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DISABILITY ATLAS NEPAL

Disability Research Center - 2016
School of Arts | Kathmandu University

DISABILITY ATLAS OF NEPAL 2016

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Executive Summary

In 21st century Nepal, huge amount of information is being generated, collected and documented by both the government and non-governmental organizations. Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) has been the most important source of population data in Nepal. Disability is one important area where CBS has been keen in gathering information through Census and Nepal Living Standard Survey.

The visualization of gathered information is an important step towards understanding various problems faced by the society. Maps and bar diagrams can show many policy relevant edges in the data. The main aim of the Disability Atlas 2016 is to promote data visualization so that it can potentially enhance the understanding of the cross-cutting issues of disability in Nepal across policy forums and organizations working in this area.

CBS estimates that the prevalence of disability is around 1.94%, which is well below international average. However, simple statistics like this cannot give an in-depth view of the problem hidden inside the heap of data. When the averages like this is decomposed, a completely different picture emerges. Just looking at the prevalence of male and female, the difference is striking (2.18% and 1.71% respectively).

When the distribution of disability types is looked into Nepal as a whole, physical disability obviously tops the list followed by blindness/low vision and deaf/hard of hearing. But this average picture is very different from the scenario gathered in western Mountain region of the country where deaf/hard of hearing tops the list followed by speech problem and mental disability. This clearly indicates that a national panacea might not be appropriate for every population subgroups in the country.

Distribution of various types of disability is also highly uneven across districts. For example: most of the persons with physical disability are living in Kathmandu district and Terai region of the country. Mountain districts have the lowest number of persons with physical disability evenly distributed from east to west. But when percentage of physically disabled persons are computed for each district, the picture changes completely. Highest percentage of physically disabled persons are reported in western Hilly and Mountain districts.

In this Disability Atlas 2016, there are three sections. In section I, prevalence of various types of disability is shown for 75 districts on the district map of Nepal. This section has separate districts maps for children with disability. In section II, different types of disability are mapped in radar diagram for various population groups across Nepal. In section III, prevalence of different types of disability are shown across several age groups and gender.

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