



## A Profile Of The Physically Handicapped In Karnataka

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### Abstract:

#### **THE CONCEPT OF DISABILITY**

*The concept of disability differs from person to person and from survey and is defined in different ways depending on the purpose in view. Generally speaking the 'physically handicapped' are the person who have completely lost the use or use or who can make only a restricted use of one or more of their limbs, i.e. the total or partial functional disablement. The term disabled suggests a person who falls short of normal physical fitness. The three categories of physical disability are (a) blind, (b) deaf and dumb, (c) crippled. These are defined as follows.*

(a) Blind- means the persons who have totally lost their sight or whose vision is of no practical value to them for the purpose of education or in the general business of living.

(b) Deaf and dumb – the deaf are those in whom the sense of hearing is non-functional for ordinary purposes of life. In other words, a deaf person cannot hear for all practical purposes, being deaf in both ears, while the dumb is a person who cannot talk.

(c) Crippled – are persons disabled because of defect in bones, joints, muscles, ligaments of spine and the limbs fall in the category of orthopedic ally handicapped. It can result from congenital defects, malformation, accidents and also from diseases such as poliomyelitis, tuberculosis, small pox, etc.

According to literature available on disability, disabled means any activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being. Sociologists and psychologists also have viewed it in different ways. According to Dr. Kessles, physically handicapped are those individual who have a physical defect obvious or hidden, which limits their physical capacity to work. Psychological definition of disability is as follows. "A handicapped impairment or lack in sense-organ or operant behavior functions" such impairment as interferes with other functions, e.g. severe visual disability when it interferes with social learning or with reading. Marvin Sussaman defined disability term as term impairment or deviation from the normal which results in defective function, structure, organisation or development of the whole or in part of the individual's faculties.

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According to U.N., “a person unable to ensure by himself or herself, wholly or partly, the necessities of normal individual and/or social life, as a result of deficiency, either congenital or not, in his or her disabled. Disability thus refers to any limitations experienced by disabled persons in comparison with able-persons of similar age, sex and culture.

(2) SOURCES OF DATA

In India the main sources on physically handicapped can be obtained from census, N.S.S.O and special exchange. For operational purposes to generate data on disabled, the census and the National Sample Survey Organisation have adopted different criteria in their different rounds/periods. They are as follows.

In the surveys conducted in the earlier rounds, persons with certain types of physical handicaps were enumerated. The data collected were not dependable due to the fact that definition etc. were not worked out with involvement of medical experts as had been done in the 36th round. No compared estimates of physical disability can be derived form the results of the earlier rounds to assess change over time. No systematic information about the incidence of impact of disability was collected in the earlier rounds. So to fill this critical gap in information, N.S.S.O. has launched from July 1981, a country-wide sample survey of disabled person. This round was called the 36th round.

NSS		
Round	Period	Definition
16 <sup>th</sup>	July 1960-August 1961	<p><b>Blind:</b> A person who cannot see for practical purposes, being blind in both the eyes.</p> <p><b>Deaf:</b> A person who cannot hear for practical purposes being deaf in both the ears.</p> <p><b>Dumb:</b> A person who cannot talk.</p> <p><b>Lame:</b> A person other than a leper, who is disabled or deformed in either of the legs.</p> <p><b>Leper:</b> A person who suffers from leprosy.</p> <p><b>Crippled:</b> A person other than a leper, who is deformed in any part of the body excepting legs and is disabled thereby.</p>

Source: The N.S Survey, 16<sup>th</sup> round No 117.



TABLES WITH NOTES ON THE EDUCATION OF THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS.

Round	Period	Definitions
24 <sup>th</sup>	July 1969-June 1970	<p><b>Blind:</b></p> <p>A person who cannot see for all practical purposes, being blind in both the eyes will be called ‘blind’. Persons with failing eye- sight due to old age or those who use spectacles and cannot see without them will not be treated as blind.</p> <p><b>Deaf:</b></p> <p>A person who cannot hear for all practical purpose will be treated as deaf. Those who use hearing aids were considered deaf in 24<sup>th</sup> round, however in 28<sup>th</sup> round such persons were treated as not deaf.</p> <p><b>Dumb:</b></p> <p>One who cannot talk is dumb.</p> <p><b>Lame:</b></p> <p>One who is disabled or deformed in either of his legs is a lame person.</p> <p><b>Crippled:</b></p> <p>A person who is deformed in any part of the body other than legs and is disabled thereby.</p>
36 <sup>th</sup>	July-December 1981	<p><b>Definition</b></p> <p><b>Visual disability:</b></p> <p>It means loss or lack of abilities to execute tasks requiring adequate visual capacity.</p> <p><b>Communication Disability:</b></p> <p>It refers to the disability to hear or to speech defects. Speech defects included in-ability to speech or voice defects.</p> <p><b>Locomotive Disability:</b></p> <p>It means an individual inability to execute distinctive activities associated with moving both himself and objects from place to place.</p>

CENSUS ON DISABLED:

The census in Indian context, census of 1931 and 1981 and N.S.S.O. rounds have specifically defined the physically handicapped. The census while collecting data on disabled has instructed the enumerators to collect information only on the totally blind, totally crippled and totally dumb due to lack of professional knowledge and experience among enumerators in identifying the disability. The census data of 1931 and 1981 are not comparable due to the following reasons. The census of disabled persons during 1931 covered blind and deaf only. No information was collected on the orthopedically handicapped during this period. For the first time in the history of Indian census, data on orthopedically was collected during 1981 census.

According to the then Census Commissioner of 1931, Mr.M.W.H. Yeatt's opined “Grave qualifications must attain to even the base records infirmity secured through a census enumeration and are allocation of infirmities by community based on such original enquiry can hardly be of any real value and might be misleading”.

Since the enumerators fail to understand the instructions properly and interpret them in a variety of different ways, the reliability of the statistics is lost.

During 1981 census, the enumerators were instructed with the reality to collect that data only for those who are totally blind, totally crippled and totally deaf. Due to the reasons mentioned above, the data of both 1931 and 1981 cannot be compared. In addition during the reorganization of states during 1956, many



changes have taken place among districts and towns. But the first point of the utmost interest which emerges from the figures of 1981 census is the vast increase of the number over that of 1931. These refer of course to the dumb and the blind the crippled population.

The initial feeling was that in view of the vast improvement made in public would have been decreased since 1931. The figures however reveal a contrary situation.

#### **Census of 1931**

##### **Insane, Totally Blind, Leper of Deaf Mute:**

As in previous census the fact was recorded for each individual who was found to be insane, deaf and dumb, blind of both eyes or suffering from corrosive leprosy. Those who suffered the loss of the sight of one eye only or as leper, persons who suffered from leucoderma were avoided from being shown under the category 'Blind' or 'Leprosy'

#### **DEFINITION OF DISABLED IN 1981 CENSUS:**

- 1) Blind: The blind are those who suffer from the following conditions:
  - a) Total absence of sight
  - b) Visual activity not exceeding 6/60 or 20/200 (shellen) in the batter eye with correcting lenses
  - c) Limitation of the field of vision substanding an angle of 20 degrees or worse.

2)The deaf The deaf are those in whom the sense of hearing is nonfunctional for ordinary purposes of life. Generally loss of hearing at 70 decibels or above at 500, 1000 or 2000 frequencies will make residual hearing nonfunctional.

3)The orthopedically Handicapped: The orthopedically handicapped are those who have physical defect or deformity which causes an undue interference with the normal functioning of the bones, muscled and joints.

#### **OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:**

The current paper mainly has the following objectives:

1)To draw a profile of the disabled in Karnataka. This has been done by drawing up data available from census and N.S.S.O.

2)To examine a changes in the disabled population over a period of time.  
Only three kinds of disabled have been covered, namely blind, deaf and dumb, and orthopedically handicapped.

#### **DATASORCEANDLIMITATION:**

The Sources of data are census, N.S.S. The census data on disabled has a few limitations.

a)It does not provide data by age/sex, reason for not taking treatment or rehabilitation for them and rural/urban i.e. place of residence.

It does not proved data by age or sex, rural/ urban residence, reason for having not taken treatment etc. However, the N.S.S.O. in its 36th round has covered more detail on the disabled because of the sample which may not be the real representation of the area.

#### **MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM:**

With regard to the magnitude of the disabilities it is assumed that in every country, one person in ten has a physical, mental or sensory impairment. On that basis, the number of handicapped persons in India may be around 68 million [U.N. (Altimeter)] –As such nearly one eighth of the world's disabled population lives in India. Very few studies have been undertaken to analyse the magnitude and nature of the problem of the handicapped and these lack comparability because different definition and criteria of the disability are

used.

It is estimated that as the population increases, the disabled number also increases. Due to the inadequate preventive measures, the number of persons with disability as a result of polio, tuberculosis, malaria and leprosy have not decreased.

Increase in industries and road accidents have led to increase in orthopedically handicapped number. The highest incidence of disability is found among the under privileged. There is a close relationship between disabled and socio-economic disadvantages, poverty, lack of education and job opportunities, geographical location, etc.

In India the exact estimate of physically handicapped persons have been obtained through census as well as N.S.S. rounds. These give the data of each category of the handicapped. Even though the data provides certain ideas about the number of disabled persons, the true picture is not available. Not only this but the data procured in different rounds had different objectives in focus. Hence the data available from different NSS rounds are not comparable. Secondly, the category of handicapped. Even though the data provides certain ideas about the number of disabled persons, the data procured in different rounds had different objectives in focus. Hence the data valuable from different NSS rounds are not comparable. Secondly, the category of handicapped enumerated/estimated is varied for different census and rounds. However there are several attempts which help to provide the basic data of disabled population.

It is surprising to note that the magnitude of the problem is varied when we see the data for different periods of time. This comes in the way of knowing the correct or true picture of the magnitude of the problems. It is commendable that at least a more detailed census data for each of the categories of handicapped along with reasons are reported in 1981 census. This limitation becomes a hindrance in policy making. The following tables reveal the Karnataka picture as compared to other states and in Karnataka.

The following are the Rank Positions of States having disabled population in India.

States	Disabled Population
Uttar Pradesh	164556
Madhya Pradesh	101873
West Bengal	100955
Andhra Pradesh	100552
Bihar	98735
Tamil Nadu	87431
Rajasthan	80043
Gujarat	68399
Orissa	61298
Karnataka	54730
Kerala	31058
Punjab	19328
Haryana	15843
Jammu & Kashmir	13795
Himachal Pradesh	10714
Tipura	4143
Nagaland	2792
Meghalaya	2676
Arunachal Pradesh	2626
Sikkim	2483
Manipur	2167
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	262
<b>India</b>	<b>1118948</b>

**DISTRICT-WISE BREAK-UP THE DISABLED POPULATION IN KARNATAKA**

State	Total No	No of	No. of Totally
District of disabled	Disabled	Blind Crippled	Dumb
Population			
Total			
Karnataka	54730	0.15	17613
Bangalore	5043	0.10	1386
Belgaum	4137	0.13	1423
Bellary 2234	0.15	878	68
Bidar	1860	0.18	377
Bijapur 3434	0.14	1247	194
Chickmanglur	1185	0.13	466
Chitradurga	3266	0.18	989
Dakshina			
Kannada	2944	0.12	1213
Dharwad	3785	0.13	1405
Gulbarga	3145	0.15	936
Hassan	2307	0.17	784
Kodagu 365	0.07	78	147
Kolar	3644	0.19	1024
Mandya 2207	0.15	674	778
Mysore	3880	0.15	1271
Raichur 2847	0.16	1180	886
Shimoga	2468	0.15	853
Tumkur 4447	0.22	1554	1326
Uttara Kannada 1532	0.14	311	507

**PREVALENCE RATES PER 1, 00,000****POPULATION OF VISUAL, COMMUNICATION AND LOCOMOTOR DISABLED OF KARNATAKA**

Type of	Rural			Urban		
	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons
Visual	445	749	593	218	418	315
<b>Communication:</b>						
Hearing	675	518	-	391	422	-
Speech	407	276	-	330	249	-
Locomotor Paralysis	152	111	-	220	128	-
Deformation of limb	479	340	-	287	194	-
Amputation	57	14	-	86	6	-
Disfunction of joint	222	179	-	166	120	-
At least one type	990	674	-	781	509	-
<b>II. Incidence Rate Per 1,00,00 in Karnataka</b>						
Visual	41	56	49	12	33	22
<b>Communication:</b>						
Hearing	26	11	-	7	14	-
Speech	16	-	-	18	7	-
Locomotor						
Data not available						

The prevalence of visual disability among females is higher than among males both in rural and urban areas of Karnataka.

The prevalence of hearing / communication disability among males is higher than among females in rural areas while the same among females is slightly higher than among males in urban areas. The prevalence of speech disability is higher among males than females both in rural and urban areas in Karnataka. The prevalence of the different types of locomotors both in rural and urban areas of Karnataka. The deformity of limb is more common among other types of disability. The concentration is more in rural areas in this category.

#### INCIDENCE:

The incidence of visual disability is more among females both in rural and urban areas. The incidence of hearing disability among males is more than females in rural areas. In urban areas, females outnumbered males in this category. But both in rural and urban areas males have speech disability, is more than females.

The incidence rates of locomotors disability is not available in Karnataka.

#### CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

1. India through census and N.S.S. round have made attempts to estimate the disabled population. The data are not comparable included due to variation in number of categories included and the different concepts used.
2. The data for Karnataka State in certain dimensions are available but are limited in number.
3. The picture of Karnataka revolves round the middle when compared with the other states.
4. There exists rural-urban difference in the distribution of disabled population. Also there are variations within the categories of disability. Regional variations are also found when inter-district comparisons are made.
5. Prevalence of disability is more pronounced amongst blind rather than the other categories.
6. The reasons that may be attributed to incidence of disability are lack of awareness, economic availability of resources and early detection measures.

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