

**Expert Group Meeting on Effective Data Generation
for the Incheon Strategy Indicators
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COUNTRY BRIEF

Country: Pakistan

By: Anzar Aziz

Introduction and Key findings

Pakistan is a large country with an estimated population of 185 million making it one of the most populous country in the world. Unfortunately Pakistan has low literacy rate and poor health status. The primary objective of government policy in the last few years has been to improve the level and quality of education for all and to improve the health needs of the country by delivering a set of basic health services to all. Efforts are also being made to improve coverage of immunization in the country.

The country has suffered several natural disasters following massive earthquakes, while having militancy in the northern belt of the country.

Persons with disabilities demand special attention. In Pakistan as per 1998 census 2.49% of population is disabled. The federal government is striving for the realization of rights of Persons With Disabilities and is evident from the National Policy of Person with Disabilities launched in 2002 under the defunct Ministry of Social Welfare & Special Education. The National Plan of Action (NPA) 2006 suggests measures to operationalize the National Policy.

In addition to government efforts, UN agencies, Disabled Persons Organizations and non government organizations are playing their role enthusiastically to bring some good to the lives of disabled population in Pakistan.

After the 18th Constitutional Amendment in 2011, the provincial governments have been empowered to take further initiatives towards the rights of Persons With Disabilities (PWD), and to create opportunities so that they may play an effective role.

Inspite of high level directives and announcements, there is still a lot to be done to improve political will and commitment of relevant stakeholders particularly in the public sector for supporting the inclusion of persons with disabilities in policy and development initiatives.

Country practices of data collection

The goal of any of sort of development cannot be achieved without having accurate baseline data, as in the case of Persons with Disabilities. In the absence of regular Population Census, in Pakistan, that baseline is missing. The last national population census was conducted in 1998, which provided data about disability under seven categories:

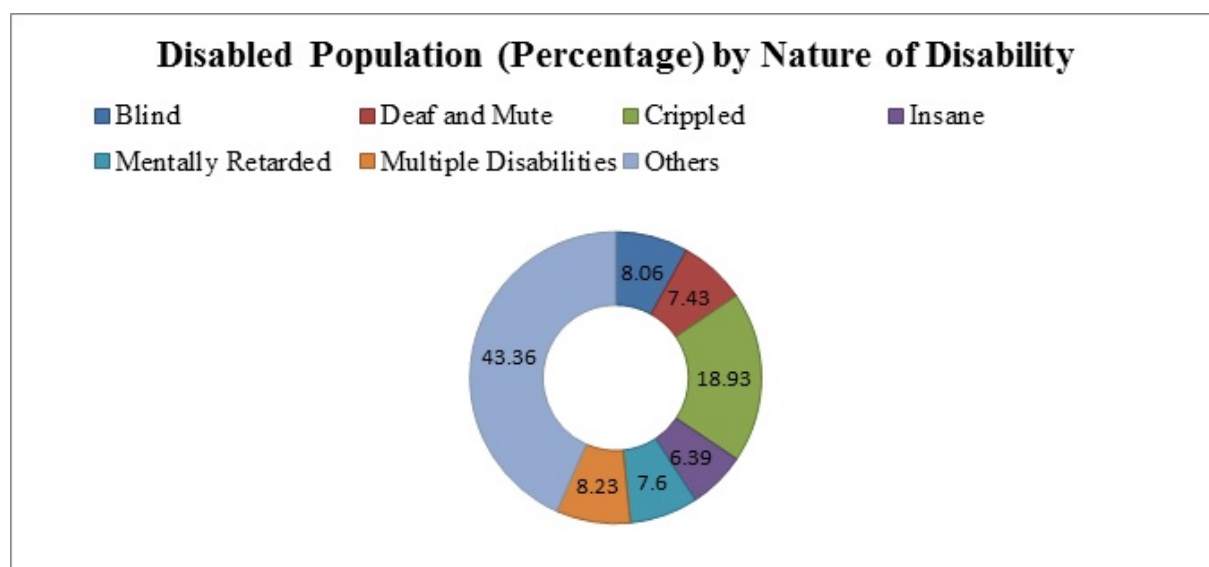
Crippled, Insane, Mentally Retarded, Multiple Disability, Blind, Deaf, Mute and Others.

Definition

For the purpose of population census, Pakistan has adopted the following definition for Persons with Disabilities:-

“A person who on account of injury, disease or deformity is handicapped for undertaking any gainful profession or employment, in order to earn his livelihood and includes a person who is blind, deaf, physically handicapped or mentally retarded.”

Total population of Persons with disabilities according to 1998 census was (3.29million).



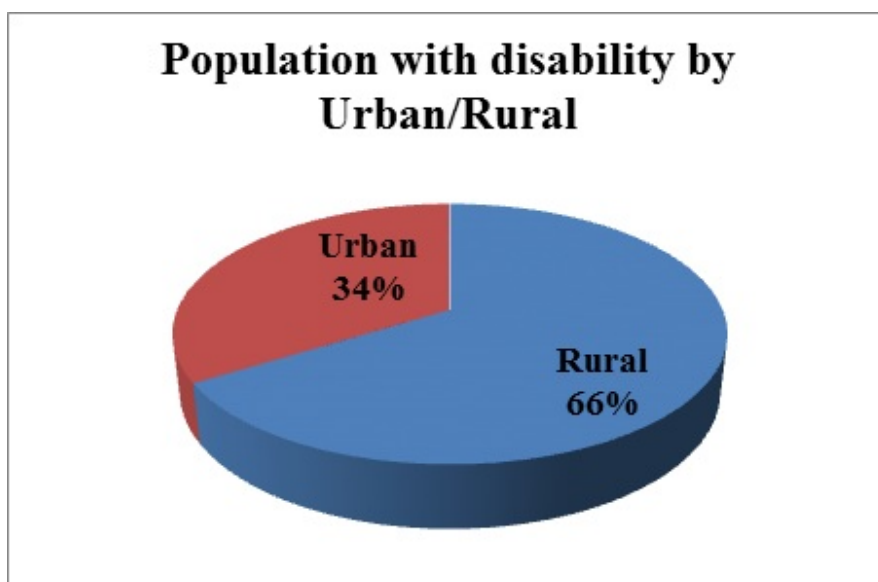
Most disabled people have a physical handicap. The number of males with disability is greater than females in both rural and urban areas. This is probably because of the high incidence of child mortality among female children caused by social discrimination, preference for the male child, and deep rooted gender insensitivity within households.

More resources are used for rearing infant boys than infant girls. Thus, if a girl child is disabled she is doubly disadvantaged as she will receive less nutritious food, health care and attention

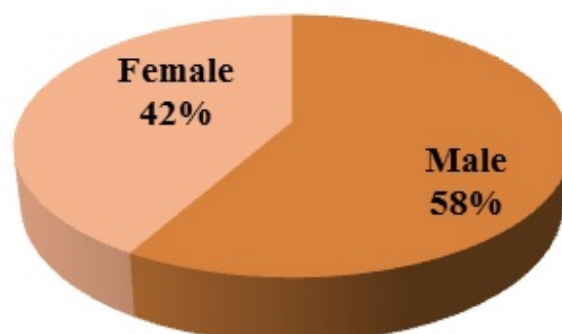
within the family and will often die young. Among adults, the number of physically disabled males is higher than the number of physically disabled females as the incidence of accidents in the household as well as in the workforce is much higher for men.

Estimated Disabled population								
Administrative unit	Total	Blind	Deaf and Mute	Crippled	Insane	Mentally Retarded	Multiple Disabilities	Others
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Pakistan	4,588,384	369,628	340,997	868,394	293,356	348,772	377,472	1,989,765
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	524,578	37,976	40,334	166,462	30,955	38,991	42,520	167,339
Punjab	2,550,104	216,339	208,374	531,123	172,017	200,671	205,709	1,015,871
Sindh	1,297,513	97,015	80,147	137,015	79,522	96,691	115,718	691,405
Balochistan	204,415	17,212	10,718	30,274	9,394	11,472	12,989	112,356
Islamabad	11,775	1,086	1,424	3,520	1,467	948	536	2,794

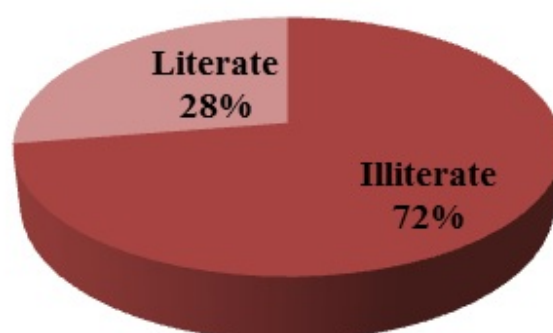
Following are graphs of few indicators based on Population Census 1998



Population with disability by Sex

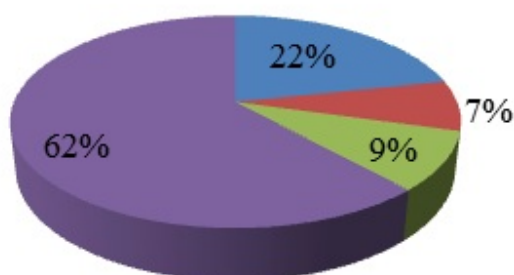


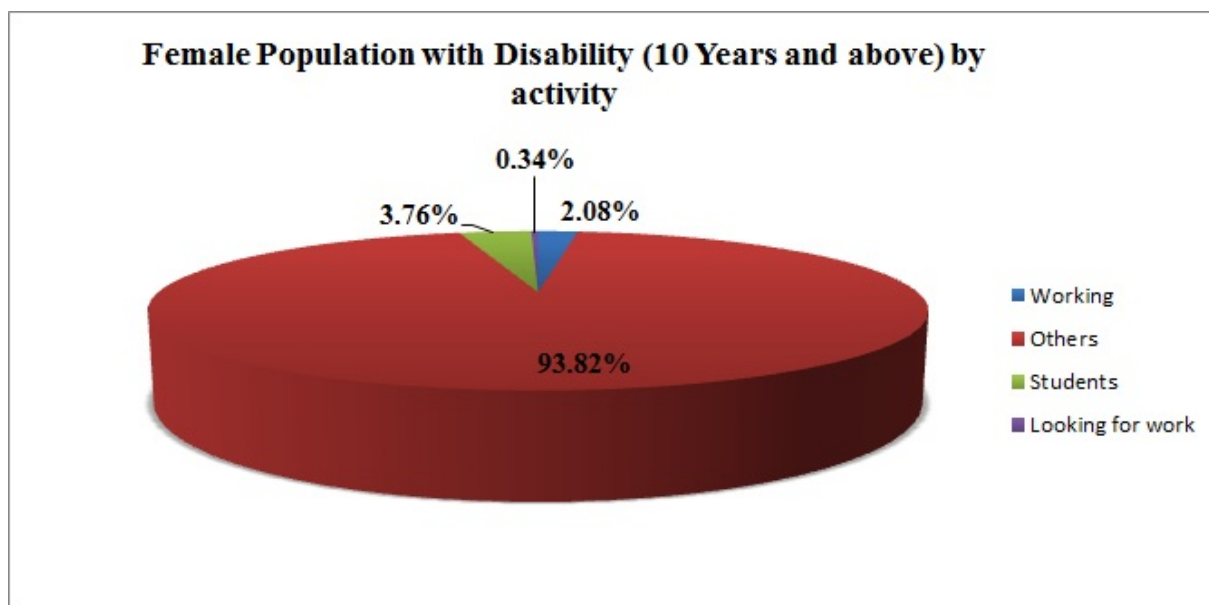
Disable Population(10 years and above) by Literacy



Male Population with disability (10 Years and above) by Activity

■ Working ■ Looking for work ■ Students ■ Others





Lessons learnt

The efforts of the public sector and UN/International Organizations have no doubt brought about a change in accelerating the services for the PWDs in Pakistan. The NGOs have also played an excellent role, particularly in motivating the private sector and in creating awareness at the policy planning and implementation levels.

During the last decade the government in general and NGOs in particular have realized the need of developing “networks” for promotion of the cause of PWDs at national level.

It has been experienced in Pakistan that NGOs in various forms and definitions have been bridging the gaps in service delivery in the areas of prevention, early detection, education, health, vocational training, rehabilitation and daily living skills.

Joint efforts of the public and private sector have resulted in:

- Building capacities and skills
- minimizing duplication of efforts
- sharing knowledge

PWDs face a multitude of social, economic, physical and political barriers hampering their mainstreaming in society, mainly because their abilities and aspiration have been misunderstood.

In Pakistan print and electronic media should be used to disseminate reliable communication and other information concerning the disability issues so that public at large can understand these issues and strive towards a society where all including PWDs can live a better life.

Socio-economic data on disability in Pakistan is also scarce. Available data pertains to 1998 population census, and the percentage of disabled population revealed in that census was lower than the WHO estimates.

The systematic care of disabled persons was brought into focus in Pakistan in 1980s with the observance of 1981 as UN International year of disabled persons. The need was then felt for their education, rehabilitation and mainstreaming both by government and by the private sector.

Although “Disabled Persons (Employment and Rehabilitation) Ordinance, 1981” was passed in 1981 and the state responsibility towards protection of the rights of Disabled persons, provision of medical care, education, training, employment and rehabilitation was realized but the commitment to create a barrier free environment for disabled persons remained missing.

National Policy was formalized in 2002. The vision of the policy was to provide by 2025 an environment that would allow full realization of potential of Disabled persons through their inclusion in mainstream and providing them full support of the government, private sector and civil society.

Achievements

Following are some of the public sector achievements:

Special Education Facility:

Directorate General of Special education has a network of institutions offering free educational facilities in specially designed settings for persons with disabilities. These facilities are mainly limited to primary level education, however some secondary level facilities are also available.

Higher education quota:

An education quota of 1%: has been recommended by Higher Education Commission for all Universities for PWDs. However quota is discretionary and is not regularly utilized or enforced.

Vocational Training:

Government of Pakistan offers free vocational training facilities for PWDs at purpose built vocational training centers.

Employment Opportunities:

Government of Pakistan offers number of facilities, concessions and opportunities to persons with disabilities for gainful employment. There is also recommendation of 1% quota for PWDs in all public and private sector organizations.

Competitive Exams:

All persons with disabilities are eligible to appear in competitive exams for all administrative positions against 1% quota for disabled or open positions.

Rehabilitation Centers:

Pakistan has state-of-the-art facilities for artificial limbs, prosthetics and cataract treatment.

Recreation & Sports:

A number of popular recreational sports have been made accessible for PWDs.

Major challenges to improve the availability and quality of data

The non-availability of reliable data is a great impediment in the effective delivery of services to PWDs. Base line data provides a basis for policy making, project planning and program implementation. There is a vital need to have reliable data about the magnitude of the disability problem in the country.

The main source of the data about PWDs is National Population Census. It is unfortunate that no census has been conducted after 1998. It is high time that not only Population Census is conducted but also comprehensive survey(s) are conducted to determine the status of disability.

Population statistics on which the policy is based is conservative and vague. Disabled persons can be visible if national censuses and surveys are strengthened enough to properly report disabilities in national statistics.

Even after having comprehensive legislation, Disabled persons are mostly unseen, unheard and uncounted persons in Pakistan. It is time to bring disabled people into development action and policy dialogue as equal partners, only then the ultimate goal of equal rights for disabled persons will be achieved.

National capacity-building needs

Capacity building is needed regarding data collection with special reference to PWDs.

Plans to improve the availability and quality of disability data

It is to ensure PWDs are involved in planning and implementing educational, training and rehabilitation programs for themselves, their families and communities.

It is required that legislation relating to employment and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities is adequately formulated and is strictly enforced.

Efforts are needed to expand service infrastructure which is adequate to accommodate and cover all persons with disabilities both in urban and rural areas.

Usage of modern technology, tools and skills to streamline national policy, planning, programming and service delivery for effective redressal of disabilities.

Financial and technical constraints posing hindrance in the way of proper implementation of programs have to be removed to possible extent.

Increased ownership of disability issues by the stakeholders and strengthen their participation in the process of service delivery and program design.

Its time to adopt a shift from exclusive system of education to inclusive education for the children with disabilities.

Expand, coordinate and monitor a comprehensive network of services for Persons with Disabilities in Pakistan.

Build strong partnerships with concerned Line Ministries, Provincial Line Departments and the Private Sector (NGOs), by providing assistance / guidance through advocacy, training, monitoring and other means of participation, quality assurance and sharing of quality data.

More efforts needed for training and education of parents and communities to recognize special needs of persons with disabilities.