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 glassed 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.

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No difficulty</td>
<td>Difficult</td>
<td>Not possible at all</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. **Seeing (even with the use of glasses if they are used)**
2. **Hearing (even with the use of hearing aids if they are used)**
3. **Walking a short distance or up/down about 12 steps in a stairway**
4. **Cognition (remembering and concentrating)**
5. **Day-to-day selfcare such as getting dressed, washing etc.**
6. **Communication in their own language due to physical or mental reasons**
## Type of difficulty - 2012 (Population aged 5 years and over)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Difficulties</th>
<th>Difficulty (Number)</th>
<th>Rate per 1000 persons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total with difficulties</td>
<td>1,617,924</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seeing</td>
<td>996,939</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking</td>
<td>734,213</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearing</td>
<td>389,077</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognition</td>
<td>343,689</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-care</td>
<td>197,575</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>180,833</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
Percentage of population with functional difficulties increases with the advancement in age.
### Functional Difficulty status by economic status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Economically active</th>
<th>Not economically active</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Employed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>453,091</td>
<td>442,138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>97.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Nearly 453,091 of the population with functional difficulties and economically active
- Majority of the disabled parsons 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Population (5 yrs. &amp; above)</th>
<th>Pre-School</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Degree/Post graduate degree</th>
<th>Vocational/Technical</th>
<th>Other educational activity</th>
<th>Not engaged in educational activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,617,924</td>
<td>2,142</td>
<td>54,311</td>
<td>2,076</td>
<td>2,445</td>
<td>8,266</td>
<td>1,548,684</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>95.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

✓ 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

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