

India

SOURCE

Name of source: *National Sample Survey 2002 (58th Round) - Schedule 26 - Disabled Persons*

Institution responsible for the statistics: National Sample Survey Organisation - Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI)

Type of source: Household Socio-Economic/Monitoring Survey

Periodicity:

Objectives: The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) carried out the first country wide comprehensive survey of physically disabled persons during the 36th round survey (July - December, 1981). The next survey on the subject was carried out after a period of ten years in NSS 47th round (July - December, 1991). In NSS 36th and 47th round surveys, information was collected on three types of physical disabilities - visual, communication and locomotor - along with the cause of disability, aid/appliance acquired by the disabled, general and vocational educational level of the disabled etc. In addition, data on developmental milestones and behavioural pattern of all children of age 5-14 years, regardless of whether they were physically disabled or not, were collected.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE) made a request for conducting a survey on disability in order to meet the data needs for evolving specific strategies and interventions during the 10th Five Year Plan. The need for a detailed survey on disability was strongly felt by MSJE since its data requirement included not only the number of disabled persons, but also the socio-economic characteristics of the disabled persons such as their age structure, literacy, vocational training, employment, causative factors of disability, age at the onset of disability etc. Keeping in view the urgent data need of the MSJE, the Governing Council of NSSO, in its 81st meeting, decided that the survey on disability may also be carried out as a part of NSS 58th round during July - December 2002. It has been decided that:

(i) The survey of disabled persons also covers persons with mental disability apart from the physically disabled persons since the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE) also requested for information on mentally disabled persons. The decision to include mental disability in the survey has been taken on the basis of a pre-test of the questions on mental disability, both for the listing and detailed schedules, carried out in the four cities of Kolkata, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Delhi.

(ii) The information for different types of disabilities is collected for persons of all age-groups. Separate information on the developmental milestones of children are not collected.

COVERAGE

Disabilities: Type of disability, degree of each type of disability, cause of disability, age at onset of disability, type of aid/appliance acquired etc.

Population groups: All age groups

Total population covered: Na

Economic activities: All

Sectors covered: Na

Labour force status: Employed, unemployed, inactive

Status in Employment: All

Geographic areas: The whole of the Indian Union, except (i) Leh and Kargil districts of Jammu & Kashmir, (ii) interior villages of Nagaland situated beyond five kilometres of the bus route and (iii) villages in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which remain inaccessible throughout the year.

Establishments: NR

Other limitations: Na

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Term used to denote 'disability': 'Disability' or 'Disabled Person'

Definition of this term:

Disability: A person with restrictions or lack of abilities to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being is treated as having disability. It excludes illness/injury of recent origin (morbidity) resulting into temporary loss of ability to see, hear, speak or move.

Mental disability: Persons who have difficulty in understanding routine instructions, who do not carry out their activities like others of similar age or exhibit behaviours like talking to self, laughing / crying, staring, violence, fear and suspicion without reason would be considered as mentally disabled for the purpose of the survey. The 'activities like others of similar age' will include activities of communication (speech), self-care (cleaning of teeth, wearing clothes, taking bath, taking food, personal hygiene, etc.), home living (doing some household chores) and social skills.

Visual disability: By visual disability it is meant, loss or lack of ability to execute tasks requiring adequate visual acuity. For the survey, visually disabled will include (a) those who do not have any light perception - both eyes taken together and (b) those who have light perception but cannot correctly count fingers of hand (with spectacles/contact lenses if he/she uses spectacles/contact lenses) from a distance of 3 metres (or 10 feet) in good day light with both eyes open. Night blindness is not to be considered as visual disability.

Hearing disability: This refers to persons' inability to hear properly. Hearing disability is to be judged taking into consideration the disability of the better ear. In other words, if one ear of a person is normal and the other ear has total hearing loss, then the person is to be judged as normal in hearing for the purpose of the survey. Hearing disability will be judged without taking into consideration the use of hearing aids (i.e., the position for the person when hearing aid is not used). Persons with hearing disability may have different degrees of disability, such as profound, severe or moderate. A person will be treated as having 'profound' hearing disability if he/she cannot hear at all or can only hear loud sounds, such as, thunder or understands only gestures. A person will be treated as having 'severe' hearing disability if he/she can hear only shouted words or can hear only if the speaker is sitting in the front. A person will be treated as having 'moderate' hearing disability if his/her disability is neither profound nor severe. Such a person will usually ask to repeat the words spoken by the speaker

or will like to see the face of the speaker while he/she speaks or will feel difficulty in conducting conversations.

Speech disability: This refers to persons' inability to speak properly. Speech of a person is judged to be disordered if the person's speech is not understood by the listener. Persons with speech disability will include those who cannot speak, speak only with limited words or those with loss of voice. It also includes those whose speech is not understood due to defects in speech, such as stammering, nasal voice, hoarse voice and discordant voice and articulation defects, etc.

Locomotor disability: A person with - (a) loss or lack of normal ability to execute distinctive activities associated with the movement of himself/herself and objects from place to place and (b) physical deformities, other than those involving the hand or leg or both, regardless of whether the same caused loss or lack of normal movement of body – will be considered as disabled with locomotor disability. Thus, persons having locomotor disability will include those with (a) loss or absence or inactivity of whole or part of hand or leg or both due to amputation, paralysis, deformity or dysfunction of joints which affects his/her 'normal ability to move self or objects' and (b) those with physical deformities in the body (other than limbs), such as, hunch back, deformed spine, etc. Dwarfs and persons with stiff neck of permanent nature who generally do not have difficulty in the normal movement of body and limbs will also be treated as disabled.

For determining the extent of physical disability of a disabled person, self-care, such as, ability to go to latrine, taking food, getting dressed, etc. were taken into account. Irrespective of whether or not a disabled person had 'single' or 'multiple' disability, they were classified into one of the four categories:

- cannot take care even with aid/ appliance
- can take self-care only with aid/ appliance
- can take self-care without aid/ appliance
- aid/ appliance not tried/not available.

Source of this definition:

Questions used to identify persons with disabilities:

'Do you have single (mental, visual, hearing, speech, locomotor) or multiple disabilities?' 'What is the extent of disability: cannot take self-care even with aid/appliance, can take self-care with only aid/appliance, can take self-care without aid/appliance, aid/appliance not tried / not available ?' 'Was he/she working before the onset of disability' and 'if working before the onset of disability, whether disability caused loss or change of work: loss of work, change of work, or loss or no change of work?'

Minimum duration to be considered as a person with disability: Na

CLASSIFICATION

Classifications: Na

Cross-classifications: Na

REFERENCE PERIOD: July-December 2002

DISSEMINATION

National publications: A report on Disabled Persons' published by the NSSO in 'Sarvekshana', 91 Issue, Vol. XXVII No. 1 & 2 (July 2007)

Website: http://mospi.nic.in/Mospi_New/upload/sarvekshana_91_final.pdf

Additional resources: Mitra, Sophie, and Usha Sambamoorthi. '[Employment of Persons with Disabilities: Evidence from the National Sample Survey](#).' Economic and Political Weekly 41, no. 3 (2006): 199-203. Available at http://www.jstor.org/stable/4417696?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents