoor activities. They have to be continuously after the disabled person

2) Family interaction

There is no scope for the family interaction between the family members and outsiders due to disability of the person in the family. people cannot travel or visit the other family members or relative due to the continuous care of the disabled person .thus it disrupt the relationship in the family members of the disabled person

3) Parents of the disabled person are on the continuous stress due to responsibility of the disabled person. They are also worried about the taking care of the disabled person after their death. All these factor s creates the impact on the physical and mental health of the parents.

**Impact of Disability On Social Life**

The disability creates impact on the social status of the people which make them feel about exclusively different from the society and with such feeling they get frustration in their life. Disability people suffers from the good health which creates the impact on the stamina of the disabled person. Overall disability creates impact on the quality life of the person. Thus disabled person quality of life is inferior to the non-disabled people and due to this their social participant reduces. The social participation normally is higher in the younger age as compared to old age. Along with the social and economic problems the disabled person also faces the emotional disturbance due to his/her disability. Emotional problems such as grief's, depressions, suicidal tendency and economic dependency were related to disability. Disable people should be exposed to friendly environment otherwise it becomes more difficult to accept handicapped people as part of the environment around us. Disabled children and adults are at risk of experiencing social exclusion and discrimination associated with their disability. Disability affect the different facets of life of a person and this life is often complicated by negative forces such as ignorance, prejudice, negativism and insensitivity.

**Disability and Social Exclusion**

Person with disability always feels that they are excluded from the society and they are been targeted with discrimination between disabled and non –disabled person. In the society tier participations negligible and which widens the gap between the disabled and non-disabled person. The social exclusion has been encompassing participation restrictions in four key domains which affect the involvement of the disabled people in the society and they are as follows

1) Consumption

The disabled people are being faced with the hardship in their life and poverty existence in their families makes them feel that they are being excluded from the mainstream of the society. The discrimination due to poverty is due to disability and unable to make their life up to the rank of the non-disabled person.

2) Production

The disabled person cannot contribute to the economy due to their disability. The employment opportunity for the disabled person are less or negligible compare to non-disabled person. They feel that they are being discriminated by the society due to non-contribution in the economic development of the nation. The disability brings additional cost to the non-disabled people in the society by making the availability of the goods and service s to the disabled person.

### 3) Political and Civic Engagement

Participation in the political life is a right given by the constitution of each country. Right to vote is a right of the person whether disabled or non-disabled. But due to the disability the person cannot enjoy the right and be the party of the decision making of the country. They feel that they are being excluded from the participation of the political and civic rights

### 4) Social interaction

Disabled persons have a feeling of social exclusion due to their restrictive social network. They cannot mix with the local community or the groups due to their disabilities. Their associations with the social organizations are limited. They are deprived of the formal education which they feel they are being neglected in the society

### **Conclusion of the Study**

The study observed that

- 1) The mental and locomotor disability are higher as compared to other types of disability in India
- 2) Uttar Pradesh is the highest state followed by Bihar and West Bengal
- 3) The disability in seeing and hearing in females is higher than males. And in movement, mental retardation and mental illness the male's disability is higher than females.
- 6) The loss in GDP of low income countries is higher than high income countries due to disability.
- 7) The disability creates a serious impact on the economic and social life of the disabled persons
- 8) Consumption, production, political and civic engagement and social interaction are the core principles of social exclusion

### **Suggestions for social inclusion**

It has been observed in the study that the impact due to disability is serious which hampers the growth of individual, family as well as the nation. The disabled person needs the support of the society for their independence. The social reforms should be introduced so that more and more disabled people will feel comfort in mixing with the non-disabled people. The government has taken serious measures but it has to be implemented strictly by the stakeholders of the society. They should feel that they are the part of the society and equally contributing to the development of the nation. There should not be discrimination between disabled and non-disabled persons in the society. More awareness, interaction between all the stakeholders of the society with disabled people, employment opportunities in the public as well as private sectors are some measures that may be taken to bring them in the mainstream of the society. They should be provided with the equipment's which are high technology based through which they can independently handle their problems. Personal assistance services also may be provided to them so that they feel comfort with their problems such as custodial care etc. Disabled persons are deprived of formal education hence they should be provided the education which can reduce their feelings of exclusion from the society. Poverty is the main cause of disability and eradication of the poverty will bring disabled persons in the mainstream along with the non-disabled persons.

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