

Prevalence and Education Status of People with Disabilities in India and Kerala- A Comparative outlook

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ABSTRACT: From a comparative perspective, this paper explores the prevalence and educational status of people with disabilities in India and Kerala. The purpose of this study is to look into the disability concerns associated with low educational status and thus deprivation of these people in developing countries like India, as well as from a regional perspectives in Kerala. This research report draws on significant data sources such as India's 2001 and 2011 Censuses ,disability data from the two rounds of the National Sample Survey, 2002 and 2018, and Kerala's 2015 Disability Census. In India, the study finds significant educational and economic disparities between men and women, as well as rural and urban disabled populations.. The article concludes with the proposal that vocational training, skill development, and capacity building programmes are the optimal strategy for disabled people's empowerment and welfare, particularly in India, as proven by empirical evidence from various studies in India..

Keywords -Disability, vocational and technical education , rural urban divide, gender disparity

I. Introduction

India signed and ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). India has one of the more progressive disability policy frameworks. However, people with disabilities are still subject to multiple disadvantages. The effect is most pronounced in families in low income and weaker sections The number of people with disabilities in India has risen drastically over the previous century, from less than 1 million in 1881 to roughly 26.8 million in 2011. During the same time period, the number of people with impairments increased from 369 to 2208 per 100,000, indicating a rise in the prevalence of all types of disabilities (1881-2011). Visual and locomotor disabilities have grown in all states and districts, according to the SIDD index estimations. The prevalence of hearing and movement problems is steadily growing, according to the 2011 census. Disability prevalence varies greatly between geographic locations and social classes. Empowering the disabled people may necessitate regional or group-specific policy. The government must step up its efforts to improve the socioeconomic conditions of the most vulnerable segments of the population . Saikia.et.al, 2016.[1]

For proper planning, policy-making, and service implementation at the state and local levels, accurate and reliable evaluations of disability prevalence, type of disability, occurrence of disability, potential causes of disability, rural and urban population, social and economic status, and other factors are critical.. It also provides background and venues for research into the extent and ability of empowerment of differently-abled individuals to be tested, evaluated, and explored more systematically and comprehensively. As a result, empirically derived surveys and data, such as Census and NSSO reports, are used..

II. Disability Prevalence in India

Disability prevalence in India and Kerala in 2011 are taken into account when examining the overall picture of disability characteristics of the people under study. According to the 2011 Census, there are few variations in the proportion of disabled persons in various types to the overall differently-abled population at the national and state levels, with the mobility of loco-motor disability sector ranking first at all levels. The

prevalence of disability in Kerala is marginally higher than the national average, as evidenced by the Census data of 2011[2]

Table 1. Percentage of persons with disabilities in India and Kerala

Type of Disability	India	Kerala
Seeing	19	15.16
Hearing	19	13.83
Speech	7	5.43
Movement	20	22.53
Mental Retardation	5.61	8.62
Mental Illness	2.69	8.78
Any other	18.37	12.62
Multiple Disability	7.89	13.02
Total Disabled Population	26814994 (100)	761843(100)
Percentage of PWDs to total population	2.21	2.28

Source: 2011 Census of India

With an estimated 2.21% disabled population in India overall, the incidence of disability among weaker section of the society is found to be significantly higher (2.45%). In comparison to developed countries, this age-specific profile of disabled people in India shows a higher proportion of disabled people in the older age group Dalal, 2010[3]

Table 2. Disabled Populations by Age and Social Groups in India: 2011

Age Group	SC	ST s	Others	Total
All Ages	2.45	2.05	2.18	2.21
0-4	1.25	0.95	1.15	1.14
5-9	1.67	1.37	1.53	1.54
10-19	1.98	1.64	1.81	1.82
20-29	2.21	1.73	1.94	1.97
30-39	2.38	1.83	2.06	2.09
40-49	2.64	2.14	2.26	2.31
50-59	3.30	2.95	2.72	2.83
60-69	4.89	5.13	3.90	4.15
70-79	7.45	8.45	5.81	6.22
80-89	9.79	11.55	7.97	8.41

Source: 2011 Census of India

The higher proportion of disabled people in India's later stage of life may be caused by the fact that there are many people with disabilities acquire disability at their old age. The age-specific impairment across social groups shows that the proportion of young people with disabilities among SC and STs is relatively higher than among upper caste communities, and the reverse is true for older age groups.

III. Disability Prevalence in Kerala

As per the 2015 Disability Census there are about 7,93,937 differently abled people in Kerala and it represent 2.32 % of the entire population of the state. The male female ratio of disabled population is 45:55 and 8.66 % of Kerala households are having persons with disabilities. The major type of disability among the people is of Loco motor disability and it constitutes 32.86% of total disabled people in Kerala ,Kerala 2015 Disability Census. [4].

Three variables mainly the number and frequency of disabled in households and institutions, age, and gender have been examined here to analyze the demographic feature of disabled population in Kerala. It is worthwhile to mention such attributes of these people in research that would have investigative light on social exclusion and deprivation exercised by these people in our society. Fig.1 shows the gender wise classification of persons with any type of disability in each age group according to 2015 Disability Census of Kerala. The proportion of disability population of men is higher than that of women, but this gender gap reverse at older age.

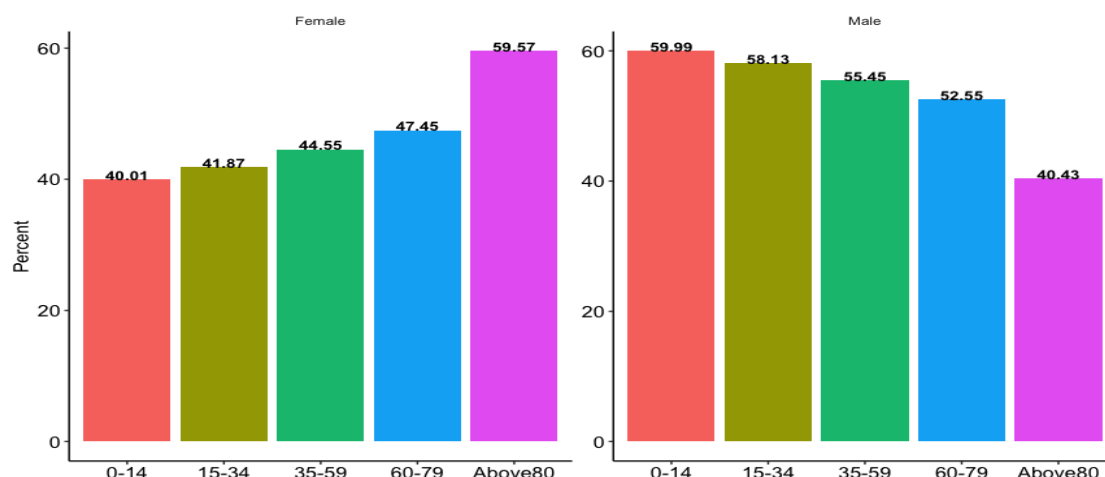


Figure 1. Disability Population in Kerala by Age and Gender Wise Distribution, Kerala Disability census 2015. The major portion (40.60%) of disabled people belongs to the age group 35-59. Disabled people of less than 15 years of age and more than 60 years of age make up about 37 percent of the overall disabled population in Kerala, which is a solely dependent portion of the population living on the earnings of the working class. The extra cost of living or economic burden of disability in India, particularly in Kerala, is one of the under researched economic realities associated to disability. As per the observation of Mitra et al., 2017[5] households with people with disabilities must spend more money than people without disabilities to maintain a reasonable standard of living. The presence of a disabled household member has significant implications for poverty. Healthcare expenses, personal assistance, home adaptations, travel, and other assistive aid costs for the disabled family member add to the family's financial burden. Aside from the direct costs, there is an indirect cost in terms of lost economic activities. These financial burdens, coupled with the family's economic insecurity, prevent parents from providing adequate and up-to-date education and vocational training to their disabled children.

Table 3. Frequency Distribution of households and Institutions having PWDS in Kerala

No of PWDS	No of Households	No of PWDS	No of Institutions
With one PWDS	653434	1-10	384
With Two PWDS	52030	11-20	89
With Three PWDS	4998	21-50	155
With Four PWDS	614	51-200	84
With more than Four PWDS	151	201-345	9
Grant Total	7,11,227		722

Source. Computed from 2015 Disability Census Kerala

Disabled member of a family can have an effect on the entire family especially parents, siblings and extended family members. This unique shared experience of the family can affect all aspects of family functioning. The table given above illustrates the number of families and institutions in Kerala having one and more disabled persons. Around 60 thousand families in Kerala have more than one disabled person and it is a fact that draws our attention to the special care and assistance that must be taken into account.

3.1 District Wise Distribution of Persons with Disability in Kerala

It is in the Malappuram district where the largest number of people with disabilities is in Kerala. However, Wayanad is ranked the first position in the ratio between the overall population and the number of persons with disabilities, which is 10000: 275 or 2.75% of the total population.

Table 4. Prevalence of Disability in Households and Institutions by District in Kerala

District	Households having PWDS	PWDS in households	Institutions having PWDS	PWDS in Institutions	Total No
Thiruvananthapuram	70255	75986	47	1178	77164
Kollam	59978	64907	39	1612	66519
Pathanamthitta	27149	29357	40	1090	30447
Alappuzha	46577	50219	37	1184	51403
Kottayam	39513	43000	124	2781	45781
Idukki	22819	24642	29	1584	26226
Ernakulum	65071	71051	141	3076	74127
Thrissur	60086	65317	93	1816	67133

Palakkad	57249	62311	29	503	62814
Malappuram	86600	95823	25	624	96447
Kozhikode	71282	77903	38	645	78548
Wayanad	20943	22875	17	247	23122
Kannur	52042	57067	53	1468	58535
Kasaragod	31663	35365	10	306	35671
Total	7,11,227	7,75,823	722	18114	793937

Source: Computed from 2015 Disability Census Kerala

The district of Thrissur is in the lowest level in terms of the ratio of the number of people with disabilities to the total population. Wayanad is the district in which the highest portion of the ST-category resides and the first position in disability location can be considered coincidental which again suggests a higher incidence of disability in the poorest section of the Kerala population. When we look at the distribution of disability in Kerala by district, there isn't much of a difference. However, there are some variations in terms of availability of institutional services, and rehabilitation facilities, as a proportion of total disabled population.

IV. Education Status of People with Disabilities in India and Kerala

All over the world, people with disability are more crippled with low level of educational qualification, higher poverty rate, and less economic participation than that of people without disability and these difficulties are severe in less privileged sections of the societies. When we examine the literature on empowerment theorising, we can see that education and employment are typical indicators, whether for women or other vulnerable groups, as Alkire et al., 2013[6] point out. It has been demonstrated that the only way to break the cycle of economic dependency and inequality for these people is through education and economic inclusion

Table 5. Status of Education of PWDs of India in 2002 and 2018

Education status of PWDs (in Percent)	Rural		Urban		Total	
	2002	2018	2002	2018	2002	2018
Persons of age 15 years and above have the highest level of completed education secondary and above	4.7	14.9	9.3	31	7.5	19.3
Formal Vocational/Technical Training	0.3	0.8	0.9	2.7	0.45	1.4
Non formal/Informal Vocational Training	1.2	1.6	2.6	1.9	1.5	1.7

Source: NSSO 58th and 76th Round on Persons with Disability, Figures are in Percentages

Between 2005 and 2018, India's labour force participation rate averaged 53.9 percent, with PWDs accounting for around 23.8 percent of the workforce, Periodic Labour Force Survey in NSSO 2018[7]. People with disabilities are faced with many barriers to jobs, the most important of which is insufficient and inaccessible education and training facilities. The NSSO statistics of the 58th and 76th round on Persons with Disability set out in table 5 specifically lay down the education status of people with disabilities. Only a small percentage of PWDs in the age category 15-59, between 0.6 and 2.7 percent, have technical and vocational training from formal or non-formal sources, and the increases over 16 years are minor. The NSSO data provided envisages that there is a wide disparity between rural and urban disabled people as regards the level of education and the range of skills training, they have received, as well as the vital characteristics like labour force participation. Women with disabilities are well behind the male level of schooling, vocational training, NSS data indicates that the rate of technical education among males is 1.6 percent, but just 0.6 percent among females with disabilities.

In India, many disabled are either unemployed or working in low-wage employment, Chaudhuri, 2006 [8]. Disabled individuals in rural areas are disproportionately underemployed and underpaid, owing to a lack of vocational and skill training that meets the present labour market's criteria. With these skill development programmes and activities, all three categories, particularly the visually impaired and locomotive disabled, must be addressed and prioritised.

Table 6. Percentage distribution of the persons with at least one disability (15-59) by vocational/technical training in Kerala in 2018

Vocational/technical training	Male	Female	Persons
	Rural		
Receiving formal technical training	0.1	0.2	0.2
Formal vocational training	2.7	2.3	2.5
Other than formal vocational/technical training	2.9	1.3	2.2
Not received any vocational/technical training	94.2	96.2	95.1
Total	100	100	100
	Urban		
Receiving formal technical training	0.7	0.4	0.5
Formal vocational training	17.6	3.8	11.2

Other than formal vocational/technical training	3.3	1.0	2.2
Not received any vocational/technical training	78.5	94.8	86.0
Total	100	100	100
	Rural+Urban		
Receiving formal technical training	0.4	0.3	0.4
Formal vocational training	10.0	3.1	6.9
Other than formal vocational/technical training	3.1	1.1	2.2
Not received any vocational/technical training	86.5	95.5	90.6
Total	100	100	100

Source: Calculated by author using NSS unit level data of 76th rounds on disability ,2018.

A minority had access to technological skills and vocational training, and the disparity between rural and urban residents, as well as the gender gap, in terms of formal vocational training and education, is also worth investigating and researching for the betterment of these people. It would have serious conjecture on their employability and economic empowerment. Women with disabilities are perceived to face far greater barriers – in both the public and private sectors – in terms of housing, health, education, vocational training, and jobs. Kothari, 2012[9.]Furthermore, the ILO Convention made it mandatory to provide vocational training and job services for disabled people in rural and remote areas, which is critical in India's situation-International Labour Office. Director-General, 2008[10]

Table 7. Educational Statuses of the Disabled People in Kerala in 2015

Educational Status	No of people	Percentage
Illiterate	166300	20.94
Primary	233902	29.47
Middle School	134541	16.95
High School	165651	20.86
Higher Secondary	48805	6.16
Technically Educated (ITI, Diploma)	12708	1.60
Graduation	22467	2.82
Post-Graduation and above	9357	1.17
PhD	266	0.03
Total		100

Source: Computed from 2015 Disability Census Kerala.

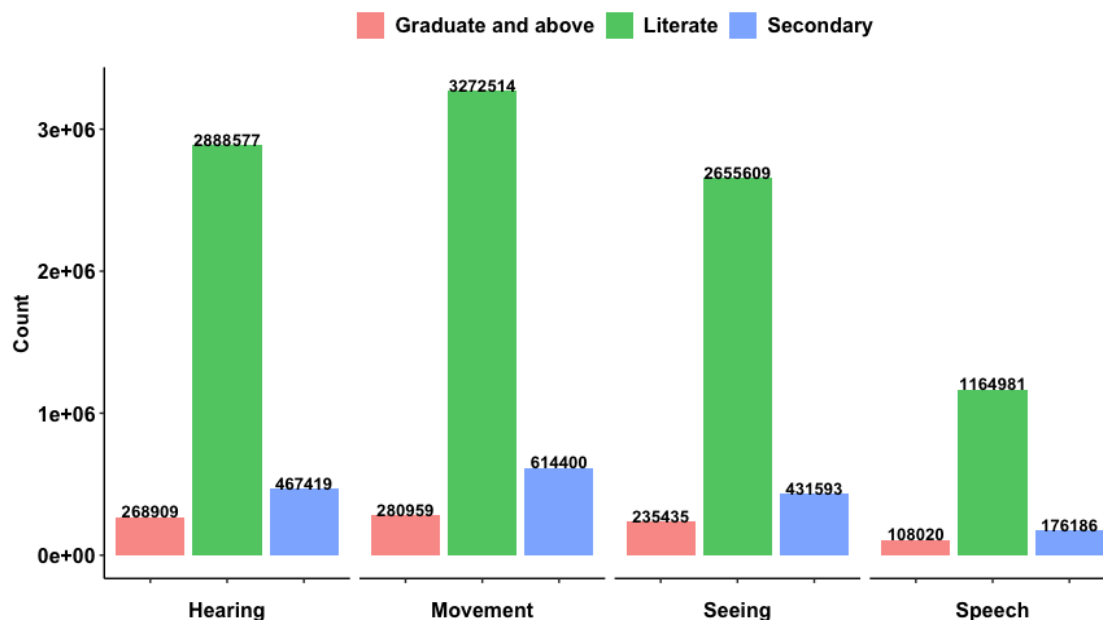


Figure. 2. Education Status of Physical Disability Category of People in India Source : 2011 census

On analyzing the educational status of disabled population in Kerala it is clear that more than 20 percent are illiterate and around 56 per cent of them have the education level only up to high school standard.

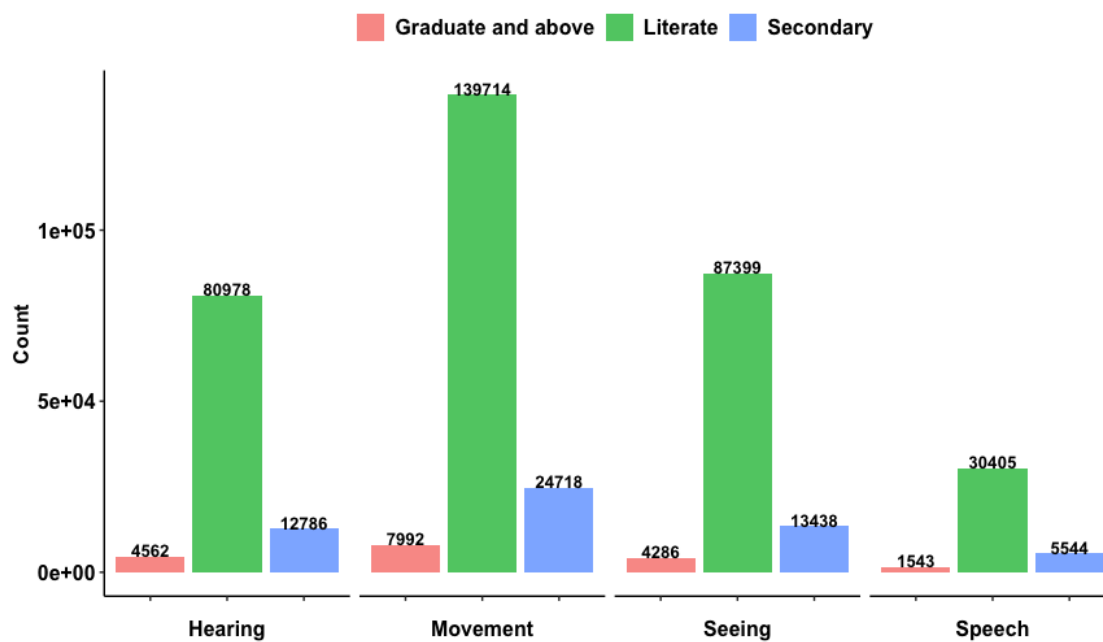


Figure. 3. Education Status of Physical Disability Category of People in Kerala Source : 2011 census

According to the 2011 Census the percentage of graduates and postgraduates in Kerala is 20 and 5% respectively while it is nearly less than 2% among disabled people. The illiteracy level in Kerala is 3.98 percent but it is more than 20% among disabled people. Just about 9% of people with disabilities complete secondary education, and on average 55 per cent of them with literate or primary level of education. There are no remarkable differences in the percentage of people unable to complete secondary level between disability groups. Lower than 5% of people with disabilities are graduates, and therefore, a large proportion of disabled lack basic skills to help them achieve a better life. In rural areas and among women, the situation is more depressing.

In line with Kerala's higher HDI value and quality of life indices than other Indian states, there is an approximately 20 percent higher difference in the literacy rate and other levels of education of people with disabilities in Kerala than in India. However, we cannot disregard the fact that Kerala's high level of education and literacy has not resulted in new job opportunities or increased occupational engagement for people with disabilities. Kerala lags well below the national average in terms of inclusion rate and economic involvement of people with disabilities in various fields of life. This necessitates a focus on the effectiveness of the government's empowerment and inclusive policies, as well as the impact of educational approaches in the state.

V. Conclusion

The gender-based division of disability shows that men have more disabilities than women. Singh, P., 2014[11] However, disabled females endure more bias and exploitation in terms of access to education, health care, and career possibilities than disabled males. On this basis, it may be inferred that what we require is not a single disability policy, but rather distinct policy decisions for each category that take gender into account. The issue of rural India's most serious challenge, according to Klasing, 2015[12] is the access to infrastructure. The majority of disabled people in remote places lack access to social infrastructure such as excellent education and skill development programmes.

However, there are more discrepancies in obtaining vocational training in the locomotor category, owing to the fact that movement is very difficult for locomotor disabled persons, particularly those from remote areas, to get into these educational institutions. The outcome of informal vocational training in which the majority of disabled persons are trained is unsatisfactory in the sense that they are outmoded and have little connection to the needs of today's labour market. The intersection of educational status and disability constructs demands our attention because there is a great deal of variation in accessing different levels of education and vocational training depending on the severity of disability and the causes of disability's onset. When it comes to the degree or intensity of impairment, particularly in the locomotive category, the severity of disability inhibits people from pursuing various levels of education, capacity-building programmes, and vocational skill training. The link between education and employment is substantial, and policy should prioritize vocational education. We need to build similar training centers in semi-urban and rural areas, where disabilities are more prevalent. Kerala lags well below the national average in terms of inclusion rate and economic involvement of

PWDs in various fields of life. Young disabled confront strong competition in the labour market, and educational facilities are inadequate for them to meet these challenges .Startup mission efforts and connections may be preferable and advisable, particularly for the young and those who can be trained and skilled for new types of initiatives

Providing proper coaching and training to disabled individuals for government job is highly preferable and important. PSC coaching classes in sign language should be provided to hearing and speech-disabled people, who make up the smallest percentage of government employees. Many disability studies, such as Kumar et al., 2012, [13] recommend vocational skill development as a strong and sound strategy to integrate these persons into the labour market. The issue of human resource scarcity could be addressed by increasing workforce creation through the promotion of new courses and the establishment of degree and diploma programmes.

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