

## Preface

In India, the enactment of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 is a signal achievement of its disability movement. With increasing awareness of disability-based discrimination, explicit legal safeguards and major international commitments as a signatory of United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006), India is attempting a multi-faceted approach to maximise the participation of these differently abled persons in the socio-economic progress of the country.

In order to work towards an inclusive, barrier free society through raising awareness and policy actions, there is a need to have comprehensive reliable statistics on people with disability and their socio-economic conditions. In India, the major sources of statistics on disability are the decadal Population Censuses and the regular large scale sample surveys on disability conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). Based primarily on the findings of the latest Population Census (2001) and NSS Survey on Disability (2002), this statistical profile of the disabled persons in India along with discussion on relevant national and international issues makes the publication a comprehensive documentation on the subject. It is expected to be a unique guide in analysing the issues of concern for deciding on the nature and locales of necessary policy interventions.

The detail discussion on the disability statistics in India available through multiple sources brings about the issue of variation in the estimates of disability from different official sources due to differences in concepts, definitions, methodology, type of questions etc. Thus one can find variations in the estimates of prevalence of various types of disability as obtained from NSSO 2002 and Census 2001 mainly due to different definitions used by these two agencies and hence leading to different coverage of the population. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on Disability Statistics was constituted by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation in the year 2005 to review the conceptual framework and definition for the measurement of disability. The Committee deliberated on the issue in consultation with the various stakeholders and came up with standardized definition and questionnaire for collection of information on disability. However, subsequent progressive changes are yet to be reflected as the new Population Census 2011 is presently under way.

I wish to place on record my sincere appreciation for the dedicated effort put in by the team of officers led by Smt. S.Jeyalakshmi, Additional Director General, Social Statistics Division of my office in bringing out this publication.

**(S.K.Das)**

**Director General, Central Statistics Office**

Officers of Social Statistics Division, Central Statistics Office,  
Associated with the Publication

Smt. S. Jeyalakshmi  
Additional Director General

Shri S. Chakrabarti  
Deputy Director General

Smt. Nivedita Gupta  
Director