

Socio-Economic Conditions of Physically Handicapped**Dr. Appayya V. Melavanki,**Lecturer in Sociology,
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RCU Belagavi.**Abstract :**

The study has been considered different subsystems of society viz, family sub-caste occupation, and education level of the parents have been taken into consideration for analyzing and interpreting the data. These variables plays significant role in study the socio-economic status of physically handicapped persons.

Introduction

India is the largest democratic country in the world and is on its way to become a key player in the global scenario. It is our responsibility to ensure that this developmental cycle touches all the citizens of this country that is able and, especially, the physically handicapped, who are often referred to as the invisible minority. But before we stamp them as minority, let us consider the recent census reports. According to the 2011 census the government figure for the physically handicapped was 2.7% of the entire population. A reserved guess would place that figure between seven to ten crores. The National Policy identifies the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) as necessary and valuable assets of this country and the basic goal is to create an atmosphere for them in conjunction with the basic constitutional rights i.e. equality, freedom, justice and dignity. This will also guarantee equal opportunities for the PWD thereby ensuring the protection of their rights and enabling their full participation in the society.

Physically handicapped are those things that prevent people with impairment from functioning properly in the society. Many studies argue that disabilities can occur at birth but in some cases, disability is acquired later in life. Common disabilities include physical deformities that affect the upper and lower limbs, manual dexterity problems, inability to coordinate body organs and others. The cause of the disability may be due to old age, a viral infection such as polio, a hereditary condition and paralysis or amputation. Other disabilities include speech and hearing impairment. This category includes individuals suffering hearing

impairment; some partially while others totally, a condition also known as deafness. There are a number of individuals who have problems with speech, where others cannot speak and are said to be mute. Sufferers of speech impairment may stutter and stammer while speaking while others may have voice disorders. However, People suffering from disabilities face a lot of challenges every day. Simple tasks that ordinary people perform on a daily basis as routine are extremely delicate and difficult to those suffering from disabilities. Thus accomplishing simple tasks such as taking a shower, dressing up, brushing teeth or even having a meal are tasks that may take much longer than normal and in many cases, may require the assistance of others. Individuals with disabilities are faced with stigma and discrimination from the society where they live. Most people look down on them and treat them as special. Disabled people may find it hard to socialize with members of the society. With above back drop the study assumed great significance to study the problems and prospects of physically handicapped.

Definitions of Physically Handicapped

According to the medical model, disability lies in the individuals, as it is equated with those restrictions of activity. Faced with the line of thinking, individuals would feel pressured to work on 'their' restrictions, bearing the burden of adjusting to their environment through cures, treatment or rehabilitation.

According to World trade organization disabilities are an umbrella term, covering

impairments, activity limitations, and participation restrictions.

According to Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation Act, 1995, "Person with disability" means a person suffering from not less than forty per cent of any disability as certified by a medical authority (any hospital or institution, specified for the purposes of this Act by notification by the appropriate Government). As per the act "Disability" means Blindness, Low vision, Leprosy-cured; ,Hearing impairment; Loco motor disability, Mental retardation; and Mental illness.

Research Methodology

The size of physically handicapped population is very large in Belgaum district like other district. In view of the said reasons the study of all handicapped in Belgaum district is very difficult and it is time consuming and it is not manageable by the researcher to complete the study on time hence, the study has adopted cluster sampling method and has been divided into different stratum like ten taluka and each taluka has taken 30 sample physically handicapped respondents by adopting simple random sampling techniques. Therefore, the total sample respondents' is 300 While selecting sample respondents from each taluka of Belgaum district, equal weightage has been given to different types of physically handicapped.

Socio-Economic Conditions of Physically Handicapped

Socio-economic condition often measured as a combination of education, income and occupation. It is commonly conceptualized as the social standing or class of an individual or group. When viewed through a social class lens, privilege, power and control are emphasized. The condition of people of society affects on human functioning, including our physical and mental health. Low socio-economic like lower education, poverty and poor health, ultimately affect our society as a whole. Inequities in wealth distribution, resource distribution and quality of life impact on human being functions. However, the persons with a disability are likely to have limited opportunities to earn income and often have increased medical expenses. Disabilities among children and adults may affect the socioeconomic standing of entire families. Fitzgerald (2005) there is

strong associations between being poor, being out of work, having low qualifications, and the risk of developing a long-term health problem or impairment. Burchard (2003) Irish research has shown that someone who already experiences low income is more likely to experience the onset of a disability or chronic illness, other things being equal. Gannon and Nolan(2005) In general, there is a higher incidence of disability among the lower socio-economic groups, for example, 11% of those whose socio- economic group is unskilled have a disability, compared to 4% whose socio-economic group is employers and managers. Further, in developed countries, a large part of the literature concerned with income-related aspects of disability has tended to focus on the quantitative impact of disability on educational achievement, earnings and income, and on the adequacy and equity of income maintenance schemes and other programs. However, here an attempt is made to present the socio-economic conditions of the physically handicapped. In order to study the socio- economic back ground of the sample respondents in Belgaum district, the study used variables like sex of the respondents, age of the respondents, caste of the respondents, annual income of their parents, educational level of the respondents parents , marital status of the respondents, education level and occupation of the respondents etc.

Table -3.1: Information about Sex of the Respondents.

Sex	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Male	180	60%
Female	120	40%
Total	300	100

Sources: Field Survey.

Table 3.1 gives information about sex of the respondents. Out of 300 samples physically handicapped 180 respondents are male and remaining 120 respondents are female.

Table-3.2: Information about Age of the Respondents.

Age (years)	Male	Female	Total
Below 20	34(53.1)	30(46.9)	64 (21.3)
20-25	27(51.9)	25(48.1)	52 (17.3)
26-30	40(65.5)	21(34.5)	61 (20.3)
31-35	36(65.4)	19(34.5)	55 (18.4)
36 and above	43(63.2)	25(36.8)	68(22.7)
Total	180(60)	120(40)	300 (100)

Sources: Field Survey.

Tables 3.2 provide information about age of the respondents. Out of 300 sample respondents 64 falls in the age group of below 20 years among them 34 were male and 30 were female. 52 sample respondents come under in the age group of 20-25 years, out of that 27 were male and 25 were Female.61 sample respondents fall in the age group of 26-30 years among them 40 were male and remaining 21 were female. 55 respondents come under in the age group of 31-35 years among them 36 were male and 19 were female. 68 respondents come under in the age group of 36 years and above, out of that 43 were male and 25 were female. Thus it is clear that from the above, in the study area sample respondents fall under different age group.

Table- 3.4: Geographical Background of the Respondents.

Geographical Background	Male	Female	Total
Rural	130(61.9)	80(38.1)	210 (70)
Semi-urban	40(66.7)	20(33.3)	60 (20)
Urban	10(33.3)	20(66.7)	30 (10)
Total	180(60)	120(40)	300 (100)

Sources: Field Survey.

Table 3.4 depicts that geographical background of sample respondents. Among 300 sample respondents 210 belong to rural background, among them 130 were male and 80 were female. 60 sample respondents belong to semi-urban background, out of that 40 were male and 20 were female. 30 respondents amounting 10% belong to urban

background, among there 10 were male and 20 were female.

Table-3.5: Level of Education of the Respondents

Education Level	No of Respondents	Percentage
Illiterate	40	13.3
Below Primary	39	13.2
Primary	75	25.0
S.S.L.C	90	30.0
Degree	45	15.0
Other	11	03.5
Total	300	100

Sources: Field survey

Tables 3.5 provide information about level of education of the respondents. Out of 300 sample respondents 40 respondents were illiterate, 39 respondents educated up to below primary, 75 respondents educated up to primary , 90 respondents educated up to degree and remaining 11 respondents have other educational background.

Table- 3.6: Religion of the Respondents.

Religion	No of Respondents	Total
Hindu	230	76.7
Muslim	55	18.3
Christian	10	3.4
Jain	05	1.6
Total	300	100

Sources: Field Survey.

Tables 3.6 provide information about religion of the respondents. Out of 300 sample respondents 230 respondents belong to Hindu religion, 55 respondents belong to Muslim religion, 10 respondents belong to Christian religion and 5 respondents belong to Jain religion.

Table-3.7: Caste Wise classification of Respondents.

Caste	No of Respondents	Total
SC/ ST	87	29.0
Muslim	55	18.2
Lingayat	75	25.0
Brhamin	10	03.4
Martha	45	15.0

Jain	05	01.7
Other	23	07.7
Total	300	100

Sources: Field Survey.

Table 3.7 reveals the information about caste wise classification of respondents. Out of 300 sample physically handicapped respondents' 87 respondents amounting 29% belong to SC/ST, 55 respondents constituting 18.2% belong to Muslim community. 75 respondents amounting 25% belong to Lingayat communities, 10 respondents amounting 3.4% belong to Brhamin community, 45 respondents amounting 15% belong to Martha community, 5 respondents amounting 1.7% belong to Jain community and 23 respondents amounting 7.7% belong to other communities. Thus it is clear that most of the sample respondents belong to SC/ST community. The hypothesis entitled the socio-economic background of the physically handicapped are not sound. The said hypothesis was rejected because of nearly 30% of sample respondents belong to SC/ST and also about 18% of the sample respondents belong to Muslim. It is clear that many number of physically handicapped come from weaker section like SC/ST, therefore, null hypothesis was accepted.

Table- 3.8: Occupation of the Respondents.

Occupation	No of Respondents	Total
Student	75	25.0
Unemployed	55	18.3
Government Servant	60	20.0
Business	45	15.0
Agriculture	50	16.7
Other	15	05.0
Total	300	300

Sources: Field Survey.

Table 3.8 speaking that the occupation of the respondents. Out of sample respondents 75 were Students, 55 sample respondents were Unemployed, 60 respondents are Government Servants , 45 sample respondents are Business man, 50 sample

respondents are Agriculturists and remaining 15 respondents are Other occupation. Thus it is clear from the above explanation most of the sample respondents occupation is Cooli. It means physically handicapped parents are not well off economically.

The hypothesis entitled there is no positive relation between poverty and handicapped is rejected because of out of 300 sample respondents' more than 150 respondents occupation is cooli and working in garages. Thus it is clear that most of the sample respondents are students, followed by government servants, Unemployed, Agriculturists and Business man.

Table- 3.9: Marital Status of the Respondents.

Marital status	No of Respondents	Total
Married	167	55.7
Unmarried	133	44.3
Total	300	100

Sources: Field Survey.

Table 3.9 speaking that the marital status of the respondents. Out of 300 sample respondents' 167 sample respondents amounting 55.7% stated that, they have married and remaining 133 respondents amounting 44.3% were not married.

Thus it is clear that nearly 45% of sample respondents not married. Further they stated that 80% handicapped persons not get married because of no one come forward to marry them.

Table-3.10: Nature of Family.

Family Nature	No of Respondents	Total
Nuclear	270	90.0
Joint	30	10.0
Total	300	100

Sources: Field Survey

From table 3.10 come to know that nature of family. Out of 300 sample respondents 270 respondents amounting 90% fall under nuclei family and remaining 30 sample respondents constituting 10 % belong to joint family. From the above explanation it

is clear that most of the sample respondents have nuclear family rather than joint family.

From the above analysis it is very clear that, the socio-economic conditions of the sample physically handicapped are not satisfactory.

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