

# Disability statistics in Nepal

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# Topics to be discussed in the session

- Status of disability statistics in Nepal
- Reasons of differences in data
- Methodological issues
- Improving disability data in future

# Importance of data on disability

- Address the needs and rights of people with disabilities by formulating plan, policies and programs towards;
- The interim constitution of Nepal ensures equality, freedom, justice and dignity of all individuals and implicitly mandates an inclusive society for all including persons with disabilities.

# Definitions of Disability

## World Health Organization

- **Disability** is a term, covering impairments, activity limitations, and participation restrictions.
- Impairment is a problem in body function or structure;
- An activity limitation is a difficulty encountered by an individual in executing a task or action; while a participation restriction is a problem experienced by an individual in involvement in life situations.
- Thus disability is a complex phenomenon, reflecting an interaction between features of a person's body and features of the society in which he or she lives.

# United Nations

- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006), the first legally binding disability specific human rights convention, adopted by the **United Nations** gives two descriptions of disability.

- It emphasizes that **“Persons with disabilities include those who have long term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.”** Both the expressions reflect a shift from a medical model to social model of disability.

- The Preamble to the Convention states that **“Disability results from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.”**

- **Medical model**
- In the **medical model**, individuals with **certain physical, intellectual, psychological and mental impairments are taken as disabled.** According to this, the disability lies in the individual as it is equated with restrictions of activity with the burden of adjusting with environment through cures, treatment and rehabilitation.



- **Social model**
- In contrast in the **social model** the focus is on the society, **which imposes undue restrictions on the behavior of persons with impairment.**
- In this, disability does not lie in individuals, but in the interaction between individuals and society. It advocates that persons with disabilities are right holders and are entitled to strive for the removal of institutional, physical, informational and attitudinal barriers in society.

- Some of the specific information which could directly relate to the formulation of policies are:
- Differences in rates of disability between males and females
- Gender differences may indicate discrimination against a gender regarding service provision in the country. Hence, a definitive policy regarding equal access to facilities may be indicated.

# Required data on disability

## Cause of disability

- Identification of the cause of disability may assist policymakers to make decisions about the type of preventive programs appropriate for the country. For instance, the main underlying causes of disability are malnutrition, diseases, congenital factors, accidents and violence, inadequate hygiene, landmine explosions, lack of access to a health care system, exposure to chemical substances and stresses most of which are preventable.

- Differences in service utilization between the populations with and without disabilities
- Policies may be formulated to increase access of population with disabilities in the different services and facilities, such as mandatory provision of ramps instead of stairs for those on wheelchairs.

## Identification of physical and social barriers

- Information on what types and causes of restrictions persons with disabilities are facing related to basic services is useful for determining the environmental and social barriers that most urgently need to be addressed.
- Identification of the type of assistive device most needed is important for the best allocation of funds.

## Access to and participation in education and employment

- The data may provide information on how persons with disabilities are integrated with the educational system and the labor market. This is a critical issue related to disability policy.
- Discrimination against persons with disabilities, and unwillingness to bear the costs of creating a more accessible environment e.g. at schools or workstations are key obstacles to the improvement of the lives of persons with disabilities.
- Disability data may encourage governments to construct better facilities or provide tax incentives to schools or firms that accept persons with disabilities.

Poverty is one of the causes of disability.

- This is because the poor are more exposed to dangerous working and living conditions, including lack of access to healthcare facilities, and poor nutrition, among others.

On the other hand, disability can also be a cause of poverty.

- This is particularly true if the persons with disabilities, and their caretakers, do not have the capacity to generate income for the family. Moreover, there may also be financial constraints brought about by the expensive medical treatment or assistive devices needed by persons with disabilities.
- Data on income as well as other information regarding the economic status of the household may provide insight into how poverty can affect disability and vice-versa.

# Categories and degree

- Physical disability 4 degrees
- Vision disability 4 degrees
- Hearing disability 4 degrees
- Verbal disability 4 degrees
- Mental retardation 4 degrees
- Psychiatric disability 4 degrees
- Multiple disability 4 degrees



## Prevalence rate, Census 2011

(in percentage)

<b>Nepal</b>	1.94
Male	2.18
Female	1.71
<b>Urban</b>	1.21
Male	1.30
Female	1.12
<b>Rural</b>	2.09
Male	2.37
Female	1.82

# Differences in the estimates of prevalence

	<b>2001 Census</b>	<b>2010 NLSSIII</b>	<b>2011 Census</b>
Total population	22,736,934		26,494,504
Total disables	103,795		513,301
Disability prevalence rate	0.46	3.6	1.94
Type of disabilities			
1. Physically disabled	39.31	29.2	36.33
2. Visionary problem	15.92	22.3	18.46
3. Hearing	24.61	23.4	15.45
4. Vision and hearing		2.4	1.84
5. Speech related		8.6	11.47
6. Mentally retarded	12.69	6.8	6.03
7. Intellectual disability			2.9
8. Multiple disability	7.48	7.3	7.52
Total	100	100	100

# Question on disability in census 2011

<p>What is the Physical and mental disability of (Name)?</p>
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<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Not disable</li><li>2. Physical disable</li><li>3. Blind and low vision</li><li>4. Deaf &amp; hard of hearing</li><li>5. Deaf-Blind</li><li>6. Speech problem</li><li>7. Mental Illness</li><li>8. Intellectual disable</li><li>9. Multiple disable</li></ol>

<p>.....मा कुनै किसिमको शारीरिक वा मानसिक अपाङ्गता छ ?</p> <p>(अपाङ्गता नभएमा संकेत १ मा र अपाङ्गता भएमा कस्तो हो २ देखि ९ सम्मको उपयुक्त संकेतमा गोलो घेरा लगाउनुपर्दछ)</p>
१२
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>१. अपाङ्गता नभएको</li><li>२. शारीरिक अपाङ्गता</li><li>३. दृष्टिसम्बन्धी अपाङ्गता</li><li>४. सुनाइसम्बन्धी अपाङ्गता</li><li>५. श्रवण दृष्टिविहीन</li><li>६. स्वर बोलाइसम्बन्धी अपाङ्गता</li><li>७. मानसिक अपाङ्गता</li><li>८. बौद्धिक अपाङ्गता</li><li>९. बहुअपाङ्गता</li></ol>

# Methodological considerations

## Census :

- Complete enumeration
- One close question in 2001 with seven pre-coded categories
- One close question in 2011 with 8 pre-coded categories
- An elaborated separate manual on question on disability for enumerators
- Special attention given in training for enumerators
- Publicity and cooperation from associations provided

# Question in NLSS-III

1. Do you suffer from any of the following disability ?

2. How long have you been suffering from ?

# Disability prevalence in countries

Estimates of disability prevalence in

- New Zealand: nearly 18 %
- China: 6%
- India: 4%
- Nepal 2%

# Int'l examples

## 1. What China did in managing disability statistics

- Census
- Surveys
- Administrative records

## 2. What India did

- Census
- Surveys
- Administrative records

# Enhancing disability statistics in Nepal

- Quality of census data needs to be improved
- A specific household surveys on disability is required that provides nationally representative estimates
- Administrative records be improved and updated regularly



# How can survey data be improved

- Use census data as a frame - design a sample with two broad stratum
- Two separate list of households that did and did not report persons with disabilities be prepared;
- Questionnaire should include topics on characteristics of persons with disabilities and households having disabled persons

# Identification of disable

Improving survey instruments

Questionnaire

- List sample questions
- Manual for field staff
- Training
- Monitoring fieldwork
- Publicity
- Cooperation of concerned organization
- Data processing and analysis
- Disability profile be prepared
- Data validation with other sources

# Disabilities categorized by the government of Nepal

Type of cards distributed based on the degree of disabilities

Red: Completely affected, Rs. 1000 provided;

Blue: Severely affected, Rs. 300 provided;

Yellow: Moderately affected;

White: persons with mild or ordinary disabilities;

Committees formed at district level to identify disables

Limitations of administrative data ??

# Role of NGOs in managing information

- Advocacy of managing information on disability
- Help design survey and questionnaire
- Training field staff during the survey implementation
- Raise awareness among households to provide information on persons with disabilities
- Monitoring the data collection work in the field
- Help analyze the results
- Advocate in using survey results/data in policy

# Role of CBS

- Conducting census and survey of disabled persons
- Help any other organization to conduct or manage information
- Help improve administrative data

Thanks.