

Demographic Issues of Differently Abled Persons in Cuddalore District, Tamilnadu



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Abstract

This paper is an attempt to focus the demographic issues of differently abled persons with regard to reason for differently abled persons, types of differently abled persons, monetary benefits received or not and percentage of differently abled persons. While examining the causes for disability, this paper also highlights the age at which the disability occurred as well. The samples of 153 differently abled persons are selected at random in Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu. The study suggests that awareness on government welfare schemes should be created among the differently abled persons and employment opportunities are to be increased to rectify the problem of economic dependency.

Keywords: Disability, Differently Abled, Economically Dependent, Economically Independent.

Introduction

Disabilities are 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. Differently abled persons are 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. The term differently abled are sometimes used as a substitute for disabled or handicapped. Differently abled emphasizes the fact that many people with disabilities are quite capable of accomplishing a particular task or performing a particular function, only in a manner that is different from or takes more time than that of people without the differently abled persons. On the other hand, differently abled is often criticized as an awkward euphemism and in some cases may be taken as offensively condescending by disabled people themselves. In the future, it seems that the population of the differently abled person will increase more than the ordinary population. Due to climate change, food habits, increasing diseases rate etc. Cuddalore district has 3.6% of the differently abled persons population. Which are lesser than that of state average 4.4%. Among them even one-third of population are of getting benefits from government welfare scheme. The study aims to focus the types of differently abled persons the age at which differently abled persons accrued. The reason for differently abled persons in the study area. Relative type of differently abled persons of the respondents, Reason for differently abled persons, percentage of differently abled persons of the respondents, differently abled persons at age and identity card and DLA (Differently Abled Persons Living Allowance) amount details of the respondents.

Review of Literature

Bult MK et al (2001) conducted a systemic review to find out what influences participation in leisure activities of children and youth with physical disabilities in Netherland. The result revealed that frequency of participation in leisure activities for children and youth with physical disabilities is associated with a variety of variables. Gross motor function, manual ability, cognitive ability, communicative skills, age and gender are the most important variables. The current evidence suggests that similar variables seem to apply to children with different diagnoses. Age is an important variable in participation of children and youth. However, evidence

about those variables associated with children at different ages is still lacking.

Law M, et al (2006) conducted a study to assess patterns of participation in recreational and leisure activities among children with complex physical disabilities in Ontario, Canada. Using the Children's Assessment of Participation and Enjoyment (CAPE) measure, data on participation patterns were collected from 427 children (229 males, 198 females) in the age group of 6-14 years with physical limitations and from their families. Findings indicate a broad range of diversity and intensity of participation, with proportionately greater involvement in informal rather than formal activities. Significant differences in participation and enjoyment were found between males and females and for children more than 12 years of age. Children's participation was less diverse in families reporting lower income, single-parent status, and lower respondent parent education. These findings provide a foundation for an improved understanding of the participation of children with physical disabilities, which can assist families and service providers in planning activities that fit with their child's preferences and ensure active participation.

Patel et al. (2009) using NSSO 2002 data, observed that locomotor disabilities are the most prevalent type of disabilities affecting of all ages in India. Mental disabilities are the highest in the working age population, whereas visual and hearing disabilities are the highest in the aged. Further, onset of locomotor and speech disabilities mainly occur at early ages, whereas onset of visual and hearing disabilities are highly concentrated at later ages. Onset of mental disabilities peaks at early ages and younger working age population.

Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (2018) reports that polio affects the nervous system,

specifically an area of the spinal cord called grey matter and causes muscles and reflexes to become weak. People who contract it will experience arm and leg weakness, facial weakness, difficulty swallowing, slurred speech, drooping eyelids and difficulty moving their eyes. A serious complication from the disease is respiratory failure, which can occur when the muscles involved in breathing become too weak. The CDC acknowledges it does not yet know the long-term effects, but in very rare cases, the condition can be deadly.

Methodology

This study is based on primary data. The data are collected through well structure interview schedule. A sample of 153 respondents has been selected at random for the study.

Result and Discussion

The following tables and its interpretation reflects the demographic issues of differently abled persons in cuddalore district, Tamil Nadu

Table (1) shows the types of differently abled persons of respondents' relatives differently abled persons. One – sixth of the respondents relatives have the problem of differently abled persons and remaining respondent's relatives do not have the problem of differently abled persons. Among economically independent, more than two – third of the respondents, relatives do not have the problem of differently abled persons and among economically dependent majority of the respondents relatives do not have problem of differently abled persons. Regarding the type of differently abled persons among relatives more than half have locomotordifferently abled persons (leg) among them half of them are economically independent. In the study area, 64.7% of the economically independent differently abledpersons relatives are having differently abled persons in movement (leg).

Table 1: Relative type of differently abled person of the respondents

Category \ Relative	Economically Independent	Economically Dependent	Total
None	51 (40.2)	76 (59.8)	127 (100)
Hand Locomotor	01 (50.0)	01 (50.0)	02 (100)
Leg Locomotor	11 (64.7)	06 (35.3)	17 (100)
In Seeing	04 (100)	-	04 (100)
In Hearing	03 (100)	-	03 (100)
Overall	70 (45.8)	83 (54.2)	153 (100)

Source: Computed from primary data

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentage to the row total

Table (2) more than two – third of the respondents had attack differently abled persons due to polio regardless of their status dependency and Close to one – eighth of the respondents had differently abled persons due to pre – maturity of baby and one – eighth of the respondents had not able to predict the reason, which may be due to marriage with

close related persons. One – fifth had differently abled persons after birth due to accidents and nutritional deficiency of mothers and kids. It is inferred that one – third of the respondents had differently abled persons due to accidents like dashing by vehicles and remaining two – thirds had differently abled persons due to low food intake.

Table 2: Reason for Differently Abled Persons

Reason		Category	Economically Independent	Economically Dependent	Total
By birth	Disaster		01 (50)	01 (50)	02 (100)
	Polio		42 (49.4)	43 (50.6)	85 (100)
	Nutrition Deficiency		09 (47.7)	10 (52.6)	19 (100)
	Marriage with close related		04 (23.5)	13 (76.5)	17 (100)
After birth	Accident		06 (66.7)	03 (33.3)	09 (100)
	Disease		08 ()	13 ()	21 (100)
Overall			70 (45.8)	83 (54.2)	153 (100)

Source: Computed from primary data

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentage to the row total

Table (3) demonstrates the percentage status of differently abled persons. More than one – third have 41 – 60 percentage of differently abled persons and a little more than one – third have 60 – 80 percentage of differently abled persons. One – ninth of the respondents have above – 80 percentage of differently abled persons. One – sixth of the

respondents have less than 40 percentage of differently abled persons. 53.8% of the respondents have 60 – 80 percentage of differently abled persons and they are economically independent 58.6% of the respondents have 44 – 60 percentage of differently abled persons and they are economically dependent.

Table 3: Percentage of differently abled persons of the respondents

Category	Percentage	Economically Independent	Economically Dependent	Total
Below 40		11 (42.3)	15 (57.7)	26 (100)
41 – 60		24 (41.4)	34 (58.6)	58 (100)
60 – 80		28 (53.8)	24 (46.2)	52 (100)
Above – 80		07 (41.2)	10 (58.8)	17 (100)
Overall		70 (45.8)	83 (54.2)	153 (100)

Source: Computed from primary data

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentage to the row total

It is observed from the table (4) that more than half of the respondents had differently abled persons at the age of two years only. Among them more than half are economically dependent. It is noted in the earlier tables that most of the respondents had differently abled persons due to polio attack. After three years the incidence of

differently abled persons has been declined in economically independent group. But there in fluctuations in economically dependent group, up to the age of 35 years. After 35, there is declining rate of differently abled persons in economically dependent group.

Table 4: Age and Differently Abled Persons Details of The Respondents

Relative	Category	Economically Independent	Economically Dependent	Total
By birth		13 (44.8)	16 (55.2)	29 (100)
Below Age 2		37 (46.8)	42 (53.2)	79 (100)
Age 2-5		01 (50.0)	04 (80.0)	05 (100)
Above -5		05 (50.0)	05 (50.0)	10 (100)
Age 15-25		05 (45.5)	06 (54.5)	11 (100)

Age 26-35	04 (30.8)	09 (69.2)	13 (100)
Above – 35 Age	05 (83.3)	01 (16.7)	06 (100)
Overall	70 (45.8)	83 (54.2)	153 (100)

Source: Computed from primary data

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentage to the row total

Table (5) manifests whether the respondents have identity card or not. More than one – fourth do not have identity card with them. Remaining respondents (three – fourth) have identify card with them. There is a slight difference in having identify card, between economically independent and economically dependent respondents.

The same table shows whether the respondents receive DLA amount or not. Less than half of the respondents do not receive DLA amount and more than half receive DLA amount. 58% of the economically dependents do not receive DLA amount.

Table 5: I.D Card and Differently Aabled Persons Living Allowance Amount
Details of the respondents

I.D and DLA	Economically Independent	Economically Dependent	Total
No	16 (40.0)	24 (60.0)	40 (100)
Yes	54 (47.8)	59 (52.2)	113 (100)
Overall	70 (45.8)	83 (54.2)	153 (100)
Category	DLA Amount		Total
No	29 (42.0)	40 (58.0)	69 (100)
Yes	41 (48.8)	43 (51.2)	84 (100)
Overall	70 (45.8)	83 (54.2)	153 (100)

Source: Computed from primary data

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentage to the row total

Major Findings & Conclusion

The above discussion reveals that more than half of the respondents are economically depend upon others and more than half are having differently abled persons due to polio attack. Majority of the respondents are having more than 40% of differently abled persons. Two -third had differently abled persons even they completed two years from birth still some of the respondents are not aware of the welfare schemes of government and thereby they are not getting monetary benefits.

Suggestions

1. Awareness on government welfare schemes for differently abled persons has to be created irrespective of rural and urban areas.
2. Employment opportunities have to be augmented to rectify the problem of economic dependency.
3. Health care camps have to be conducted to create awareness on polio and its consequences in rural and urban areas.

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