




Disability in Sri Lanka

Department of Census and Statistics



Contents


- Overview of Sri Lanka
 - Definition
 - Data collection
 - Type of functional difficulties
 - Functional difficulties captured in census 2012
 - Issues
- 

Overview of Sri Lanka



Sri Lanka is an Island situated in the Indian ocean

- ✓ Commercial Capital Colombo
- ✓ Area 65,610 sq. km
- ✓ Population 20.4 Million (2012)
- ✓ Population density 325 persons sq.km
- ✓ Population in Disability 1,617,924 persons
- ✓ Rate of Disability 87 (per 1000 persons)



Disability : Definition

“Person with disability means any person who, as a result of any deficiency in his physical or mental capabilities, whether congenital or not, is unable by himself to ensure for himself, wholly or partly, the necessities of life”



Data collection: Census of Population and Housing - 2012

- ✓ The information about functional difficulties of the persons were collected under six domains from each person's individually
- ✓ To identify the functional difficulties census 2012 used six short questions recommended by the United Nations Economic and Social Council for Asia of Pacific (UNESCAP)



Type of functional difficulties

- ✓ Vision (even with the use of glasses if used)
- ✓ Audibility (even with the use of hearing aids if used)
- ✓ Mobility (walking a short distance or up/ down 12 steps in stairway)
- ✓ Cognition (memory and perception)
- ✓ Day to day self-care such as getting dressed, washing etc.
- ✓ Communicability



Functional Difficulties Captured in Census 2012

Instructions for data collection

- ✓ All questions should be filled for every usual resident in a household.
- ✓ Information on his/her Physical and mental difficulties in seeing, hearing, walking, cognition self care and communication should be recorded.
- ✓ If there is a difficulty in seeing(even wearing the spectacles), hearing (even wearing instrument), walking short distance or getting up or down few steps in a staircase, self care and communicating than record the nature of difficulty in the appropriate box.

Functional Difficulties Captured in Census 2012 ..

Used Questionnaire

P14 Physical and mental difficulties

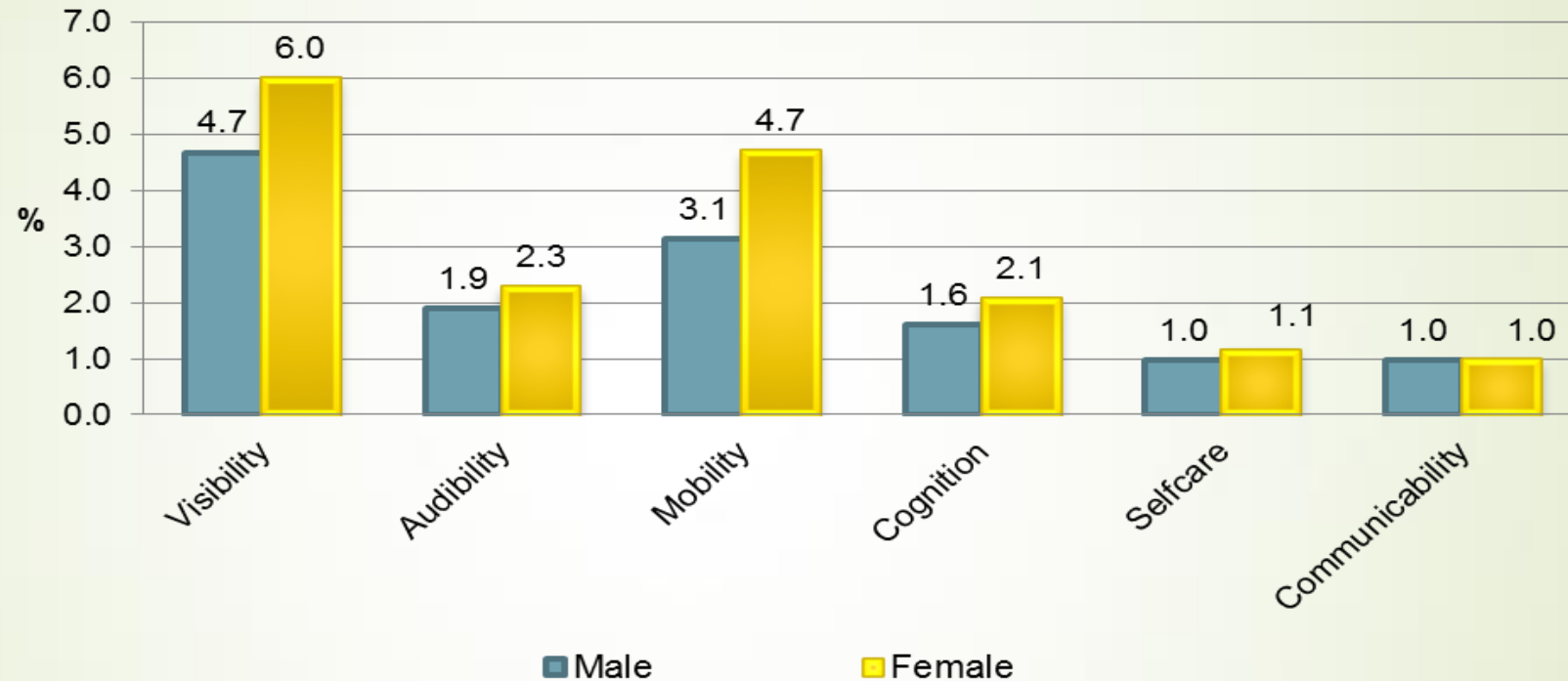
Inquire on difficulties in the domains Seeing, Hearing, Walking, Cognition, Selfcare, Communication and mark the correct answer.

	No difficulty 1	Difficult 2	Not possible at all 3
(a) Seeing (even with the use of glasses if they are used)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(b) Hearing (even with the use of hearing aids if they are used)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(c) Walking a short distance or up/down about 12 steps in a stairway	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(d) Cognition (remembering and concentrating)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(e) Day-to-day selfcare such as getting dressed, washing etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(f) Communication in their own language due to physical or mental reasons	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Type of difficulty - 2012 (Population aged 5 years and over)

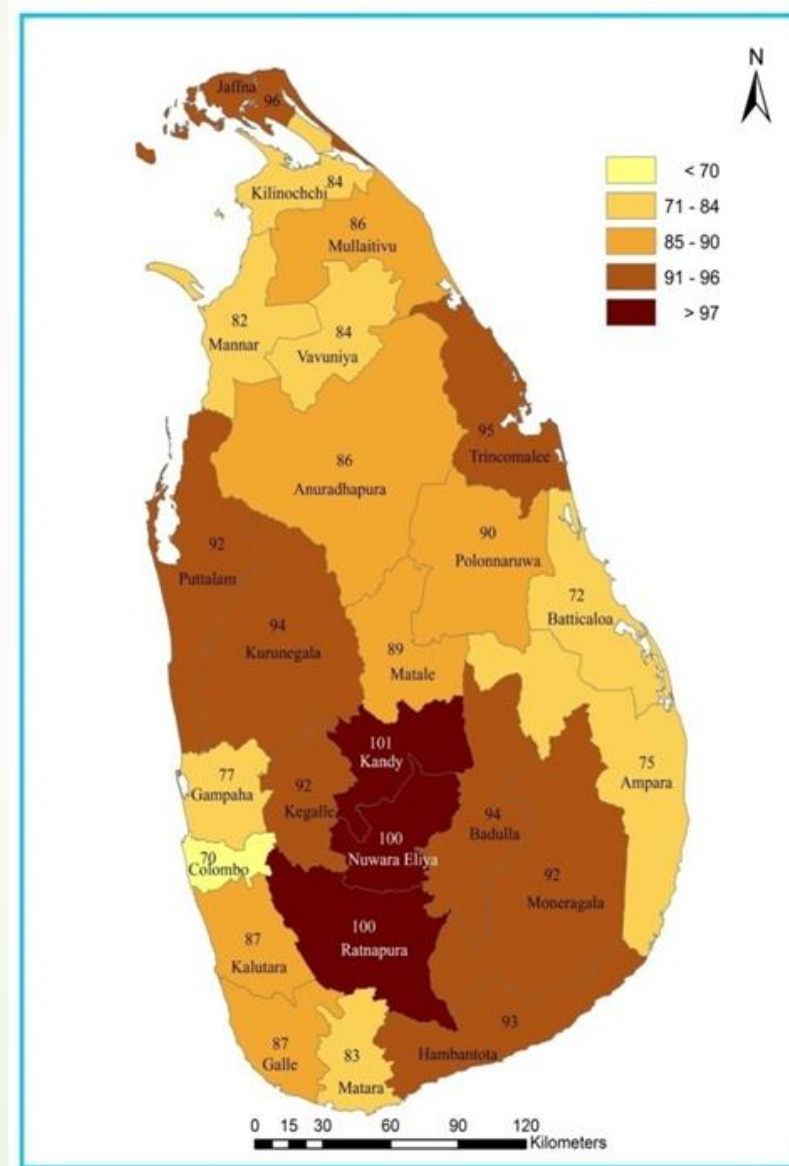
Difficulties	Difficulty (Number)	Rate per 1000 persons		
		Total	Male	Female
Total with difficulties	1,617,924	87	77	96
Seeing	996,939	54	47	60
Walking	734,213	39	31	47
Hearing	389,077	21	19	23
Cognition	343,689	18	16	21
Self-care	197,575	11	10	11
Communication	180,833	10	10	10

Percentage Distribution of Difficulties by Sex

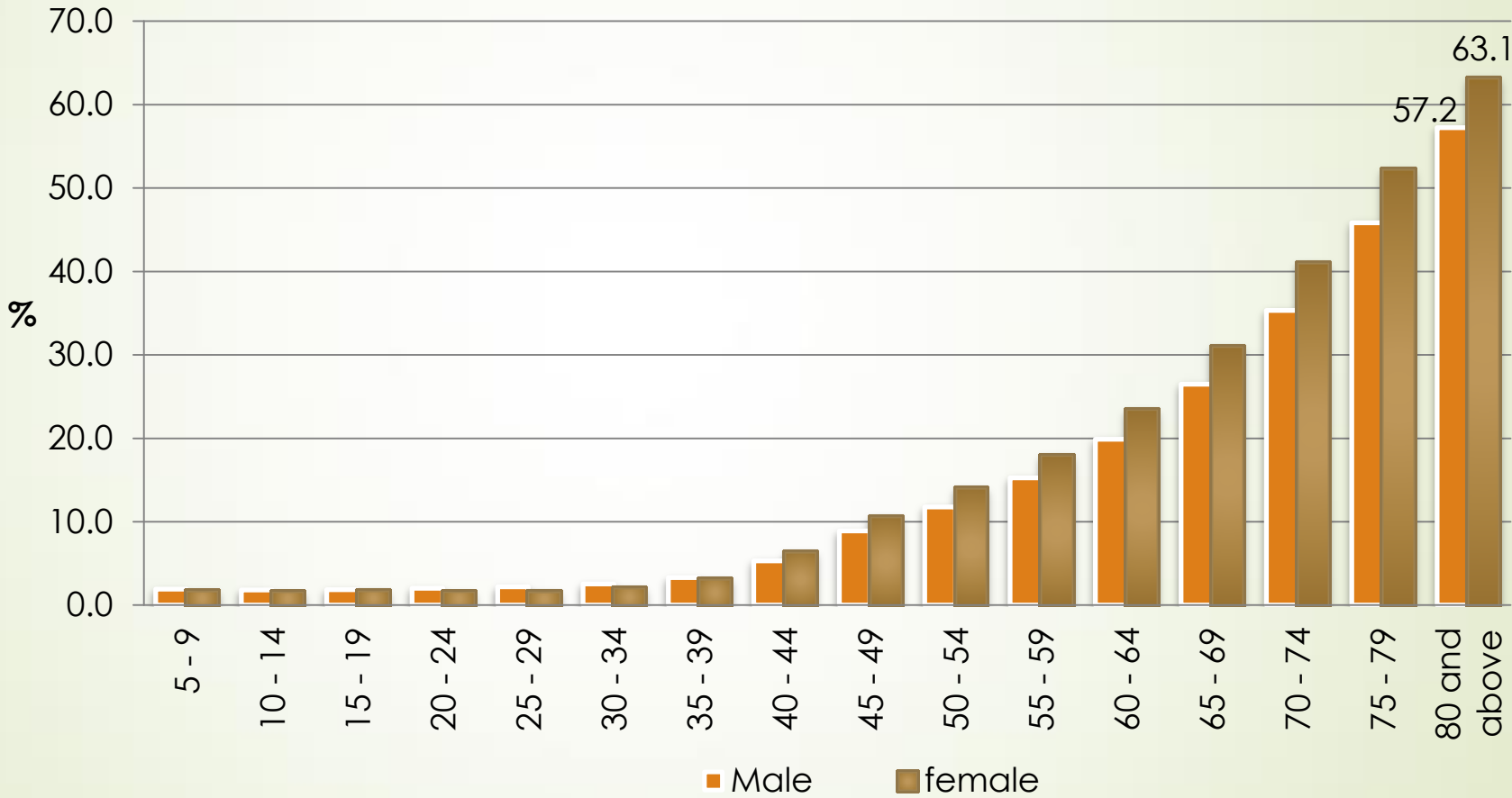


- ✓ Total with difficulties shows 43.0 percent were males and 57.0 were females.
- ✓ Proportion of females with difficulties for both, vision and mobility are higher than that of males.

Functional Difficulties Distribution in Districts



The percentage of persons with functional difficulties by age



Percentage of population with functional difficulties increases with the advancement in age

Functional Difficulty status by economic status

Economically active			Not economically active								
Total	Employed	Unemployed	Total	Students	Household work	Income recipients	Pensioners	Unable /Too old to work	Social work	Children not attending school	Others
453,091	442,138	10,953	1,105,761	22,018	408,253	10,850	78,333	530,306	4,376	3,683	47,942
100.0	97.6	2.4	100.0	2.0	36.9	1.0	7.1	48.0	0.4	0.3	4.3

- ✓ Nearly 453,091 of the population with functional difficulties and economically active
- ✓ Majority of the disabled persons are reported as economically inactive as they are unable to work due to old age
- ✓ The unemployment persons with functional difficulties in at least one domain stands at 10,953 of the impaired population

Functional Difficulty status by educational status

Attendance at educational institutions						
Total Population (5 yrs.& above)	Pre-School	School	Degree/Post graduate degree	Vocational /Technical	Other educational activity	Not engaged in educational activity
1,617,924	2,142	54,311	2,076	2,445	8,266	1,548,684
100.0	0.1	3.4	0.1	0.2	0.5	95.7


- ✓ Above information revealed that 1,548,684 (95.7%) number of persons with functional difficulties did not engaged in educational activity
- ✓ 54,311 (3.4%) are attending school education

Functional Difficulty status by level of education

Level of education						
Total Population (5 yrs.& above)	Primary	Secondary	GCE(O/L)	GCE(A/L)	Degree and Above	No Schooling
1,617,924	558,075	547,294	182,016	83,650	21,613	225,276
100.0	34.6	33.8	11.3	5.1	1.3	13.9



Issues: Data collection

- ▶ The case of very young children it would be premature to identify certain functional limitations as functional difficulties
 - ▶ Most of old people like to say their functional limitations as functional difficulties
 - ▶ More respondents answered geographical limitations as functional difficulties
- 



Thank You