

Impact of Disability on Working Age Population in India

Sangram Kishor Patel and Laishram Ladusingh

This paper tries to study the impact in terms of loss and change of work as a result of onset of disability among working adult population of 15 to 60 years in India. Adjusted values reveal that around 40 per cent people have lost their work while only 18 per cent are able to change their work on the onset of disability. Persons having mental, visual and multiple disabilities as well as those who are severely disabled have higher chances of losing their work. We recommend to save the disabled persons from the economic distress by provision of alteration of work or given more breaks in job. There is also a need for a national network of vocational training centres for imparting knowledge and skill which will help them to remain economically active after the onset of disability also.

I Introduction

Like other people, disabled persons have hopes and aspirations. This basic proposition is not commonly acknowledged even in developed countries. In developing country like India provision of equality and civil rights for disabled persons is often neglected. Persons with disabilities face barriers when they seek involvement in the society, particularly in the labour market. The nature and extent of participation in the labour market in turn affects their well-being. As such we need to understand clearly the linkage between disability status and work participation. This will enable us to look beyond provision of services for disabled persons to equity in work participation. There are operational and analytical challenges in studying the effect of disability on labour force. Assessment of prevalence of disability from surveys at national and international levels suffers from the lack of comparability across individuals (Kramarow *et al.* 2004).

In a study of work participation among male disabled persons in the USA, high exit rates and low re-entry rates into the labour force were found (Hayward *et al.* 1989). Such rates do not differ significantly by sex (Daly and Bound 1996, Loprest *et al.* 1995). Nonetheless, it is widely recognized that the experiences of women and men vary substantially in the labour market. From an analysis of

Sangram Kishor Patel, Assistant Professor, International Institute of Health Management Research, Plot No. 3, Phase-II, Sector-18A, Dwarka, New Delhi 110075, email: sangramkishor@gmail.com.

Laishram Ladusingh, Professor and Head, Department of Mathematical Demography and Statistics, International Institute for Population Sciences, Govandi Station Road, Deonar, Mumbai 400088, email: ladusingh@gmail.com.