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Social policies for persons with disabilities: A case study in Karnataka

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***Abstract:** Both Central and State government have introduced welfare policies, programs and schemes. Through the help of welfare measures, provisions and social security schemes tried attempt to upliftment of marginal / weaker sections and to keep sustainability in society. Constitutional provisions of social security schemes are protect against marginalization of weaker sections in society. The researcher has used simple random sampling method for sampling selection for the survey to gather primary data and the secondary data. It was found in the study that the awareness level about the policies and programs meant for physically disabled are very low among the group.*

Key words: Physical disability, Social Policies, Social Security, Exclusion and Marginalization.

Introduction

Exclusion is a social process, in which individuals or group of people are systematically blocked from or denied full access to a variety of rights, opportunities and resources that are normally available to members of a different groups, and which are fundamental to social

integration and observance of human rights within that particular group. For example, housing, employment, healthcare, civic engagement, democratic participation, and due process. India

has rich diversities for diverse segments in society as social, economic, physical and other disabilities in society. Diversities are key sound of marginalization and exclusion of the system. Social exclusion is a complex and multidimensional concept having economic, social, political, cultural ramifications (Guruswamy S, 2011; 2). Social exclusion can be ‘constitutively a part of capability deprivation as well as instrumentally a cause of diverse capability failure’ (Amartya Sen, 2000; 5). The process of social exclusion has made a marginalization; it is a social process, which is pushed to edge a person or group or community from the mainstream of society. The term ‘Marginalization’ practiced in 1960s from a sociological perspective (Gurulingaiah M, 2016; 7). Among some diversities physical disabilities is most significant in existing society.

Disability is a universal phenomenon and is a multidimensional aspect, because it may view into social, economical, political, religious, physical, psychological and other phases. Physical disability is a state of person or species (Mahesh K S. and Gurulingaiah M, 2021). It had historical background and exists since from origin of the species. The term ‘Disability’ derived from Latin prefix ‘Dis’ meaning negation, separation, lack of / opposite and the Latin ‘habilitas’, meaning fitness, and ‘habere’, indicating to have or to be easily handled. The term ‘Disability’ indicates the lack of power or ability to do something (Tyagi Kumar Ashok, 2003; 3). It is too difficult to define the term ‘Disability’, but **Merriam-Webster Dictionary** has attempted to define as a physical, mental, cognitive, or developmental condition that impairs, interferes with, or limits a person’s ability to engage in certain tasks or actions or participate in typical daily activities and interactions’ (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/> disability). Lack of ability to do something has to do indicate disability; the section has attempted too complex circumstances in routine activities. Hence the constitution of India coordinates with these vulnerable sections through the social welfare policies and schemes.

The concept of social security is very old one; it was coined for the first time when the United States Social Security Act. 1935 was enacted and adopted by New Zealand in the year 1938 (Gaur K D, 2012; 2). Social Security is a program of protection provided by society against the contingencies of modern life-sickness, unemployment, aged persons, dependency, industrial accidents against which the individual cannot be expected to protect all section (Friedlander Walter A, 1968; 5). International Labor Organization opinions i.e., Social Security services as provided the citizens with benefits designed to prevent and alleviate social disease, to support when unavailable to earn to restore them gainful activity (Shukla, U N, Tiwari Sanjay, 2012; 4).

Rationale of the Study

Physically disabled is a section among society. Census report of India has estimated that, 2.21% of the total population is categorized as socially excluded or marginalized. They are subjected to both physical and psychological stress at various spheres in the society. Hence, the focus of the study is to understand challenges faced by the community in terms of getting integrated into the mainstream of the society.

Objectives

- To study the level of awareness programmes of physically disabled.
- To study the awareness regarding policies, programmes and welfare schemes of physically disabled.

Methodology

Researcher has collected the primary data by interviewing the respondents through prepared interview schedule with regard to the objectives and the secondary data can be collected through books, journals, census reports, websites and periodicals. The study can be conducted in Tumakuru district of Karnataka State. The district consists of eleven taluks and has a disabled population of 35,043 (DDW Office, Tumkuru, 2019).

Sample Selection: Researcher has selected only two taluks for the study viz., Sira (6206) which had the higher number of disabled population and Turuvekere (2810) which had the lowest disabled in the district. In the present study, the researcher has adopted simple random technique for sample selection and chosen 04% of sampling size.

Analysis and data analysis: The social security schemes in India cover the marginal and weaker sections for the upliftment of the society. Article 43 of the constitution involves the state's responsibilities to provide social security to the citizens of this country (Sahu Abhijaat, 2012; 72). As per the article, both central and state governments have launched welfare schemes, provisions and programs for strengthening the socially vulnerable sections such as:

Central government schemes and programs:

- ADIP Program.
- National Award for Persons with disabilities.
- Deen Dayal Rehabilitation scheme.
- Vocational Rehabilitation scheme.
- Incentives to private sector employers for providing employment to persons with disabilities.

Government of Karnataka schemes and programs:

- Educational incentives for persons with disabilities.
- Special teachers training program to teach disable students for educated eligible disables. The government has established 08 schools for visually impaired and hard of hearing or hearing impaired.
- Reservations in government sector jobs (3% reservation for group 'A&B', 5% for group 'C&D' posts).
- Establishment of the industrial training centre at Mysuru.
- Establishment of the employment exchange offices at Bengaluru.
- Establishment of the hostels for employed disabled persons in the state (only 02).

- Launching the social security schemes such as Aadhara schemes, telephone booth, monthly maintenance allowance, issue of medical certificate, insurance schemes for mentally retarded people, bus pass, state awards and other facilities (<https://www.dwdsc.kar.nic.in/schemes.asp>).

Table 1. Awareness Programs to physically disabled

Benefits	Frequencies	Percentage
Concession of transportation	347/360	96.38 %
Job reservation	168/360	46.66 %
Inclusive education	71/360	19.72 %
Education benefits	210/360	58.33 %
Medical benefits	227/360	63.05 %
Aid/Appliances	287/360	79.72 %
Vocational training	136/360	37.77 %
Tax benefits	71/360	19.72 %
Loan for business	122/360	33.88 %
Scholarship	270/360	75.00 %
Pension	341/360	94.72 %
Special employment exchange	61/360	16.94 %
Any other	168/360	46.66 %

Source: Field Data

Table 1 indicates an awareness of major programs which are meant for physically disabled. The data in the table depicted that, 96.38% (347) respondents are aware of the concession of transportation. 46.66% (168) are job reservation, 19.72% (71) inclusive education, 58.83% (210) of respondents known about educational benefits. 63.05% (227) are medical benefits, 79.72% (287) are aiding or appliances, 37.77% (136) are aware about vocational training. 19.72% (71) have awareness of tax benefits, 33.88% (122) about loan for business, 75.00% (270) know about scholarships, 94.72% (341) are well-known scheme of pension. 16.94% (61)

known on special employment exchange, and 46.66% (168) are known other schemes and facilities meant for physically disabled people. High number of respondents well known about transportation and pension schemes which helps in their routine life, few of them have aware of special employment exchange, it is reserved and help to educated disabled people hence are not popularized as other schemes.

Above listed schemes have improved conditions of disabled people. But the rate of consumption is dissimilar, hence the below table have tried to understand beneficiaries of the respondents.

Table 2. Beneficiaries opinion regarding the schemes

Response	Frequencies	Percentage
Yes	341	94.72 %
No	19	05.28 %
Total	360	100 %

Source: Field Data

Table 2 marked about beneficiaries of schemes. As per the data, 94.72% (341) are getting facilities one or more, but 05.28% (19) are not getting any facilities by the governments which are allocated to physically disabled except medial certificate.

Table 3. Benefited by beneficiaries

Benefits	Frequencies	Percentage
Concession of transportation	340/360	94.44 %
Job reservation	83/360	23.05 %
Inclusive education	26/360	07.22 %
Education benefits	167/360	46.38 %
Medical benefits	61/360	16.94 %

Aid/Appliances	193/360	53.61 %
Vocational training	96/360	26.66 %
Tax benefits	03/360	00.83 %
Loan for business	63/360	17.05 %
Scholarship	219/360	60.83 %
Pension	319/360	88.61 %
Special employment exchange	09/360	02.05 %
Any other	144/360	40.00 %

Source: Field Data

Table 03 gives information about beneficiaries benefited by recipient. 94.44% (340) are transportation facility, 23.05% (83) have job reservations, 07.22% (26) have benefited to inclusive education, 46.38% (167) have educational benefits, 16.94% (61) have medical benefits, 53.61% (193) getting benefit by aid/appliances. 26.66% (96) are having vocational training, 00.83% (03) benefited by taxes 17.05% (63) have utilized the scheme to borrow loan for business, 60.83% (219) for scholarship. 88.61% (319) are pension scheme to lead life, 02.05% (09) have special employment exchange, and other schemes have benefited to 40.00% (144). As per the data provided in table, scheme of concession of transportation and pension have ranked. Tax benefits have listed below, it indicates that they are not exceeding than higher limit income.

Table 4. Public education to make policies

Range	Frequencies	Percentage
Very high need	94	26.11 %
High need	144	40.00 %
Neither high or low	49	13.61 %
Low need	39	10.83 %
Very low need	34	09.45 %
Total	360	100 %

The above table discusses on the need of education against policies. 26.11% (94) of the respondents expressed as very high need to make policies against disable people, 40% (144) opined has high need, 13.61% (49) expressed as neither high nor low, 10.83% (39) as low need, and 09.45% (34) felt as very low need to public education to make policies and avoid discrimination. Hence, majority of respondents expressed as there is high need to make policies and few were very low need.

The PWD Act enhanced in the year of 1995; was the first act that protects against disable people who were exploited. The act came into force on 07th February, 1996. The motto of the act was equal opportunities, protection of rights and full participation of disable people. The act was first enhanced in the disabled history, to protect and gives rights for disable people. The mentioned act was not campaign for all hence the table has assessed awareness and requirement to beneficiaries.

Table 5. Opinion on awareness about PWD Act-1995

Response	Frequencies	Percentage
Highly aware	51	14.17 %
Aware	79	21.94 %
Undecided	39	10.83 %
Not aware	91	25.28 %
Highly not aware	100	27.78 %
Total	360	100 %

Source: Field Data

Table 05 represents the respondents' awareness of PWD Act-1995. 14.17% (51) have highly aware about mentioned act, 21.94% (79) are aware, 10.83% are not decided, 25.28% (91) are not aware about the act, 27.78% (100) are not highly aware. Few respondents are only high aware about the act hence it is not effective rather than other act and the majority are not aware of the Act. Hence, there is a need to make campaign on the act. Beyond the Government

of India, a State government also provides legal rules against discrimination on disability. Which are helps to self protect against exploitation.

Table 6. Awareness about State Rules

Response	Frequencies	Percentage
Highly aware	19	05.28 %
Aware	31	08.61 %
Undecided	44	12.22 %
Not aware	68	18.89 %
Highly not aware	198	55.00 %
Total	360	100 %

Source: Field Data

Table 06 indicates awareness about state rules against exploitation of physical disability. 05.28% (19) are highly known and aware, 08.61% (31) are aware, 12.22% (44) express to undecided, 18.89% (68) opined as not aware and 55.00% (198) are highly not aware of state rules, policies, and provisions. The table shows that, majority of the respondents are highly unaware of state's policies, regulations and provisions and very less number of respondents were highly aware.

Concluding remarks

Disability is a physical attribute which restrict the functions of the body and is not a disease. Sustainable development of the society requires inclusive policies incorporating all sections of the society. The goal of the Indian Constitution is to provide social security and to empower the marginalized and downtrodden sections of the society. A welfare society needs to address the problems of marginalized and weaker sections through its policies, schemes and programmes. This can be achieved through proper implement of welfare schemes as well publicity campaigns using various mass media and social media platforms to create awareness about the same in order to reach out to the physically disabled people scattered in different parts of the country.

This study has clearly established the need for such awareness drives. The policy makers should take note of the same and take the initiatives to reach out to more number of people, who are in need of support and dignity in the society.

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