

**REGISTRATION OF PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES (PWD) IN BHUTAN - 2015**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The main aim of this registration study is to register people with disabilities in Bhutan through a detailed participatory procedure. The report broadly reflects the situation of disability in the country, its scope, nature, the socio-economic profile of people with disabilities, gender dimensions of disability and reasons for disability. It is expected that the registry of people with disabilities would help both the government and civil society organizations to understand how people living with disabilities conduct their lives and the difficulties they encounter in accessing education, employment and social protection.

This report is divided into four sections. The introductory section narrates the background, rationale and objectives of the study. Section two explains the detailed methodology of the registration process of people with disabilities in Bhutan. Section three presents the major findings of the registration study. A summary of the major findings and highlights of the study are provided in the last section.

This study has registered 4,451 people with disabilities. This constitutes 0.58% of the total projected population of 2016. Nearly half of the people identified with a disability (48.1%) suffer from a hearing disability. Also, the study identified that 44.7% of the people with disabilities have a mobility disability, 39.7% have a self-care disability, 37.1% have a communication disability, 29.8% have a seeing disability, and 25.7% have a cognition induced disability. One-third of the total registered people with disabilities have a disability in one domain, 34.6% have disabilities in two domains, and 16% have disabilities in three domains.

It is identified that the majority of people with disabilities are men (55.7%). A little more than one-third of the people (37.1%) are married. The average age of people with disabilities is 41 years. The highest proportion of disability cases is recorded in Samtse (10.9%), and the lowest in Gasa (0.16%). 84.6% of them have not attended school. 17.3% are literate in Dzongkha, 13.9% in English, and 4.4% in Nepali. The survey further shows that most of the people with disabilities are unpaid workers (35.14%) and farmers (23.8%). This reflects the economic vulnerability of people who suffer from disabilities.

The reasons for disability also vary among people. More than half of people with disabilities (57%) are found to be disabled either before or during birth and one-fifth of them are disabled due to sickness. Further, the survey reveals that 12.1% of people with disabilities became disabled due to

some form of accident in their lives. 85.4% of them stated that disability is a very significant issue in their lives. 67.8% and 22.5% of people with disabilities are partially and fully dependent on others, respectively.

The most common factors that make community participation easier for people with disabilities are personal support, assistive devices and physical support. But physical support and assistive devices are also rated as the most common factors restricting community participation.

Time constraint is the most common difficulty faced by 68.9% of caregivers, followed by lack of adequate finance (52.1%) and medical services (42.7%). Although more than half of the people with disabilities (56.9%) are aware of services provided for people with disabilities, the proportion of people making use of *Kidu*¹, medical and educational support is quite low. Adequate data on households' living standards would have given a clear picture of the current scenario of demand and supply of services to people with disabilities.

Over 57% of women with disabilities actively participate in community events. Lack of education, lack of access to information, communication barriers and accessibility were reported as the most common factors barring female participation in the community. Three-quarters of women with disabilities face additional challenges in life compared to men. Slightly more than one-quarter of children with disabilities aged two years and below could name at least one object, and one-third (34.5%) of them are reported as being mentally retarded when compared to other children of the same age.

¹ “*Kidu* or wellbeing of the people is traditionally a Royal Prerogative and enshrined today in the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan as a fundamental responsibility of His Majesty the King.”

1. BACKGROUND

Disability is a dynamic, complex and often contested concept. There are medical and social dimensions of disability, which defines the barriers in accessing basic services. The World Report on Disability defines the concept as, “*an umbrella term for impairments, activity limitations and participation restrictions, referring to the negative aspects of the interaction between an individual (with a health condition) and that individual’s contextual factors (environmental and personal factors)*” (World Health Organization & World Bank, 2011).

Disability is broadly perceived as a human rights and development issue across the world. People with disabilities (PWD) experience diverse socio-economic and health problems emanating from the lack of access to basic services including health, education, employment, transport and information. As per the estimates of the World Health Organization, disability induced health and social outcomes are increasingly evident in developing countries including Bhutan.

It is estimated that 15% of the world’s population are living with some form of disability (World Health Organization & World Bank, 2011). Owing to numerous limitations and factors, PWD are often socially excluded and exploited. Hence, there is an urgent need to create an enabling environment and effective policy support that can help PWD. Realising the importance of addressing disability through an inclusive strategy, both the government and international agencies focus on developing rehabilitation and support services for PWD.

In the context of an increasing number of PWD and the social and economic exclusion they face, the World Health Organization and the World Bank jointly published *The World Report on Disability* in 2011. This comprehensive report provides the evidence for innovative policies and programmes that can improve the lives of people with disabilities, and facilitate implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which came into force in May 2008. The world over, this landmark international treaty was instrumental in highlighting the importance of disability as a human rights and development priority.

In Bhutan, disability has recently attracted policy priority. Nevertheless, there is a paucity of a comprehensive analysis of the situation on disability in the country. In spite of the efforts of the government and civil society in Bhutan, there is a lack of awareness and scientific information on disability issues across the country. There is a severe lack of literature and basic data on the incidence, distribution and trends of disability in the country. Valid, reliable and accurate data on disability are

critical for implementing an evidence based policy that encompasses people with different types of disability transcending gender, age and social background. Developing comprehensive data on disability would enable both policy makers and civil society organisations to establish the broad landscape of disability in the country. Further, it will allow government and stakeholders to identify the most effective strategies needed to improve the health and well-being of people with disabilities.

A few studies on disability have been conducted in Bhutan. The 2005 Population and Housing Census of Bhutan (Office of the Census Commissioner, 2006) reported the overall prevalence of disability at 3.4%. A two-stage child disability study was conducted in 2010-11 to study the prevalence of disabilities in children in the age group of 2-9 years. The first stage was conducted as part of the 2010 Bhutan Multiple Indicator Survey (BMIS), which included some screening questions. The second stage, which was conducted in 2011, assessed children with risk of disability referred from the first stage screening. The study revealed that 21% of the children were living with a disability. However, the children living with a severe disability were found to be below 2%. In December 2015, a vulnerability assessment study was jointly conducted by UNDP and the Gross National Happiness Commission (GNHC). The study identified people with disabilities as a vulnerable group and suggested pragmatic public policies to accommodate the problems of PWD. Apart from that, a training workshop was also conducted to discuss the nature and scope of the National Disability Policy in Bhutan.

A number of CSOs, namely Ability Bhutan Society, Draktsho, and Disabled Persons' Association of Bhutan (DPAB), have been providing disability-support services for those individuals living with disability in Bhutan.

1.1 RATIONALE

Although studies have been conducted in Bhutan on the prevalence of disability and child disability, there is no registry of PWD. The registration of PWD is critically important for targeted intervention and support services. As a fundamental principle, policy decisions aimed at PWD should be structured in such a way that these issues are addressed directly at the lowest level instead of simply assuming the trickle down effects of the policies implemented at the national level.

The top-down, supply-side focus of disability measures has long been identified as a major constraint in the fight against disability across the world. Thus, effective implementation of development strategies to reduce exclusion and inequality need a multifaceted and normative policy framework that puts people with disabilities at the center of the national policy. This implies a pragmatic approach focusing on the micro-realities of an individual disabled person with a view to improving the quality of life that person enjoys today. The concrete scenario of the situation of PWD would help the macro policy making agency to identify the factors relevant to improve the designing, targeting and delivery of specific programmes meant for them. Hence, the understanding of ‘micro realities’ would refine the mismatch in perceptions and information asymmetry existing between disability policy makers and the micro level stakeholders. Here lies the rationale of the current registration of PWD.

This registration study gathered the personal and family background of PWD throughout the country. It also collected information related to genetic history such as consanguinity as recommended in the two-stage disability report.

The study is aimed at gathering appropriate data to provide appropriate information relevant for developing and implementing public policy to ensure that PWD have access to basic services and necessities, such as education, health care, social inclusion and individual rights within society.

1.2 OBJECTIVES

The key objectives of the registration study are:

- i. To estimate the number of people living with diverse abilities, regardless of age;
- ii. To determine factors associated with disabilities; and
- iii. To study the needs and issues of people living with disabilities, namely:
 - a. To find out the percentages of people living with disabilities who were immunized, who were taking medicine for their health condition, who have received other types of support like *Kidu*, education, etc.;
 - b. To find out the percentage of people living with disabilities who think disability has been a significant issue in his/her life;
 - c. To assess the difficulties faced by individuals and caregivers;
 - d. To assess knowledge about the kind of service providers and services available among the people living with disabilities and their caregivers;
 - e. To assess the gender related issue like safety concerns and community participation among the people living with disabilities; and
 - f. To assess the various types of support and needs for people living with disabilities.

2. STUDY METHODOLOGY

2.1 STUDY DESIGN

This study focuses on registering people living with disability/disabilities (PWD). The methods used were participatory and consultative. Besides community representatives, the Gewog administration and health workers were consulted while carrying out the survey. In order to minimize the exclusion of children with disabilities, National Statistics Bureau (NSB) has provided the list of children that were assessed as ‘positive’ (or children living with disability) from their two-stage child disability study. Detailed procedures followed in the registration process are outlined below.

2.2 REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

The following procedures were utilized to collect data about PWD:

- i. Requested Dzongda to issue an official letter to Gewog administrations, Schools and Health Centres to provide their support and assistance to the study team. Dzongda were briefed on the objectives of the study.
- ii. Requested Gup, Gewog Administration Officer, Principals and Health officials to provide the list of PWD. In case of urban areas, the team also contacted Thromde Office and advertised in the media (for example BBS) to inform about the study.
- iii. Requested PWD to gather at a community centre or common gathering place. The team conducted registration/questionnaire interview of all who attended.
- iv. For those PWD who are unable to reach the gathering places due to their disabilities or any other reason, the team arranged home visits.
- v. In order to minimize the exclusion of people with disabilities, consultation meetings were held with community representatives, health officials and others, including disabled people themselves. The team also referred to the list provided by NSB on children with disabilities (which they collected during the two-stage disability study conducted in 2010-11). Further, the study team ensured that all people with disabilities who have registered with the Disabled Persons’ Organisation were included in the study.

2.3 STUDY INSTRUMENTS

The registration study questionnaire was jointly developed by the Disabled Persons' Organisations (DPOs). It was reviewed with the help of relevant stakeholders, such as UNICEF and the Ministry of Health (MoH), and verified so that the questions meet the international standard on disability registration. Each question was shaped in such a way that these questions could be applied in virtually any setting for PWD. The questions also focused more on general functional abilities rather than just diagnosing specific disabilities.

Since this is a registration study per-se, no 'validation' tools were used to identify people with disabilities. However, the questionnaire contains a set of questions to identify people with disabilities, so could therefore also be used to screen out people without disabilities. Although they were interviewed, such cases have been excluded from the analysis.

For this study, the PI and Co-PIs participated as field coordinators, supervisors and enumerators. They are from the DPOs who deal with PWD as part of their profession. They are trained in the field of disability and have experience in dealing with PWD.

Data were collected on tablets using mobile data collection solutions. Enumerators collected the data offline and stored it on the tablets. In the evening supervisors examined the data stored on the tablets and then pulled it onto their laptops for final upload onto the centralized server. A data manager at Bhutan Interdisciplinary Research & Development – BIRD then managed the data as the data collection solutions and management were outsourced to the consulting company.

2.4 DATA TABULATION AND ANALYSIS

Data collected through mobile data collection solutions were cleansed and verified with help of supervisors before performing data tabulation and analysis. Basic statistical analysis techniques such as frequency and percentage analysis and cross tabulation were performed to summarize the quantitative information.

1.1 STUDY LIMITATIONS

Even though this study made an earnest attempt to register around 20,000 people living with disabilities, it managed to register only 4,451 owing to time and financial constraints. This constitutes only 0.58% of the total projected population of the year 2016 which was estimated at 768,577 (National Statistics Bureau, 2005). The figure is very low and certainly cannot be the actual proportion of people living with disabilities in Bhutan. The total number of people living with disabilities in Bhutan is estimated to be 3.4% (World Health Organization, 2013).

The data collection exercise was carried out by staff from Ability Bhutan Society (ABS), Disabled Persons' Association of Bhutan (DPAB), Draktsho Vocational Training Centre for Special Children and Youth, and the Tarayana Foundation.

2. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

This section explains the major findings of the study. The key findings were categorised into different aspects of disability including demographic profile of respondents, socio-economic background, reasons for disability, impact of disability, the social support system available to PWD etc. Efforts were made to provide a comprehensive overview of disability in the country in its diverse manifestations. The following sections narrate the survey results with brief explanations of each aspect.

2.1 DISTRIBUTION OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES (PWD)

This study has registered a total of 4,451 people living with disabilities. There are six key domains of disability. Hearing is the most common domain of disability, as in the survey it was evident that 48.10% suffer from hearing related disabilities. This was followed by disabilities in moving around, walking or climbing steps (mobility), which affect 44.7% of the total registered people. Other main types of disability prevalent among the people in Bhutan are difficulty in communication, difficulty in washing and dressing (self-care), difficulty in seeing, and difficulty in remembering or concentrating (cognition), affecting 39.7%, 37.1%, 29.8%, and 25.7% of those registered, respectively. Hence, it is clear that disabilities of cognition are relatively less common among people in Bhutan.

Table i Distribution of PWD by disability types

Disability types	n	%
Hearing	2,142	48.10%
Mobility	1,990	44.70%
Communication	1,766	39.70%
Self-care	1,652	37.10%
Seeing	1,328	29.80%
Cognition	1,145	25.70%

Disability can be experienced in only one domain and in multiple domains. From the study, it is evident that out of the six disability domains, 32.85% of the people have disabilities in only one domain, 34.6% have disabilities in two domains, 16% have disabilities in three domains, 9.5% have disabilities in four domains, 5.2% have disabilities in five domains, and finally 1.8% of the people registered have disabilities in all six domains. However, this classification cannot determine the degree of severity or mildness of disability in any case. It is possible that a person with only one kind of disability will be

more severely affected than a person with two or more forms of milder disabilities. Also, the survey reveals that people with multiple disabilities are relatively less common in Bhutan compared to people with disabilities in one or two domains.

Table ii Distribution of PWD by number of disability types

Number of disability types	n	%
Disability in one domain	1,462	32.85
Disability in two domains	1,540	34.6
Disability in three domains	712	16
Disability in four domains	422	9.48
Disability in five domains	233	5.23
Disability in six domains	82	1.84
Total	4,451	100

Samtse has the highest proportion of PWD among all six domains [Table iii]. Likewise, Gasa has the lowest proportion of PWD in all the domains. In this regard, all different forms of disabilities seem to be closely interconnected and caused by similar environmental factors. There are more males than females living with disabilities in all Dzongkhags, with the exception of Bumthang Dzongkhag. In Bumthang, males constitute 51.1% of the total PWD. The gender gap among PWD is highest in Wangdue Phodrang, where males make up 61.5% and females constitute only 39.5%.

Table iii Distribution of PWD by Dzongkhag and by types of disability

Dzongkhag	Types of disability						
		Seeing	Hearing	Mobility	Cognition	Self-care	Communication
Bumthang	n	13	26	22	15	19	22
	%	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.2
Chhukha	n	37	64	63	40	56	60
	%	2.8	3.0	3.2	3.5	3.4	3.4
Dagana	n	121	150	142	86	118	132
	%	9.1	7.0	7.1	7.5	7.1	7.5
Gasa	n	3	1	6	1	5	1
	%	.2	.0	.3	.1	.3	.1
Haa	n	21	33	45	20	35	32
	%	1.6	1.5	2.3	1.7	2.1	1.8
Lhuentse	n	65	93	89	59	78	77
	%	4.9	4.3	4.5	5.2	4.7	4.4
Monggar	n	83	159	137	71	111	115
	%	6.3	7.4	6.9	6.2	6.7	6.5
Paro	n	54	84	70	39	55	59
	%	4.1	3.9	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.3
Pema Gatshel	n	35	71	64	21	48	52
	%	2.6	3.3	3.2	1.8	2.9	2.9
Punakha	n	70	132	116	64	97	92
	%	5.3	6.2	5.8	5.6	5.9	5.2
Samdrup Jongkhar	n	106	170	164	98	131	146
	%	8.0	7.9	8.2	8.6	7.9	8.3
Samtse	n	142	246	190	119	164	209
	%	10.7	11.5	9.5	10.4	9.9	11.8
Sarpang	n	44	64	73	34	52	54
	%	3.3	3.0	3.7	3.0	3.1	3.1
Thimphu	n	20	32	27	23	22	25
	%	1.5	1.5	1.4	2.0	1.3	1.4
Trashhi Yangtse	n	94	160	144	87	122	134
	%	7.1	7.5	7.2	7.6	7.4	7.6
Trashigang	n	73	118	106	76	85	98
	%	5.5	5.5	5.3	6.6	5.1	5.5
Trongsa	n	55	64	54	36	46	56
	%	4.1	3.0	2.7	3.1	2.8	3.2
Tsirang	n	101	164	172	89	151	136
	%	7.6	7.7	8.6	7.8	9.1	7.7
Wangdue Phodrang	n	99	168	167	87	138	146
	%	7.5	7.8	8.4	7.6	8.4	8.3
Zhemgang	n	92	143	139	80	119	120
	%	6.9	6.7	7.0	7.0	7.2	6.8
Total	n	1328	2142	1990	1145	1652	1766
	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table iv Proportion of PWD by Dzongkhag and by sex

Dzongkhag	Sex		% Total
	% Female	% Male	
Bumthang	51.1	48.9	100
Chhukha	42.3	57.7	100
Dagana	42.8	57.2	100
Gasa	42.9	57.1	100
Haa	49.4	50.6	100
Lhuentse	43.7	56.3	100
Monggar	41.3	58.7	100
Paro	47.2	52.8	100
Pema Gatshel	46.0	54.0	100
Punakha	44.2	55.8	100
Samdrup Jongkhar	42.3	57.7	100
Samtse	47.9	52.1	100
Sarpang	44.0	56.0	100
Thimphu	45.5	54.6	100
Trashigang	49.6	50.4	100
Trashi Yangtse	43.7	56.3	100
Trongsa	46.2	53.8	100
Tsirang	44.3	55.7	100
Wangdue Phodrang	39.5	60.5	100
Zhemgang	42.7	57.3	100
Total	44.3	55.7	100

2.2 DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF PWD

2.2.1 SEX

By sex, disability has affected more males (55.7%) than females [Table v]. Males outnumber females in all the six disability domains [Table vi]. The difference is largest in the case of mobility disabilities, i.e. moving, walking, or climbing steps (male: 56.9%, female: 43.1%), and smallest in the case of seeing disabilities (males: 51.9%, females: 48.1%).

Table v PWD by sex

Sex	n	%
Female	1,970	44.26
Male	2,481	55.74
Total	4,451	100

Table vi PWD by sex and by disability types

Sex	Disability types					
	% Seeing	% Hearing	% Mobility	% Cognition	% Self-care	% Comm.
Female	48.10	45.80	43.10	46.30	44.60	45.50
Male	51.90	54.20	56.90	53.70	55.40	54.50
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table vii PWD by Dzongkhag and by sex

Dzongkhag	Sex			
		Female	Male	Total
Bumthang	n	24	23	47
	%	1.2	.9	1.1
Chhukha	n	58	79	137
	%	2.9	3.2	3.1
Dagana	n	139	186	325
	%	7.1	7.5	7.3
Gasa	n	3	4	7
	%	.2	.2	.2
Haa	n	41	42	83
	%	2.1	1.7	1.9
Lhuentse	n	87	112	199
	%	4.4	4.5	4.5
Monggar	n	121	172	293
	%	6.1	6.9	6.6
Paro	n	75	84	159
	%	3.8	3.4	3.6
Pema Gatshel	n	64	75	139
	%	3.2	3.0	3.1
Punakha	n	111	140	251
	%	5.6	5.6	5.6
Samdrup Jongkhar	n	157	214	371
	%	8.0	8.6	8.3
Samtse	n	233	253	486
	%	11.8	10.2	10.9
Sarpang	n	62	79	141
	%	3.1	3.2	3.2
Thimphu	n	30	36	66
	%	1.5	1.5	1.5
Trashigang	n	142	183	325
	%	7.2	7.4	7.3
Trashigang	n	119	121	240
	%	6.0	4.9	5.4
Trongsa	n	61	71	132
	%	3.1	2.9	3.0
Tsirang	n	168	211	379
	%	8.5	8.5	8.5
Wangdue Phodrang	n	141	216	357
	%	7.2	8.7	8.0
Zhemgang	n	134	180	314
	%	6.8	7.3	7.1
Total	n	1970	2481	4451
	%	100.0	100.0	100.0

2.2.2 MARITAL STATUS

When we consider the marital status of PWD, it is estimated that 55.5% of PWD are not married. Further, the survey shows that 37.1% are married and 7.4% are either separated, divorced or widowed. A tiny minority of 0.1% are cohabiting. Within the different disability domains, it is evident that slightly more than half of those with seeing disabilities (52.8%) are married. At the other end, 70.6% of people with difficulty in remembering or concentrating (cognition disabilities) are not married. Likewise, 63.8% of those living with communication disabilities, 57.6% with self-care disabilities, and 57.1% with hearing disabilities are not married [Table ix]. Though small in number, it was found that 10.36% of females living with disabilities have faced separation, divorce or death of their spouse, compared to 5% of their male counterparts [Table x]. From the survey, it is clear that disability is an important barrier in leading a normal marital relationship. In almost all domains of disability, except seeing, the respondents are less likely to be married.

Table viii PWD by marital status

Marital status	n	%
Living Together	5	0.11
Married	1,650	37.07
Never Married	2,468	55.45
Separated/Divorced/Widowed	328	7.37
Total	4,451	100

Table ix PWD by marital status and by disability types

Marital status	Disability types					
	% Seeing	% Hearing	% Mobility	% Cognition	% Self-care	% Comm.
Living Together	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Married	52.8	36.0	40.0	22.7	34.5	25.4
Never Married	33.7	57.1	50.4	70.6	57.6	68.3
Separated/Divorced/Widowed	13.4	6.9	9.5	6.6	7.8	6.3
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table x PWD by marital status by sex

Marital status	Sex		%Total
	%Female	%Male	
Living Together	0.2	0.04	0.11
Married	35.99	37.93	37.07
Never Married	53.45	57.03	55.45
Separated/Divorced/Widowed	10.36	5	7.37
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table xi PWD by Dzongkhag and by marital status

Dzongkhag	Marital status					Total
	Living Together	Married	Never Married	Separated/ Divorced/ Widowed		
Bumthang	n	1	12	30	4	47
	%	20.0	.7	1.2	1.2	1.1
Chhukha	n	1	37	91	8	137
	%	20.0	2.2	3.7	2.4	3.1
Dagana	n	0	134	170	21	325
	%	0.0	8.1	6.9	6.4	7.3
Gasa	n	0	4	2	1	7
	%	0.0	.2	.1	.3	.2
Haa	n	0	33	43	7	83
	%	0.0	2.0	1.7	2.1	1.9
Lhuentse	n	0	84	102	13	199
	%	0.0	5.1	4.1	4.0	4.5
Monggar	n	0	105	162	26	293
	%	0.0	6.4	6.6	7.9	6.6
Paro	n	0	54	94	11	159
	%	0.0	3.3	3.8	3.4	3.6
Pema Gatshel	n	0	55	77	7	139
	%	0.0	3.3	3.1	2.1	3.1
Punakha	n	0	99	135	17	251
	%	0.0	6.0	5.5	5.2	5.6
Samdrup Jongkhar	n	0	141	211	19	371
	%	0.0	8.5	8.5	5.8	8.3
Samtse	n	1	191	254	40	486
	%	20.0	11.6	10.3	12.2	10.9
Sarpang	n	0	49	79	13	141
	%	0.0	3.0	3.2	4.0	3.2
Thimphu	n	0	26	34	6	66
	%	0.0	1.6	1.4	1.8	1.5
Trashigang	n	1	121	179	24	325
	%	20.0	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3
Trongsa	n	1	84	139	16	240
	%	20.0	5.1	5.6	4.9	5.4
Tsirang	n	0	51	67	14	132
	%	0.0	3.1	2.7	4.3	3.0
Wangdue Phodrang	n	0	120	232	27	379
	%	0.0	7.3	9.4	8.2	8.5
Zhemgang	n	0	131	197	29	357
	%	0.0	7.9	8.0	8.8	8.0
Total	n	5	1650	2468	328	4451
	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

2.2.3 AGE

From the study, it is evident that 8.5% of PWD are aged 5 years and below, 7.2% are within the age group of 6-12 years, 6.96% belong to 13-17 years, and 7.2% are within 18-24 years. Further, it is found that one-quarter of PWD are aged 20 years and below. On the other hand, about one-fifth are aged above 65 years. The average age among them is 41 [Table xiii]. Likewise, the median age of PWD is 41. This means that exactly half of the people registered with disability are aged below 41 years. The other half is aged above 41 years. The sizable minority of young people with disabilities pose a serious concern indeed for policy makers. Mobility disabilities are the most common among the 24 years and below age groups, affecting between 42-47% of them [Table xiv]. This is followed by self-care and communication disabilities. More than half of the PWD aged 35 years and above have hearing disabilities. Around a half of the PWD who are 65 years of age and above have mobility and seeing disabilities. Disability is more prevalent among males than females in all age groups [Table xv]. Between 55-57% of PWD in the age groups of 24 years and below are males. On the other hand, males constitute 58% of the PWD aged 65 years and above.

Table xii PWD by age group

Age group	n	%
0-5	376	8.45
6-12	321	7.21
13-17	310	6.96
18-24	321	7.21
25-34	467	10.49
35-44	594	13.35
45-54	505	11.35
55-64	613	13.77
65+	944	21.21
Total	4,451	100

Table xiii Mean and median age of PWD

Variable	N	mean	sd	min	Max	median
Age	4,451	41.3	24.7	0	100	41

Table xiv PWD by disability types and by age group

Age group	% Seeing	% Hearing	% Mobility	% Cognition	% Self-care	% Comm.
0-5	29.30	36.70	46.50	26.10	42.30	39.90
6-12	15.90	29.00	44.90	34.60	48.90	43.00
13-17	17.40	30.00	43.90	35.80	41.00	40.60
18-24	17.80	32.70	42.10	25.90	40.20	37.10
25-34	21.60	42.80	39.80	22.70	32.10	41.30
35-44	21.90	57.40	36.50	25.10	28.30	47.80
45-54	24.00	55.20	38.40	23.40	30.30	40.60
55-64	34.70	56.30	44.70	21.70	29.70	36.10
65+	49.30	55.30	53.30	22.20	42.50	32.30

Rows and columns in the table below [Table xiv] total to more than 100% as there are people with disabilities in more than one domain.

Table xv Proportion of PWD by age group and by sex

Age group	% Female	% Male	% Total
0-5	45.0	55.1	100
6-12	43.3	56.7	100
13-17	44.8	55.2	100
18-24	42.7	57.3	100
25-34	45.6	54.4	100
35-44	46.8	53.2	100
45-54	43.0	57.0	100
55-64	46.8	53.2	100
65+	41.4	58.6	100
Total	44.3	55.7	100

Table xvi PWD by Dzongkhag and by age group

Dzongkhag	Age group										Total
	0-5	6-12	13-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+		
Bumthang	n .5	3 .9	6 1.9	2 .6	4 .9	10 1.7	5 1.0	5 .8	10 1.1	47	
Chhukha	n 2.9	15 4.7	11 3.5	13 4.0	19 4.1	16 2.7	15 3.0	16 2.6	21 2.2	137	
Dagana	n 8.0	21 6.5	22 7.1	11 3.4	29 6.2	56 9.4	27 5.3	49 8.0	80 8.5	325	
Gasa	n 0.0	1 .3	0 0.0	1 .3	0 0.0	2 .3	1 .2	1 .2	1 .1	7	
Haa	n 2.9	3 .9	6 1.9	9 2.8	8 1.7	10 1.7	8 1.6	11 1.8	17 1.8	83	
Lhuentse	n 3.5	9 2.8	10 3.2	15 4.7	16 3.4	39 6.6	21 4.2	28 4.6	48 5.1	199	
Monggar	n 24	15 4.7	20 6.4	16 5.0	36 7.7	51 8.6	29 5.7	38 6.2	64 6.8	293	
Paro	n 3.7	14 4.4	12 3.9	11 3.4	18 3.9	23 3.9	11 2.2	24 3.9	32 3.4	159	
Perna Gatshel	n 10	12 3.7	8 2.6	9 2.8	18 3.9	15 2.5	21 4.2	19 3.1	27 2.9	139	
Punakha	n 2.3	20 6.2	20 6.4	16 5.0	21 4.5	25 4.2	32 6.3	43 7.0	51 5.4	251	
Samdrup Jongkhar	n 7.4	28 8.7	25 8.0	28 8.7	44 9.4	43 7.2	38 7.5	49 8.0	88 9.3	371	
Samtse	n 46	34 10.6	38 12.2	36 11.2	59 12.6	60 10.1	63 12.5	55 9.0	95 10.1	486	
Sarpang	n 15	12 3.7	14 4.5	8 2.5	18 3.9	25 4.2	9 1.8	17 2.8	23 2.4	141	
Thimphu	n 4	5 1.6	7 2.3	3 .9	4 .9	6 1.0	9 1.8	6 1.0	22 2.3	66	
Trashi Yangtse	n 26	26 8.1	25 8.0	26 8.1	37 7.9	44 7.4	46 9.1	40 6.5	55 5.8	325	
Trashigang	n 21	14 4.4	16 5.1	21 6.5	19 4.1	30 5.1	28 5.5	35 5.7	56 5.9	240	
Trongsa	n 15	12 3.7	7 2.3	7 2.2	8 1.7	18 3.0	14 2.8	27 4.4	24 2.5	132	
Tsirang	n 25	38 11.8	28 9.0	38 11.8	32 6.9	41 5.0	48 9.5	49 8.0	80 8.5	379	
Wangdue Phodrang	n 30	21 6.5	15 4.8	28 8.7	38 8.1	50 8.4	42 8.3	53 8.6	80 8.5	357	
Zhemgang	n 28	18 5.6	21 6.8	23 7.2	39 8.4	30 5.1	38 7.5	48 7.8	69 7.3	314	
Total	n 376	321 100.0	311 100.0	321 100.0	467 100.0	594 100.0	505 100.0	613 100.0	943 100.0	4451 100.0	

2.2.4 AREA

By Dzongkhag of origin, 10.94% of affected people are in Samtse, 8.54% in Tsirang, 8.34% in Samdrup Jongkhar, and 7.95% in Wangdue Phodrang. The lowest cases of disability are recorded in Gasa (0.16%), Bumthang (1.08%), and Haa (1.91%).

Table xvii PWD by Dzongkhag

Dzongkhag	n	%
Bumthang	48	1.08
Chhukha	131	2.94
Dagana	320	7.19
Gasa	7	0.16
Haa	85	1.91
Lhuentse	203	4.56
Monggar	299	6.72
Paro	153	3.44
Pema Gatshel	143	3.21
Punakha	253	5.68
Samdrup Jongkhar	371	8.34
Samtse	487	10.94
Sarpang	136	3.06
Thimphu	60	1.35
Trashigang	244	5.48
Trashi Yangtse	324	7.28
Trongsa	135	3.03
Tsirang	380	8.54
Wangdue Phodrang	354	7.95
Zhemgang	318	7.14
Total	4,451	100

2.2.5 EDUCATION

When asked whether they have attended a school or any learning institute, it was found that a majority of PWD (84.5%) have never attended a school/institute. 4.52% are currently attending a school/institute. The proportion of those who never attended a school/institute ranges between 85-90% in all six domains of disability. Among those who have attended or are attending schools, 44.4% have either completed or are studying in class PP, 13.2% in class one, 10.9% in class two, 9.4% in class three, 8.8% in class eight, and 2.2% in class nine. The highest level of school education attended by PWD is class nine. However, 1.3% of those who have attended or are currently attending schools/institutes have not reported their level of education. 94% of them have reported their education level as other. The majority of those in the ‘other’ category are in various schools/institutes for people with disabilities, vocational/training institutes, and monastic bodies. A slightly higher proportion of females (87.1%) have never attended a school or an institute as compared to males (82.5%). Likewise, a smaller proportion of females have either attended or are currently attending schools/institutes than males. This indicates that females with disabilities have lower access to education as compared to their male counterparts.

Table xviii PWD by education status

Have you attended school/institute or any other kind of learning?	n	%
Never attended	3,761	84.5
Currently attending	201	4.52
Attended in the past	489	10.99
Total	4,451	100

Table xix PWD by education status and by disability types

Have you attended school/institute or any other kind of learning?	Disability types					
	% Seeing	% Hearing	% Mobility	% Cognition	% Self-care	% Comm.
Never attended	86.8%	89.8%	85.9%	87.2%	85.4%	89.4%
Currently attending	2.8%	3.4%	3.1%	4.5%	4.2%	3.5%
Attended in the past	10.4%	6.8%	11.0%	8.2%	10.4%	7.1%
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table xx PWD by sex and by education status

Sex	Have you attended school/institute or any other kind of learning?			
	% Never attended	% Currently attending	% Attended in the past	% Total
Female	87.06	3.55	9.39	100
Male	82.47	5.28	12.25	100
Total	84.5	4.52	10.99	100

By age group, 5.7% of those aged 5 years and below are attending schools. A substantially high proportion of PWD in the age groups of 6-12 years (59.8%), 13-17 years (41%), and 18-24 years (56.4%) have never attended a school/institute. Low education status among older people with disabilities is expected considering the high rate of adult illiteracy in the country. The proportion of those who have never attended a school/institute increases as age increases.

Table xxi PWD by age group and education status

Age group	Have you attended school/institute or any other kind of learning?			
	% Never attended	% Currently attending	% Attended in the past	% Total
0-5	93.09	6.91	0	100
6-12	59.81	38.63	1.56	100
13-17	40.97	3.87	55.16	100
18-24	56.39	8.1	35.51	100
25-34	76.66	2.78	20.56	100
35-44	92.59	0	7.41	100
45-54	96.63	0	3.37	100
55-64	97.06	0	2.94	100
65+	97.46	0	2.54	100
Total	84.5	4.52	10.99	100

Table xxii PWD by age group and education status in absolute figures

Age group	Have you attended school/institute or any other kind of learning?			
	% Never attended	% Currently attending	% Attended in the past	% Total
0-5	350	26	0	376
6-12	192	124	5	321
13-17	127	12	171	310
18-24	181	26	114	321
25-34	358	13	96	467
35-44	550	0	44	594
45-54	488	0	17	505
55-64	595	0	18	613
65+	920	0	24	944

Total	3,761	201	489	4,451
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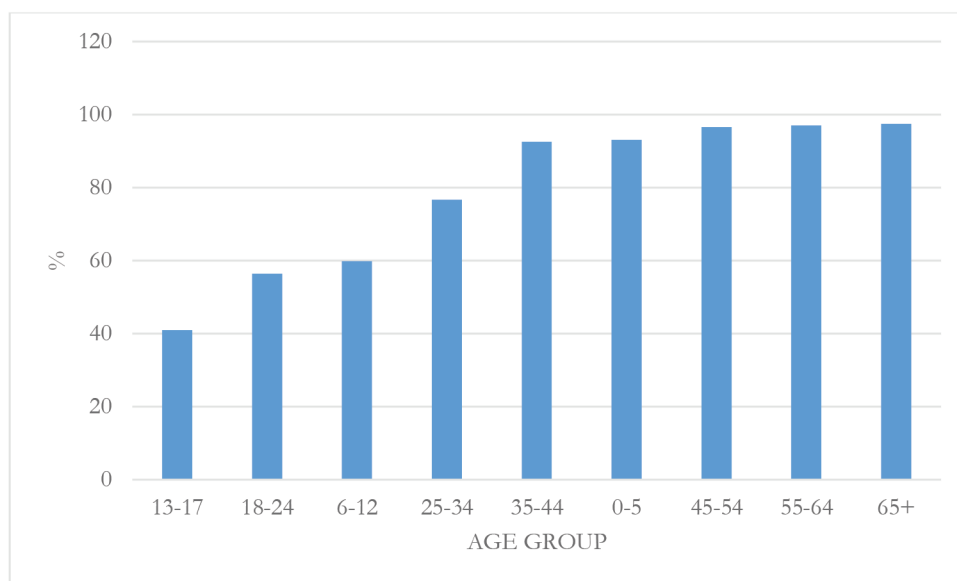


Figure 1 Proportion of PWD who never attended school/institute or any other kind of learning by age group

Table xxiii PWD by Dzongkhag and by education status

Dzongkhag	Have you attended school/institute or any other kind of learning?			
	% Never attended	% Currently attending	% Attended in the past	% Total
Bumthang	78.7	2.1	19.1	100
Chhukha	78.1	8.8	13.1	100
Dagana	89.5	1.5	8.9	100
Gasa	71.4	14.3	14.3	100
Haa	88	2.4	9.6	100
Lhuentse	85.4	4.5	10.1	100
Monggar	87.7	3.8	8.5	100
Paro	85.5	6.9	7.5	100
Pema Gatshel	82	6.5	11.5	100
Punakha	82.5	4.8	12.7	100
Samdrup Jongkhar	82.5	4.6	12.9	100
Samtse	84	5.6	10.5	100
Sarpang	83.7	5	11.3	100
Thimphu	90.9	4.5	4.5	100
Trashigang	85	4.6	10.4	100
Trashy Yangtse	81.2	5.2	13.5	100
Trongsa	91.7	1.5	6.8	100
Tsirang	83.4	4.5	12.1	100
Wangdue Phodrang	85.4	4.8	9.8	100
Zhemgang	83.4	3.2	13.4	100
Total	84.5	4.5	11	100

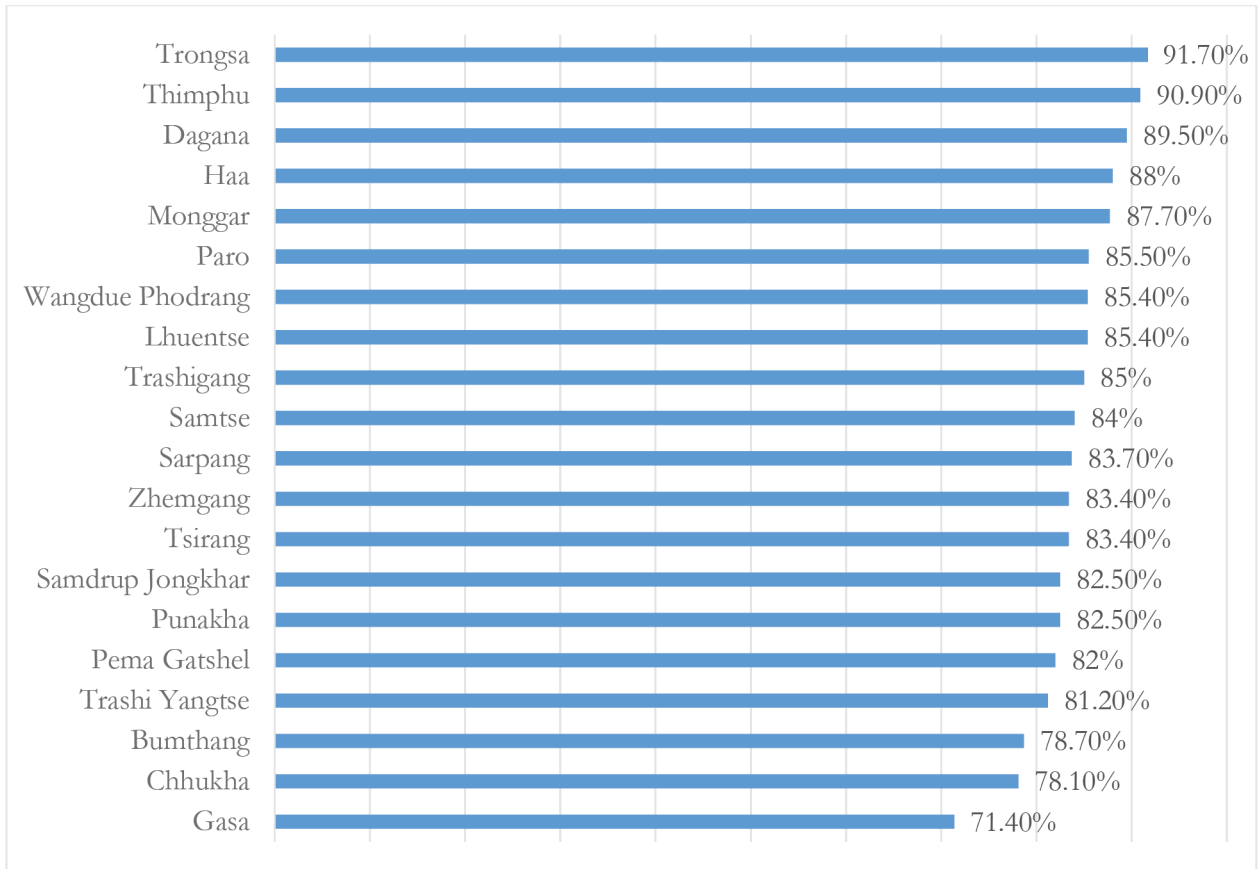


Figure 2 Proportion of PWD who never attended a school/institute or any other kind of learning by Dzongkhag

Table xxiv PWD qualification

Grade	n	%
PP	302	44.35
Grade 1	90	13.22
Grade 2	74	10.87
Grade 3	64	9.4
Grade 4	2	0.29
Grade 5	2	0.29
Grade 6	7	1.03
Grade 7	1	0.15
Grade 8	60	8.81
Grade 9	15	2.2
Other	64	9.4
Total	681	100

Table xxv PWD by age group and by qualification

Age group	% PP	% Grade 1-3	% Grade 4-6	% Grade 7-9	% Other	% Total
0-5	11	10	0	0	2	23
6-12	86	33	0	3	5	127
13-17	93	77	1	5	7	183
18-24	46	59	2	17	14	138
25-34	29	32	5	23	18	107
35-44	14	12	2	6	9	43
45-54	10	1	0	4	1	16
55-64	6	3	1	4	4	18
65+	7	1	0	12	4	24
Total	302	228	11	74	64	679

Table xxvi PWD by Dzongkhag and by qualification

Dzongkhag	Educational attainment					PP	Total
	Grade 1-3	Grade 4-6	Grade 7-9	Grade other			
Bumthang	n	2	1	0	0	7	10.00
	%	0.01	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.12
Chhukha	n	5	0	5	2	18	30.00
	%	0.02	0.00	0.07	0.03	0.06	0.18
Dagana	n	15.00	1.00	5.00	0.00	12.00	33.00
	%	0.07	0.09	0.07	0.00	0.04	0.26
Gasa	n	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00
	%	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Haa	n	3.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	5.00	10.00
	%	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.02	0.06
Lhuentse	n	10.00	1.00	3.00	6.00	9.00	29.00
	%	0.04	0.09	0.04	0.09	0.03	0.30
Monggar	n	5.00	1.00	2.00	4.00	24.00	36.00
	%	0.02	0.09	0.03	0.06	0.08	0.28
Paro	n	6.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	15.00	23.00
	%	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.05	0.11
Pema Gatshel	n	8.00	0.00	1.00	2.00	13.00	24.00
	%	0.04	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.04	0.12
Punakha	n	12.00	0.00	5.00	3.00	23.00	43.00
	%	0.05	0.00	0.07	0.05	0.08	0.24
Samdrup Jongkhar	n	25.00	1.00	6.00	4.00	29.00	65.00
	%	0.11	0.09	0.08	0.06	0.10	0.44
Samtse	n	27.00	1.00	7.00	10.00	32.00	77.00
	%	0.12	0.09	0.09	0.16	0.11	0.56
Sarpang	n	9.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	10.00	22.00
	%	0.04	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.03	0.11
Thimphu	n	2.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	6.00
	%	0.01	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.11
Trashigang	n	24.00	1.00	3.00	5.00	27.00	60.00
	%	0.11	0.09	0.04	0.08	0.09	0.40
Trashigang	n	10.00	0.00	6.00	5.00	14.00	35.00
	%	0.04	0.00	0.08	0.08	0.05	0.25
Trongsa	n	8.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	10.00
	%	0.04	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.06
Tsirang	n	19.00	2.00	11.00	4.00	27.00	63.00
	%	0.08	0.18	0.14	0.06	0.09	0.56
Wangdue Phodrang	n	20.00	1.00	4.00	7.00	19.00	51.00
	%	0.09	0.09	0.05	0.11	0.06	0.40
Zhemgang	n	16.00	0.00	12.00	9.00	15.00	52.00
	%	0.07	0.00	0.16	0.14	0.05	0.42
Total	n	228.00	11.00	76.00	64.00	302.00	681.00
	%	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	5.00

The survey results clearly reflect the barriers in access to education among PWD in Bhutan, irrespective of the age. In a country in which the level of general education among the adult population is relatively low, disability affects people further and denies access to education. This is another serious concern that needs policy initiatives. The situation is similar in other countries as well. PWD are historically excluded from access to education and this makes them economically and socially vulnerable.

2.2.6 LITERACY

Out of the total population of PWD, 17.3% are literate in Dzongkha, 13.9% in English, 4.4% in Nepali, and 2.8% in other languages. The literacy rate in Dzongkha (17.3%) is slightly higher than the overall proportion of people who have attended or are currently attending schools/institutes (15.5%). More than half of PWD within the age group of 13-17 years are literate in both English and Dzongkha. From those aged 18-24 years, 42.4% have English literacy and 46.1% have Dzongkha literacy. The next highest level of literacy is found among people aged between 6-12 years, where 39.9% and 42.4% have English and Dzongkha literacy, respectively. Between males and females, a slightly higher proportion of males have literacy in English, Dzongkha, and Nepali as compared to the females [Table xxviii.].

Table xxvii PWD by literacy

Language	n	%
English	617	13.90%
Dzongkha	768	17.30%
Nepali	198	4.40%
Other	125	2.80%

Table xxviii PWD by age group and by literacy

Age group	Can you read or write in Dzongkha, or English or Nepali or in any other languages?			
	% English	% Dzongkha	% Nepali	% Others
0-5	10.10	13.30	1.30	2.40
6-12	39.90	42.40	7.50	5.30
13-17	57.10	58.70	7.70	2.60
18-24	42.40	46.10	5.90	1.90
25-34	17.80	22.90	4.70	2.40
35-44	4.50	8.10	5.10	2.00
45-54	1.60	4.60	5.30	1.60
55-64	1.60	4.70	3.10	2.90
65+	1.10	4.80	3.00	3.80
Total	13.90	17.30	4.40	2.80

Table xxix PWD by literacy by sex

Language	Can you read or write in Dzongkha, or English or Nepali or in any other languages?		
	% Female	% Male	% Total
English	12.80	14.70	13.90
Dzongkha	14.40	19.50	17.30
Nepali	3.70	5.10	4.40
Other	3.00	2.60	2.80

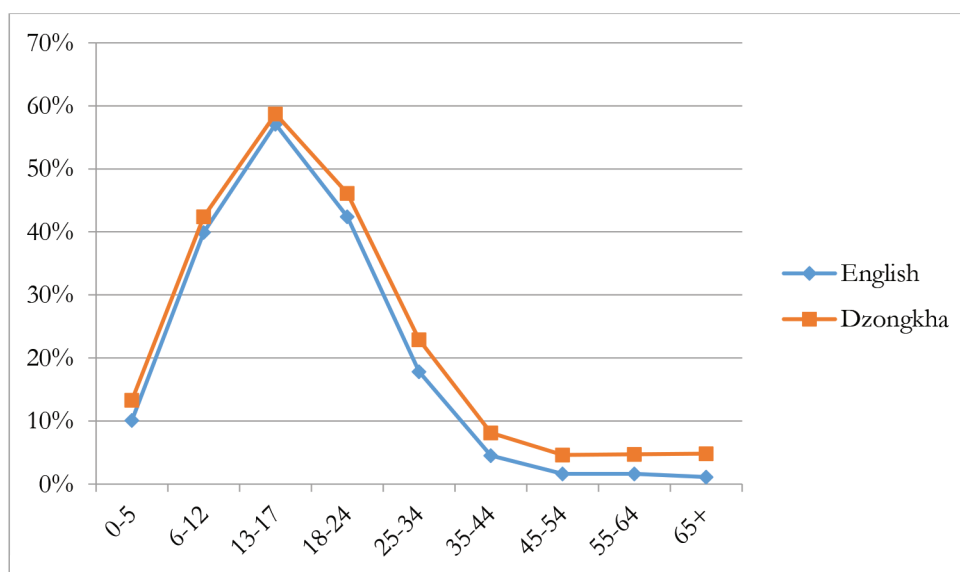


Figure 3 Proportion of PWD by literacy and by age group

Table xxx PWD by Dzongkhag and by literacy

Dzongkhag	Can you read or write in Dzongkha, or English or Nepali or in any other languages?			
	% English	% Dzongkha	% Nepali	Others
Bumthang	23.4	23.4	6.4	0.0
Chhukha	15.3	19.0	5.8	2.9
Dagana	9.2	12.3	3.4	2.5
Gasa	14.3	14.3	0.0	0.0
Haa	8.4	10.8	7.2	0.0
Lhuentse	11.6	15.6	5.5	1.5
Monggar	10.2	11.6	4.1	2.0
Paro	15.7	18.2	3.8	2.5
Pema Gatshel	18.0	20.9	4.3	2.2
Punakha	13.9	19.1	3.2	3.6
Samdrup Jongkhar	16.2	17.5	4.9	3.8
Samtse	14.8	17.7	3.5	2.9
Sarpang	14.9	19.1	4.3	2.8
Thimphu	12.1	12.1	4.5	6.1
Trashigang	12.5	16.7	5.8	2.5
Trashy Yangtse	18.2	20.6	7.1	1.8
Trongsa	7.6	12.1	3.8	7.6
Tsirang	15.3	19.5	3.4	2.6
Wangdue Phodrang	13.7	17.1	5.0	2.0
Zhemgang	13.4	21.0	3.2	4.1
Total	13.9	17.3	4.4	2.8

2.2.7 FAMILY

While 37.07% of people living with one or more disabilities are married, 34.4% have children. Out of these, 97% have reported the number of children. The average number of children is 3.49 [Table xxxii]. Slightly more than half of people living with seeing disabilities (52.8%) have children. By domain, the lowest proportion of PWD having a child is among people living with cognition and communication disabilities. About a quarter of people living with cognition and communication disabilities have children. The majority of people (71.3%) with disabilities have siblings.

Table xxxi PWD by possession of children

Do you have children?	n	%
Yes	2,922	65.65
No	1,529	34.35
Total	4,451	100

Table xxxii PWD by disability types by possession of children

Do you have children?	Disability types					
	% Seeing	% Hearing	% Mobility	% Cognition	% Self-care	% Comm.
No	47.20%	66.50%	62.60%	75.70%	67.90%	74.00%
Yes	52.80%	33.50%	37.40%	24.30%	32.10%	26.00%
Total	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Table xxxiii Mean and Median of the number of children of PWD

Variable	N	mean	sd	min	max	median
Number of children	1478	3.49	2.06	1	12	3

Table xxxiv PWD by possession of brothers and sisters

Do you have brothers or sisters from the same parents?	n	%
No	1,279	28.74
Yes	3,172	71.26
Total	4,451	100

Table xxxv PWD by Dzongkhag by possession of children

Dzongkhag	Do you have children?			
		No	Yes	Total
Bumthang	n	30	17	47
	%	1.0	1.1	1.1
Chhukha	n	101	36	137
	%	3.5	2.4	3.1
Dagana	n	207	118	325
	%	7.1	7.7	7.3
Gasa	n	3	4	7
	%	.1	.3	.2
Haa	n	48	35	83
	%	1.6	2.3	1.9
Lhuentse	n	118	81	199
	%	4.0	5.3	4.5
Monggar	n	192	101	293
	%	6.6	6.6	6.6
Paro	n	108	51	159
	%	3.7	3.3	3.6
Pema Gatshel	n	95	44	139
	%	3.3	2.9	3.1
Punakha	n	171	80	251
	%	5.9	5.2	5.6
Samdrup Jongkhar	n	255	116	371
	%	8.7	7.6	8.3
Samtse	n	306	180	486
	%	10.5	11.8	10.9
Sarpang	n	88	53	141
	%	3.0	3.5	3.2
Thimphu	n	45	21	66
	%	1.5	1.4	1.5
Trashi Yangtse	n	220	105	325
	%	7.5	6.9	7.3
Trashigang	n	155	85	240
	%	5.3	5.6	5.4
Trongsa	n	88	44	132
	%	3.0	2.9	3.0
Tsirang	n	253	126	379
	%	8.7	8.2	8.5
Wangdue Phodrang	n	238	119	357
	%	8.1	7.8	8.0
Zhemgang	n	201	113	314
	%	6.9	7.4	7.1
Total	n	2922	1529	4451
	%	100.0	100.0	100.0

2.2.8 OCCUPATION

The world over, the rate of participation in the labour market of PWD is relatively low. This is one of the key factors that result in increasing poverty among PWD. The study showed that Bhutan is not an exception to this trend. The majority of PWD are unpaid workers (32.4%) and farmers (22.6%). 9.2% are students, 15.3% dependents who are either too young or too old to work, 1.48% unemployed, 2.8% own account workers, and less than 1% are regular workers and casual workers. The occupational pattern of PWD reveals that the majority belong to economically weaker categories. The percentage of regular workers is relatively low among PWD. Naturally it can be assumed that the economic status of PWD is vulnerable and they need proper support systems and regular income to lead a better life.

Table xxxvi PWD by work status

Work Status	n	%
Own account worker	123	2.77
Regular worker	36	0.81
Casual paid worker	14	0.31
Unpaid worker	1,441	32.4
Student	406	9.13
Dependent	682	15.33
Farmer	1,004	22.57
Unemployed	66	1.48
Other	679	15.2
Total	4,451	100

Table xxxvii PWD by work status and by sex

Work Status	% Female	% Male	% Total
Own account worker	2.74	2.78	2.77
Regular worker	0.56	1.01	0.81
Casual paid worker	0.3	0.32	0.31
Unpaid worker	33.76	31.32	32.4
Student	8.27	9.81	9.13
Dependent	15.74	15.01	15.33
Farmer	21.78	23.2	22.57
Unemployed	1.73	1.29	1.48
Others	15.13	15.25	15.2
Total	100	100	100

Table xxxviii PWD by occupation by age group

Age group	Occupation									
	% Own account worker	% Regular worker	% Casual paid worker	% Unpaid worker	% Student	% Dependent	% Farmer	% Unemployed	% Others	% Total
0-5	0	0	0	0	7.71	92.29	0	0	0	100
6-12	0	0	0	0	34.27	65.73	0	0	0	100
13-17	0.65	0.32	0	8.06	50.32	14.52	9.68	1.94	14.52	100
18-24	3.12	1.56	0.62	17.76	28.04	4.67	18.38	4.36	21.5	100
25-34	4.28	2.78	1.07	35.33	4.5	0.86	28.91	3.85	18.42	100
35-44	3.71	1.85	0.34	43.34	0	0	36.93	2.53	11.3	100
45-54	4.95	0.79	0.4	45.15	0	0	35.64	2.57	10.5	100
55-64	2.61	0.16	0	53.34	0	0.16	26.92	0	16.8	100
65+	2.97	0.11	0.32	40.55	0	6.26	22.93	0	26.86	100
Total	2.77	0.81	0.31	32.4	9.13	15.33	22.57	1.48	15.2	100

Table xxxix PWD by Dzongkhag by occupation

Dzongkhag	Occupation									
	% Own account worker	% Regular worker	% Casual paid worker	% Unpaid worker	% Student	% Dependent	% Farmer	% Unemployed	% Others	% Total
Bumthang	2.13	0	2.13	36.17	12.77	12.77	21.28	2.13	10.64	100
Chhukha	1.46	0.73	0.73	29.2	10.22	20.44	22.63	2.19	12.41	100
Dagana	2.77	1.54	0.31	30.77	5.85	15.38	25.54	1.23	16.62	100
Gasa	0	0	0	14.29	14.29	0	14.29	14.29	42.86	100
Haa	2.41	0	1.2	37.35	6.02	21.69	14.46	1.2	15.66	100
Lhuentse	4.55	0.51	0	31.31	7.58	10.61	26.26	1.01	18.18	100
Monggar	2.73	0.68	0	27.65	5.46	15.7	25.94	2.73	19.11	100
Paro	1.27	0	0	34.18	10.76	15.82	20.89	2.53	14.56	100
Pema Gatsel	2.16	0.72	0.72	35.25	9.35	14.39	24.46	0.72	12.23	100
Punakha	1.99	0	0.4	32.67	11.16	15.14	21.91	1.59	15.14	100
Samdrup Jongkhar	2.7	1.08	0.54	33.96	9.7	13.75	23.45	0.54	14.29	100
Samtse	3.91	0.62	0.41	33.74	10.49	15.23	19.55	1.65	14.4	100
Sarpang	4.26	1.42	0.71	33.33	12.06	17.02	21.28	2.13	7.8	100
Thimphu	0	4.55	0	31.82	10.61	12.12	24.24	1.52	15.15	100
Trashigang	2.5	0.83	0	35	8.33	15.42	17.92	1.25	18.75	100
Trashiyangtse	4	0.31	0	29.23	11.69	15.08	24.62	1.23	13.85	100
Trongsa	2.27	0	0	30.3	6.06	20.45	22.73	0.76	17.42	100
Tsirang	3.97	0.53	0.53	30.16	11.64	16.14	19.84	2.38	14.81	100
Wangdue Phodrang	1.4	1.12	0	35.01	8.4	13.17	24.65	1.4	14.85	100
Zhemgang	1.59	1.59	0.32	34.39	6.69	16.56	23.25	0.32	15.29	100
Total	2.77	0.81	0.31	32.4	9.13	15.33	22.57	1.48	15.2	100

2.3 CAUSES OF DISABILITY

There are different causes of disability, including disability at birth or accident and disease related disability. From the study it is evident that more than half of PWD (57%) are found to be disabled either before or during birth. One-fifth of them are disabled due to sickness or disease. 12.1% became disabled as a result of some accident. The cause of disability for the remaining PWD is not fully known.

Further, it is found that 70.7% of people living with communication disabilities, 67.9% with cognition disabilities, and 65.7% with hearing disabilities were disabled either before or during birth. One-third of seeing disabilities have been caused by disease/sickness. Likewise, sickness was the main cause of disability for one-fifth of people living with mobility and self-care disabilities. 18.1% of PWD in moving around, walking or climbing steps were disabled by an accident. Between the ranges of 9-12% of PWD did not fully understand the cause of their impairment(s).

Table xl PWD by common causes of disability

Common causes of disability	n	%
Disabled before or during birth	2,539	57.0
Disease/sickness	925	20.8
Accident	537	12.1
Don't know	450	10.1
Total	4,451	100

Table xli PWD by common causes of disability and by disability types

Common causes of Disability	Disability types					
	% Seeing	% Hearing	% Mobility	% Cognition	% Self-care	% Comm.
Disabled before or during birth	39.60	65.70	46.70	67.90	50.70	70.70
Disease/sickness	33.50	17.70	25.90	15.80	24.50	15.00
Accident	15.00	5.40	18.10	5.30	14.30	3.30
Don't know	12.00	11.20	9.30	11.00	10.50	11.00
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Disease/sickness was the cause of disability for about one-quarter of PWD who are below the age of five years. The proportion is substantially higher when compared to other younger age cohorts [Table xlii].

Table xlii PWD by age group by common causes of disability

Age group	Common causes of disability				% Total
	% Disabled before or during birth	% Disease/sickness	% Accident	% Don't know	
0-5	56.65	24.2	10.9	8.24	100
6-12	76.32	10.9	5.92	6.85	100
13-17	75.48	9.03	6.77	8.71	100
18-24	67.6	13.08	8.41	10.9	100
25-34	63.38	14.35	12.21	10.06	100
35-44	62.63	14.81	11.78	10.77	100
45-54	58.81	18.81	14.46	7.92	100
55-64	48.78	24.31	15.17	11.75	100
65+	38.77	34.96	14.41	11.86	100
Total	57.04	20.78	12.06	10.11	100

Table xliii PWD by sex and common causes of disability

Sex	Common causes of disability				% Total
	% Disabled before or during birth	% Disease/sickness	% Accident	% Don't know	
Female	56.65	23.71	9.24	10.41	100
Male	57.36	18.46	14.31	9.88	100
Total	57.04	20.78	12.06	10.11	100

Table xlv PWD by Dzongkhag and by common causes of disability

Dzongkhag	Common causes of disability					Total
		Accident	Disabled before or during birth	Disease/ sickness	Unknown	
Bumthang	n	5	27	8	7	47
	%	.9	1.1	.9	1.6	1.1
Chhukha	n	12	82	30	13	137
	%	2.2	3.2	3.2	2.9	3.1
Dagana	n	39	178	76	32	325
	%	7.3	7.0	8.2	7.1	7.3
Gasa	n	1	3	3	0	7
	%	.2	.1	.3	0.0	.2
Haa	n	13	42	18	10	83
	%	2.4	1.7	1.9	2.2	1.9
Lhuentse	n	19	109	52	19	199
	%	3.5	4.3	5.6	4.2	4.5
Monggar	n	41	150	69	33	293
	%	7.6	5.9	7.5	7.3	6.6
Paro	n	14	98	33	14	159
	%	2.6	3.9	3.6	3.1	3.6
Pema Gatshel	n	19	78	26	16	139
	%	3.5	3.1	2.8	3.6	3.1
Punakha	n	32	150	48	21	251
	%	6.0	5.9	5.2	4.7	5.6
Samdrup Jongkhar	n	40	208	81	42	371
	%	7.4	8.2	8.8	9.3	8.3
Samtse	n	55	293	95	43	486
	%	10.2	11.5	10.3	9.6	10.9
Sarpang	n	17	72	37	15	141
	%	3.2	2.8	4.0	3.3	3.2
Thimphu	n	9	42	6	9	66
	%	1.7	1.7	.6	2.0	1.5
Trashigang	n	40	184	68	33	325
	%	7.4	7.2	7.4	7.3	7.3
Trashigang	n	29	145	41	25	240
	%	5.4	5.7	4.4	5.6	5.4
Trongsa	n	19	72	30	11	132
	%	3.5	2.8	3.2	2.4	3.0
Tsirang	n	41	235	63	40	379
	%	7.6	9.3	6.8	8.9	8.5
Wangdue Phodrang	n	52	199	75	31	357
	%	9.7	7.8	8.1	6.9	8.0
Zhemgang	n	40	172	66	36	314
	%	7.4	6.8	7.1	8.0	7.1
Total	n	537	2539	925	450	4451
	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

2.4 IMPACT OF DISABILITY

Is disability a significant issue in life?

One of the main reasons for perceiving disability as a human rights issue is the impact of disability on the day to day life of people suffering from disability. The physical challenges create barriers and prevent them from participating in community activities as well as other fundamental functions of a human being. The results of the study also support this fact. In the survey, 85.4% of PWD reported that disability is a very significant issue in their lives. More than 83% of PWD in all six domains consider disability as a significant issue in their lives [table xlv].

Table xlv PWD by the impact of disability

Do you think your disability has been a very significant issue in your life?	n	%
No	649	14.58
Yes	3,802	85.42
Total	4,451	100

Table xlvi PWD by the impact of disability and by disability types

Do you think your disability has been a significant issue in your life?	Seeing	Hearing	Mobility	Cognition	Self-care	Comm.
No	9.80%	13.60%	13.80%	12.00%	16.50%	11.10%
Yes	90.20%	86.40%	86.20%	88.00%	83.50%	88.90%
Total	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

There is a substantial difference between the proportion of people living with only one domain of disability (84.2%) and people living with all six domains of disabilities (98.8%) with regard to the impact of disability in their lives. The impact was reportedly felt more severely by the people living with more than two domains of disabilities. As the number of disability domains increase, the impact of severity also increases [Table xlvii].

Table xlvii PWD by the impact of disability and by the number of disability domains

Do you think your disability has been a significant issue in your life?	Disability domains					
	1 domain	2 domains	3 domains	4 domains	5 domains	6 domains
No	15.84	16.23	12.92	10.9	9.44	1.22
Yes	84.16	83.77	87.08	89.1	90.56	98.78
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

The proportion of people who believe that disability is a very significant issue in their lives is relatively higher among the younger and older age groups [Figure 4]. Relatively higher proportion of males reported that disability is a significant issue in their lives than females [Table xlix].

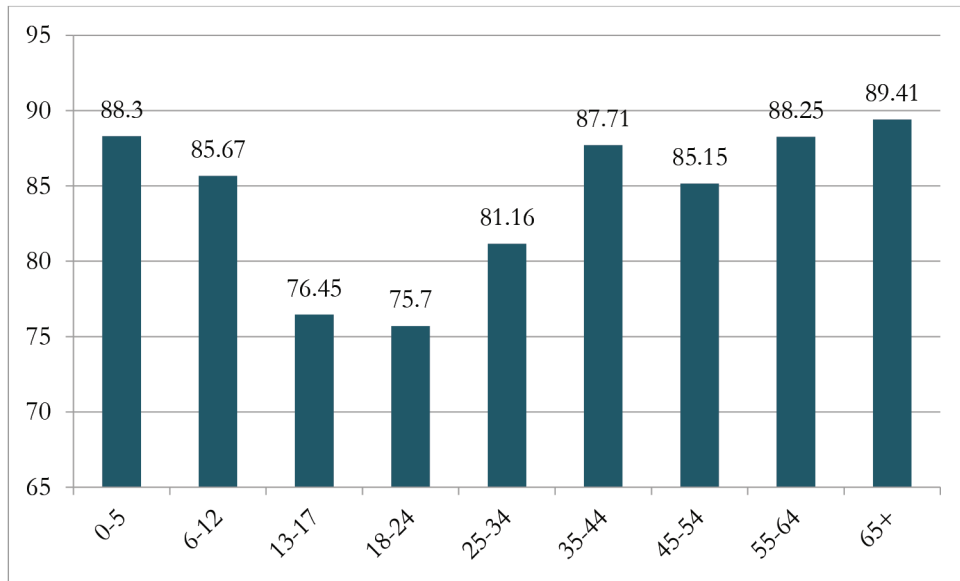


Figure 4 Proportion of PWD who feel that disability is a significant issue in their lives

Table xlviii PWD by age group and by the impact of disability

Age group	Do you think your disability has been a significant issue in your life?		
	No	Yes	Total
0-5	11.7	88.3	100
6-12	14.33	85.67	100
13-17	23.55	76.45	100
18-24	24.3	75.7	100
25-34	18.84	81.16	100
35-44	12.29	87.71	100
45-54	14.85	85.15	100
55-64	11.75	88.25	100
65+	10.59	89.41	100
Total	14.58	85.42	100

Table xlix PWD by sex and by the impact of disability

Sex	Do you think your disability has been a significant issue in your life?		
	No	Yes	Total
Female	15.89	84.11	100
Male	13.54	86.46	100
Total	14.58	85.42	100

Table l PWD by Dzongkhag and by the impact of disability

Dzongkhag	Do you think your disability has been a significant issue in your life?			
		No	Yes	Total
Bumthang	n	9	38	47
	%	1.4	1.0	1.1
Chhukha	n	21	116	137
	%	3.2	3.1	3.1
Dagana	n	46	279	325
	%	7.1	7.3	7.3
Gasa	n	1	6	7
	%	.2	.2	.2
Haa	n	10	73	83
	%	1.5	1.9	1.9
Lhuentse	n	18	181	199
	%	2.8	4.8	4.5
Monggar	n	51	242	293
	%	7.9	6.4	6.6
Paro	n	19	140	159
	%	2.9	3.7	3.6
Pema Gatshel	n	24	115	139
	%	3.7	3.0	3.1
Punakha	n	41	210	251
	%	6.3	5.5	5.6
Samdrup Jongkhar	n	56	315	371
	%	8.6	8.3	8.3
Samtse	n	80	406	486
	%	12.3	10.7	10.9
Sarpang	n	17	124	141
	%	2.6	3.3	3.2
Thimphu	n	8	58	66
	%	1.2	1.5	1.5
Trashhi Yangtse	n	46	279	325
	%	7.1	7.3	7.3
Trashigang	n	35	205	240
	%	5.4	5.4	5.4
Trongsa	n	15	117	132
	%	2.3	3.1	3.0
Tsirang	n	65	314	379
	%	10.0	8.3	8.5
Wangdue Phodrang	n	46	311	357
	%	7.1	8.2	8.0
Zhemgang	n	41	273	314
	%	6.3	7.2	7.1
Total	n	649	3802	4451
	%	100.0	100.0	100.0

Level of dependence on others

The impact of disability was also assessed by how much a person living with disability is dependent on others to carry out his/her daily activities. In the survey, it was revealed that only 9.8% of PWD do not require any kind of help to do their daily activities. 67.8% are partially dependent on others, while a little more than one-fifth (22.5%) are fully dependent on others to carry out their activities.

The proportion of people fully dependent on others is higher within people living with self-care (43.1%), mobility (35.7%), and cognition disabilities (33.2%) [Table li]. More than 70% of people living with seeing, hearing, and communication disabilities are either independent or only partially dependent on others to carry out their daily activities. To what extent PWD are dependent on others is similar between males and females [Table liii].

As expected, the proportion of people fully dependent on others is higher at the two ends of the age spectrum [Figure 5]. More than one-third of PWD aged 0-5 years and 6-12 years, and more than one-fifth (28.2%) of people aged 65 years and above are fully dependent on others.

Table li PWD by level of dependence

Dependence level	N	%
Independent	432	9.8
Partially dependent	2,988	67.76
Fully dependent	990	22.45
Total	4,410	100

Table lii PWD by dependence level and by disability types

Dependence level	Seeing	Hearing	Mobility	Cognition	Self-care	Comm.
Independent	10.00	8.30	6.40	3.00	3.00	6.70
Partially dependent	60.50	72.20	58.00	63.80	53.90	66.50
Fully dependent	29.60	19.50	35.70	33.20	43.10	26.80
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table liii PWD by sex and by dependence level

Sex	Dependence level			Total
	Independent	Partially dependent	Fully dependent	
Female	9.42	67.69	22.89	100
Male	10.09	67.81	22.1	100
Total	9.8	67.76	22.45	100

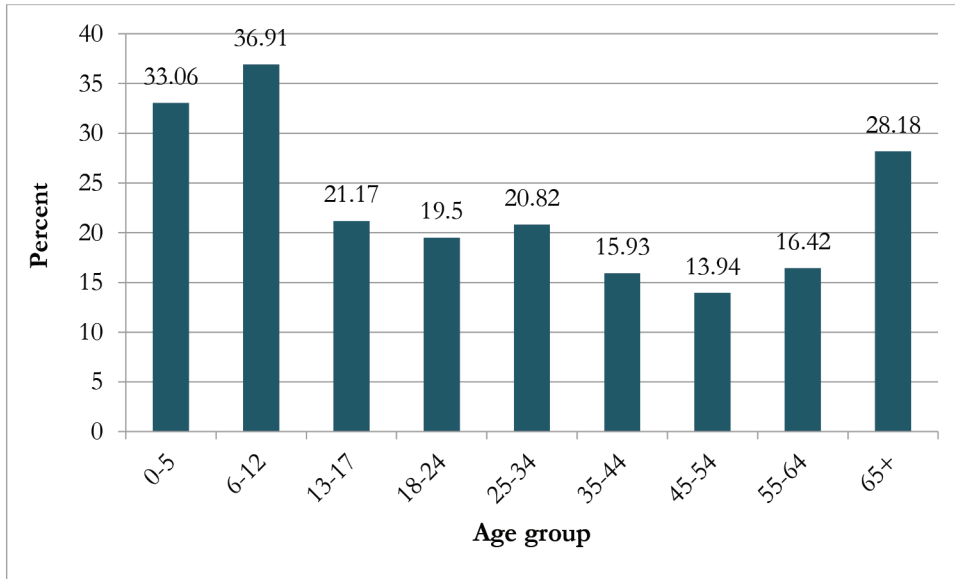


Figure 5 Proportion of PWD who are fully dependent on others

Table liv PWD by age group and by dependence level

Age group	Dependence level			Total
	Independent	Partially dependent	Fully dependent	
0-5	15.18	51.76	33.06	100
6-12	2.84	60.25	36.91	100
13-17	4.89	73.94	21.17	100
18-24	6.29	74.21	19.50	100
25-34	8.68	70.5	20.82	100
35-44	11.19	72.88	15.93	100
45-54	13.55	72.51	13.94	100
55-64	13.14	70.44	16.42	100
65+	8.32	63.5	28.18	100
Total	9.8	67.76	22.45	100

Table 4v PWD by Dzongkhag and by dependence level

Dzongkhag	Dependence level				
		Fully dependent	Independent	Partially dependent	Total
Bumthang	n	1	11	9	26
	%	2.4%	1.1%	2.1%	.9%
Chhukha	n	1	35	13	88
	%	2.4%	3.5%	3.0%	2.9%
Dagana	n	4	77	33	211
	%	9.8%	7.8%	7.6%	7.1%
Gasa	n	0	3	1	3
	%	0.0%	.3%	.2%	.1%
Haa	n	0	19	8	56
	%	0.0%	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%
Lhuentse	n	0	51	20	128
	%	0.0%	5.2%	4.6%	4.3%
Monggar	n	3	87	27	176
	%	7.3%	8.8%	6.3%	5.9%
Paro	n	1	39	17	102
	%	2.4%	3.9%	3.9%	3.4%
Pema Gatshel	n	1	25	16	97
	%	2.4%	2.5%	3.7%	3.2%
Punakha	n	4	51	26	170
	%	9.8%	5.2%	6.0%	5.7%
Samdrup Jongkhar	n	7	81	32	251
	%	17.1%	8.2%	7.4%	8.4%
Samtse	n	4	106	55	321
	%	9.8%	10.7%	12.7%	10.7%
Sarpang	n	0	27	16	98
	%	0.0%	2.7%	3.7%	3.3%
Thimphu	n	2	13	5	46
	%	4.9%	1.3%	1.2%	1.5%
Trashigang	n	1	57	23	244
	%	2.4%	5.8%	5.3%	8.2%
Trashigang	n	3	52	24	161
	%	7.3%	5.3%	5.6%	5.4%
Trongsa	n	1	27	17	87
	%	2.4%	2.7%	3.9%	2.9%
Tsirang	n	4	77	30	268
	%	9.8%	7.8%	6.9%	9.0%
Wangdue Phodrang	n	0	85	34	238
	%	0.0%	8.6%	7.9%	8.0%
Zhemgang	n	4	67	26	217
	%	9.8%	6.8%	6.0%	7.3%
Total	n	41	990	432	2988
	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

2.5 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION OF DISABLED PEOPLE

Adequate support systems are extremely important for PWD to conduct their daily lives. This section highlights the services or supports that make community participation for PWD easier or harder. Personal support, assistive devices and physical support were rated as the most common things that make community participation easier for PWD [Table lvi]. The most commonly rated things that make it harder for PWD to participate in the community are physical support, assistive devices and environmental support [Table lvii]. Assistive devices were rated the second most common factor in the lists of things that make community participation both easier and harder. In the study, 42.6% supported the fact that assistive devices make community participation easier but 38.2% reported that assistive devices make community participation harder for them. Likewise, physical support was found to be the most common factor that makes community participation harder, though it was reported as the third most common factor that make participation easier for PWD.

Table lvi PWD by community participation enabling factors

What makes it easier for you to participate in your community?	n	%
Assistive devices	1,894	42.6%
Personal support	2,542	57.1%
Physical support	1,769	39.7%
Services support	1,130	25.4%
Systems support	372	8.4%
Organizational support	463	10.4%
Social support (Attitudes)	227	5.1%
Environmental support	145	3.3%
Others	67	1.5%

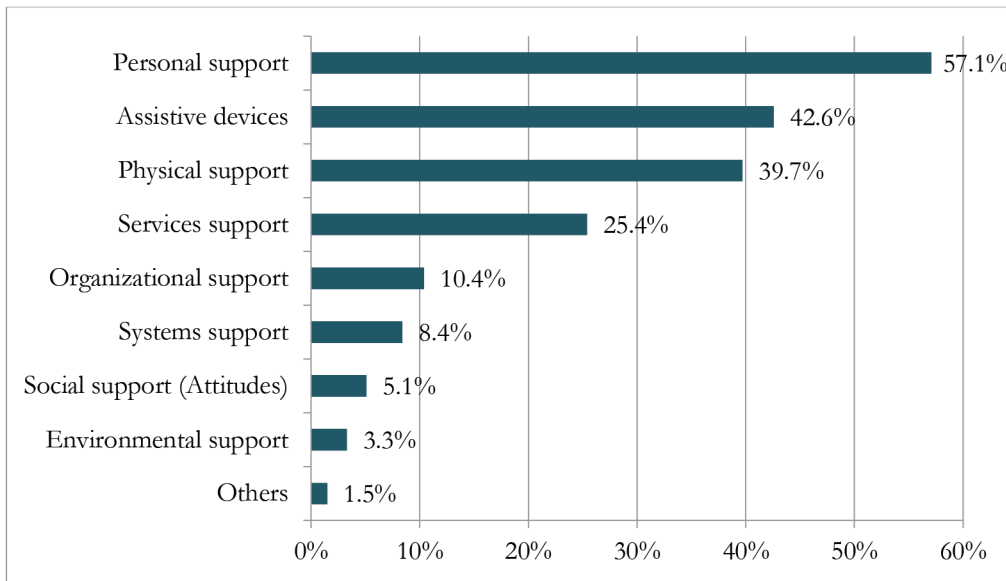


Figure 6 Factors that make community participation easier for PWD

Table lvii PWD by community participation hindering factors

What makes it harder for you to participate in your community?	n	%
Assistive devices	1,701	38.2%
Personal support	923	20.7%
Physical support	1,956	43.9%
Services support	1,267	28.5%
Systems support	707	15.9%
Organizational support	619	13.9%
Social support (Attitudes)	1,275	28.6%
Environmental support	1,343	30.2%
Others	442	9.9%

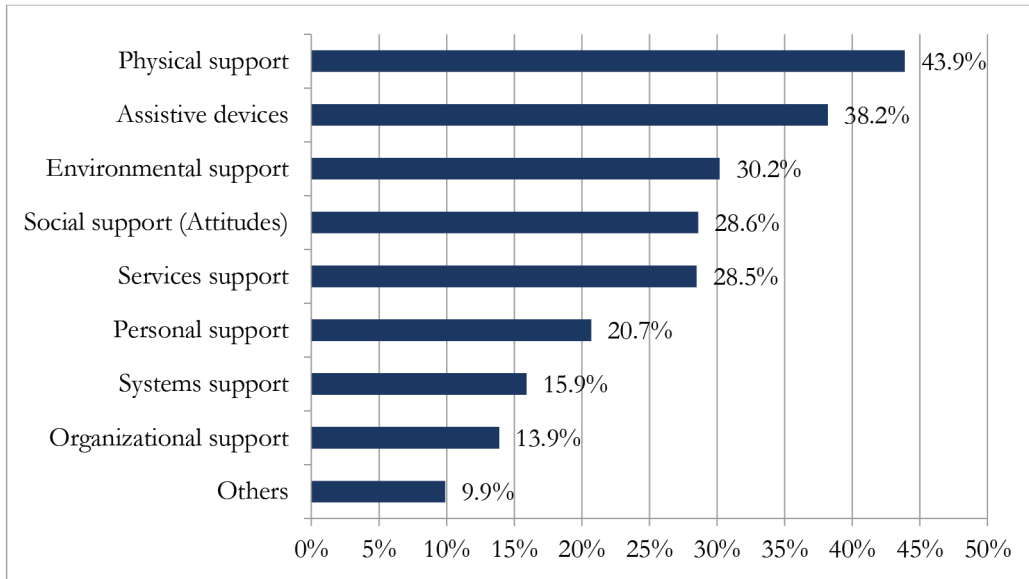


Figure 7 Factors that make community participation harder for PWD

2.6 DIFFICULTIES FACED BY CAREGIVERS

Care givers play an important role in making the lives of PWD less difficult. They further reduce the social exclusion of PWD. However, caregivers also face several challenges in conducting their support services in accordance with the needs of PWD. There are many factors that contribute to this. In the survey, time constraints is rated as the most commonly faced difficulty by caregivers (68.9%). Lack of adequate financial support is a common difficulty for slightly more than half of the caregivers (52.1%), followed by difficulty related to medical services, which is shared by 42.7%. Other difficulties faced by the caregivers are related to assistive devices, service providers, handling skills, and family support (faced by 23.9%, 23.8%, 21.3%, and 19.2% of caregivers, respectively). 12.5% of caregivers reported social stigma as a barrier while looking after PWD.

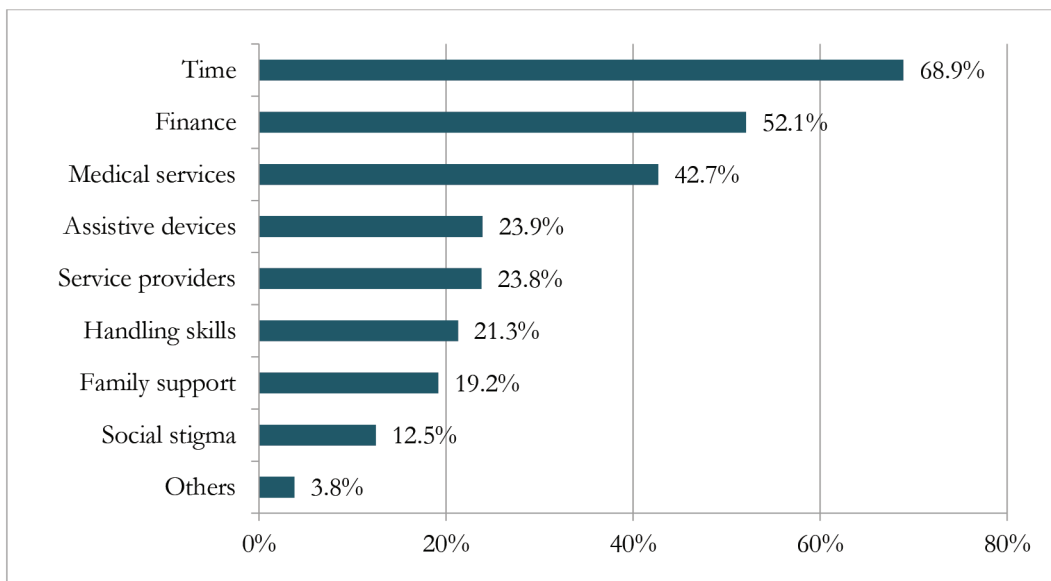


Figure 8 Common difficulties faced by caregivers

Table lviii Difficulties faced by caregivers

Caregivers' difficulties	n	%
Time	3,067	68.90
Finance	2,318	52.10
Medical services	1,902	42.70
Assistive devices	1,065	23.90
Service providers	1,061	23.80
Handling skills	949	21.30
Family support	854	19.20
Social stigma	557	12.50
Other	169	3.80

2.7 SUPPORT FOR PWD

Although, disability is gaining the attention of policy makers and health care providers, there is still a lack of information and awareness about the welfare support systems for PWD. In the study, 56.9% of people stated that they are aware of support services for PWD in the country. 11.1% of them know about the services provided by NGOs, 10.2% know about kidu services, and 6.5% are aware of government services. 2.16% of PWD are recipients of kidu. The low proportion of kidu recipients most likely indicates the low prevalence rate of disability cases among the poor and needy families who require kidu.

While considering the support they receive, 10.3% of PWD stated that they receive medical support, 9.9% receive educational support, 59.5% receive family support, 41.3% get social support, and finally 41.4% are recipients of community support. These figures need to be interpreted with caution though. In many cases, a low proportion of people receiving services and support may mean a low rate of requirement from the receiver's side.

Table lix Level of public awareness of services for PWD

Do you know if there are any services for PWD?	n	%
No	1,919	43.11
Yes	2,532	56.89
Total	4,451	100

Table lx Level of public awareness of various service providers for PWD

What kind of service providers do you know of?	n	%
Government	290	6.5%
NGO	496	11.1%
Kidu	455	10.2%
School	31	0.7%
Private	1	0.0%

Table lxi Proportion of PWD receiving various support

Do you receive the following support?	n	%
Kidu support		
No	4,355	97.84
Yes	96	2.16
Medical support		
No	3,993	89.71
Yes	458	10.29
Education support		
No	4,010	90.09
Yes	441	9.91
Family support		
No	1,804	40.53
Yes	2,647	59.47
Social support		
No	2,614	58.73
Yes	1,837	41.27
Community support		
No	2,610	58.64
Yes	1,841	41.36

Support services for PWD would be meaningful only when they are based on the actual needs of the people rather than supply side initiatives. In the survey, when asked what kind of services there should be for PWD, 72.4% expressed a desire for financial support. Most respondents mentioned more than one service. Medical services was reported by 64.9%, assistive devices by 53.1%, skill development training by 36.8%, service centres by 33.7%, education by 28.9%, and employment by 19.1% of the total respondents.

Table lxii Suggested kind of services for PWD by general public

What kind of services should be there for PWD?	n	%
Financial support	3,223	72.40%
Medical service	2,887	64.90%
Assistive devices	2,365	53.10%
Skill development training	1,638	36.80%
Service center	1,498	33.70%
Education	1,286	28.90%
Employment	849	19.10%
Others	38	0.90%

Table lxiii Dzongkhag by level of public awareness of services for PWD

Dzongkhag	Do you know if there are any services for people with disability in the country?			
		No	Yes	Total
Bumthang	N	23	24	47
	%	1.2%	.9%	1.1%
Chhukha	n	48	89	137
	%	2.5%	3.5%	3.1%
Dagana	n	143	182	325
	%	7.5%	7.2%	7.3%
Gasa	n	4	3	7
	%	.2%	.1%	.2%
Haa	n	37	46	83
	%	1.9%	1.8%	1.9%
Lhuentse	n	79	120	199
	%	4.1%	4.7%	4.5%
Monggar	n	133	160	293
	%	6.9%	6.3%	6.6%
Paro	n	61	98	159
	%	3.2%	3.9%	3.6%
Pema Gatshel	n	57	82	139
	%	3.0%	3.2%	3.1%
Punakha	n	110	141	251
	%	5.7%	5.6%	5.6%
Samdrup Jongkhar	n	155	216	371
	%	8.1%	8.5%	8.3%
Samtse	n	205	281	486
	%	10.7%	11.1%	10.9%
Sarpang	n	53	88	141
	%	2.8%	3.5%	3.2%
Thimphu	n	21	45	66
	%	1.1%	1.8%	1.5%
Trashigang	n	152	173	325
	%	7.9%	6.8%	7.3%
Trashigang	n	112	128	240
	%	5.8%	5.1%	5.4%
Trongsa	n	63	69	132
	%	3.3%	2.7%	3.0%
Tsirang	n	173	206	379
	%	9.0%	8.1%	8.5%
Wangdue Phodrang	n	152	205	357
	%	7.9%	8.1%	8.0%
Zhemgang	n	138	176	314
	%	7.2%	7.0%	7.1%
Total	n	1919	2532	4451
	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

2.8 WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

This section deals with issues facing women living with disabilities. According to the survey, 57.4% of women with disabilities are involved in community participation. 42.6% of them could not participate in community events due to reasons such as lack of access to information, lack of education, lack of accessibility, prevalence of communication barriers, etc. 58.5% of the female respondents reported that women living with disabilities have safety concerns. Some common safety concerns are cited as sexual abuse, physical abuse, verbal abuse, sanitation, etc. About three-quarters of women with disabilities reported that they face extra challenges as compared to their male counterparts.

Accordingly, a little more than two-third of the women (78.3%) argue that women living with disabilities are more at risk of exploitation or discrimination as compared to their male counterparts.

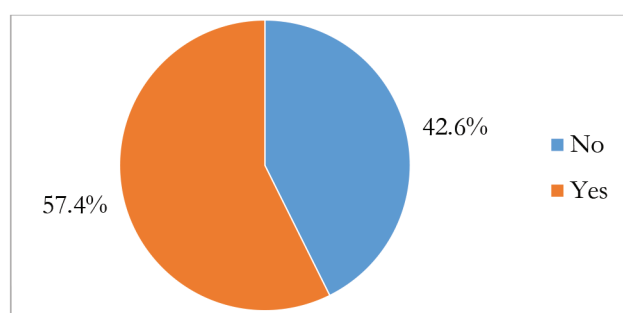


Figure 9 Proportion of women living with disabilities who are engaged in community participation

Table lxiv Factors preventing women living with disabilities from community participation

What do you think are the factors that prevent them from participating?	n	%
Lack of access to information	454	23.00%
Lack of education	393	19.90%
Lack of accessibility	344	17.50%
Communication barrier	276	14.00%

Table lxv Common safety concerns for women living with disabilities

Do you think female living with disabilities have any safety concerns?	n	%
Sexual abuse	741	37.60%
Physical abuse	674	34.20%
Neglect	628	31.90%
Verbal abuse	451	22.90%
Sanitation	441	22.40%
Others	15	0.80%

Table lxvi Proportion of women living with disabilities and their caregivers who feel that women living with disabilities face extra challenges compared with men living with disabilities

Compared with males with disabilities, do you face extra challenges?	n	%
No	467	23.71
Yes	1503	76.29
Total	1,970	100

Table lxvii Proportion of women living with disabilities and their caregivers who feel that women living with disabilities are more at risk of discrimination or exploitation compared with men living with disabilities

Compared with males with disabilities, do you think females living with disabled are more at risk of exploitation or discrimination?	n	%
No	427	21.68
Yes	1543	78.32
Total	1,970	100

Table lxviii Women living with disabilities who face extra challenges by Dzongkhag

Dzongkhag	Compared with males with disabilities, do you face extra challenges?			
		No	Yes	Total
Bumthang	N	25	22	47
	%	1.0%	1.1%	1.1%
Chhukha	n	75	62	137
	%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%
Dagana	n	170	155	325
	%	6.9%	7.8%	7.3%
Gasa	n	5	2	7
	%	.2%	.1%	.2%
Haa	n	36	47	83
	%	1.5%	2.4%	1.9%
Lhuentse	n	109	90	199
	%	4.4%	4.5%	4.5%
Monggar	n	172	121	293
	%	7.0%	6.1%	6.6%
Paro	n	86	73	159
	%	3.5%	3.7%	3.6%
Pema Gatshel	n	71	68	139
	%	2.9%	3.4%	3.1%
Punakha	n	132	119	251
	%	5.4%	6.0%	5.6%
Samdrup Jongkhar	n	209	162	371
	%	8.5%	8.1%	8.3%
Samtse	n	248	238	486
	%	10.1%	11.9%	10.9%
Sarpang	n	84	57	141
	%	3.4%	2.9%	3.2%
Thimphu	n	35	31	66
	%	1.4%	1.6%	1.5%
Trashigang	n	190	135	325
	%	7.7%	6.8%	7.3%
Trongsa	n	123	117	240
	%	5.0%	5.9%	5.4%
Tsirang	n	78	54	132
	%	3.2%	2.7%	3.0%
Wangdue Phodrang	n	225	154	379
	%	9.2%	7.7%	8.5%
Zhemgang	n	212	145	357
	%	8.6%	7.3%	8.0%
	n	169	145	314
	%	6.9%	7.3%	7.1%
Total	n	2454	1997	4451
	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table lxi Women living with disabilities who are at risk of exploitation or discrimination by Dzongkhag wise

Dzongkhag	Compared with males with disabilities, do you think females living with disabled are more at risk of exploitation or discrimination?			
		No	Yes	Total
Bumthang	n	26	21	47
	%	1.1%	1.0%	1.1%
Chhukha	n	73	64	137
	%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%
Dagana	n	181	144	325
	%	7.6%	7.0%	7.3%
Gasa	n	5	2	7
	%	.2%	.1%	.2%
Haa	n	36	47	83
	%	1.5%	2.3%	1.9%
Lhuentse	n	106	93	199
	%	4.4%	4.5%	4.5%
Monggar	n	170	123	293
	%	7.1%	6.0%	6.6%
Paro	n	82	77	159
	%	3.4%	3.7%	3.6%
Pema Gatshel	n	65	74	139
	%	2.7%	3.6%	3.1%
Punakha	n	125	126	251
	%	5.2%	6.1%	5.6%
Samdrup Jongkhar	n	201	170	371
	%	8.4%	8.2%	8.3%
Samtse	n	239	247	486
	%	10.0%	12.0%	10.9%
Sarpang	n	80	61	141
	%	3.3%	3.0%	3.2%
Thimphu	n	36	30	66
	%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
Trashi Yangtse	n	181	144	325
	%	7.6%	7.0%	7.3%
Trashigang	n	120	120	240
	%	5.0%	5.8%	5.4%
Trongsa	n	72	60	132
	%	3.0%	2.9%	3.0%
Tsirang	n	216	163	379
	%	9.0%	7.9%	8.5%
Wangdue Phodrang	n	208	149	357
	%	8.7%	7.2%	8.0%
Zhemgang	n	167	147	314
	%	7.0%	7.1%	7.1%
Total	n	2389	2062	4451
	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

2.9 CHILDREN BELOW THE AGE OF 2 YEARS WITH DISABILITY

According to the survey, slightly more than one-quarter of children aged two years and below (28.2%) with disabilities can name at least one object (e.g. an animal, a toy, a cup, a spoon, etc.). Around one-third of the caregivers (34.5%) of these children reported that their child appears to be mentally slow or retarded as compared to other children of the same age. 40% of the caregivers think that their child has difficulties in expressing emotions, concentrating, behaving, or getting along with other children.

Table lxx Proportion of children who could name at least one object

Can she/he name at least one object?	n	%
No	206	71.78
Yes	81	28.22
Total	287	100

Table lxxi Proportion of children who appear intellectually challenged

Compared with other children of his/her age, does the child appear in any way mentally slow, delayed or behind?	n	%
No	188	65.51
Yes	99	34.49
Total	287	100

Table lxxii Proportion of children who have difficulty in expressing emotions, concentrating, behaving, and getting along with others

Do you think that your child has difficulties to express emotion or in concentration or behavior or being able to get along with other people?	n	%
No	172	59.93
Yes	115	40.07
Total	287	100

3. SUMMARY OF THE KEY FINDINGS

As mentioned earlier, the main objective of the registration study was to explore and identify the nature and scope of disability in Bhutan. It was expected that the survey would provide basic details of the people with disabilities and throw light on the educational, economic, and social and gender dimensions. Needless to say, the present survey reflects the real situation of disability in Bhutan and highlights the specific problems and prospects which the government and civil society need to focus on in future. This section summarizes the key findings of the study. This summary includes only the major highlights of the survey that cannot be ignored in future policy discourse and implementation stages. In short, the highlights of the survey are:

The study affirms that though Bhutan has made significant progress in health related indicators, there is a need to invest in addressing the issues associated with PWD, as they suffer from multiple forms of exclusion emerging from their physical condition as well as societal barriers.

The total number of disabled people in the country is 4451. The most common form of disability is hearing impairment as 48.10% stated that they suffer from hearing related disabilities. However, in classifying disability in Bhutan, it was evident that though the people suffering from multiple disabilities are considerably low (1.8%), around 34.6% of PWD have disabilities in two domains. There are people facing different types of disabilities in diverse magnitudes. The problems arising out of disability differ from person to person depending upon the degree of disability.

In Bhutan, disability is more common among men. This poses a serious concern as men are the key breadwinners in most households. Lack of access to productive employment and regular income due to disability may result in an increase in poverty and economic vulnerabilities. The Report of the WHO has established a link between disability and poverty across the world. From the survey, it is evident that in Bhutan, lack of access to employment and income among the male members of a family will reflect in their economic situation as well.

Another surprising finding is the relatively higher rate of unmarried people and divorced/separated people among the respondents. 55.5% of the total respondents are unmarried. Further, 7.4% of the respondents are either divorced or separated. This indeed reveals the restricted social life of people with disabilities. There is a need to create awareness among the community and ensure social support systems that can help PWD emerge out of their loneliness. Promoting marriage between PWD

themselves would be another option. Besides, best practices across the world can be implemented in encouraging marriage for PWD. Another perplexing problem related to disability is the growing number of PWD among the younger generation.

From the survey, it is evident that 50% of the people registered with disabilities are less than 41 years old. Further, 42.47% of the younger PWD who are less than 25 suffer from mobility related disabilities. This is hard to digest, but a harsh reality in Bhutan. The predominance of relatively younger PWD necessitates the urgent need for affirmative action and positive policies that can enable PWD to lead a normal life. Hence, there is a critical need to invest in bottom up and demand driven strategies for PWD in Bhutan.

The educational status of PWD in Bhutan reveals that a large majority of the respondents (84.5%) have not attended school. The lack of education among a sizable majority of PWD restricts their role in the employment market as well. The lack of education is extremely important because disability has been perceived as a human rights issue across the world. Education is also considered as a fundamental human right by international organisations. Thus, the lack of education among the majority of PWD shows that they are denied their basic human right of education due to barriers to attending educational institutions. It is important to note that the concentration of disabilities among the younger generation, together with the lack of basic education, would reflect in the low level of participation in productive employment and the labour market. All these factors contribute to poverty and economic backwardness. This will further perpetuate social and economic barriers that PWD face in everyday life. Therefore, educational backwardness and disability together form a vicious circle of poverty and social exclusion. This is a serious area for future policy concern in Bhutan.

The occupational distribution of PWD in Bhutan further reveals this poverty trap, even though it has not explicitly emerged in the survey. 35.1% of the PWD are unpaid workers and 23.8% are farmers. Others are dependent on others in one form or other. Though the majority of PWD are young, it is paradoxical to say that only half of them are actually earning. There is a lack of regular income among PWD and, as mentioned above, lack of education and barriers to participation in the labour market aggravate the situation. Here lies the importance of investing in people-centric skill-building training and other income generating activities for PWD in Bhutan. Decreasing the dependency level in terms of income would help PWD to overcome other social and cultural barriers to a greater extent.

All these conditions become significant when a large majority of the respondents agree that disability is the major factor that affects their regular life. 84.5% of the respondents stated that they are affected by disability. Though there are many support systems for PWD, they feel that such mechanisms are not effective in overcoming the barriers to leading a normal life. In fact some of the support systems aggravate the situation.

It is generally perceived that caregivers can make the life of PWD easier. However, caregivers also face several challenges in conducting their support services in accordance with the needs of PWD. There are many factors that contribute to this. In the survey, time constraints is rated as the most commonly faced difficulty by caregivers (68.9%). Lack of adequate financial support is a common difficulty for slightly more than half of the caregivers (52.1%), followed by difficulty related to medical services which is shared by 42.7%. The caregiving system in Bhutan has not developed in tune with the changing requirements of PWD. Apart from that, we can assume that there is a lack of skill and time to undertake the responsibilities with proven results. So far, the caregivers have not been fully successful in handling their role in transforming the lives of PWD.

Though there are many welfare measures to help PWD, there is still a lack of information and awareness about various schemes. Apart from that some of the schemes are targeted at the poorest of the people, excluding large numbers of PWD in Bhutan.

On the whole, the survey reveals the prevalence of disability in Bhutan and identifies the nature, scope and intensity of the problem within the country. The high concentration of disability among the younger generation and the lack of access to education and productive employment are serious challenges for policy makers. This in fact confirms the global data on disabled people highlighted by the WHO in its report. The government and civil society organisations should invest resources to address the key challenges that the country faces in terms of providing support and care.

3.1 CONCLUSION

The registration process of PWD in Bhutan is a valuable preliminary step towards creating a more viable and pragmatic policy framework for people with disabilities. Since the key aim of the study is to identify the number of PWD and the nature of disabilities they are facing, we are not going into the details of necessary policy recommendations: that is beyond the scope of the present study. It is expected that this study has presented the unbiased and factual details of disability in Bhutan. Beyond doubt, there are very critical issues that require urgent intervention and systematic change. The survey led to the realisation that there is a need for establishing vibrant links between the macro level agencies and the micro level stakeholders. The entire process identifies the role of government, civil society and disabled people's associations in igniting change among PWD through the effective use of resources, collective strength and capacity. There is a need to create an enabling environment for PWD, building support services, extending education and employment facilities and ensuring adequate social security measures for the people suffering from disability. This calls for mainstreaming disability in policy making and implementation through proactive and sustained efforts.

4. REFERENCES

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5. APPENDIX A: REGISTRATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Personal Identification		
1. Name		
2. Photo(full photo of a respondent)		
3. Date of Birth	Day/ Month/ Year	
4. Age		
5. Sex	Male	
	Female	
6. CID No.		
7. Present residence		
7.1. Dzongkhag		
7.2. Gewog		
7.3. Chiwog		
6.4. Village		
8. Pemanent Address		
8.1. Dzongkhag		
8.2. Gewog		
8.3. Chiwog		
8.4. Village		

Demographic Characteristics				
4. Marriage status	Never married	1		
	Married	2		
	Separated/ Divorced	3		
	Widowed/Widower	4		
	Living together	5		
5. Do you have children?	Yes			
	No			
6. No. of children alive				
7. Do you have borthers or sisters from the same parents? if yes, go to Q 8, if no, skip Q8	Yes			
	No			
8. Total no. of brothers and sisters				
9. An orphan/parents divorced/single parent? (select one answer)	Orphan			
	Parents divorced			
	Single parent			
Education and Employment Status				
1. Can you read or write in any of the following languages (English, Nepali, Dzongkha, etc.)..(individual)				
1.1 English		Yes		
		No		
1.2 Nepali		Yes		
		No		
1.3 Dzongkha		Yes		
		No		
1.4 Others		Yes		Specify
2. Have you attended school/ institute or any other kind of learning?		Now		go to Q3
		Past		go to Q3
		Never or No		go to Q5
3. What is the highest level attended? (select one answer)		Primary		If 'Now' put the level currently attending
		Lower Secondary		
		Middle Secondary		

	Higher Secondary	
	Certificate	
	Diploma	
	Bachelors	
	Masters or higher	
	Traditional	
	Non-Formal Education	
	Others(specify)	
5. What is your current work status?	regular paid employee	
	casual paid employee (Part Timers)	
	unpaid family worker	
	own account worker (Self Employed)	
	employer	
	Students	
	Minor (Children)	
	other(specify)	
6. What is your current main occupation?	Civil Servant	
	Corporate Employee	
	Armed Force	
	Farmer	
	Private Employee	
	Business	
	Students	
	NGO	
	Minor (Children)	
	Other(specify)	
7. Social-Economic Background	Sources of Income	
	Wages/salaries (including religious fee)	
	Selling Cereals/vegetables	
	Selling Fruits	
	Selling Dairy products/eggs	
	Selling of forest wood/non-wood products	
	Weaving	
	Pension	
	Rental	
	Selling of assets	
	Income from business	
	Other (specify)_____	
Person with a disability		

1. Your disability is:	Have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses	
	Yes	
	No	
	Have difficulty hearing, even if using a hearing device	
	Yes	
	No	
	Have difficulty moving around, walking or climbing steps	
	Yes	
	No	
	Have difficulty remembering or concentrating	
	Yes	
	No	
	Have difficulty (with self-care such as) washing all over or dressing	
	Yes	
	No	
	Usual (customary) language, do you have difficulty communicating, for example understanding or being understood.	
	Yes	
	No	
2. What do you think caused your health condition?	Before or during Birth	
	Disease	
	Sickness	
	Injection	
	Traditional healing	
	Sin	
	Disobedience	
	Curse by God	
	Black magic	
	Eating certain foods	
	Accident	
	Don't know	
3. Is there any Genetic relation between your parents.	Yes	
	No	
4. Are you taking any medicine for your health condition?	Yes	
	No	
	What kind?	

5. Did you receive immunization?	Yes No Not Sure	If 'Yes' GOTO q5 If 'No' or 'Not Sure' GOTO q7
6. If yes, please refer the health card and specify various types of immunization		
7. Do you think your disability has been a very significant issue in your life?	Yes	
	No	
Community Participation (answered by person with a disability)		
1. What makes it EASIER for you to participate in your community?	Assistive Devices	
	Personal Support	
	Physical support	
	Services Support	
	Systems Support	
	Organizational Support	
	Policies' Support	
	Social Support (Attitudes)	
	Environmental Support	
	Others	
2. What makes it HARDER for you to participate in your community?	Assistive Devices	
	Personal Support	
	Physical support	
	Services Support	
	Systems Support	
	Organizational Support	
	Policies' Support	
	Social Support (Attitudes)	
	Environmental Support	
	Others(specify)	
3. How do you feel when people look at you?	Embarrassed	
	Shy	
	Irritated	
	Unhappy	
	Hurt	

	Screaming out	
	Other(specify)	
Questions for care-givers/ members of house hold		
1. When he/she was a child, did he/she have any serious delay in sitting, standing or walking?	Yes	
	No	
2. When he/she was a child, did he/she have any difficulty seeing, either in daytime or night time?	Yes	
	No	
3. Does he/she have difficulty in hearing?	Yes	
	No	
4. When his/her parents told to do something, does he/she understand what they are saying?	Yes	
	No	
5. Did he/she have difficulty in walking or moving his/her arms or did he/she have weakness and/or stiffness in the arms or legs?	Yes	
	No	
6. Did he/she have fits become rigid or lose consciousness?	Yes	
	No	
7. Did he/she learn to do things like other children of his/her age?	Yes	
	No	
8. Did he/she speak at all (could he/she make other understood in words; could he/she say any recognizable words)?	Yes	
	No	
9. Was his/her speech in any way different from his/her age appropriate (not clear enough to be understood by people other than his/her immediate family)	Yes	
	No	
10. His/her disability is:	10.1 Have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses	
	Yes	
	No	
	10.2 Have difficulty hearing, even if using a hearing device	

	Yes	
	No	
	10.3 Have difficulty moving around, walking or climbing steps	
	Yes	
	No	
	10.4 Have difficulty remembering or concentrating	
	Yes	
	No	
	10.5 Have difficulty (with self-care such as) washing all over or dressing	
	Yes	
	No	
	10.6 Usual (customary) language, do you have difficulty communicating, for example understanding or being understood.	
	Yes	
	No	
10. Is the individual's parents genetically related	Yes No	
11. What do you think caused his/her health condition?	Before or during Birth	
	Disease	
	Sickness	
	Injection	
	Traditional healing	
	Sin	
	Disobedience	
	Curse by God	
	Black magic	
	Eating certain foods	
	Accident	
	Don't know	
12. is he/she taking any medicine for his/her health condition?	Yes	
	No	
	What kind?	
13. Did he/she receive immunization?	Yes	
	No	

	Not sure	
14. Do you think his/her disability has been a very significant issue in his/her life?	Yes	
	No	
15. What kind of help does he/she need to do his or her activities, how much help and how often is it needed?	Independent	
	Partially dependent	
	Fully dependent	
16. Does he/she have difficulty independently initiating or completing the work?	Yes	
	No	
General		
1. Do you think people with disabilities deserve special consideration?	Yes	If 'YES' GOTO q2 otherwise GOTO q3
	No	
2. Why people with disabilities deserve special consideration?		
3. Do you sometimes feel that people with disabilities have been punished by God for something they did	yes	
	No	
4. What are caregiver difficulties?	Time	
	finance	
	medical services	
	service providers	
	family support	
	assistive devices	
	handling skills	
	social stigma	
	others(specify)	
5. Does the child have difficulty independently initiating or completing the work?	Yes	
	No	
6. Do you know if there are any services for persons with disability in the country?	Yes	
	No	
7. What kind of services providers do you know of?	Government	
	NGO	
	Kidu	
	School	
	Private	

	Other(Specify)	
8. What kind of services should be there for the persons with a disability?	financial support	
	Assistive Devices	
	Medical services	
	Service Centre	
	Skill development training	
	Education	
	Employment	
	Others(specify)	
9. Do you receive The Kidu support?	Yes	
	No	
10. Do you receive any medical intervention?	Yes Past Now	
	No	
11. Do you receive an educational support?	Yes	
	No	
13. Do you receive any family support?	Yes	
	No	
14. Do you receive any social support?	Yes	
	No	
15. Do you receive any community support?	Yes	
	No	
16. Do you receive any other support?	Yes	
	No	
17. Living situation at time of interview (circle only one)	Independent in community	
	Assisted living	
	Hospitalized	
Gender related issues		
1. Do you think women living with disabilities are involved in community participation?	Yes No	
2. If no, what do you think are the factors that prevent them from participating?	i) Lack of education ii) Lack of access to information iii) Communication barriers	

	iv) Lack of accessibility	
3. Do you think female living with disabilities have any safety concerns?	Yes No	
4. If yes, what do you think are the main safety concerns?	i) Sanitation ii) Physical abuse/ domestic violence iii) Sexual abuse iv) Verbal abuse iv) Neglect v) others (specify) _____	
For female with disability and care-givers/ members of house hold		
1. Compared to male with disability, do you face extra challenges?	Yes No	
2. Compared to male with disability, do you think female with disability are more at risk of exploitation or discrimination?	Yes	
	No	
For 2 year-old children (completed 2 years)		
1. Can he/she name at least one object (e.g., an animal, a toy, a cup, a spoon)?	Yes	
	No	
2. Compared with other children of his/her age, does the child appear in any way mentally slow, delayed or behind?	Yes	
	No	
3. Do you think that your child has difficulties to express emotion or in concentration or Behavior or being able to get along with other people?	Yes	
	No	

21. Comments/suggestion(By Supervisor/Enumerator):