# Socio-economic status of wheelchair users of Haryana

■ Anjali Gairola* and Kiran Singh

Department of FRM, IC College of Home Science (CCS HAU), Hisar (Haryana) India
(Email : anj.10.gairola@gmail.com; kiransingh.in@gmail.com)

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*Author for correspondence

## ABSTRACT

Disability is something that limits a person's ability to engage in certain task or action which can be physical, mental or cognitive. In context of India 2.21 per cent population falls under disability criteria. Haryana also holding a large number of differently able persons who are looking forward for easily accessible environment and equitable opportunities. Socio-economic status of the locomotive disabled is significantly dependent on the educational level and occupation bread earner of the family and their family income. Head of the family of differently abled respondents of Haryana having education upto metric but still majority is involved in unskilled tasks. Socio-economic status of the families with Disabled person has almost equal proportion in upper middle, lower middle and upper lower socio-economic class.

## INTRODUCTION

Disability according to Merriam Webster is a physical, mental, cognitive, or developmental condition that impairs, interferes with, or limits a person's ability to engage in certain tasks or actions or participate in typical daily activities and interactions. Disability is something that makes a person dependent on another to perform his/her day to day tasks.

India being a second largest swarmed country has to face many challenges and increasing disability in each decade is one of those. In context of population of differently abled people in India, Census 2011 quotes that out of the total population 2.21 per cent of the population was disabled which in figure value constitutes 1,49,86,202 males against the total of 1,18,24,355 females which in totality gives a figure value of 2,68,10,557 out of the total population and this percentage was increased from census 2001, which outlooks at 2.16 per cent in last census. In Haryana large number of population is facing locomotive disability. People with disability not only faces health issues but also faces inequitable distribution of resources like eduction, income etc. Scoio-economic status encompasses both the social and economic factors of the families or individual; *i.e.* income, education, social class etc. It affects human functioning including both mental and

physical health. Considering the above fact the research was done with the following objective:

– To assess the demographic profile and socio-economic status (SES) of the wheelchair users.

Patel (2008) reveled that polio is the major cause of locomotive disability among working age disabled population followed by burns and other illness study also revealed that majorities of the people focus burns/injuries at home cause of disabilities by and age group is below >15 who faces this maximum. He also unveiled that most number of people out of the total person of all ages are facing the locomotive problem according to NSSO data 2002. Highest number of persons who are in their working age faces the mental disabilities on the other hand the most prevailed problem in the old age is related to visual and hearing disabilities. Supplementary to these it was also found that beginning of speech and locomotive incapacities occurs at early stages of life whereas visual and hearing disabilities onset at the later stages of life. Deliberation of severe disabilities is dominant in later years.

Singh (2008) revealed that rate of disabled person is more in age cap of 55 (31%) as compared to those who are in the age of 25-54 (5.4%).Out of the total 1210 person surveyed only 1 was availing the government Scheme. Highest number that is 1175 felt that disability has impact on their social life and rest 32 felt it has no impact and 3 states that it has moderate effect on their social life. Most number of people felt problem in accessing the physical environment like use of Road, Public Transport.

Society for Disability and Rehabilitation Studies (2008) focused that in most of the industries age group of disabled population ranges 22-65 year as maximum of disabled fall under this category, a large majority of this section is orthopedically handicapped.

Census 2011 have improvised upto a great extent as various research asked to have more clear and particular division of disabilities census 2001 was categorized only in 5 categories whereas in 2011 its been classified under eight subheads. The total population measured under census 2011 was about 121 cr. It is good to see that the governments various initiative led to slow down the pace of increasing percentage of disabled people, there is only a little increase of .8 seen in the overall disabled person but it is worth noticing that there is more increase in the percentage of disabled people in urban area as compared to the rural area percentage. The total no of disabled person according to census 2011 is 2.21 per cent which is around 2.68 Cr in number. The data also revealed that out of total population 44 per cent (1.18 Cr) are male and 56 per cent are female (1.5 Cr). Out of total majority (69%) of disabled reside in rural areas and rest in urban areas. The highest number of disabled are facing locomotive disability (20%) followed by 19 per cent in visualization and hearing both. 8 per cent of the total faces the multiple disabilities.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Hisar district of Haryana (a northern state of India). 30 locomotive disabled who were using wheelchair were selected randomly for the study. Kuppuswamy Scale (2017) was used to assess the socio-economic status of the respondent's family. Kuppuswamy scale consist three parameters; *i.e.* educational qualification, occupation and income of head of the family to calculate family's socio-economic status. Considering the above fact, the study was focused on following objective;

To assess the correlation measures of socio-economic status was kept as independent variable while functionality of existing house and satisfaction of respondent as dependent variables.

## OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The results obtained from the present investigation as well as relevant discussion have been summarized under following heads :

**Background profile of the respondent:**

In the following paragraph, the background profile of the respondents has been clearly explained to bring out their characteristic features which are presented in
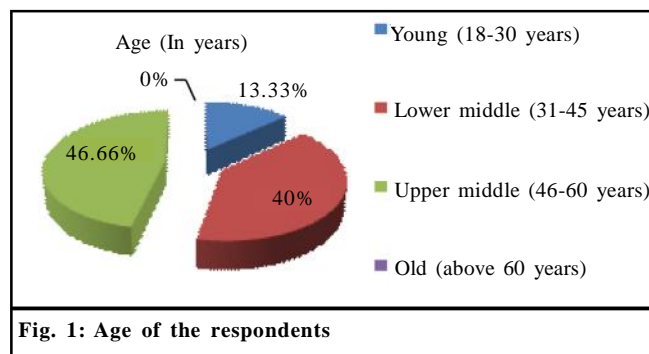


**Fig. 1: Age of the respondents**

| Sr. No. | Variables | Category | Response |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Table 1: Personal profile of the respondents** | | | **(n=30)** |
| **Personal and demographic variables** | | | |
| 1. | Age (in years) | Young (18-30) | 4(13.33) |
| | | Lower middle (31-45) | 12(40.00) |
| | | Upper middle  (46-60) | 14(46.66) |
| | | Old (Above 60 years) | - |
| 2. | Sex | Male | 24(80.0) |
| | | Female | 6(20.00) |
| | | Other | - |
| 3. | Marital status | Unmarried | 7(23.33) |
| | | Married | 23(76.66) |
| | | Widow | - |
| | | Divorced | - |
| 4. | Education of respondent | Illiterate | 5(16.66) |
| | | Primary school certificate | 4(13.33) |
| | | Middle school certificate | 7(23.33) |
| | | High school certificate | 4(13.33) |
| | | Intermediate/Post high school diploma | 4(13.33) |
| | | Graduate/PG | 6(20.00) |
| | | More | - |
| 5. | Occupation of the respondent | Unemployed | 7(23.33) |
| | | Unskilled worker | 6(20.00) |
| | | Semi skilled worker | 4(13.33) |
| | | Skilled worker | 4(13.33) |
| | | Arithmetic worker | 3(10.00) |
| | | Semi professional | 5(16.66) |
| | | Professional | 1(3.33) |
| 6. | Caste | Low | 5(16.66) |
| | | Middle | 13(43.33) |
| | | High | 12(40.00) |
| 7. | Family type | Nuclear | 18(60.00) |
| | | Joint | 12(40.00) |
| | | Extended | - |
| 8. | Family size | Small( upto 4 member) | 17(56.66) |
| | | Medium (5-8 members) | 8(26.66) |
| | | Large (8 members and more) | 5(16.66) |
| **Socio-economic variables** | | | |
| 1. | Education of head of the family | Illiterate | - |
| | | Primary school certificate | 7(23.33) |
| | | Middle school certificate | 2(6.66) |
| | | High school certificate | 11(36.66) |
| | | Intermediate/Post high school diploma | 3(10.00) |
| | | Graduate/PG | 7(23.33) |
| | | Profession/Honors | - |

Table 1: Contd……….

| 2. | Occupation head of the family | Unemployed | - |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Unskilled worker | 9(30.00) |
| | | Semi skilled worker | 6(20.00) |
| | | Skilled worker | 7(23.33) |
| | | Arithmetic worker | 1(3.33) |
| | | Semi professional | 6(20.00) |
| | | Professional | 1(3.33) |
| 3. | Family income (Monthly; Rupees) | >41430 | 8(26.66) |
| | | 20715-41429 | 4(13.33) |
| | | 15536-20714 | - |
| | | 10357-15535 | 11(36.66) |
| | | 6214-10356 | 5(16.66) |
| | | 2092-6213 | 2(6.66) |
| | | <2091 | - |
| 4. | Socio-economic status | Upper (26-29) | - |
| | | Upper Middle (16-25) | 10(33.33) |
| | | Lower Middle (11-15) | 9(30.00) |
| | | Upper Lower (5-10) | 10(33.33) |
| | | Lower(<5) | 1(3.33) |

the Table 1. Personal, demographic and socio-economic profile of the wheelchair users included information regarding age, sex, marital status, family type, family size, education and occupation of respondent, socio-economic profile of the family on the basis of Kuppuswamy Scale, family education status (FES), cause of disability, percentage of disability, use of other assistive technologies rather than wheelchair and dependency of wheelchair user on others etc.

**Personal and demographic variables:**

Personal and demographic attributes of the respondents were studied for proper interpretation of the findings and have been presented in the Table 1. Majority of the respondents *i.e.* 46.66 per cent were in upper middle age group (46-60 years) followed by 40 per cent in lower middle (31-45years) age group and 13.33 per cent in young (18-30 years), respectively (Fig. 2). The perusal of Table 1 shows composition of male and female as 80 per cent and 20 per cent, respectively. Majority of respondents (76.66%) were married and 23.33 per cent were unmarried.

Education status of respondent revealed (Fig. 3) that maximum number of respondents had education till middle school certificate (23.33%) followed by graduate (20%), illiterate (16.66%) and primary, high school and
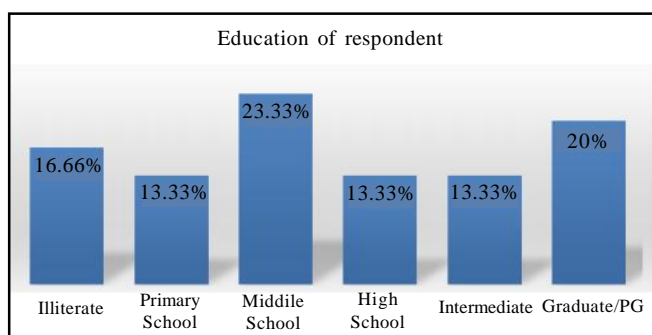


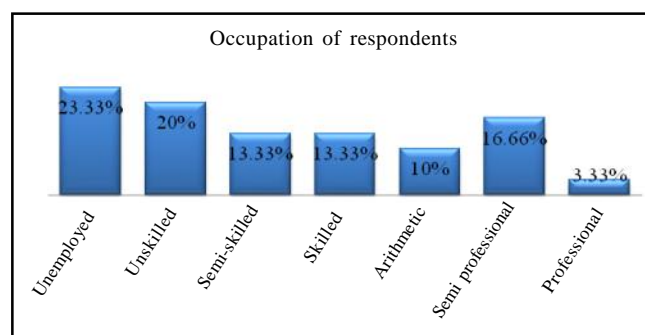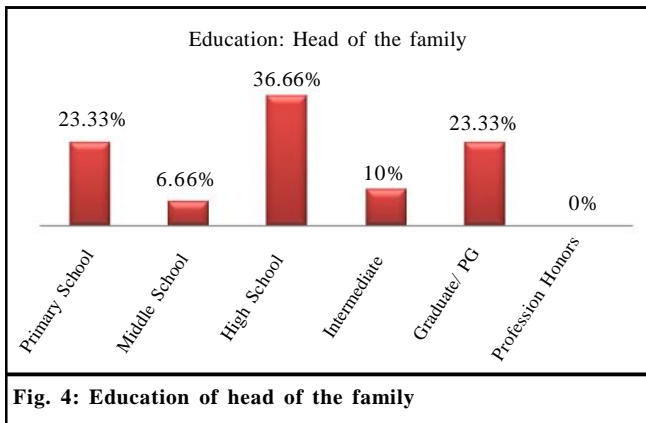**Fig. 2: Education of the respondents**



**Fig. 3: Occupation of the respondents**

intermediate *i.e.* 13.33 per cent, respectively. This data somewhere states the condition that there is still need to do lots to make education accessible to these differently able people by constructing new colleges in remote areas if not present and in case if present to renovate those to make those easily accessible by all.

Out of 30 respondent's majority of respondent *i.e.* 23.33 per cent were unemployed whereas 16.66 per cent were semi-professional followed by semi-skilled and skilled worker (13.33%), 10 per cent were arithmetic worker while only 3.33 per cent were professional. The data in Fig. 4 indicates that there is a demand to have proper training facility for these peoples in order to make these disabled people self-dependent.



**Fig. 4: Education of head of the family**

Caste indicates the social status of the respondent. It is evident from Table 1 that the majority of the respondents belonged to middle caste *i.e.* (43.33%) followed by high caste (40%) and low caste (16.66 %). Table 1 also revealed that majority of the respondents (60%) were living in nuclear families while 40 per cent had joint families. Out of thirty respondents 56.66 per cent had upto 4 members in their families and fall under the category of small family size, respectively followed by medium size family (26.66%) and large family size (16.66%; having 8 and more family members).

Fig. 5 astonishingly indicates that there was none of the head of the family was illiterate. It shows that 36.66 per cent of respondents holds the high school certificate followed by primary school and graduate/P.G. both were 23.33 per cent, intermediate (10%) and middle school (6.66%).

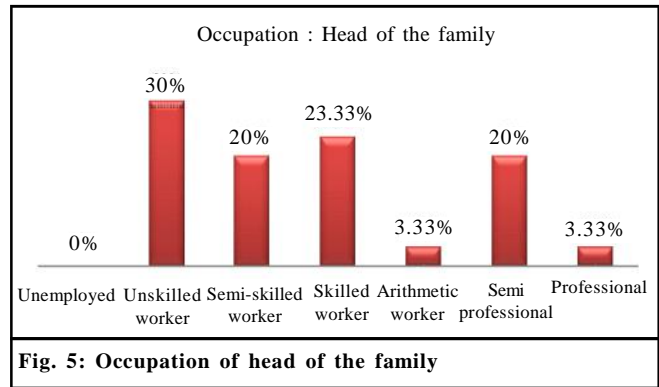The data divulges (Fig. 6) that none of the head is unemployed and that gives a positive sign of development.



**Fig. 5: Occupation of head of the family**

The above data reveals that 30 per cent of them were unskilled worker followed by 23.33 per cent skilled worker and 20 per cent semi-skilled labour. Looking the above data closely we can find that half of the data was either unskilled or semi-skilled and if government or other organization under their CSR programme work to provide them proper training this figure can be bought down. And it is also notable that even though there was no one who had professional degree still one person is employed in professional work, it means if they are given training they will absolutely do better.
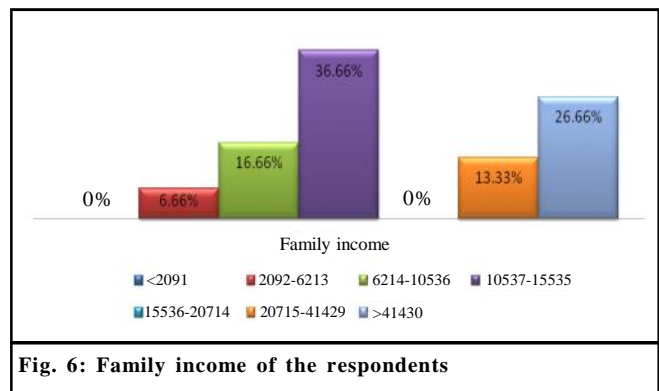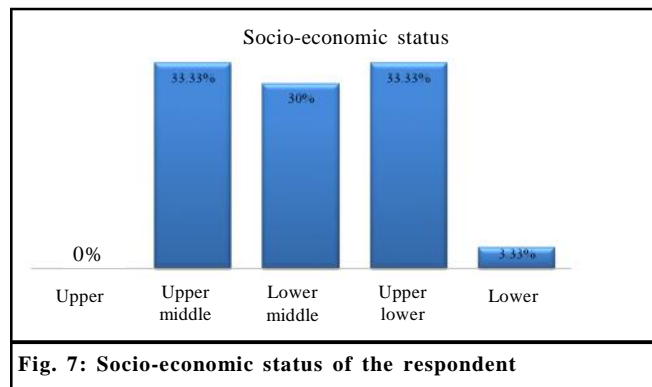


**Fig. 6: Family income of the respondents**

The highest number of people *i.e.* 36.66 per cent have monthly income between Rs.10,537-15,535 followed by around 26.66 per cent have income above Rs. 41,430 (Fig. 7). Around 6.66 per cent have income even less than Rs. 6,213 that is even below then the required average family income.

In order to measure the socio-economic status Kuppuswamay scale was employed, the scale specifies that there are equal number of respondents who belonged to upper lower (33.33%) and upper middle class (33.33%) followed by lower middle (30%) and only 3.33 per cent belonged to the lower class. Connecting this chart with

**Fig. 7: Socio-economic status of the respondent**

the above data we will find that even after we have good percentage of family earning *i.e.* above rupees 41,000 p/m but we have none of the family under the upper class that means there are some other factors which also decides the socio-economic status.

**Family education status:**

Data regarding to family education status of the respondents (Table 2) revealed that maximum number of the families of respondents had medium family education status *i.e.* 56.66 per cent followed by high family education profile (33.33%) and low family education status (10%).

Findings of present study revealed that huge number of population (80%) were male, 46.60 per cent respondent were falling under upper middle age group, more than three fourth (76.66%) were married. The prevalence of disability was higher among adults than among children (Watson and Nolan, 2011).

Similar study done by Mohanta and Reddy (2008) revealed that out of ten respondents were falling under the age group of 20-30 years while the number of young respondents was equal for both the sexes. Bisht *et al.* (2016) revealed that out of ten cases majoring of the respondents were above 50 years of age. Present investigation revealed that 50 per cent respondents were married. Watson and Nolan (2011) claims that disabled people are less likely to marry.

Now a day education can be widely accepted as

fundamental resource, both for individuals and society. It's is just not only the right but the duty also. Study revealed that majority (23.33%) were middle school passed. Study done by World Bank (2007) noted that children with any type of disability are more likely *i.e.* approximately five times to be out of the school than children belonging to other castes (SC or ST). If children get enrolled to the school hardly they progress beyond primary school. Census (2011), also depicts the same as 45 per cent of the disabled population of India is illiterate. National Sample Survey (2014) exposed that 28.23 per cent of CWSN (Children with Special Needs) between age group 6 -13 years are more likely to be out of school. It is very clear even the government had formed so many policies like 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)' but one policy will not work for all. Programmes and policies must be finely tailored to serve children or youth across the disability spectrum. One third disabled young adults left school before completing it (Watson and Nolan, 2011). Mohanta and Reddy (2008) revealed that 50 per cent of wheelchair users were completed their graduation or post graduation. Bisht *et al.* (2016) explained that 40 per cent of the respondents were illiterate and 60 per cent were educated upto matric.

Employment status of the respondent depicted in Tables 1 shows that 23.33 per cent were unemployed and maximum of the employed respondent were unskilled worker (20%).The Person with Disabilities Act (1995) or Right of Persons with Disability Act (2016) reserves 3 per cent of all the categories of job in public sector for people with special need. Barker (1984) revealed that people with disability had lower income and less geographic mobility.

Abidi (1999) in his study revealed that out of 70 companies 71.43 per cent companies had employed person who are differently able. It was recorded that majority of the disabled employees were locomotive disabled (70.57%) and 86.96 per cent of total respondent were working in public sector. Mohanta and Reddy (2008) in her findings explained that out of 10 four were dependent on the family members. Disability had negative

| Table 2: Family education status of the respondents | | | (n=30) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sr. No. | Category | Response | Percentage |
| 1. | Low educational profile (0-2) | 3 | 10.00 |
| 2. | Medium educational profile (2-4) | 17 | 56.66 |
| 3. | High educational profile (4-6) | 10 | 33.33 |

impact on the employment status of the person with disability (Hosain *et al.*, 2002).

Equal numbers of the families (33.33%) were falling in upper middle socio-economic class and upper lower class. It can be said on the basis of present study that half of the population was either unskilled or semi-skilled, and if government and other organizations under their CSR programme work to provide them proper training this figure can be brought down. More than fifty per cent respondents (56.66%) were having medium family educational status.

The present study and various other studies done before in this area focused that government should provide a provision of accessible housing and also aware the differently abled people about their rights and making various policies that is required for their upliftment. Along with the government organization non-government organizations must be involved in this process who can reach to the grass root level or villages too to identify the differently able people such as locomotive disabled to find out their need and give them some inventories to reduce their dependency on others and fill the disability gap among the society.

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