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Chhaya Teotia

Associate Professor,
Department of Economics,
Raghunath Girls (P. G.)
College, Meerut,
Uttar Pradesh, India

Various dimensions of disability in Uttar Pradesh

Chhaya Teotia

Abstract

As per WHO estimates more than six hundred million people across the world live with disabilities of various types as a result of chronic diseases, malnutrition and poverty. Disabled people are subjected to multiple deprivations. This research paper is an attempt to analyse the various dimensions of disability in Uttar Pradesh, a north Indian state holding the highest number of disabled people. It is imperative to work towards inclusive, barrier free society by raising awareness about disability among people.

Keywords: Malnutrition, disabilities, inclusive, dimensions

Introductions

WHO report about the disabled people shows that about 15% of the world population is living with disability and developing countries consists of the majority of the disabled population of the world. These figures are just numbers not sufficient enough to evaluate the extent and intensity of the problem. A large number of people with disabilities are living in deplorable conditions as a result of social and physical barriers. Patterns of disability in a country are affected by various factors such as trends in health conditions, environmental factors, road traffic crashes, violence, humanitarian emergencies with natural disasters, conflicts, substance abuse etc.

Disability is a complex, multifaceted, cross-cutting issue in 2030 agenda for sustainable developmental goals.

“My advice to other disabled people would be, concentrate on things your disability does not prevent you doing well and don’t regret the things it interferes with. Don’t be disabled in spirit, as well as physically.” Stephen Hawking.

According to Oxford Dictionary, a disability could be described as an impairment which can be intellectual limitations, cognitive impairment, sensory or the mixture of all these. Incapability impacts a person’s activities and may happen at birth, sometimes it can happen in adulthood.

The convention on the Rights of persons with disabilities (CRPD) 2006, adopted by United Nations, describes disability as- “Disability results from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.”

There is a significant shift in the definition of disability from medical model to social model.

WHO defines disability as: “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 problem experienced by an individual in involvement in life solutions. Thus, disability is a complex phenomenon, reflecting an interaction between features of a person’s body and features of the society in which he or she lives.”

As per WHO estimates more than six hundred million people across the world live with disabilities of various types as a result of chronic diseases, malnutrition and poverty. Disabled people are subjected to multiple deprivations due to limited access to basic services, education, employment, rehabilitation facilities. Besides this social stigma plays a major in creating barriers in their normal social and economic life. It is imperative to work towards an inclusive, barrier free society by raising awareness among people and policy actions of the government.

Disability is included as a cross-cutting issue in the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. Efforts are needed to ensure that sustainable development goals will be achieved for the disabled people also in line with CRPD. People with disability are considered as the most venerable section of the society.

Corresponding Author:

Chhaya Teotia

Associate Professor,
Department of Economics,
Raghunath Girls (P. G.)
College, Meerut,
Uttar Pradesh, India

Prevalence of disability is on a larger scale in developing economies and India is not an exception to it. As per census 2011, 2.68 million people, constituting 2.21% of total population of India are with disabilities and Uttar Pradesh, the most populated northern state of India holds 15.5% of the total disabled population of the country.

Article 41 of Directive Principles as mentioned in Indian Constitution states that State shall make effective provisions for securing the right to work, to educate, to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement within the limits of its economic capacity and development.

A number of studies have been conducted on the disabled population of the country, but there are very few which have covered Uttar Pradesh in their research. Some of these been discussed here.

Saikia N, Bora JK, Jasillionir D, Shkolnikov VM (2016) [5], in their research study examines the prevalence of disability in India on the basis of various variables such as gender, region, members of social - ethnic groups, demographic characteristics and socio-economic conditions. Findings of the study report that males have a higher level of disabilities, female children with disabilities experience double burden of discrimination and are subject to higher risk as compared to male child.

Jha RP, Bhattacharyya K, Shukla. K, Tiwari N. (2019) [4], focuses over the problem of disability in different districts

of Uttar Pradesh and tries to find out the intensity of the problem. There was a vicious cycle of deprivation resulting into unemployment, poverty due to disability. Economically backward districts residing disabled had to face more barriers in performing their daily social and economic activities. There was lack of awareness about the welfare programmes run by the central and state government among this disabled population.

Chauhan BG, Rai AK, Kumar A. K (2015) [2], have emphasized over the large size of elderly population in Uttar Pradesh predominantly based in rural areas of 71 districts. This research suggests that if the disabled population is taken care of properly definitely it will enhance potentiality of the workforce in one hand and reduces the burden of society. Ageing in our country is seriously mired by poor health conditions. Proper health care structure and social security provisions are required on the part of the government.

Objective of the study

This research paper is an attempt to analyse the various dimensions of disability in Uttar Pradesh, a northern state of India holding the highest number of disabled people.

Profile of Persons with Disability in Uttar Pradesh

(All figures in Percentage)

Profile of Persons with Disability in Uttar Pradesh

	Male	Female	Total
Person with Any type of Disability	2.7	2.0	2.4
Locomotor Disability	1.8	1.3	1.6
Visual Disability	0.2	0.3	0.2
Hearing Disability	0.3	0.3	0.3
Speech & Language Disability	0.2	0.2	0.2
Mental Illness	0.2	0.1	0.1
Intellectual Disability	0.2	0.1	0.1
Person having disability since birth	24.6	21.6	23.4
Persons with disability having certificate of Disability	23.5	14.1	19.6
Literacy Rate of persons aged 7 years and above with disability	57.8	28.1	45.1
Persons of age 15 years and above having highest level of completed education secondary and above	22.9	10.7	17.8

Source: Persons with disabilities (Divyangjan) in India –A Statistical Profile 2021 Government of India, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, National statistical Office Social Statistics Division., www.mospi.gov.in.

It is obvious from the table that 2.4% people of the total population of Uttar Pradesh are facing disability issues, of which males have the majority (2.7%). This table also discloses that locomotor disability is the most common type of disability faced by the divyangjans. Since birth disability is more prevalent. Gender based disparity is quite visible with respect to education and disability certificates which indicates that women are devoid of even essential services which could empower them and help them to tackle their problem of disability.

Conclusion

For achieving inclusive and sustainable development goals, it is necessary to strengthen national legislation and policies on health care in line with CRPD. Identification and elimination of obstacles and barriers in health care facilities along with improved health care coverage and affordability should be prioritized by the government because if we are

successful in taking proper care of these differently abled people we undouble enhance our Workforce potentiality in one hand and reduce the burden of the society.

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