

## COMMUNITY BASED INFORMATION SUPPORT AMONG THE PARENTS OF DISABLED PERSONS IN PURBA MEDINIPUR DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL (INDIA)

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### ABSTRACT

*This particular topic highlights the parents of disabled persons of East Medinipur, West Bengal, India with the comprehension of their mental, social, economical status. It also tries to point out their educational standard to disclose their mentality in handling any type of disability of their family member(s). It also tries to uphold the extension of their eagerness to get their disabled children out of such disability by providing family support, different types of aids from governments & NGOs with the support from the library & information centres at their locality with their satisfaction rate. It also tries to highlight that how far these library & information centres are being succeeded to pull their mentality upward in this regard.*

**Key Words:** Disabled Person, Information Service, Disability, CIS, Purba Medinipur.

### 1. INTRODUCTION:

Each person is entitled to enjoy all the rights & opportunities offered by the nature, state & society. Beside that, a society as well as the state should ensure about such entitlement of any person. A child is primarily dependant on his/ her parents for mental & physical nourishment. The parents should be enriched with proper information to bring

up their children properly to get accustom them with the present situation of the society. It will help all the children to bring them up with proper guidance and to educate them for future. A society should have adequate infrastructure to provide proper education for all and the libraries & information centres are the basic tools in this regard. It is an axiomatic truth that the libraries provide a vast resource of knowledge to all of us, whereby a person can access books, periodicals, newspapers, journals, magazines, pamphlets, research reports etc. which would act for the development of human society. Now-a-days, with the advent of digital libraries, collections are stored in digital formats and accessible by computers also.

Parents of disabled persons should have access such libraries & information centres for the development of their disabled member/ child. We have surveyed a large number of parents of disabled persons at the different blocks of Purba Medinipur in this regard.

### 2. OBJECTIVES:

1. To identify the educational standard of the parents.
2. To study the nature of the parents.

3. To find out the standard of knowledge and responsibility of the parents of disabled persons.
4. To identify the family-size and monthly income structure to comprehend their mentality and financial ability to get out of their family members with such disparity.
5. To identify the way of handling the problem of disabled persons by their parents
6. To identify the level of family and governmental support for the development of their disabled family member(s)
7. To identify the level of existence of library & information centres at the locality of disabled persons.

### 3. SCOPE & COVERAGE OF THE STUDY

The scope of the present study is concerned with the analysis of the response of the parents of the disabled persons during the period of 2010-2015 which would uphold the present scenario of the existing condition of the 25 blocks of Purba Medinipur for the disabled persons and formation their future & career with the supports of family, government & NGOs etc.

### 4. METHODOLOGY

The adopted methodology for this study involves various processes including a questionnaire for parents which have been categories under different phases time to time in this paper. Mainly, a total of 1400 questionnaires were distributed among the parents of disabled persons in these blocks and finally 1178 such parents responded

which means 84.14% response were received. A scheduled questionnaire was prepared with the details for the parents of disabled persons & data are being collected from several families of 25 blocks. Collected data were tabulated, analyzed and findings were recorded.

### 5. ANALYSIS

In this survey, our thrust area is the parent of the disabled persons or the disabled persons. In this study, we took 1178 samples of parents for our research work. Mainly 1178 numbers of parents of disabled persons at different ages have been taken.

Table 1: Age of disabled persons

Age Group of Disabled persons	No. of Disabled persons
0-5	19
6-10	329
11-15	584
16-20	175
21-25	68
26-30	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1178</b>

From table 1, 584 parents of 11-15 age group disabled person responded mostly and on the contrary, 3 parents of 26-30 age group of disabled persons responded in this survey.

Table 2: Sex Ratio

Gender	No. of Disabled Persons
Male	683
Female	495
<b>Total</b>	<b>1178</b>

Among the responded parents, 683 persons are males and other 495 persons are females.

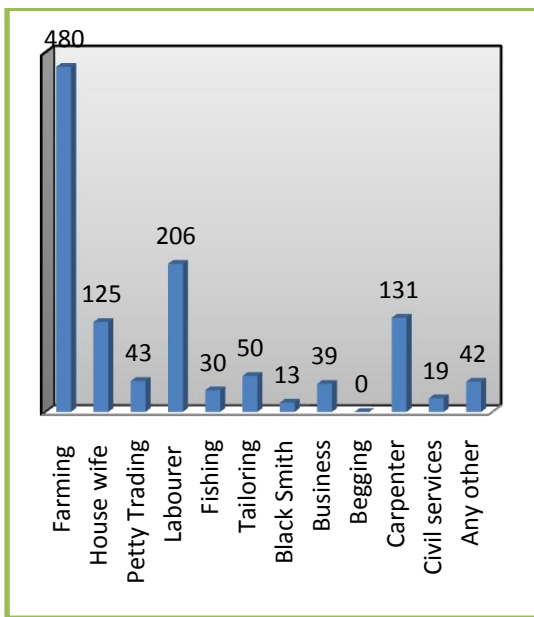


Figure 1: Occupation of the Parents/guardians

The figure upholds the various occupations of the parents of disabled persons in which the farmers were responded mostly and the 2<sup>nd</sup> position in case of response had taken the place for labours in the surveying area. Interestingly, the response from beggar – parents was simply zero. On the other hand, the housewives and carpenter- parents responded better; that means the chart also highlights the knowledge and responsibility standard of the parents of disabled persons which would help them in handling disparity of their family members.

Table 3: Monthly income of parent

Income in Indian rupees	No. of Person
Below -5,000	450
5,001-10,000	571
10,001-20,000	96
20,001 & above	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>1178</b>

Among the respondents, 1178 parents of disabled persons disclose that, most of them, at almost 571 parents belonged to the income category of Rs. 5001 – 10001 and in case of income – slot 450 parents of disables persons belong to the slot of below Rs. 5000. This chart of monthly income-slot upholds that the most of the time, the parents are unable to handle the disability of their family members due to low income in spite of their awareness and eagerness. To bring the disabled persons in the main stream, the parents could not spend as much in handling the disability.

Table 4: Family members of parent

No. of Family members	Number of family
3	163
4	490
5	314
6	103
7	108
<b>Total</b>	<b>1178</b>

The total number of family members including the disabled persons is mostly 7. That means if the income of the parents is low and the number of family members is higher, then the parents of low income category could not be able handle the disability and could not spend adequate money to overcome their disability.

Table 5: Number of disabled-persons in the family

Number of disabled-persons	Number of family
1 person	1070
2 or more persons	108
<b>Total</b>	<b>1178</b>

It has been seen that there are more than one disabled persons in a family. Among the respondent parents, 1070 parents have only one disabled member in their family and other 108 families have more than one disabled persons. In this connection we would like to clarify that some adult differently- able persons were interviewed whose parents' were not alive during that period.

Table 6: Types of disability

Types of disability	No. of candidates
Loco motor	255
Speech	115
Hearing	145
Visual impaired	125
Mental retarded	538
<b>Total</b>	<b>1178</b>

The type of disability among the family member or members is mentally retarded disability (MR) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> position of the type of disability was loco-motor. Other types of prominent disability among the members of responded parents were hearing, visual impairment, speech impairment etc. In this connection 1178 samples have been taken in account.

Table 7: The way of handling of disability from the beginning

The way of handling	No. of candidates
Normal way	655
Special way	506
Other way	125
<b>Total</b>	<b>1286</b>

Another important aspect of this survey is the way of handling the disability of disabled son/daughter by their parents at the beginning. This survey highlights that they are being treated in a normal way most of the time and for this reason 655 cases have been noticed in this regard. On the other hand, 506 cases have been incorporated which have been treated by a special way and other way includes 125 samples. (The other ways are self services etc)

Table 8: Government support for overcoming such disability

Response	Respondents
Yes	0
No	1178
<b>Total</b>	<b>1178</b>

In this connection, the interesting fact that has been come in the purview that is out of 1178 studied cases, no disabled person has expressed satisfaction to get any government support for overcoming such disability and setting up his / her career.

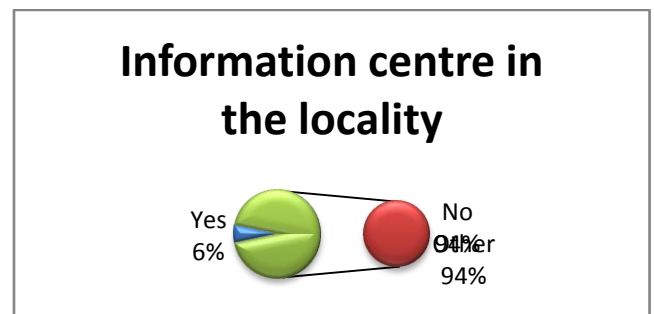


Figure 2: Information centre in the locality

On the other hand, existences of adequate and information based information centre for providing exact and accurate information about the

disability is very low and that is 6% out of 1178 respondents, only 74 respondents have stated about such information centres at their locality and 94% respondents have given negative responses in this aspect.

#### FINDINGS:-

1. It has been noticed, from the responses of the parents of disabled persons aged 11-20 that they are much more concerned about their children or family members(s) comparatively from other groups.
2. Parents of mentally retarded disabled persons are more anxious and concerned about their children due to communication gap between them than other parents.
3. The occupational table of parents of disabled persons shows the beggar parents do not want to respond side by side they are less interested in such information due to their bad fate and eagerness.
4. Most of the parents of disabled persons belong to the low income groups & cannot afford costly medicines, expensive schooling and assistive devices which are needed for their disabled children in these blocks.
5. Due to lowest income of the family and the dependants or survivor of the family members of disabled persons are numerous and higher, the parents of disabled persons could not spend adequate money and could not pay adequate attention to their disabled children. So the process of bringing the disabled children into the main stream could not reach to the satisfaction & fruitful level.
6. It is true that due to poor income & low education of parents of disabled persons, 655 parents handle their disabled children in a normal way, whereas the special care is required for their children. Only 506 number parents treat their children in a special way comparatively to the previous ones.
7. Most of the parents of the surveying samples expressed their dissatisfaction in respect of

government support for their disabled children. So it is clear that, the extension of such government support is received very little in these blocks.

#### SUGGESTIONS:

1. It is clear that the parents of disabled persons/ children should be informed about the disparities of their children thoroughly; they could handle their disabled family members in an effective manner.
8. To minimize the communication gap between the disabled children and their parents, effective & necessary training camps must be organized by the state, central government & different NGOs.
1. The new Family Support for Person with Disabilities Act, passed on 1<sup>st</sup> Aug. 2004 is better for families should be strictly implemented at the every level in these blocks, because it:
  - Provides supports to families including while their child is awaiting a formal diagnosis
  - Recognizes the needs of families, not just the needs of the child
  - Promotes better co-ordination and integration of services
  - Improves families' access to information
  - Recognizes families as partners in the planning and decision-making process regarding services that will best meet their needs
  - Ensures greater consistency in families' access to support and services across the province.
2. Self- dependant projects for such families must be initiated by the governments & NGOs for fulfilling the paucity funds.
3. More & more campaign & involvement of established disabled persons should be

required to mark the positive indication of life in these programmes that the parents would be enlighten & inspired to get their children out of such darkness of life.

4. The worker involved in such campaign & projects must be skilled, cordial & enriched with valuable information related to the topic.
5. The extension of government support must be upgraded to eradicate the dissatisfaction of parents with their disabled children.
6. The immunization programme for children at the early age by the government health centres, hospitals should be carry forward in an effective way for preventing the formation of disability among children at their early age with free medicines.

## BIOGRAPHIES



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## CONCLUSIONS

It is concluded from the above survey-based study that the full-fledged support from the parents with proper knowledge & guidance are not being provided to the disabled persons/ children due paucity of fund, education and superstition free environment. The states as well as central government have no such programme to cater information to that parents Even they are not using the existing infrastructure of the information centres. Manpower is the main problem of such initiative which requires huge funding from every level.

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