

An Assessment of Current Status and Trends of Govt. Expenditure on Disability in India

AABID AHMAD KOKA

Affiliation: PhD Research Scholar, Jiwaji University, Gwalior, MP

Email: aabideco18@gmail.com Mobile No.: 09797122332

Abstract

A physical or mental condition that limits a person's movement, sense or activities or a disadvantage or handicap, especially one imposed or recognized by the law is called Disability. The present study assesses the current scenario and trends of govt. expenditure on disabled persons in India. The study is based on secondary data. The study finds that in India about 2.68 Crore persons are disabled which is 2.21% of the total population. Among the social groups SCs have the highest percentage 2.45% of disabled persons. The highest percentage 17% of disabled persons is among the age group 10-19 years. 20% of the disabled persons are having disability in movement type of disability. As far as govt. expenditure in this sector is concerned, the figures are not satisfactory. Only 0.035% of the total outlay in budget 2010-11 was allocated to the sector which increases a little bit to 0.039% in budget 2017-18. The govt. need to review the figures and should allocate more for the betterment of the disabled persons as they are a valuable part of our society.

Introduction

A physical or mental condition that limits a person's movement, sense or activities or a disadvantage or handicap, especially one imposed or recognized by the law is called Disability. Disability is an impairment that may be cognitive, developmental, intellectual, mental, physical, sensory, or some combination of these. It substantially affects a person's life activities and may be present from birth or occur during a person's lifetime.¹

Disability is an umbrella term, covering impairments, activity limitations, and participation restrictions. Impairment is a problem in body function or structure; an activity limitation is a difficulty encountered by an individual in executing a task or action; while a participation restriction is a problem experienced by an individual in involvement in life situations. Disability is thus not just a health problem. It is a complex phenomenon, reflecting the interaction between features of a person's body and features of the society in which he or she lives.²

The discussion over disability's definition arose out of disability activism in the US and UK in 1970's, which challenged how the medical concept of disability dominated perception and discourse about disabilities. Debates about proper terminology and their implied politics continue in disability communities and the academic field of disability studies. In some countries, the law requires that disabilities are documented by a health care provider in order to assess qualifications for disability benefits.

It is estimated that 2.13 per cent of 600 million people with disabilities in the world live in India. As per some estimates, the actual number of Indians with permanent and temporary disability could be as high as 50 million. Though, persons with disabilities are entitled to the full range of human rights and fundamental freedoms like any other individual in the society, they are subjected to many forms of discrimination and denial of basic rights. As a result, they are often leading a marginalized life.³

The prime minister of India himself had made it quite clear that he held this sector close to his heart- even spending his birthday with disabled persons and distributing aids and appliances to them. So there is an immediate need of the study of disabled persons and the trends and patterns of govt. expenditure incurred on these persons.

Methodology

The present study is about the current status of disability and the govt. expenditure on the disability in India. The study is primarily based on secondary data. For the purpose of govt. expenditure the period from 2010 to 2017 have been taken in the study. The relevant data have been collected from various publications of Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India, budget papers from 2010-11 to 2017-18, census documents of 2011, various journals, newspapers and websites.

Objectives

- ❖ To study the current scenario of disability in India.
- ❖ To assess the govt. expenditure on disability in India over the previous years.

Result and Discussion

❖ Current scenario of disability in India

As per Census 2011, in India, out of the 121 Crore population, about 2.68 Crore persons are disabled which is 2.21% of the total population. In an era where inclusive development is being emphasized as the right path towards sustainable development, focused initiatives for the welfare of disabled persons are essential.

In Census 2011 information on eight types of disability (disability in seeing, in hearing, in speech, in movement, in mental retardation, in mental illness, any other and multiple disability) has been collected.

Table 1 : Total population and disabled population in India

Total population in India in 2011			Disabled population in India in 2011		
Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
121.08 Cr	62.32 Cr	58.76 Cr	2.68 Cr	1.5 Cr	1.18 Cr

Source: Census Documents, 2011

In the total population, the male and female population is 51% (62.32 Cr) and 49% (58.76 Cr) respectively. Among the disabled population 56% (1.5 Cr) are males and 44% (1.18 Cr) are females.

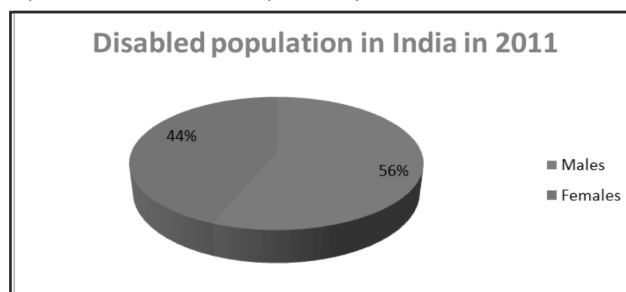


Figure I. Disabled population in India

Table II. Proportion of disabled population by Social Groups in India

Social group	Persons	Males	Females
SC	2.45	2.68	2.2
ST	2.05	2.18	1.92
Other than SC/ST	2.18	2.37	1.98
Total	2.21	2.41	2.01

Source: Census Documents, 2011

The percentage of disabled population among males and females are 2.41% and 2.01% respectively. At all India level as well as disaggregated by various social groups, the proportion of disabled in the corresponding population is higher for males than females. As revealed by the table, the percentage of disabled population among SCs is 2.45 in which males have higher 2.68% and females have 2.2%. The percentage of disabled population among STs is 2.05 in which males have higher 2.18% and females have 1.92%. The percentage of disabled population among the social groups other than SCs/STs is 2.37 in which males have higher 2.37% and females have 1.98%.

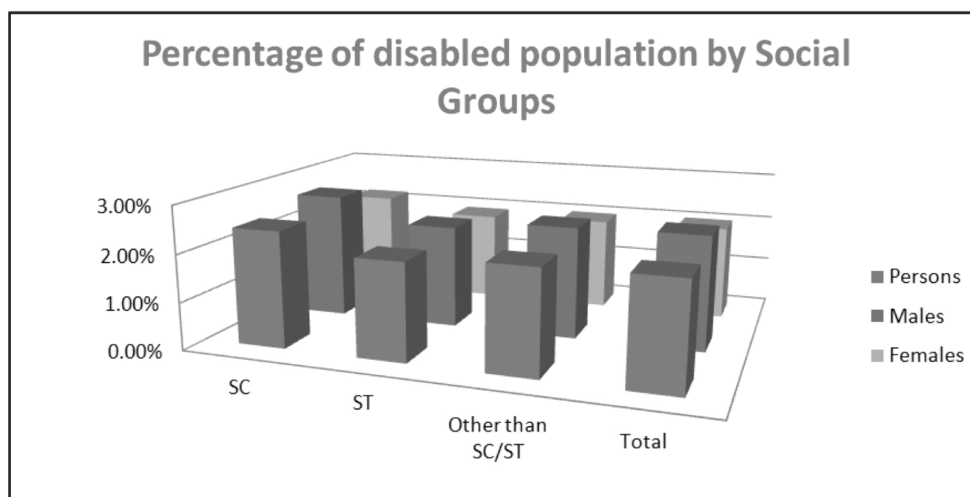


Figure II. Percentage of disabled population by social groups

❖ **Trends and patterns of govt. expenditure on disability in India**

The department of disability affairs is working under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India. In budget 2015-16, the nomenclature of Department of Disability Affairs has been changed to Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWDs).

Table III. Year wise budget expenditure on disabled persons

Year	Total expenditure in Rs crore	Expenditure on disability in Rs crore	Percentage of total expenditure on disability
2010-11	1108749.24	398.08	0.035%
2011-12	1257728.83	424.87	0.033%
2012-13	1490925.29	471.10	0.031%
2013-14	1665297.32	523.25	0.031%
2014-15	1794891.96	632.89	0.035%
2015-16	1777477.04	636.94	0.035%
2016-17	1978060.45	783.56	0.039%
2017-18	2146734.78	855.00	0.039%

Source: Budget Documents 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18

The table reveals that in the year 2010-11, the expenditure on disability was Rs 398.08 crores out of the total outlay of Rs 1108749.24 crores, which is only 0.035% of the total outlay. In the year 2013-14 the expenditure on disability was Rs 523.25 crores which is only 0.031% of the total expenditure. In the year 2014-15 the percentage on disability was 0.035%. In the year 2017-18 although the expenditure on disabled persons increased to Rs 855.00 crores but still the percentage of total expenditure is only 0.039%.

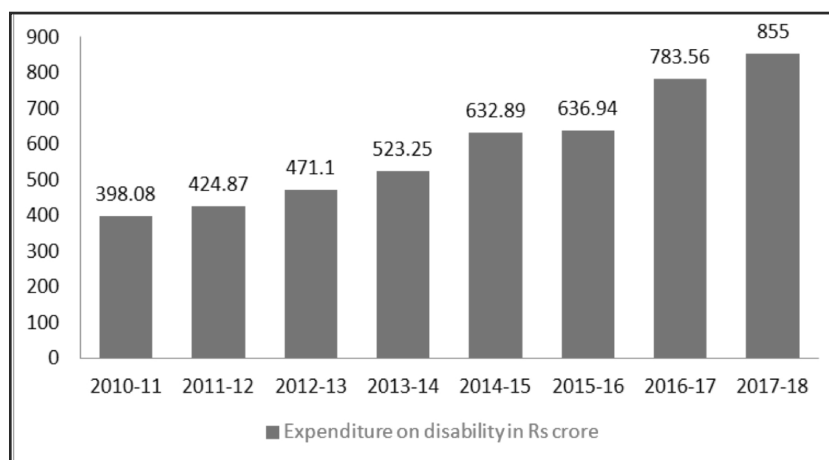


Figure III. Budgetary expenditure on disability in Rs crores

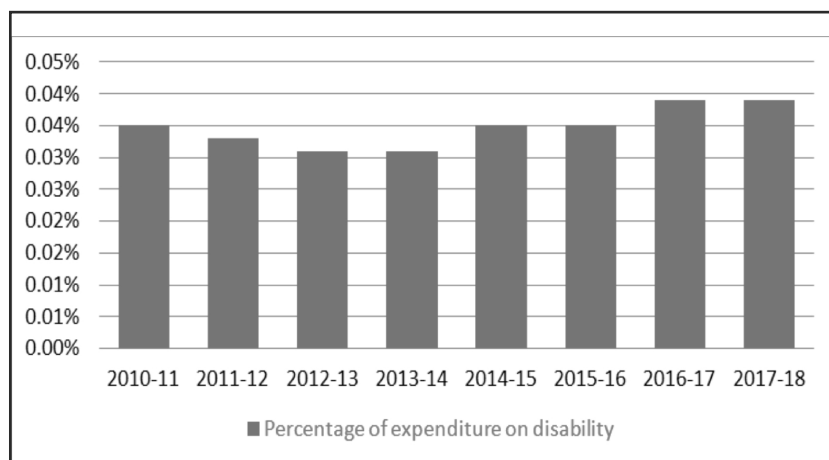


Figure IV. Percentage of total expenditure on disability

The provisions of the budget expenditure are being spent on the schemes, programs, trusts such as Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances, Information and Mass Education Cell, Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme, Support to Establishment/Modernization/Capacity augmentation of Braille Presses, In-service training and sensitization, employment of physically challenged, Establishment of Colleges for Deaf, National Program for Persons with Disabilities, National Fellowship for Persons with Disabilities etc.

Conclusion

An attempt has been made in this paper to analyze the current structure of disabled population in India and to assess the budget allocations over the previous years in India. It can be concluded that as per Census 2011, in India, out of the 121 Crore population, about 2.68 Crore persons are disabled which is 2.21% of the total population. In an era where inclusive development is being emphasized as the right path towards sustainable development, focused initiatives for the welfare of disabled persons are essential. Among the social groups SCs have the highest percentage 2.45% of disabled persons. The highest percentage (17%) of disabled persons are among the age group 10-19 years. 20% of the disabled persons are having disability in movement, followed by 19% disability in seeing, and another 19% disability in hearing. As far as govt. expenditure is concerned in this sector, the budgetary figures are not satisfactory. Only 0.035% of the total outlay in budget 2010-11 was allocated to the sector which increases a little bit to 0.039% in budget 2017-18. The govt. needs to review the figures and should allocate more for the betterment of the disabled persons as they are a valuable part of our society.

References

1. <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disability>
2. “Disabilities”. World Health Organization. Retrieved 28-10-2016
3. Teja, B. K. (2015). Schemes and Programs of Govt. of India on Human Rights Related Issues. National Human Rights Commission. New Delhi.
4. Srinivasa, M. R. et.al (2005). Community Outreach Farm Untreated Schizophrenia in Rural India: A Follow up Study of Symptoms, Disability, Family Burden and Costs. *Psychol. Med.* 35. 341-351.
5. Mohan, I. et.al (2005). Disability Assessment in Mental Illness using Indian Disability Evaluation Assessment Scale. *Indian Journal of Medical Research.* 759-763
6. Tharoor, H. et.al (2008). A Cross Sectional Comparison of Disability and Quality of Life in Euthymic Patients with Bipolar Effective or Recurrent Depressive Disorders with or without Comorbid Chronic Illness. *Indian Journal of Psychiatry.* 50, 24-29.
7. Shanimon, S. and Hameedu, M. S. (2014). The Emerging Development Model in India Differently Abled Entrepreneurs. *International Journal of Scientific and Research Publications.* 4(1).