

## Chapter 6

### Socio-economic Profile of Disabled Persons in India

The existing data available indicates that people with disability are subject to multiple deprivations. As compared to the general population, they suffer more from poverty, low literacy, unemployment, which put them further behind. The differences in access to basic services and degree of social marginalisation among persons with different types of disability are also striking, and they get further magnified, with differences on account of gender, caste, rural/ urban background etc. It is therefore, imperative to study the socio-economic profile of the disabled population for any meaningful policy intervention. With population Census and NSSO surveys revealing different aspects of the disability scenario, the socio-economic profile of the disabled obtained from these two sources are being discussed separately.

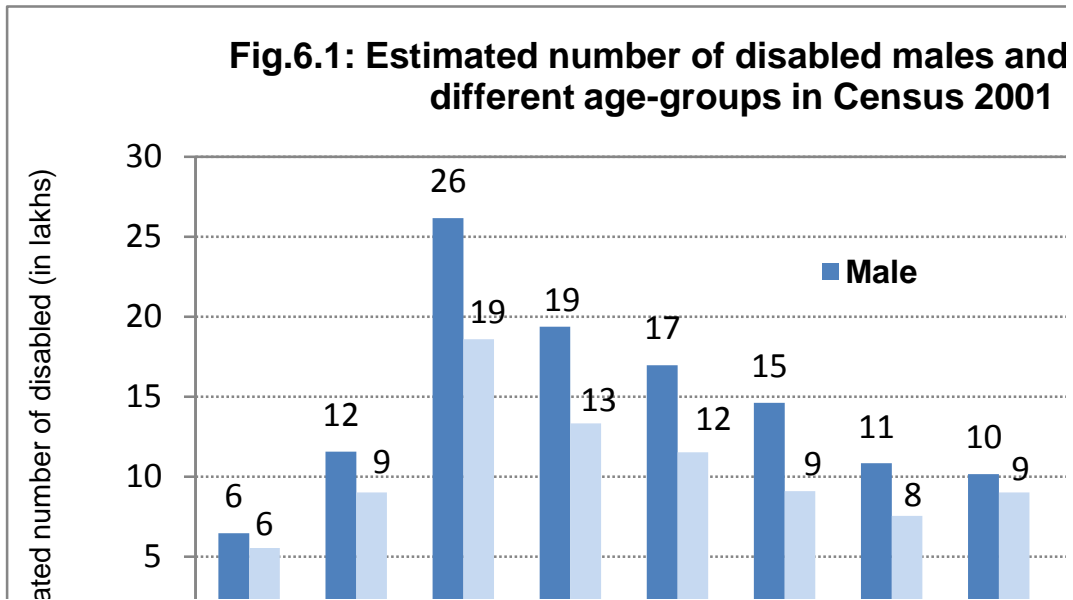
#### A. Findings of Population Census 2001

More than 98% of disabled persons lived in normal households, while only 1.1% were in institutional households and remaining 0.2% were houseless. Again out of the 193 million households in India, a little less than 10% households reported to have one or more disabled members. On the other hand 17% of institutional households and 8% of houseless households had disabled member(s).

As already discussed in the previous section, the prevalence of disability was found to be more in rural areas (2.2%) as compared to urban (1.9%) and more among males (2.4%) than among females (1.9%). Among social groups it was observed to have higher incidences among Scheduled Castes (2.2%) and relatively lower among Scheduled Tribes (1.9%) as compared to others.

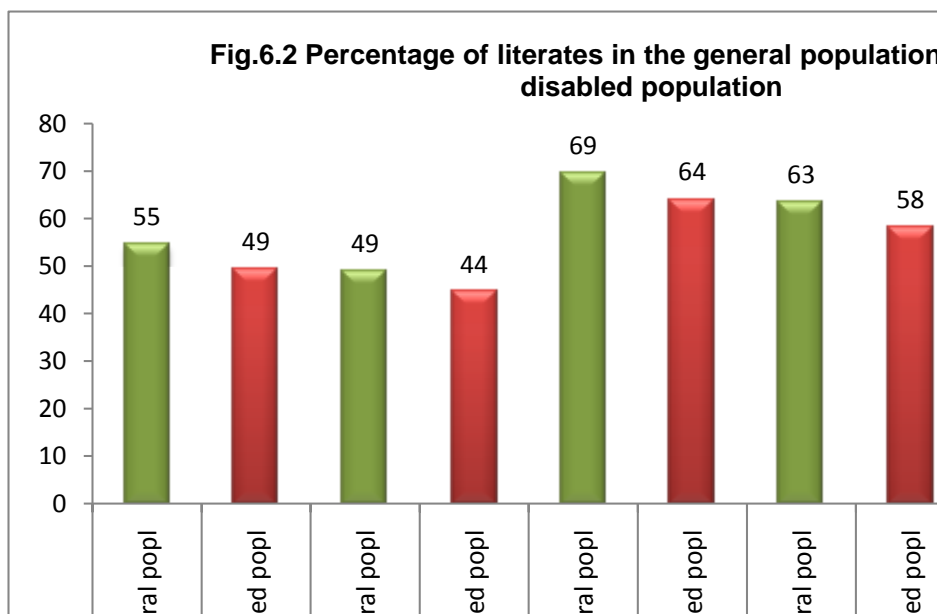
#### 6.1 Disabled population in different age-groups: Census 2001

In general, number of disabled persons increased with age broadly in the age group 0-19 years and thereafter as age increased the number of PWD decreased gradually for both males and females. More than 35% of the disabled persons (more than 7.5 million in number) were of age less than 20 years and another 15% were of age between 20 to 30 years. Less than 20% of disabled males and females were of age more than 50 years. Thus, it is noted with due concern that majority of the disabled persons in India were reported to be very young. Also, it is important to keep in mind this demographic profile of the disabled population as indicated in the figure below, while studying their socio-economic outcomes or planning for suitable policy interventions.



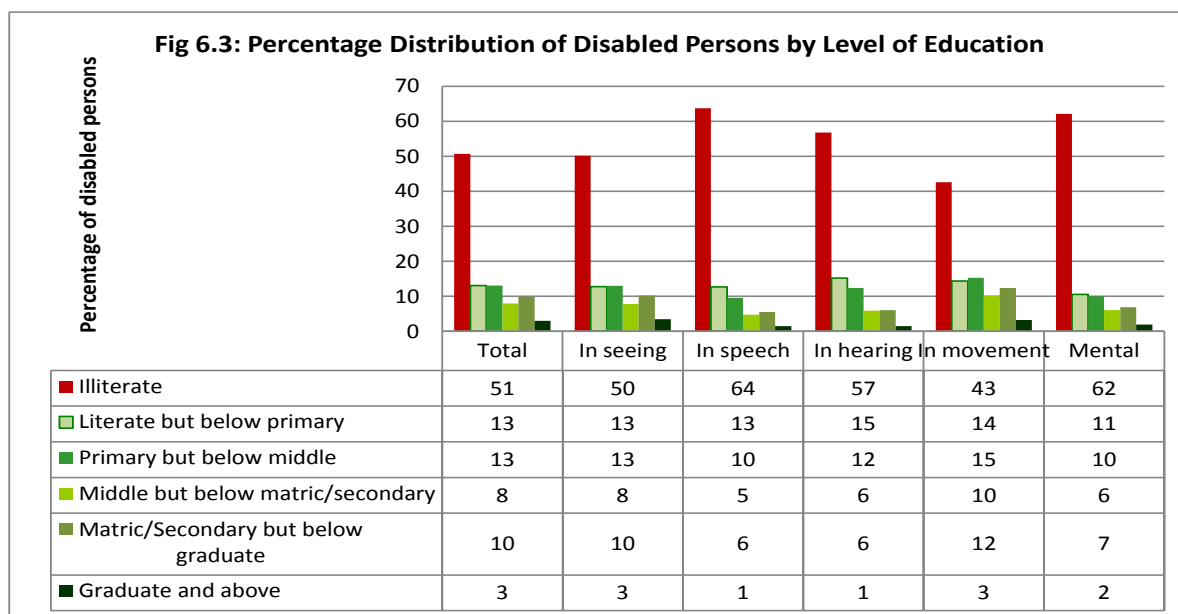
## 6.2 Literacy and level of education: Census 2001

Education is critical in expanding opportunities in life for any population, more so for the differently-abled ones. But as the figure below indicates majority of the disabled persons in our country (51%) were not literate. For the population as a whole, as well as in any of its sub-category, literacy among disabled persons was invariably much lower than that among respective general population. The gap was significantly large in case of female population with only 37% of female disabled persons reporting literacy. This was also true in rural areas (44% literates) where three-fourths of disabled persons live.



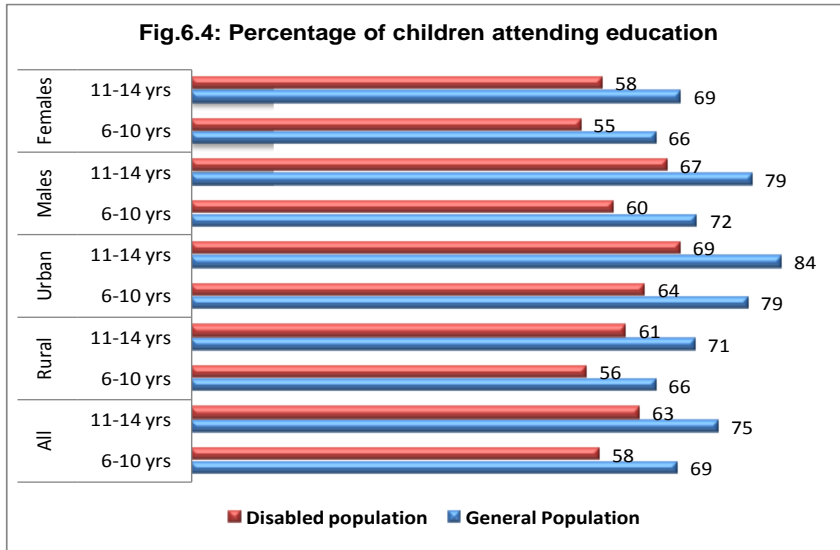
Further, there were major differences across different types of disability, the worst positioned were those with speech and mental disability with only about one-third of them being literate.

As fig.6.3 indicates, there were differences with respect to level of education even among the literates for persons with different types of disability. Only about 25% of persons with speech, hearing and mental disability completed at least primary education. The situation was little better among persons with visual and movement disability with 34% of visually disabled and 40% of persons with loco motor disability having completed primary level of education or above. Across all types of disability only 3% were of level graduate and above and another 10% were of level secondary or higher secondary. In cases of speech and hearing disability, only 1% reported to have graduation and another 6% completed secondary level.

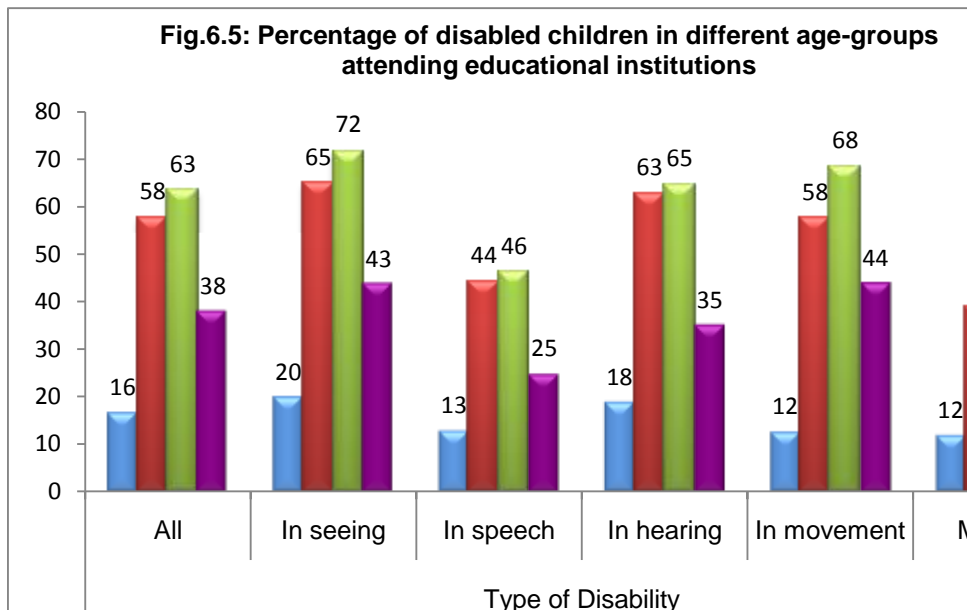


### 6.3 Educational attendance of children with disability: Census 2001

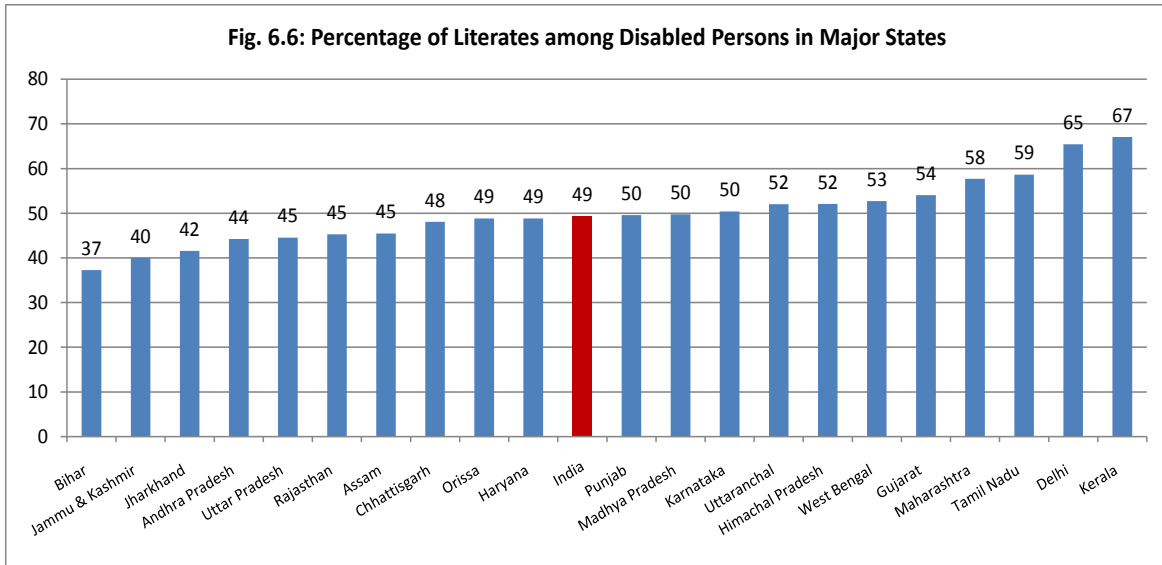
In respect of current level of attendance in educational institutions of disabled children, only 58% of disabled children aged 6-10 years and 63% of children aged 11-14 years were found to be attending schools, the corresponding proportions for the general population were much higher at 69% and 75% respectively. Even in urban areas, the gap between general and disabled children was sizeable. Among disabled male children 60% in the age-group 6-10 years and 67% in the age-group 11-14 attended school. For disabled females the respective proportions were still lower at 55% and 58% respectively. The gap between general population and disabled population in school attendance was sizeable not only in rural areas but also in urban areas. In urban areas among disabled children 64% of those of age 6-10 years and 69% of age 11-14 years attended education. For the general population 79% of children aged 6-10 years and 84% of age 11-14 years were in school.



Then there were further disparity among children with various types of disability, especially for the children with speech and mental disability. More than 55% of children with speech disability and more than 60% of children having mental disability were not going to school even in the prime school-going-ages, i.e. age 6 to 14 years.

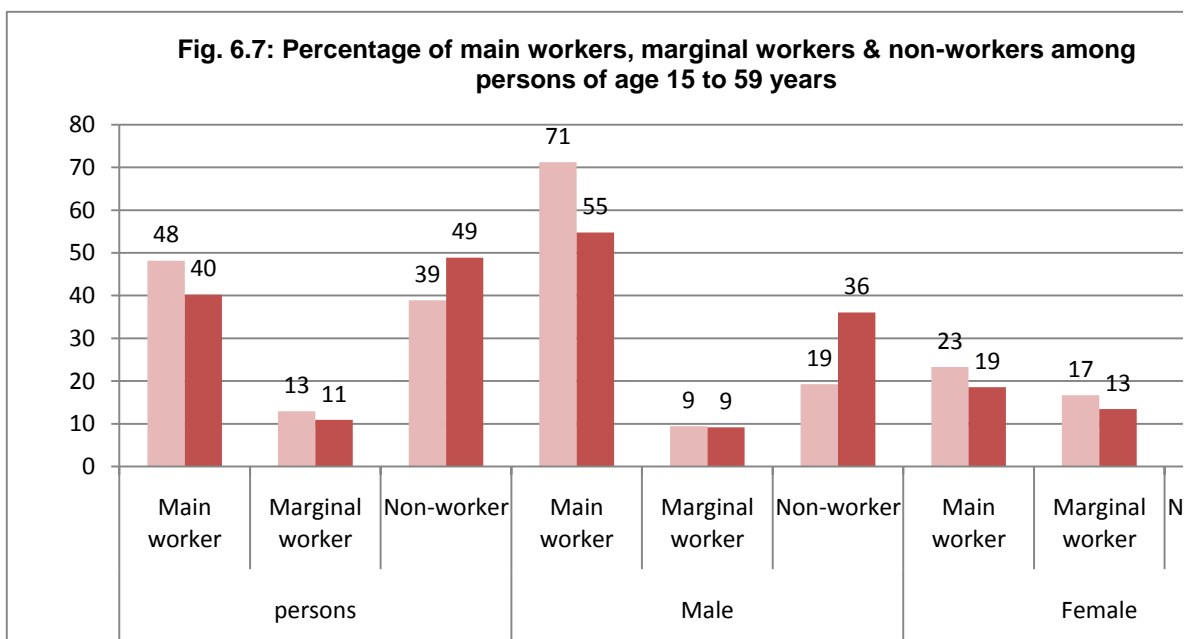


Among states also there were wide gaps in literacy among disabled population from 37% in Bihar to 67% in Kerala with almost half of the states having majority of their disabled persons not literate. Even in the best practice states like Kerala, literacy rate among disabled persons did not exceed two-third.

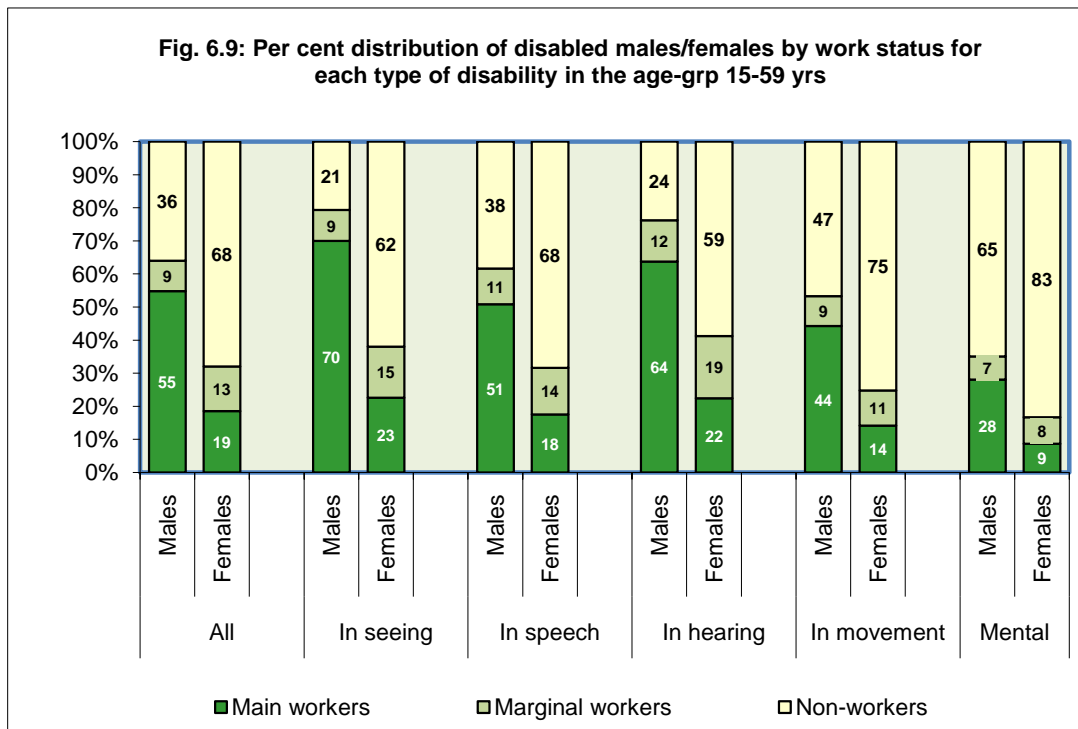
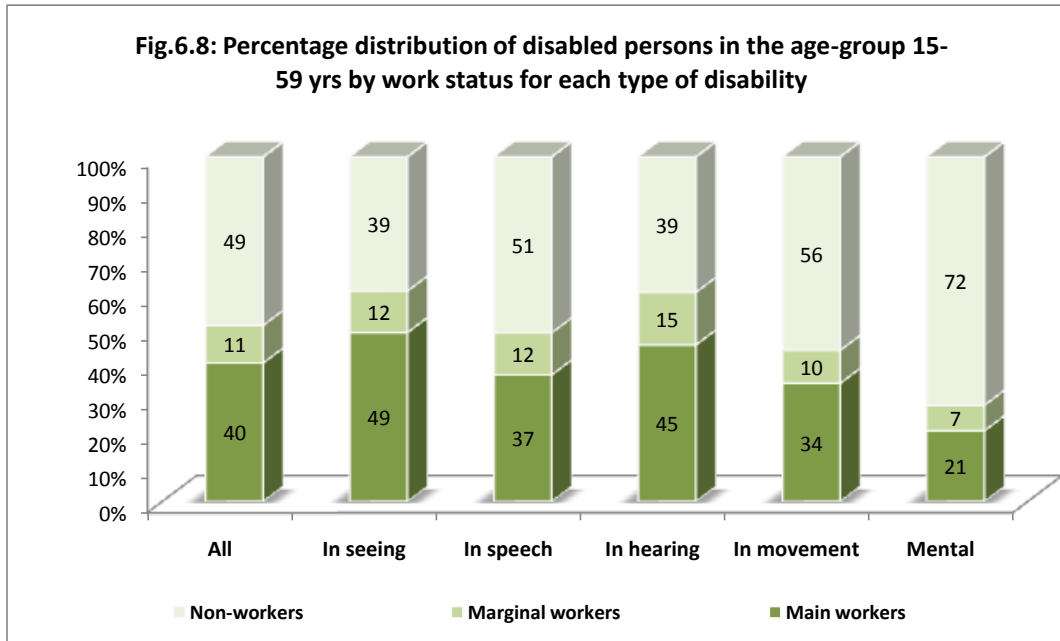


#### 6.4 Employment and Activity Status: Census 2001

If one studies the employment status of population on the age-group 15 – 59 years, it can be observed that invariably the proportion of main workers and marginal workers were much lower among disabled population as compared to the general population. Accordingly, the percentage of non-workers among disabled was relatively more as compared to that among general population. More than a-third (36%) of disabled males and more than two-third (68%) of disabled females of age 15 to 59 years were non-workers, i.e. not economically active. On the other hand among general population, only 19% of males and 60% of females were non-workers.

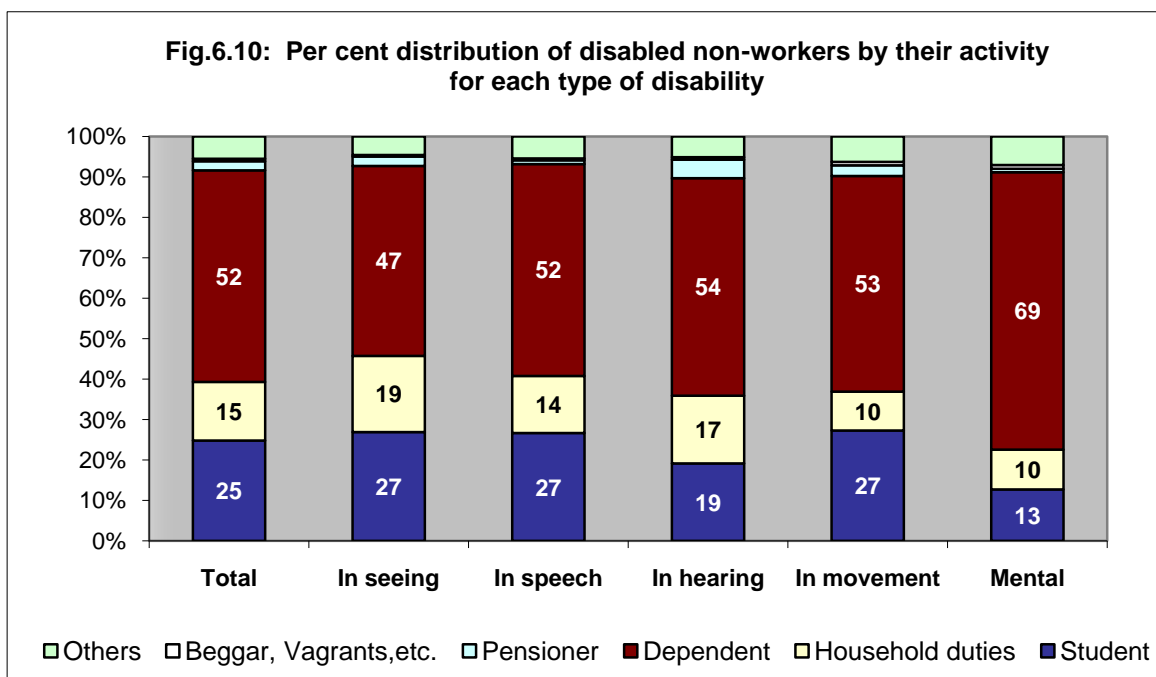


Then there were further differences among different types of disability with majority of persons with speech or movement disability and almost three-fourth of persons with mental deficiencies being non-worker.



The fig. 6.9 depicts that across all types of disability there was wide gap in the proportion of disabled males and females working. On the whole 55% of disabled males were main workers, 9% marginal workers and 36% non-workers. Among disabled females the respective percentages were 19% main worker, 13% marginal worker and remaining 68% non-workers.

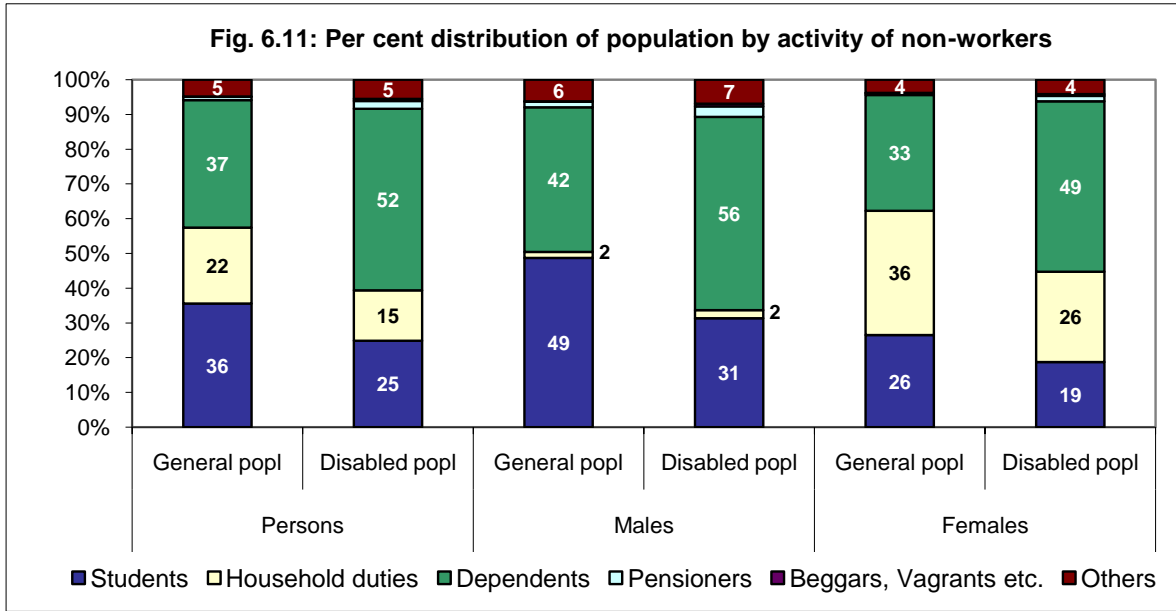
### 6.5 Activity of non-workers: Census 2001



In general, out of the total disabled non-workers, about 50% of the non-workers were dependent, about 25% were students, about 15% were engaged in household duties, 2% were pensioners, 1% of them were beggars, vagrants, etc and 5% were categorized as others.

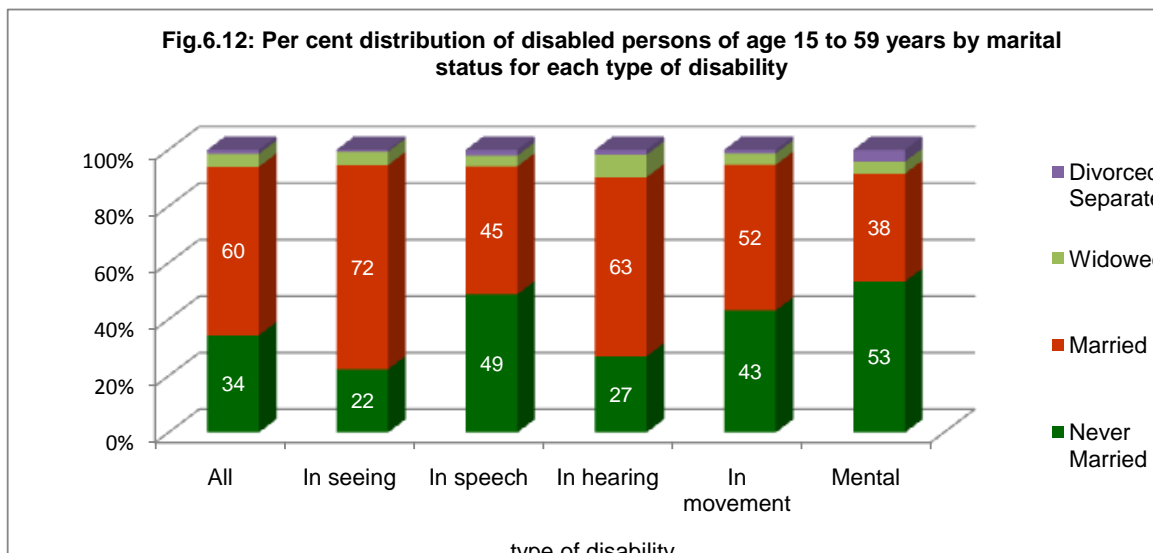
Again, out of the total disabled non-workers, about 45% were visually challenged, 30% possessed disability in movement, 12% were mentally disabled, 8% had disability in speech and 5% had disability in hearing. 73% of the total disabled non-workers belonged to rural sector and 27% in the urban sector. The total disabled non-working population consisted of 52% females and 48% males.

In the general population among the non-workers, 49% males and 26 % of females were students. As against this among disabled non-workers 31% males and 19% females only were students. Also, there were a significantly higher percentage of dependents among the disabled non-workers as compared to non-workers in general population. In the general population among non-workers, 42% of males and 33% of females were dependants while among disabled non-workers, 56% of males and 49% of females were dependants.



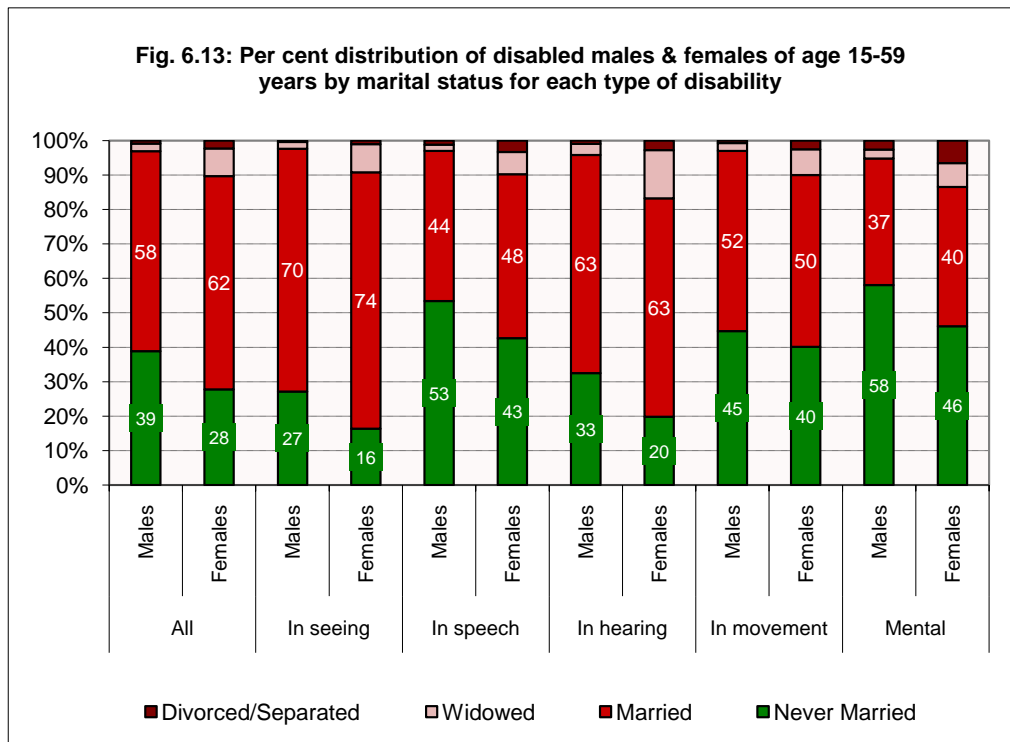
**6.6 Marital Status of disabled persons: Census 2001**

On comparing the marital status of general population and the disabled population, it was found that in general, a higher percentage of disabled persons were never married (34%) as compared to the general population (25%) and 60% of disabled persons were married in comparison to the 71% of the married persons in the general population. More specifically, among males, 66% in the general population and 58% among the disabled were married. A similar trend was observed in the marital status of females. However, while discussing about marital status, instead of general population it is better to consider population of age 15 and above as only 1% of the total disabled persons were married in the age-group 0-14 years.





In the age-group 15-59 years, about 34% of the total disabled persons were never married, 60% were married, 5% were widowed and 1% were divorced or separated. Among disabled males, 39% were never married, 58% were married, 2% were widowed and 1% were divorced/separated. Among disabled females, 28% were never married, 62% were married, 8% were widowed and 2% were divorced/separated. A higher percentage of persons with disability in mental, speech, and movement were never married. But in case of disability in seeing and hearing, higher percentage of persons were married.



### 6.7 Distribution of disabled persons by social group: Census 2001

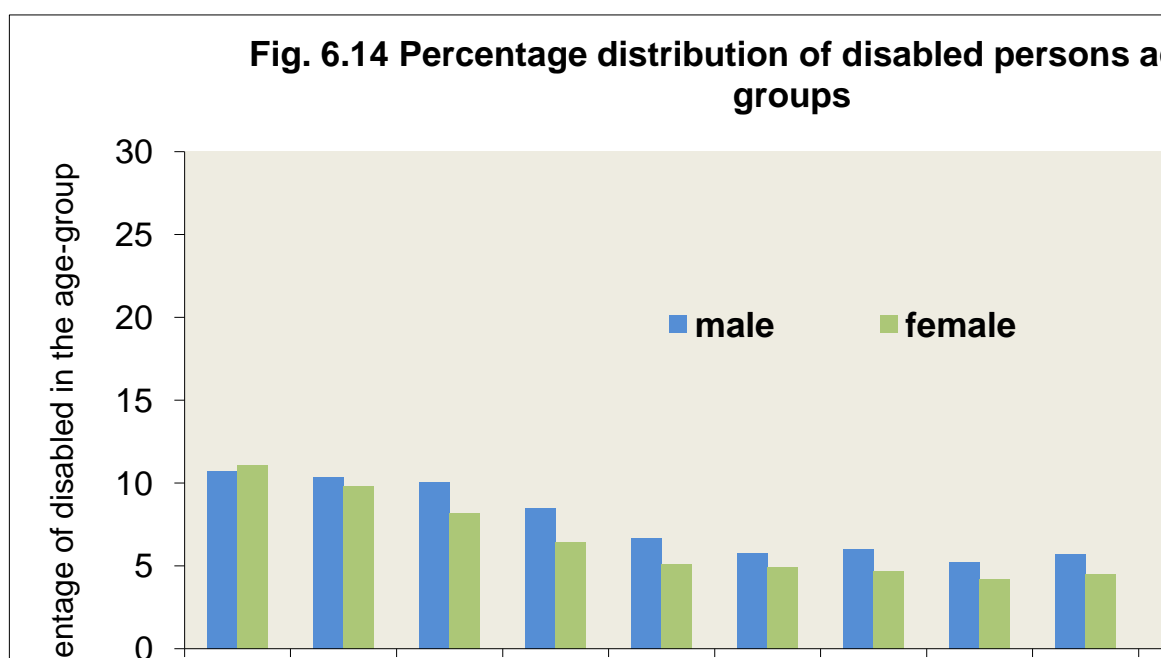
Among the disabled, 7% belonged to ST and 17% to SC while in the general population 8% were from ST and 16% from SC. Thus, prevalence of disability among SC population (2.23%) was more as compared to that among general population (2.13%) while among ST the prevalence of disability was much less (1.93%). Among the disabled persons belonging to ST, proportion of persons with visual, speech and hearing disability was relatively more and those with loco motor or mental disability was relatively less as compared to general population. On the other hand among disabled persons belonging to Sc category these proportions were more or less same as those among general population.

## B. Findings of NSSO Survey on Disability (2002)

From the dataset obtained through the dedicated Disability Survey of NSS, last conducted in the year 2002, a more comprehensive socio-economic profile of the disabled persons emerges.

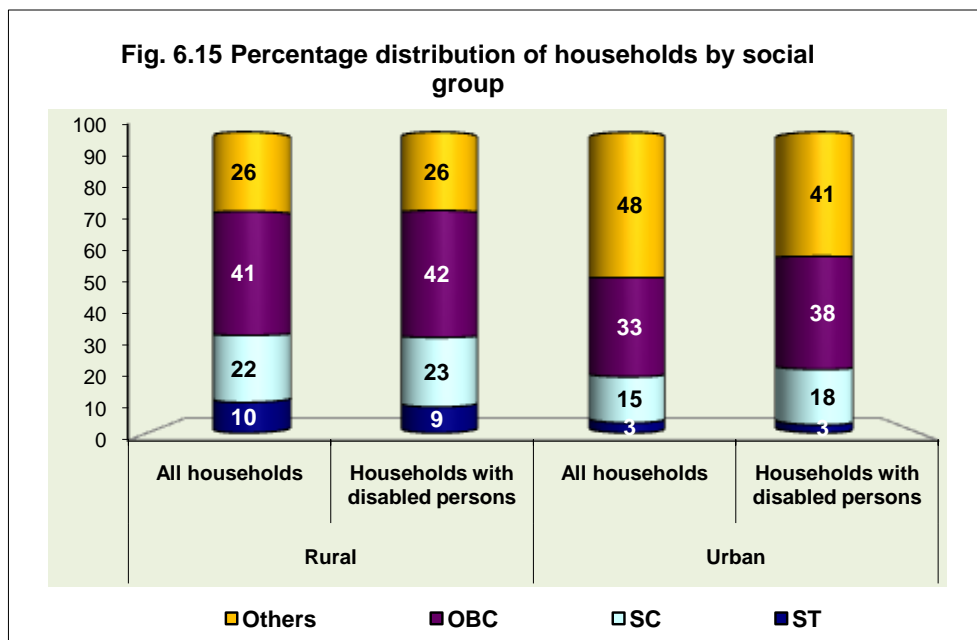
### 6.8 Age-group distribution of disabled population: NSSO survey 2002

We may next study the age distribution of the disabled population separately for males and females before analyzing their socio-economic profile. Almost a-third of the disabled population located by this survey were of age less than 20 years. Another 30% of disabled females and about 20% of disabled males were of age more than 60 years. Remaining 47% of males and 39% of females with disability belonged to the age-group 20 to 59 years. This information would be extremely useful for the purpose of deciding programme interventions for the disabled persons. However there has been a marked basic difference from the age distribution of disabled persons obtained through Population Census 2001, which points to the conceptual difference in the definitions of disability of the two methods.



### 6.9 Social Group of disabled households: NSSO survey 2002

In the NSS survey it was found that although there was no major difference between general households and the households with disabled member(s) in respect of percentage share of various social groups in rural India, in urban areas there was some perceptible difference. As against 15% SC, 33% OBC and 48% 'Others' social group among general population, 18% were SC, 38% were OBC and only 41% were 'Others' among households with disabled member(s).



### 6.10 Level of Living of disabled population: NSSO survey 2002

In the NSSO 2002 survey, 8.4% of rural households and 6.1% of urban household reported disability of one or more of their members in the survey. In NSSO surveys information on monthly per capita expenditure is collected for each household reporting disability or otherwise. This can be used as a useful indicator to study the level of living of households with one or more disabled members vis-à-vis that of all households in general.

In both rural and urban areas majority of households reporting one or more disabled members belonged to the poorest three expenditure classes while they consisted 12% of all rural households and less than 10% of all urban households. These households were thus put into disadvantage both in respect of disability and poor level of living. The average size of such households is also a matter of concern. Further, almost 25% of households reporting disability of member(s) as against less than 3% of general households were in the poorest expenditure class with an average monthly per capita expenditure less than Rs. 225 in rural areas and less than Rs. 300 in urban areas. However it is difficult to comment on whether in such cases disability was a cause or the effect of poverty. The proportion of households reporting disability falls steadily as one moves up along the higher MPCE classes. The average household size also was found to be decreasing with increase in the level of living (MPCE).

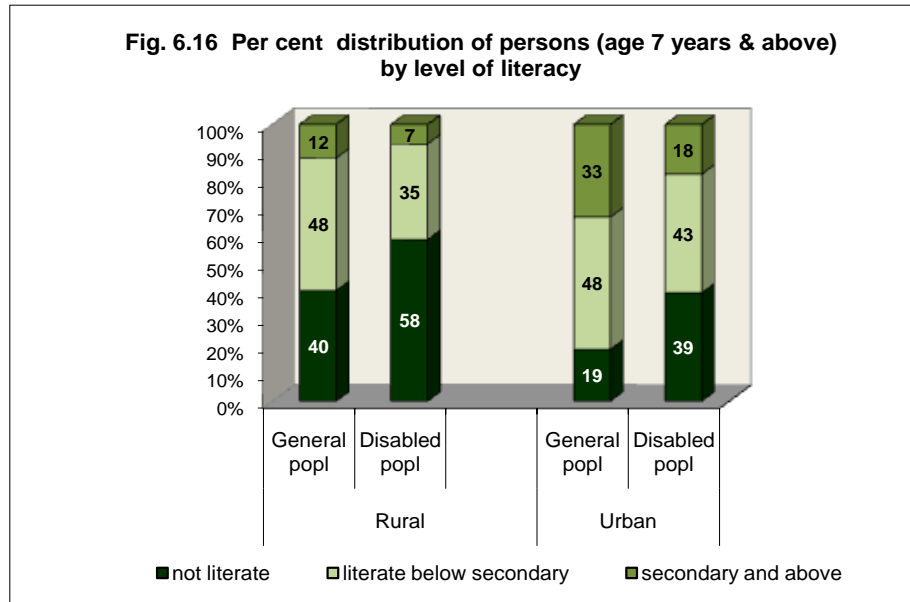
Further, of the households reporting disability in any expenditure class, more than 90% reported disability of only one member of the household, 6 to 8% in the rural area and nearly 5 to 9% of households in the urban areas reported to have two disabled members. Only in 1% or less of the households, three or more disabled members could be found in both rural and the urban sectors.

Table 6.1: Percentage of households reporting disability and their distribution in the household in each monthly per capita expenditure class (Rs.) by number of disabled persons in the household							
monthly per capita expenditure class (MPCE in Rs.)	average hh. size (0.0)	% of all hhs in the MPCE class	% of hh. in the MPCE class reporting disability	number of hhs. with disabled persons			
				1	2	3 or more	total
<b>Rural</b>							
0 - 225	6.6	2.9	24.7	92.6	6.7	0.7	100
225-255	6.2	2.9	17.9	91.9	7.1	1.0	100
255-300	6.2	6.2	16.4	91.4	8.1	0.5	100
300-340	6.6	7.5	9.5	91.4	7.8	0.7	100
340-380	6.1	8.3	10.4	91.9	7.5	0.6	100
380-420	5.5	8.6	10.7	92.4	6.9	0.7	100
420-470	6.2	10.2	7.1	92.6	6.8	0.6	100
470-525	5.1	10	9.8	92.4	7.0	0.6	100
525-615	5.1	12.5	5.6	93.1	6.5	0.4	100
615-775	5.0	13.3	5.3	93.5	6.0	0.5	100
775-950	4.7	7.4	3.8	93.4	6.2	0.4	100
950+	3.9	9.8	3.1	93.1	6.2	0.8	100
all	5.7	100	8.4	92.3	7.0	0.6	100
<b>Urban</b>							
0- 300	6.3	1.9	25.6	90.8	8.2	1.1	100
300-350	6.8	2.1	13.0	90.4	9.3	0.2	100
350-425	6.0	5.6	11.9	91.0	8.5	0.4	100
425-500	5.7	6.2	17.2	91.0	8.5	0.5	100
500-575	6.7	8.9	3.6	90.8	8.6	0.6	100
575-665	5.3	8	8.8	93.7	5.8	0.5	100
665-775	5.5	8.8	7.7	92.4	7.0	0.6	100
775-915	5.5	9.2	5.5	93.1	6.3	0.6	100
915-1120	4.7	12.7	4.3	93.5	6.1	0.4	100
1120-1500	4.5	14.3	3.5	94.3	5.4	0.3	100
1500-1925	4.5	9.1	1.6	94.7	4.9	0.5	100
1925+	3.7	13.2	1.7	93.4	6.6	0.0	100
all	5.5	100	6.1	92.3	7.2	0.5	100

Source: NSSO Survey on Disability (2002)

### 6.11 Literacy among the disabled: NSSO survey 2002

Literates, for the purpose of this survey, were those who could read and write a simple message with understanding. For those considered to be literates, information on specific level of general education completed was ascertained.

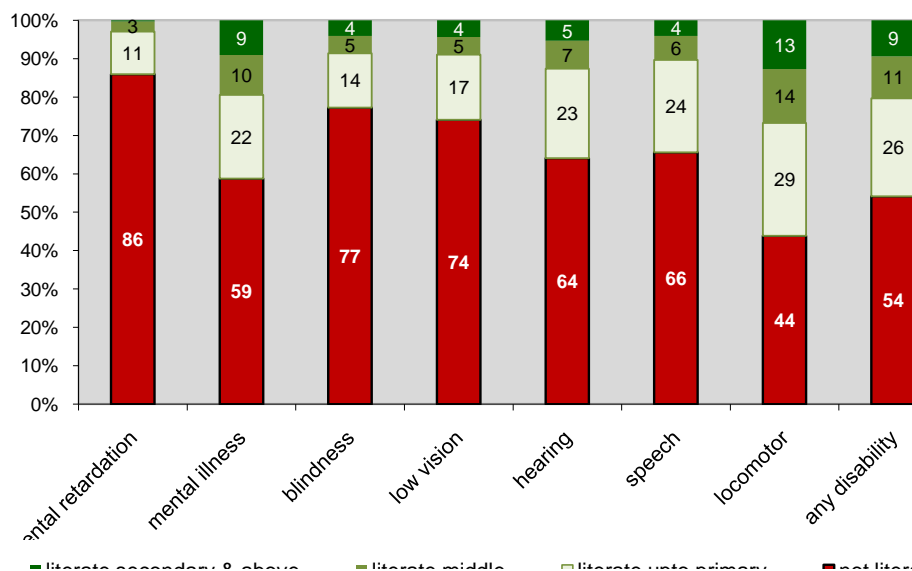


In general, about 55% of the persons having any disability were not literate, 25% were literate up to primary level, 11% up to middle level and 9% were literate up to secondary level and above. Of the disabled persons of age 7 years and above, 58% in the rural areas and 39% in urban areas were not literate, another 35% in rural and 43% in urban were literate but below secondary and only 7% rural disabled and 18% urban disabled persons were of educational level secondary and above. As expected, literacy level of disabled persons was higher in urban areas (60%) as compared to rural areas (40%) because most of the educational institutions, especially special schools for disabled, are located in urban centers. Non-governmental organizations working for education of disabled are also located in urban centers. However, the gap between proportion of literates among general population and that among disabled persons were wide in both rural and urban areas.

Then there has been further disparity in literacy among persons suffering from different types of disability. It could be seen that as high as 87% of persons with mental retardation (almost 90% in rural and more than 80% in urban areas) were not literate. Among persons with visual disability about 75% were not literate and there was major rural-urban difference (with 80% not literate in rural areas as compared to 55% in the urban areas). Even for speech and hearing disability 70% of persons in rural areas and 50% in urban areas were unable to read and write. Further, 59% of the persons with mental illness and 44% with loco motor disability were not literate.

Literacy level was relatively high among movement disabled as compared to other disability categories, more so in urban areas. This is due to the reason that they face only one barrier i.e. mobility and they can easily be incorporated in regular school. Neither special teacher nor special books and other facilities are needed for them. Movement barriers can be easily removed by creating ramps in schools.

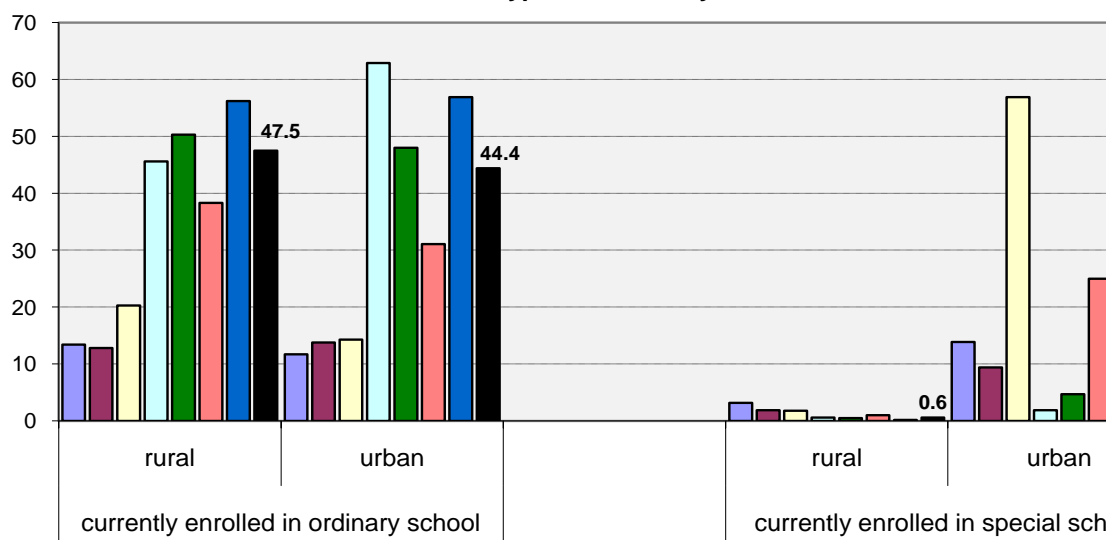
**Fig.6.17 Per cent distribution of disabled persons of age 7 yrs and above by level of general education for each type of disability**



In state-wise table S6 in Appendix-I it can be observed that among the major States, the lowest literacy rate among disabled persons was found in Bihar (34%), Orissa and Andhra Pradesh (36% in both the states). The proportion of literates among the disabled persons of age 5 years and above was highest in Kerala (67%).

### 6.12 Enrolment status of disabled children: NSSO survey 2002

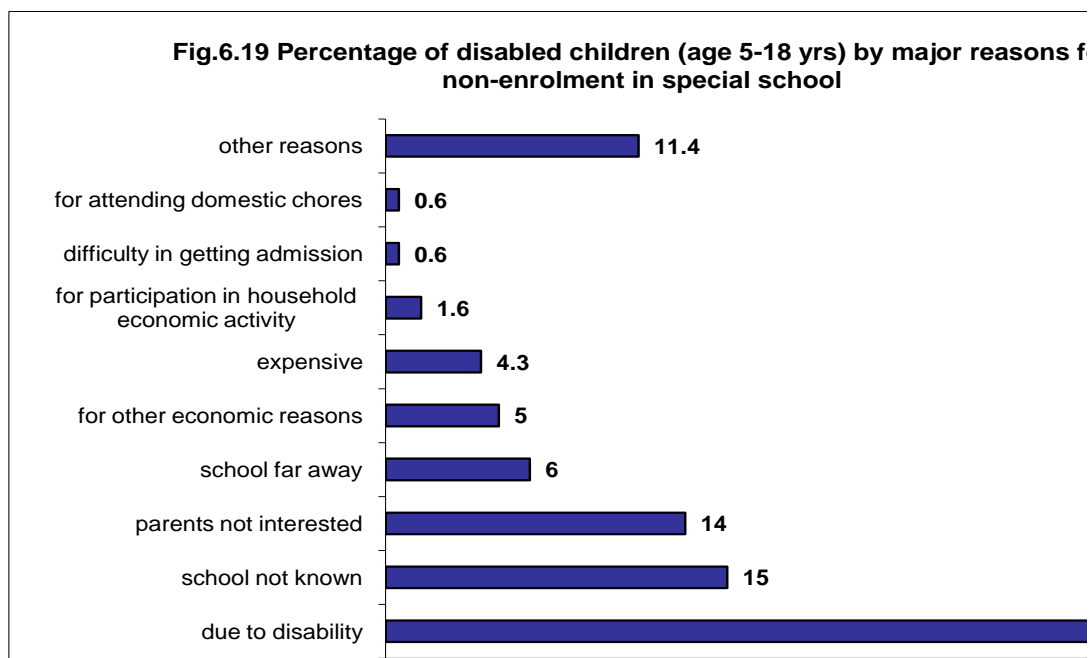
**Fig.6.18: Per cent currently enrolled among disabled persons(age 5-18 yrs) with different types of disability**



The proportion of disabled children currently enrolled was found to be low (less than 50%) in general for almost all types of disability excluding loco motor disability especially in the rural sector. Among mentally disabled children the current attendance in ordinary schools was around 10% in both rural and urban sector. Only negligible proportion of disabled children was found to be attending special schools in rural sector, which may be due to non-availability of such schools in the villages. In urban area, in case of mental retardation, a higher proportion of persons were enrolled in special schools rather than in the ordinary schools. Persons with low vision and locomotor disability were largely enrolled in ordinary schools. However in case of blindness and speech impairment, a sizeable proportion of disabled children in urban areas were found to be enrolled in special schools. Proportion of disabled females (age 5-18 years) enrolled in either ordinary or special schools were invariably lower than that of their male counterpart.

### 6.13 Reasons for non-enrolment in special schools: NSSO survey 2002

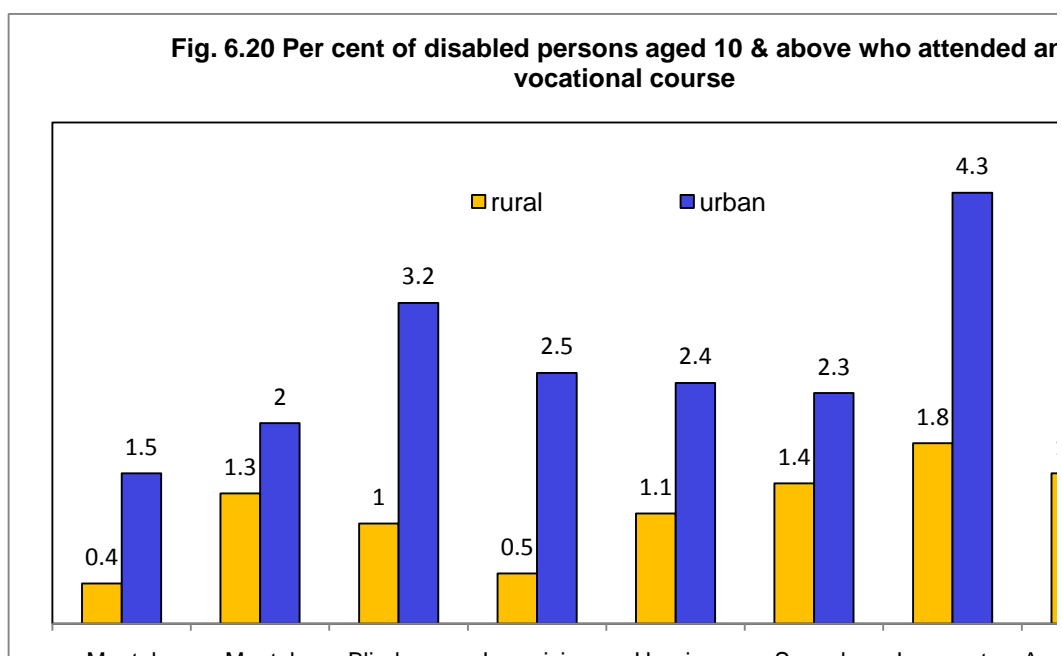
Disabled persons of age 5 – 18 years who reported as not enrolled in any school were asked about the reason for non-enrolment in special school. 32% identified disability itself as the main reason, another 15% were not aware of special schools and for another 14% parents were not interested. The figure tells about the attitude of the society to the need of getting disabled children in schools even in prime school going age.



### 6.14 Attendance in vocational course: NSSO Survey 2002

In NSSO 2002 survey, along with the general educational level of the disabled, information relating to whether or not any vocational course (engineering or non-engineering) had been completed by them was also collected. Among persons with any disability aged 10 and above, it was found that 1.5% in rural areas

and 3.6% in urban areas attended vocational courses. The proportion was higher for persons with loco motor disability, especially in urban areas.



### 6.15 Broad usual activity status of disabled persons: NSSO Survey 2002

**Usual activity of the disabled:** The usual activity status of an individual is the activity situation obtaining for the person in respect of his/her participation in economic or non-economic activities during the reference period of 365 days preceding the date of survey. Adopting a relatively long time criterion, two major activity statuses are identified as:

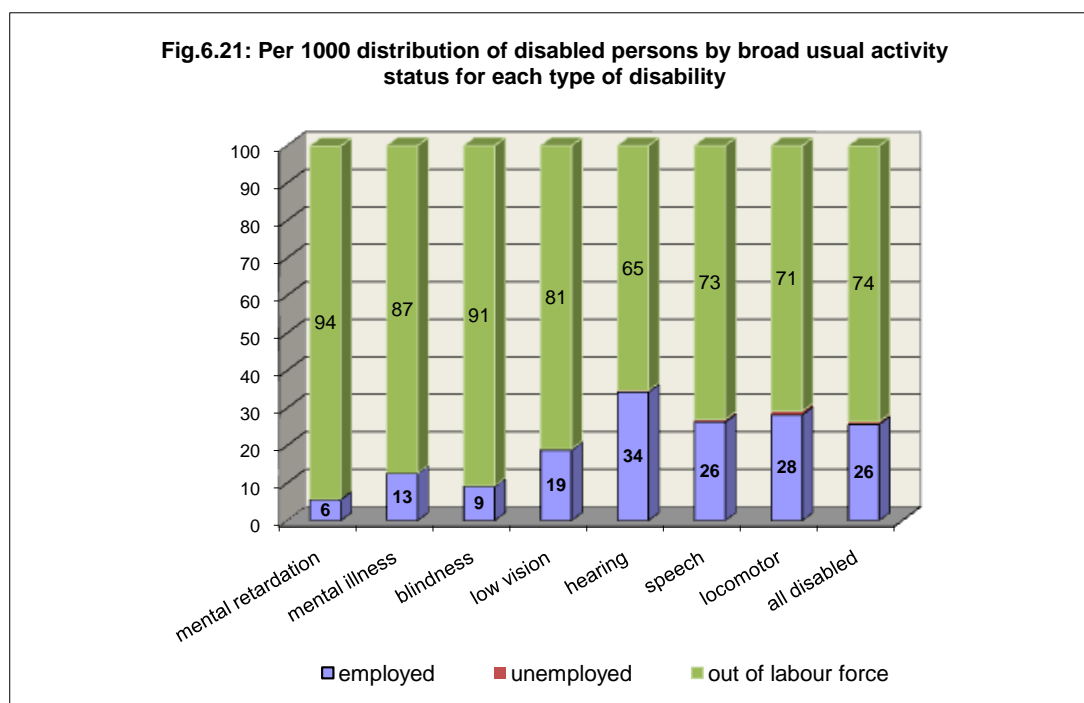
- A. In the labour force:
  - working or being engaged in economic activities (work) (employed);
  - not engaged in economic activities (work) but available for work (unemployed) .
- B. Out of labour force:
  - not engaged in work and also not available for work .

Within the labour force, again a relatively long time criterion is adopted to identify the statuses as ‘working (employed)’ and ‘not engaged in economic activities (work) but available for work (unemployed)’.

In general, only about 25% of the disabled population was found to be employed, 1% were unemployed and the rest were out of labour force. Among males, 36% were found to be employed while among females, only 10% were employed and 89% were out of labour force. In the rural sector, 26% of the disabled persons were employed. Among rural disabled males 37%, and among rural disabled females 11% only were employed. In the urban sector these proportions of employed were still lower for both males and



females. About 35% of the urban disabled males and only 9% among the urban disabled females were employed.



More than 90% of the disabled persons with mental retardation or blindness were out of labour force. So were more than 85% of persons with mental illness and about 80% of persons with low vision. Nearly 70% of the persons with speech or locomotor disability and about 65% of the persons with hearing disability were out of labour force too.

Table 6.2a: Per 1000 distribution of disabled persons by broad usual activity status for each type of disability, sex and sector

type of disability	rural			urban			rural+urban		
	employed	unemployed	out of labour force	employed	unemployed	out of labour force	employed	unemployed	out of labour force
male									
mental retardation	89	0	911	58	1	941	81	1	919
mental illness	199	2	799	99	4	897	176	2	821
blindness	139	4	857	193	5	802	149	4	847
low vision	339	5	655	291	7	702	331	6	663
hearing	530	4	466	347	17	635	492	6	501
speech	391	7	602	249	16	734	356	9	635
locomotor	387	11	602	404	22	574	391	14	595
all disabled	369	8	622	347	18	635	364	11	625

Table 6.2b: Per 1000 distribution of disabled persons by broad usual activity status for each type of disability, sex and sector									
type of disability	rural			urban			rural+urban		
	employed	unemployed	out of labour force	employed	unemployed	out of labour force	employed	unemployed	out of labour force
female									
mental retardation	20	0	980	5	1	994	16	0	984
mental illness	59	0	941	15	0	985	49	0	951
blindness	43	1	956	33	3	963	41	1	958
low vision	73	0	927	51	0	949	69	0	931
hearing	198	0	802	101	3	896	177	1	822
speech	143	3	854	64	7	929	125	4	871
locomotor	98	4	898	107	5	888	100	4	896
all disabled	109	2	889	87	4	909	104	3	893

Source: NSSO Survey on Disability (2002)

In general, nearly 70% of the disabled persons were out of labour force, more than 30% were employed about 1% were unemployed. Out of the persons employed, about 13% were self-employed in agriculture, 10% were casual labourers, 5% were self-employed in non-agricultural activities and only 4% were regular employees. Among the disabled persons who were out of labour force, 5% attended educational institution and 15% attended domestic duties.

Table 6.3: Percentage distribution of disabled persons of age 15 years and above by usual activity status for each type of disability											
Type of disability	usual activity status										
	employed					unemployed	not in labour force				total
	self-employed in agriculture	self-employed in non-agriculture	regular employee	casual labourer	total		attended educational institution	attended domestic duties	beggar	others	
Mental retard.	1.5	3.7	0.4	3.2	8.7	0.1	2.7	5.9	0.3	82.3	100
Mental illness	3.9	3.2	1.0	5.8	13.9	0.2	1.2	8.7	0.4	75.6	100
Blindness	4.5	1.6	1.0	2.6	9.7	0.3	1.3	8.2	1.3	79.1	100
Low vision	8.7	3.4	0.9	6.7	19.7	0.3	1.3	16.4	0.7	61.6	100
Hearing	14.3	7.2	2.4	16.0	39.8	0.4	1.7	21.8	0.2	36.1	100
Speech	9.7	10.6	3.0	17.0	40.2	1.1	4.4	19.4	0.3	34.6	100
Locomotor	15.2	5.3	5.2	9.1	34.8	1.3	7.1	14.8	0.9	41.3	100
Any	12.6	5.2	3.7	9.6	31.1	0.9	4.9	15.2	0.7	47.2	100

Source: NSSO Survey on Disability (2002)

Among different types of disability, nearly 40% of persons with speech or hearing or loco motor disabilities were employed while in case of mental retardation or blindness less than 10% and among persons with mental illness or low vision, less than 20% were employed.

In general, nearly 55% of the disabled males working were involved in the primary sector, 17% in secondary sector and 28% in the tertiary sector. Out of the total disabled females, more than 60% were involved in the primary sector, 16% in the secondary sector and 22% in the tertiary sector. In the rural areas, nearly 70% of the disabled males or females working were involved in the primary sector only. About 12-13% of the disabled males as well as females were involved in the secondary sector. 20% of the males and 15% of the females were in the tertiary sector. In the urban areas, about 10% of the disabled males and females working were involved in the primary sector. 30% each of the disabled males and females worked in the secondary sector. Nearly 60% of the disabled males and 53% disabled females were engaged in the tertiary sector.

Table 6.4: Number of persons who were working before the onset of disability per 1000 disabled persons of age 5 years and above for each type of disability					
Type of disability	Rural	Urban	Males	Females	All persons
Mental retardation	46	21	46	28	39
Mental illness	533	398	556	424	505
Blindness	567	424	585	501	540
Low vision	634	455	670	546	603
Hearing	528	429	569	443	509
Speech	100	65	104	74	92
Loco motor	368	322	402	283	357
At least one disability	389	311	406	323	372

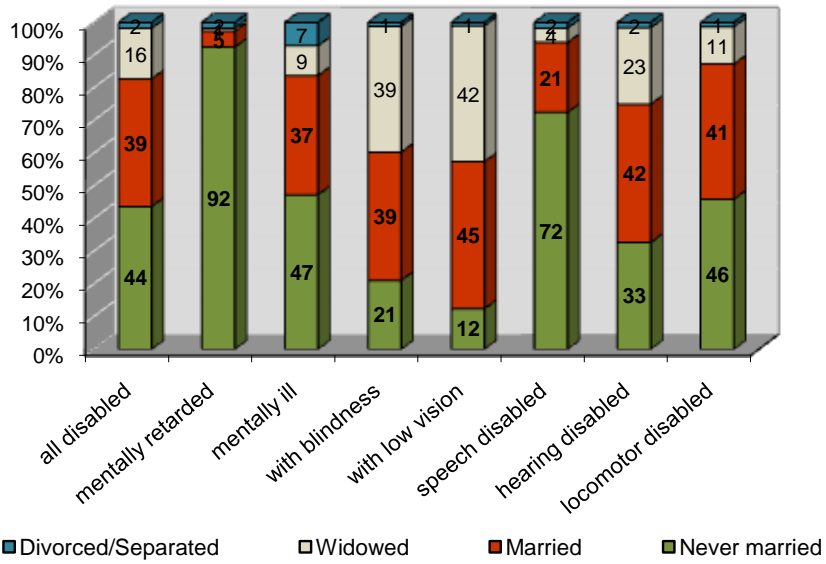
Source: NSSO Survey on Disability (2002)

Onset of disability in a person who was usually working may sometimes lead to loss of work or change of work. Also, the number of persons working before the onset of disability depends upon the age of onset of disability. Accordingly, only 4% of the persons with mental retardation and 9% of the persons with speech disability were working before acquiring disability. On the other hand, 36% of the persons with loco motor disability, more than 50% of the persons with mental illness, or with blindness, or hearing disability and more than 60% of the persons with low vision were working before they became disabled. It is worthwhile to note that since mental retardation and speech disability were mostly acquired since birth or in the age-group 0-4 years, a lower proportion was found to be working after the onset of disability. On the contrary, in case of the other types of disability the age of onset is generally after 45 years, and thus a higher proportion of disabled persons were reported to be working before acquiring disability.

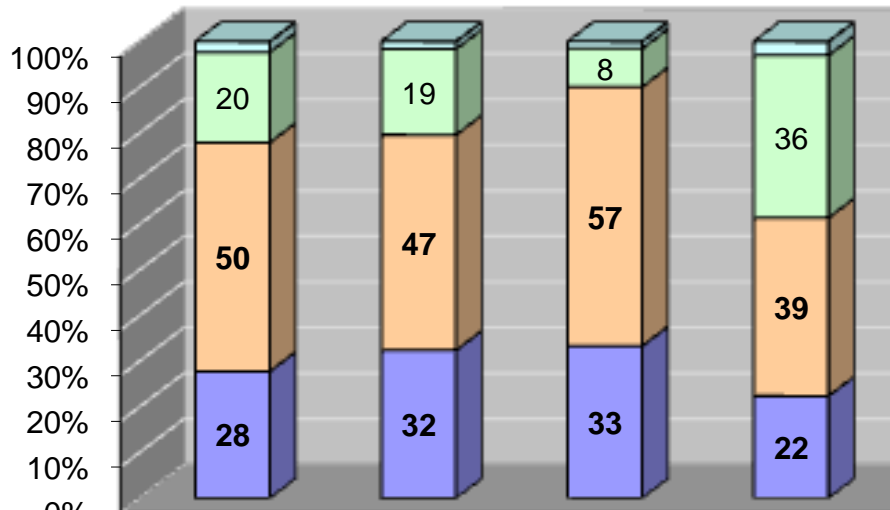
### 6.16 Marital status of disabled persons: NSSO Survey 2002

In general, among the disabled males of all age, 47% were never married, 45% were married, 7% were widowed and 1% got divorced or separated. Among the disabled females, 39% were never married, 31% were married, 28% were widowed and 2% got divorced or separated. As compared to the other types of disabilities, more than 90% of the persons with mental retardation never got married. More than 70% of the males faced with speech disability and nearly 70% of the females having disability in hearing were not married.

**Fig. 6.22 Percentage distribution of disabled persons of all age by marital status for each type of disability**



**Fig. 6.23 Per cent distribution of disabled persons 15 years and above by marital status**



Even in the marriageable age category (15 years and above), almost a-third of disabled males and 22% disabled females remained unmarried. The proportion was more in urban (32%) areas than in rural(28%).

## 6.17 Living arrangement of disabled persons: NSSO Survey 2002

Information on living arrangement of the disabled persons was collected to know whether they were living alone or with spouse only or with spouse and other members of the household. It was found that, in general, more than 90% of the disabled persons were not living alone, about 5% were living with their spouse and only 3% were living alone.

Among the different types of disabilities, in case of mental retardation, more than 99% of the disabled persons were living with spouse and/or others. In case of mental illness about 97% were not living alone and only 3% were living alone. In case of visual disability, nearly 95% of the disabled persons were living with others and 5% were living alone. In case of hearing disability, 96% of the disabled persons were living with others and 4% were living alone. In case of speech disability almost 98% were not living alone and only 2% were alone. Lastly in case of locomotor disability, about 97% of the disabled persons were living with others and 3% were alone.

Type of disability	Rural			Urban			Rural+Urban		
	Living alone	Living with spouse	Living with spouse	Living alone	Living with spouse	Living with spouse	Living alone	Living with spouse	Living with spouse
Mental retardation	0.3	0.4	99.2	0.1	0.3	99.5	0.3	0.4	99.3
Mental illness	3.1	4.4	92.2	1.9	3.2	94.5	2.9	4.2	92.7
Blindness	4.9	8.0	87.2	5.5	5.7	88.8	5.0	7.5	87.4
Low vision	6.1	9.7	84.0	4.7	5.0	90.2	5.9	8.8	85.1
Hearing	4.0	6.7	89.1	5.3	6.0	88.7	4.3	6.6	89.0
Speech	1.0	2.6	96.4	3.8	1.5	94.6	1.7	2.3	95.8
Locomotor	2.6	5.2	92.1	2.8	4.5	92.5	2.7	5.0	92.2
All disabled	3.1	5.5	91.4	3.3	4.4	92.2	3.1	5.2	91.5

Source: NSSO Survey on Disability (2002)

## 6.18 Assurances received by disabled persons from Govt. or otherwise: NSSO Survey 2002

Population category	% disabled aged 5 years & above who received any aid or help	% distribution of disabled persons receiving any aid/help								all
		received govt. aid/help for							received other aid/help	
		education	vocational training	aid/appliance	corrective surgery	govt./semi-govt. job	other govt. aid/help	total		
Rural	11	7	1	24	4	3	52	90	10	100
Urban	15	14	3	18	6	4	37	82	19	100
Male	12	8	2	22	4	4	47	87	13	100
Female	11	9	2	21	5	2	50	88	12	100
All	12	9	2	22	5	3	48	87	13	100

Source: NSSO Survey on Disability (2002)

In general, about 12% of the disabled persons of age 5 years and above reported to have received any aid or help. Among the disabled in the urban areas 15% got aid/ help as compared to only 11% in the rural. Nearly 90% of such aids/assistances were received from government.

Out the disabled persons receiving aid/ help, more than 20% received help for aid/ appliance. Nearly 10% obtained help for education and 5% for corrective surgery (more so in urban areas). For the disabled males and females the experience reported to be more or less same.

Table 6.7: Percentage distribution of disabled persons of age 5 years and above who have received any aid/help by type of aid/help received for each type of disability

Type of disability	% disabled aged 5 years & above who received any aid or help	disabled persons receiving any aid/help								all	
		received govt. aid/help for									received other aid/help
		education	vocational training	aid/appliance	corrective surgery	govt./semi-govt. job	other govt. aid/help	total			
Mental retardn	6	6	1	16	3	2	61	89	11	100	
Mental illness	5	3	2	24	3	3	49	84	16	100	
Blindness	16	13	3	15	11	2	46	89	11	100	
Low vision	11	2	1	27	14	2	33	79	21	100	
Hearing	6	1	2	36	3	3	40	86	14	100	
Speech	10	16	1	13	2	1	47	80	20	100	
Locomotor	13	8	1	23	3	4	49	88	12	100	
Atleast one disability	12	9	2	22	5	3	48	87	13	100	

Source: NSSO Survey on Disability (2002)

Among persons with different types of disability, relatively higher proportion of persons with blindness (16%) and loco motor disability (13%) received any aid or help, followed by those among persons with low vision and speech disability (about 10% each). Only about 5% of persons with mental or hearing disability got any aid/ help.

Persons with blindness and speech disability obtained more help from govt. for education as compared to other disabilities. Again those disabled in hearing (as also persons with low vision, mental illness and locomotor disability) received more help from govt. for aids or appliances. More than 10% of the visually impaired persons getting assistance obtained so for corrective surgery.

From the discussion above, it is quite clear that govt. as also non-govt. sources need to extend more assistance through more aid/ help to the disabled persons besides more comprehensive and equitable provision for inclusive education and employment.