



ACCESS TO SCHEMES AND ENTITLEMENTS FOR PERSON WITH DISABILITIES IN INDIA

Social Science

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ABSTRACT

OBJECTIVE: Person with Disabilities sustainability largely depends on access to schemes and entitlements. Hence, this study assesses the level of access to general and specific entitlements for persons with disabilities in four states of India.

METHODS: This is a Cross sectional descriptive study carried on a total sample size of 379 includes from Uttar Pradesh (UP) 100, Chhattisgarh(CG) 100, Andhra Pradesh(AP) 102 and Tamil Nadu(TN) 77 from Person with disabilities. This study is part of baseline survey carried out during 2016 to 2017 for the CREATE Project on Schemes and entitlements using an interview schedule.

RESULTS: The findings shows that the access to General schemes was maximum in States of CG for 5 Schemes, for 4 schemes in TN and 2 schemes in AP. Whereas, for the specific schemes was found maximum in the state of UP for 4 schemes and 2 schemes for AP.

CONCLUSIONS: The study concludes that varied differences among the four states from maximum to minimum determines the influence of local demographic and culture on the accessibility process which needs for state specific approaches.

KEYWORDS

Person with disabilities, General and specific schemes, states

INTRODUCTION:

Indian Government provides many special schemes and entitlements for various types of physically and mentally challenged, through few acts such as Persons With Disabilities Act(1995) and Rights of Person with Disabilities Act(2016)².

The PWD Act 1995 constitutes an important step towards enabling the disabled in India. Based on the provisions of the Act those who are 40 per cent disabled, as certified by a Governmental medical authority, are entitled to receive particular benefits from the Government of India.

Several studies done in India indicate in general the level of access for Person with Disabilities to their eligible rights and entitlements are less³. There are limited studies done on the access to schemes and entitlements. The CREATE Project working in the four states of India focus on the welfare of the person with disabilities based on rights and it is important to know about their level of access towards entitlements for strategic priorities for implementation. Therefore, present study was carried out to assess the socio demographic profile of the Person with disabilities towards access to General and specific schemes and entitlements in four states of India.

METHODOLOGY

This was a Cross sectional descriptive study carried out from the four states, designed to compare the level of accessibility towards schemes and entitlements applicable for Person with Disabilities in four states of AP, TN, CG and UP. A total sample size of 379 includes from Uttar Pradesh (UP) 100, Chhattisgarh(CG) 100, Andhra Pradesh(AP) 102 and Tamil Nadu(TN) 77 in 18 Districts. This study was out of baseline data collection carried out during 2016 to 2017 for the CREATE Project, which was approved by TLM Research ethical committee and received financial support from European union and TLM England and wales.

An interview schedule was used to gather the information about the demographic details and data about the schemes and entitlements accessed by persons with disabilities. The data was collected by trained research workers in interview schedule by asking simple questions about the possession of the entitlements from all the respondents of four states. A verbal consent was taken from each respondent beforehand and anonymity was ensured. The data so collected was analyzed in SPSS 20 using appropriate statistical tests and the findings were represented by tables.

RESULTS

TABLE 1: Distribution of person with Disabilities and states according to Socio Demographic Profile.

Demographic Variables	TN N=77	AP N=102	CG N=100	UP N=100	Total N=379
Gender					
Male	40 (51.9)	50 (49)	62 (62)	61 (61)	213 (56.2)

Female	37 (48.1)	52 (51)	38 (38)	39 (39)	166 (43.8)
Age Groups					
Younger (18 to39 yrs)	48 (62.3)	54 (52.9)	73 (73)	81 (81)	256 (67.5)
Middle (40 to 59 yrs)	27 (35.1)	41 (40.2)	26 (26)	17 (17)	111 (29.3)
Old age (above60yrs)	2 (2.6)	7 (6.9)	1 (1)	2 (2)	12 (3.2)
Education					
Un educated	18 (23.4)	39 (38.2)	20 (20)	33 (33)	110 (29)
Educated up to 9 th	30 (39)	23 (22.5)	41 (41)	38 (38)	132 (34.8)
10th Std to 12+	24 (31.2)	32 (31.4)	31 (31)	20 (20)	107 (28.2)
Graduate & Post Graduate	5 (6.5)	8 (7.8)	8 (8)	9 (9)	30 (7.9)

TABLE 2: Distribution of person with Disabilities and states according to Type of Disability

Type of Disability	TN N=77	AP N=102	CG N=100	UP N=100	Total N=379
Locomotor Disability	53 (68.8)	41 (40.2)	73 (73)	87 (87)	254 (67)
Orthopaedic handicapped	13 (16.9)	37 (36.3)	9 (9)	3 (3)	62 (16.4)
Visual Impairment	2 (2.6)	17 (16.7)	11 (11)	8 (8)	38 (10)
Hearing Impairment	3 (3.9)	4 (3.9)	4 (4)	0 (0)	11 (2.9)
Mental Retardation	6 (7.8)	3 (2.9)	3 (3)	2 (2)	14 (3.7)

TABLE 3: Access to General schemes showing state and Person with Disabilities

General schemes	TN (n=77)	AP (n=100)	CG (n=100)	UP (n=100)
1. AADHAR Card	77 (100)	101 (99)	100 (100)	98 (98)
2. Ration Card	75 (97.4)	101 (99)	99 (99)	97 (97)
3. Voter ID card	76 (98.7)	94 (92.2)	98 (98)	86 (86)
4. MNERGA Schemes	49 (65.3)	42 (46.2)	13 (15.7)	5 (19.2)
5. BPL Card	11 (20.4)	80 (79.2)	85 (85)	77 (77.8)
6. Un Employment allowance	6 (20.7)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (3.4)
7. Housing Grant	21 (28.8)	43 (59.7)	18 (25)	10 (10)
8. AAY Scheme	8 (13.1)	34 (33.3)	63 (63)	49 (49)

TABLE 4: Access to Specific schemes showing state and Person with Disabilities

Specific Schemes	TN (n=77)	AP (n=100)	CG (n=100)	UP (n=100)
1. Disability Pension	58 (82.9)	100 (100)	84 (84.8)	53 (54.1)
2. Bus Pass	39 (50.6)	69 (67.6)	8 (8.1)	95 (96.9)
3. Train Pass	8 (10.4)	45 (44.1)	14 (14.1)	46 (47.9)

4. Tricycle	12 (22.6)	12 (33.3)	25 (46.3)	48 (69.6)
5. Aids and appliances	11 (16.4)	23 (41.1)	16 (27.1)	47 (67.1)
6. SHG Loans	33 (43.4)	44 (51.8)	4 (4)	2 (2)

DISCUSSION

In present study it was found that Access to General schemes by Persons with disabilities for AADHAR Card was accessed 100% in TN and CG in comparison to AP (99%) and UP (98%). Whereas, for Ration card accessed 99% in AP and CG in comparison to TN (97.4%) and UP (97%). Whereas, for Voter ID Card maximum accessed (98.7% & 98%) in TN and CG and less in UP (86%). Whereas, for MNERGA scheme maximum accessed in TN (65.3%) and less in CG (15.7%) and UP (19.2%). Whereas, for BPL card maximum accessed in CG (85%), AP (79.2%) and less in TN (20.4%). Whereas, for Unemployment allowance maximum accessed in TN (20.7%) and no access (0%) in AP and CG. Whereas, for Housing Grant maximum accessed in AP (59.7%) and less in UP (10%). Whereas, for AAY scheme maximum accessed in CG (63%) and less in TN (13.1%).

The present study highlights that Access to Specific schemes by Persons with disabilities for Disability Pension is maximum in AP (100%) and less in UP (54.1%). Whereas, for Bus pass maximum in UP (96.9%) and less in CG (8.1%). Whereas, for Train pass maximum in UP (47.9%) and less in TN (10.4%). Whereas, for Tricycle maximum in UP (69.6%) and less in TN (22.6%). Whereas, for Aids and appliances maximum in UP (67.1%) and less in TN (16.4%). And finally SHG loans maximum in AP (51.8%) and less in UP (2%).

Studies done in Gujarat, shows that most disabled people who had a certificate had used it only to access certain benefits, such as a bus pass and educational scholarships. Only three per cent had received monetary support from the government⁴. One of the reasons for low accessibility as also stated in earlier studies may be the procedures to obtain the benefits are often byzantine and costly.⁵

Lack of awareness is influenced by illiteracy also may be other reasons as stated in earlier studies that many disabled people are not aware of their rights under the act. In a country with 15 Major languages, and low levels of literacy, dissemination of information is a problem⁶. Access to services is time-consuming and cumbersome government procedures and corruption both act as additional barriers that prevent disabled people from accessing services⁷. These are some of the contributing factors for the differences present across the states towards access to schemes and entitlements.

CONCLUSION

The study concludes that there is varied difference among the four states from maximum to minimum in access to general and specific entitlements for person with disabilities as a result of the local demographic, cultural and political variables influencing access. Hence, it is important to have a state specific plan of action to improve the access for schemes and entitlements.

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