

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF DISABILITY STATUS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO WEST BENGAL

Dr. Debasree Saha

Assistant Professor,

Department of Law

Raiganj University, Raiganj, Uttar Dianjpur (W.B.), India

Abstract: India has more than 2% of total population which is disabled either physically or mentally. West Bengal also has a large population of the persons with disabilities of one kind or the other. The current study is an attempt to undergo a comparative analysis of the status of such population in the state of West Bengal vis-s-vis the nation. The category wise comparison has been attempted with special focus to the critical status of the employment facilities, these people are offered in the state. Secondary data based this study includes the suggestions that can improve the employability of such people and make them more productive for the nation and the more satisfied citizens of the society.

Index Terms - Disabled, Population, Employment

INTRODUCTION

According to the census 2011, disabled population in India is approximately 2.68 crores that form almost 2.21% of the entire population of the country. This includes 1.5 crores males and 1.18 crores female. The ratio of male and female disabled population is 51% and 49% respectively. The rural people with disability are about 1.86 crores or 69% and the urban population with disability is 0.81 crores or 31%.

U.P. has the largest population (more than 41 lakhs) of disabled persons while Lakshadweep has only 15000 people with disability. However this figure can't be compared due to significant difference in the size and population of the states.

The person with disability, his/her family and the nation suffer due to this problem. The person undergoes a pain of not living a normal life. The family suffers economically and mentally. The nation can't use their productivity. This population is partially or completely unproductive. Since, the disability of any sort is unpleasant and creates lots of difficulties in the life of the person, society's role is to minimize these difficulties and help the sufferer to lead a problem free life with honor.

LITERATURE

The UNO (2006) described the persons with disability as those who have 'long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others'. Mitra, et al., (2006) have analyzed the prevalence estimates for disability for both National sample survey and Census of India. Investigation shows that there is a substantial difference in rates of disability between these two sources, there is a need of possible sources of these discrepancies. Hiranandani V, Sonpal D. (2010) finds that ineffective programmes, insufficient funding and complexities in resource mobilisation are all stated barriers to the realisation of rights as set out in Indian inclusive legislature, leading to lower employment participation rates amongst persons with disabilities in the country. Trani J-F, Loeb M. (2012) observes that disability can lead to or exacerbate poverty through participation restrictions, including exclusion from education, and barriers to engaging in decent work. Gupta A. (2016) had a view that the Persons with Disabilities Act in India, which legislates the right to equal opportunities and full participation amongst persons with disabilities was enforced by the National Government of India in 1995. UNDP India (2013) states that possible mechanisms for promoting greater participation of persons with disabilities in livelihoods include improved access to social protection systems, healthcare, rehabilitation and assistive devices, education and vocational training.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The current study aims at the following:

1. Presenting the disability status in numbers in the state of West Bengal vis-à-vis India
2. Comparing the numbers disability wise
3. Analyzing the efforts for the welfare of such people by West Bengal government

METHODOLOGY USED

The paper is based largely on the secondary data related to the disability collected from the census 2011. Relevant journals, news papers, books and reports have also been referred to get the in-depth view on the issue. Tables and figures have been used to present the data to enhance the clarity and understandability.

DISCUSSION

In order to have a comparative look on the disability wise numbers of persons in all the states, table-1 has been presented here. In the last part of the table, national average of each of the category of disability has been drawn so as to have a comparative view with the numbers of West Bengal.

Table-1: Total Disability Population (Census 2011)

S.N.	State	Total	No. of Disabled Persons (Disability Wise)							
			Seeing	Hearing	Speech	Movement	Mental Retardation	Mental Illness	Any Other	Multiple Disability
1	Andhra Pradesh	2266607	398144	334292	219543	538934	132380	43169	409775	190370
2	Arunachal Prad.	26734	5652	8127	1538	3235	1264	631	3878	2409
3	Assam	480065	80553	101577	39750	76007	26374	18819	87461	49524
4	Bihar	2331009	549080	572163	170845	369577	89251	37521	431728	110844
5	Chhattisgarh	624937	111169	92315	28262	190328	33171	20832	76903	71957
6	Delhi	234882	30124	34499	15094	67383	16338	10046	37013	24385
7	Goa	33012	4964	5347	5272	5578	1817	1675	5784	2575
8	Gujarat	1092302	214150	190675	60332	245879	66393	42037	197725	75111
9	Haryana	546374	82702	115527	21787	116026	30070	16191	116821	47250
10	Himachal Pradesh	155316	26076	26700	8278	32550	8986	5166	29024	18536
11	J&K	361153	66448	74096	18681	58137	16724	15669	66957	44441
12	Jharkhand	769980	180721	165861	46684	147892	37458	20157	112372	58835
13	Karnataka	1324205	264170	235691	90741	271982	93974	20913	246721	100013
14	Kerala	761843	115513	105366	41346	171630	65709	66915	96131	99233
15	Madhya Pradesh	1551931	270751	267361	69324	404738	77803	39513	295035	127406
16	Maharashtra	2963392	574052	473271	473610	548418	160209	58753	510736	164343
17	Manipur	54110	18226	10984	2504	5093	4506	1405	8050	3342
18	Mizoram	15160	2035	3354	1163	1976	1585	1050	1914	2083
19	Meghalaya	44317	6980	12353	2707	5312	2332	2340	8717	3576
20	Nagaland	29631	4150	8940	2294	3828	1250	995	4838	3336
21	Odisha	1244402	263799	237858	68517	259899	72399	42837	172881	126212
22	Punjab	654063	82199	146696	24549	130044	45070	21925	165607	37973
23	Rajasthan	1563694	314618	218873	69484	427364	81389	41047	199696	211223
24	Sikkim	18187	2772	5343	1577	2067	516	513	2459	2940
25	Tamil Nadu	1179963	127405	220241	80077	287241	100847	32964	238392	92796
26	Tripura	64346	10828	11695	4567	11707	4307	2909	11825	6508
27	Uttar Pradesh	4157514	763988	1027835	266586	677713	181342	76603	946436	217011
28	Uttarakhand	185272	29107	37681	12348	36996	11450	6443	30723	20524
29	West Bengal	2017406	424473	315192	147336	322945	136523	71515	402921	196501
30	A&N Islands	6660	1084	1219	531	1593	294	364	838	737
31	Chandigarh	14796	1774	2475	961	3815	1090	756	2583	1342
32	Daman & Diu	2196	382	309	149	620	176	89	264	207
33	D& N Haveli	3294	429	715	201	682	180	115	483	489
34	Lakshadweep	1615	337	224	73	361	112	96	183	229
35	Puducherry	30189	3608	6152	1824	9054	2335	853	4137	2226
Total		26810557	5032463	5071007	1998535	5436604	1505624	722826	4927011	2116487
National Average		766016	143785	144886	57101	155332	43018	20652	140772	60471
West Bengal		2017406	424473	315192	147336	322945	136523	71515	402921	196501

Source: Census 2011

Above table can better be understood with the help of the following figure.

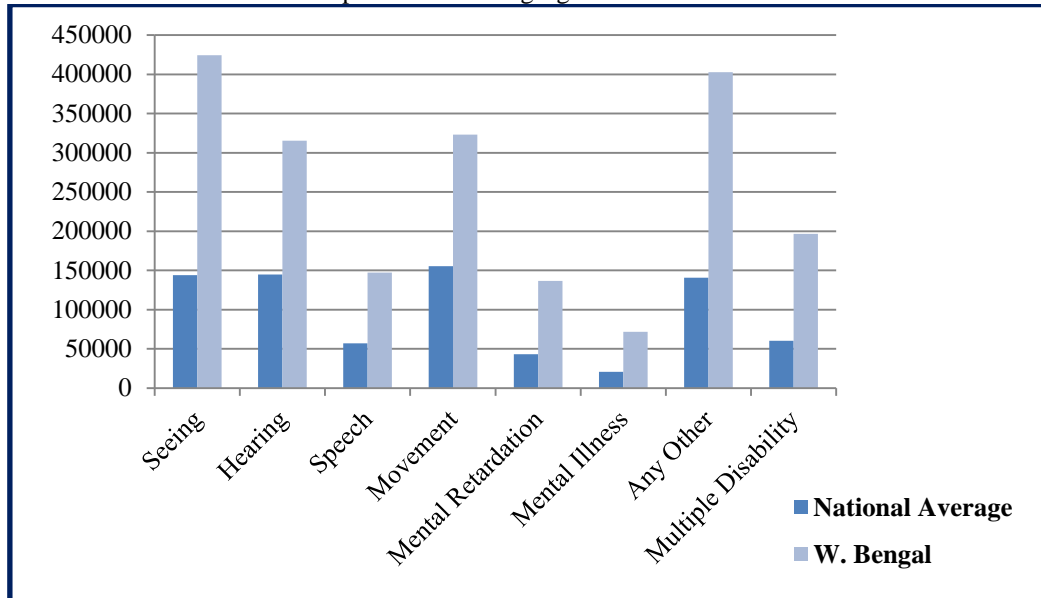


Chart-1: Comparative Disability Data (National Average and West Bengal)

The chart-1 above presents a picture of the state and shows that the numbers of the persons with disability in the state are much higher than the national average in each category of disability. The first column of the table-1 showing total numbers has been kept out of this chart due to major difference between data of this column and that of category wise data.

The total number of the persons with disability in West Bengal is 2017406 while the national average is 766016.

Table-2 reflects the times the data in West Bengal has above the national average in each category of disability.

Table-2: Difference in data of West Bengal and National Average

	Total	Seeing	Hearing	Speech	Movement	Mental Retardation	Mental Illness	Any Other	Multiple Disability
National Average	766016	143785	144886	57101	155332	43018	20652	140772	60471
W. Bengal	2017406	424473	315192	147336	322945	136523	71515	402921	196501
Times	2.63	2.95	2.18	2.58	2.08	3.17	3.46	2.86	3.25

This is obvious from table-2 above that numbers of the persons with disability in the state are two times or more in each category of disability comparing to the national average. Cases of mental disability are even three times or more.

State Schemes for Persons with Disability

West Bengal government operates the following schemes for the benefit of disabled people.

1. State Disability Pension
2. Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme
3. Education Scholarship
4. Bus Concession
5. Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase / Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP Scheme)
6. Providing Training and Education to the disabled persons- Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme to promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities (Revised DDRS Scheme)
7. Reservation to the Persons with Disabilities in posts in Government Establishments
8. Self-Employment through Loan and Financial support
9. Employment exchanges in service of disabled persons
10. Government Training Institutes imparting training and rehabilitation to the disabled
11. Manobik Scheme: Monthly Pension for disabled

But, there is no unemployment allowance scheme available in the state as per the latest update 2013 and incentive for marriage between disabled and non disabled is not implemented as per the latest update 2013.

CONCLUSION

The situation in the state in terms of the numbers is not good. The numbers in every category supersede the national average. The numbers of persons with mental disabilities are even greater. This is 3 times or more than the national average. The state government has made efforts for the welfare of the persons with disability. Even more efforts are called for seeing the numbers of disabled people in the state.

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Related Acts and Rules

- [1] West Bengal Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2017
- [2] Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995
- [3] Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992
- [4] National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disability Act, 1999

