

SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF DISABLED PEOPLE IN NEPALGUNJ

Author's Name: Sabitra Basnet Pokhrel

Affiliation: Lecturer, Department of Sociology, Mahendra Multiple Campus, Nepalgunj, Nepal

E-Mail ID: sabitra24255@gmail.com

DOI No. – 08.2020-25662434

Abstract

The goal of this study was to determine the status and level of empowerment of the disabled population in Banke Ward No.12 of Nepalgunj Sub Metropolitan City. The 80 disabled people in the study region were chosen by the researcher. In order to get information from the chosen respondents, the researcher employed a series of questions that included both closed-ended and open-ended inquiries. To ascertain the level of empowerment of impaired persons, the obtained data were evaluated and interpreted. The majority of disabled people have been found to experience discrimination, including exclusion, peer abuse, and mockery. Some of them participate in various community activities, such as weddings, religious events, and festivals. They have so caused embarrassment in society. Many of them participate in social events on an equal footing with others, but when it comes to job, employers rarely give them chances to be hired in their field of work. The majority of disabled persons attend secondary schools. The majority of them have been discovered to be incapacitated due to illnesses and/or congenital defects. To address the needs of the children, the parents must be engaged in their regular jobs. Their challenged children require full-time care, which they are unable to give. The empowerment of the disabled is generally heavily influenced by socio-cultural status, and this status was positive. To examine the level of economic empowerment, the majority of people with disabilities do not receive any benefits. Less disabled people possess family assets; this is because so few of them work in places that generate revenue. Only a small percentage of disabled persons live with dignity and take part in home and community decision-making.

Keywords: *disability, empowerment, support, discrimination, survival*

INTRODUCTION

Due to unfavorable circumstances including fear, ignorance, disdain, and superstition, which have isolated disabled people with various talents and slowed down their growth, the disabled are socially ostracized in Nepalese society. The idea of a society for disabled people that is inclusive, barrier-free, based on equality, and based on rights has since changed. The disabled have increased their level of activity thanks to education, rehabilitation, social and governmental support, and community awareness. They have transformed them into a catalyst for the future growth of the nation and of the disabled population.

In Nepal a majority of disabled persons is drawn from economically weak communities. They have not been fortunate enough to acquire education. Their contact with the outside world being limited, their aspirations are not high. Gradually over the last two decades or so, mainly due to the growth of information technology the availability of television, computer, radios and their means of mass communication, the disabled persons in Nepal are getting the facilities available to their counterparts in other countries. Due to financial and educational constraints their aspirations are very often limited. Even then, they still expect to receive better living conditions. Because they hail from poor

families, most of them desire to economically rehabilitate in the society. They expect to get facilities like Education, Vocational training, Legislation, Job reservation, Job placement, Equalization of opportunities, Disabled friendly environment, Accessible home for, Disabled person, Disability allowances, Quality of life, etc.

Mental, medical and social the society is not positive to them and still believes that disability is a penance to the sins committed in previous birth. It seems to be a nation-wide problem in Nepal.

Lack of physical mobility and mentally retarded is the major cause of social exclusion and isolation. There are some hospitals in the districts which provide physiotherapy services but there is lack of regular follow up. There is also lack of skill transfer to the care takers. For the poor and countryside people it is not possible to come to hospital for the physiotherapy and rehabilitation. There is also lack of social perspective for the recovery such as community based rehabilitation, social support. It seems a big problem. There are several reasons for this but the most important factor is this many people, with disabilities employee of government bodies and the general populations are unaware about disabled people's right. They have forgotten the fact the disabled are also to be treated with all their human rights.

After the restoration of democracy, there are some green signals to have more rights in legislation. One problem is that present legislation is not implemented fully or effectively and the government officials lack awareness about disabled people.

Thus, this study is designed to explore the role of empower and rehabilitation on poverty reduction and social development in the disabled persons household who were taking rehabilitation services in Nepalgunj sub-metro polis Ward No. 12, Banke.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The general objective of the study is the empowerment rehabilitation of the disabled people of Nepalgunj sub-metropolitan city Ward No 12, Banke. The specific objectives are as follows:

1. To examine socio-economic, political and educational status of disabled people.
2. To find out local people's perception about disability and disabled person.
3. To explore the association between rehabilitation program and empowerment of disabled people.

LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

1. This is one of the case studies in the Nepalgunj sub metropolitan city Wards No. 12. Therefore the outcome of the study may not be equally applicable to other parts of the country.
2. The study will cover the economic, social, political and educational status of the disabled people and their inclusion in all above spheres after getting the service of community based rehabilitation.
3. The study is based on opinions expressed by disabled people; the reality of the study depends upon the answers given by them.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Only the limited studies have been done on the issue of disability. The condition and status of

disabled persons varies in different sectors. The limited number of books, articles, research report have been consulted and reviewed to shed light on the subject under study. The status and relationship between disabled and able persons has been very complex. There should be equal treatment to the disabled persons by individuals, community as well as the nation. Disabled persons are the indispensable part of the society.

As a result of impairment, a person might not be able to perform activities of daily life considered normal for his\her age, sex, etc. A disability describes a functional limitation. For example, being disabled means having difficulty in communicating (includes difficulty of seeing, hearing and speaking, having difficulty of moving and having difficulty of learning.) In other words, it is the restriction or lack of ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being. (WHO, 2003)

The article, "Integration people with Disabilities in to Development programmer" published on "SAROKAR" May 2000, has analyzed the concept of disability towards their family and society. He writes that disabled people tend to get exploited by the family and by the community members.

A community Assessment of poverty and disability among specific rural population Group in Nepal" explained, that disability and poverty are inextricably linked and lead to a vicious cycle with one being both a cause and a consequence of the other. Persons with disabilities are estimated to make up to 15 percent to 20 percent of the poor persons in developing countries, worldwide, as many as 50 percent of disabilities are directly linked to poverty. (SarmilaShrestha, NarayankajiShrestha, Sunil Deepak, 2009)

The links between poverty and disability can be multiple and complex, including through local geographical factors (for example, wars, specific infections like trachoma and Sphistosomiasis, stress etc.), insufficient or unhealthy food, insufficient or inaccessible health services (including physical inaccessibility as well as because of related cost), social exclusion and stigma (for example, for persons affected with leprosy for persons with epilepsy etc) barriers to employment, etc.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

RESEARCH DESIGN

The descriptive and explorative research design was employed to find the problem of community based rehabilitation program for disabled people. It describes the knowledge attitude and behavior of community people toward disabled people. It also explores the facts about real situation from disabled people.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SOCIAL DATA

For the fulfillment of the aim of this research, both qualitative and quantitative data's are collected. From quantitative data, the information about the number of disabled, their income level, types of disability whereas from qualitative data the concept of disable regarding various aspects, views opinions, thoughts, expectation can be included.

SAMPLING

The universe of the areas Nepalgunj sub-metropolitan city Ward No.12 .Among 146 disabled people,

80 disabled people will be selected as samples by simple random sampling. Other key respondents of this study were selected traditional healers, local leaders and sub metropolitan city official Health workers.

PRIMARY DATA COLLECTION TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES

Observation, Interview schedule, Case Study, Key informant interview

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

AGE AND SEX COMPOSITION

The field survey has been conducted to find out in-depth knowledge of the respondents about the empowerment of disabled people. Disabled people were not able to express their view thoroughly. So, parents were incorporated to get insight about the given facts. The table 4.1 below illustrates the age and sex composition of the respondents.

Table 1 : Ages and Sex Composition of the Respondents

Age group	Frequency				Total	Percent
	Male	Percent	female	percent		
0-19	20	25	22	27.5	42	52.50
20-39	11	13.75	10	12.5	21	26.25
40-59	7	8.75	6	7.5	13	16.25
60+	3	3.75	1	1.25	4	5.00
Total	41	51.25	39	48.75	80	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2022

Table 1 indicates that the 0-20 age group occupies the highest percentage 52.5 of the population among the respondents that includes 25percent male and 27.5percent female. Similarly, for age group 20-40, it is 26.25percent including 13.75percent male and 12.5percent female. Whereas only 16.25percent of the respondents are above 60 years including 8.75percent male and 7.5percent female.

MARITAL STATUS

Marriage is one of the important events of a human being which is also a universal phenomenon. The disabled people are also the wing of society and they are also enjoying their life as they have capacity. Disabled people are also married and unmarried. The table 4.2 below shows the marital status of the respondents.

Table 2: Respondents classified according to marital status

Status	Frequency	Percent
Married	25	31.25
Unmarried	55	68.75
Total	80	100.0

Source: field survey, 2022

Table 2 shows marital status of the disabled people of Nepalgunj sub-Metropolis Wards No. 12. This is can be the mirror of whole municipality.

TYPE OF DISABILITY

Disabled persons are not of the same type. The Disabled people are divided into five types here; Physical, deaf, blind, mental retardation and others. But in the samples taken, there are only four types: physical, deaf, blind and mental retardation.

Table 3 : Respondent’s types of disability

Types	Frequency	Percent
Physical	22	27.50
Deaf	13	16.25
Blind	24	30.00
Mentally retarded	14	17.50
Others	7	8.75
Total	80	100.0

Source: field survey, 2022

TYPES OF DISABILITY OCCURRENCE

There are single, double and multi type of disability in a respondent. So, more than two types are indicated as multi-disability. In the situation of disabilities, there are many reasons for occurrence of disabilities. The figure 4.1 below shows them all.

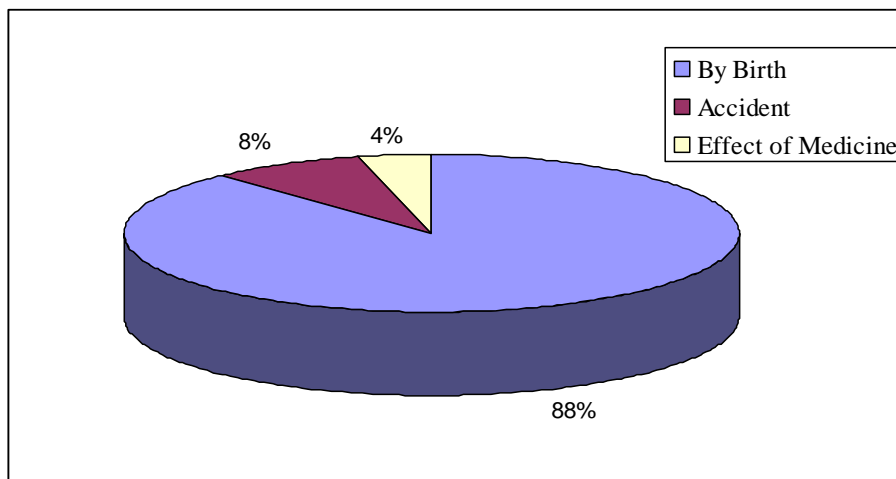


Figure 1: Disability Occurrence

Fig 1 above illustrates that most of the disability occurrence are by birth, which is 88 percent. Similarly, 8 percent of the disability occurrences are by accident and only 4percent are by the effect of medicine.

AVAILABILITY OF DISABLED IDENTITY CARD

Identity card is one of the mediums of disability recognition.It plays an important role when they move outside the home like school, collage, hospital, journey, job vacancy, etc. Achievement of ID card indicates their right and level of disabled social empowerment. ID card has been distributed by the women development office.

Table 5: Disable ID card

ID card	Frequency	Percent
Received	43	53.75
Not received	37	46.25
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012

Table 5 above clearly shows that 53.75 percentages of the respondents are able to obtain the ID card for the disability whereas 46.25percent of them are without any kind of ID card. In the study area, some of the respondents do not know they have right to obtain the ID card.

SOCIAL DISCRIMINATION

The different discriminating behaviors done to the disabled are different from each other according to the changing economic, social and cultural development of the society they reside in. The episodes of these types of discrimination are widely distributed. The situation of study area, classifies the conceptual, environmental and institutional discrimination as well. Table 6 below shows the status of discrimination of the respondents.

Table 6: Status of Discrimination

Discrimination	Frequency	Percent
Yes	51	63.75
No	29	36.25
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Table 6 clearly demonstrate that most 63.75percent of the respondents are facing the discrimination from the person, society and state; whereas 36.25percent do not feel the discrimination. Disabled people feel different discrimination in their lives. Different types of discriminations found in the survey are given in the table 7 below.

Table 7: Types of Discrimination

Type	Frequency	Percent
Mockery	26	32.50
abuse by peers	23	28.75
Exclusion	31	38.75
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012

As table 7 illustrates 38.75percent respondents from the field survey have reported that they feel the problem of exclusion, whereas 32.5percent face mockery and 28.75percent are abuse by peers. And 38.75 percent are excluded from society. In the above situation, discrimination has been conducted by their family members, society, nation, etc. So disables are always being backward in their empowerment.

Table 8: Reasons for Facing Difficulties

Reasons	Frequency	Percent
Cause of disability	27	33.75

fear of being mocked	19	23.75
feel uncomfortable	9	11.25
do not feel like	25	31.25
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Table 8 shows that 33.75 percent of the respondents face difficulties as a result of disability alone likewise, 23.75 percent face difficulties for fear of being of mocked, 11.25 percent just feel uncomfortable among the members of the community. Respectively 31.25 percent also feel difficulties but they simply tolerate them and do not wish to reveal it.

RESPONDENTS STATUS IN THE COMMUNITY

Because of disability, a person has low status in society. Disabled feel alone in society and go humiliating. Every society has this situation but some of them expose their talent and make good reputation in society. The figure 2 below indicates the respondent's status in community.

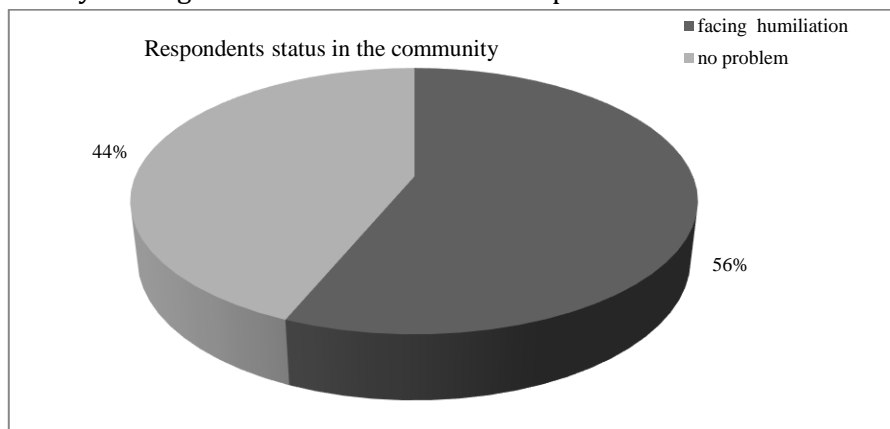


Figure 2 Respondents statuses in the community

Fig. 4.3 indicates that 56.3 percentages of the respondents are facing humiliation problem from the society; whereas those facing no problem are in 43.8 percentages. The rest of them do not feel any humiliation.

PROBLEM OF MARRIAGE

Marriage is one of the universal phenomena; every person has the right to choose their spouse. Disabled who are of marriageable age are to find a family on the basis of the full consent of the partners. About the marriage, the view of respondents is shown in the figure 4.4 below.

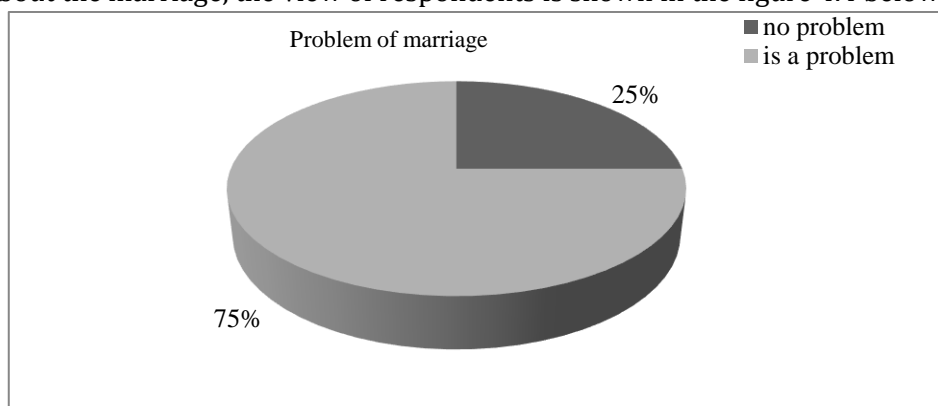


Fig. 3 Problem of marriage

Fig. 3 above clearly demonstrates that 75 percent of the respondents are facing disability as a hindrance in getting married; whereas only 25 percent of them do not face disability as a hindrance in getting married. In this situation marriage is a genuine problem of respondents and they live so painfully in the while of their life.

RELATIONSHIP WITH NEIGHBOURS

Society is always hierarchical. The social members always maintain their high and low status. As the disabled are considered to have low status, the family members too wish to hide them from their strangers. The disabled can display strange behaviours but the family members hardly express it before the neighbours. In this situation, their relationship with neighbours was not so good.

But the situation of study area provides a different picture as it is shown in the figure 4 below:

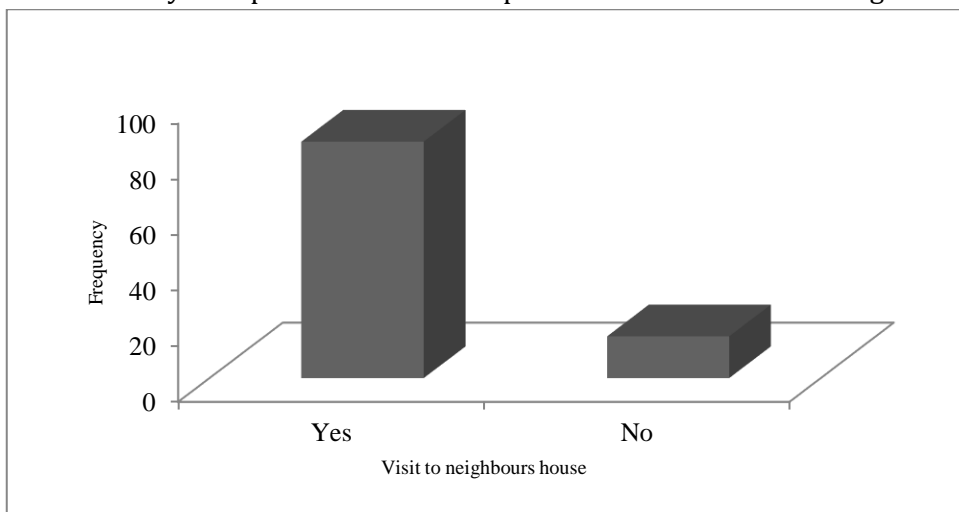


Fig. 4 Frequency of visit neighbours house

Fig. 5 shows that a quite large numbers 68 (85percent) of the respondents are having a good relation with their neighbours; whereas only 12 (15percent)do not have relations with their neighbours .i.e. they do not come and go to their neighbours, which is mainly depending on disability forms and family interest. It also indicates their helping condition of community.

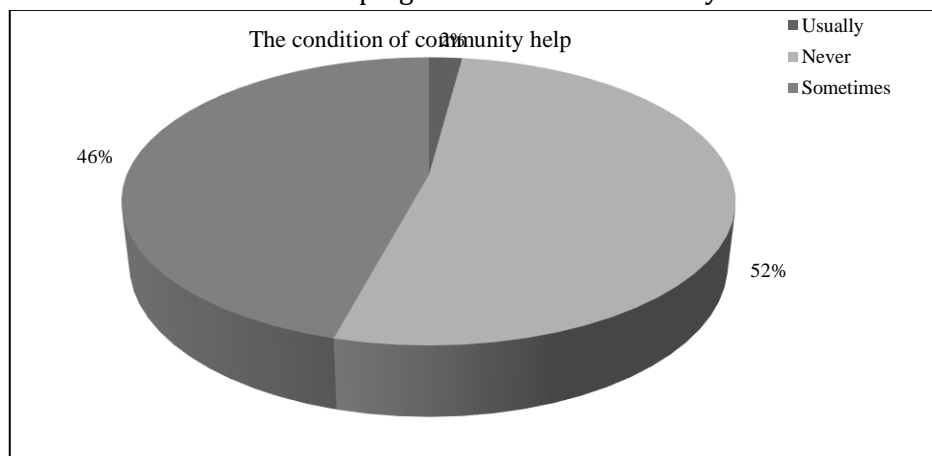


Fig. 5The Condition of Community helps

From the Fig. 5, it is clear that large 52 percentages of the respondents never help other people in the community. 46 percent sometime help other people in the community whereas only 2 percent usually help other people.

TREATMENT, TYPES AND IMPROVEMENT

Treatment is important for the disabled. If they get good treatment in time, they get relief from their dangerous condition. But in case of disability by birth i.e. deaf, dampness there is not any treatment. Situation of treatment is given in the figure 6 below.

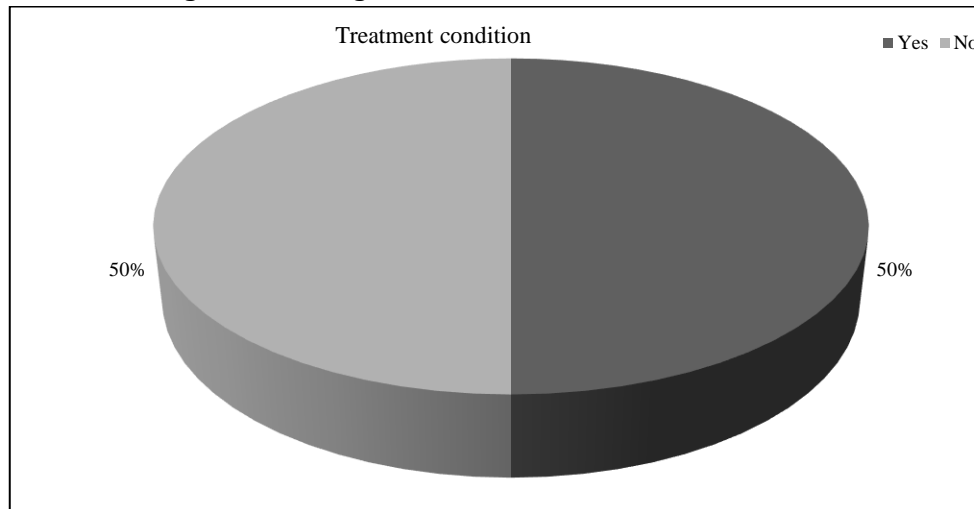


Fig. 6 Treatment Condition

Fig 6 clearly indicates that the percentage of the respondents getting treatment and those not getting treatment is equal. It is 50percent both. Among the two types of the treatments obtained i.e. faith healer and doctors, 50percent of the respondents are getting treatment from the doctors. The table 6 shows the benefit from treatment

Table 9: Benefit for Treatment

Benefit	Frequency	Percent
No improvement	14	17.50
Short term benefit	10	12.50
Not getting treatment	56	70.00
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

Table 9 shows the treatments obtained by the respondents; a high 70 percentage is not getting treatment. In their conditions 12.5percentages have obtained a short term benefit. This analysis shows that respondents have not been cured completely.

AVAILABILITY OF HEALTH FACILITIES

Health is condition of person’s body or mind. Those who have good health are able to resist disease. When people are suffering from diseases, they need to visit health care centre. Getting Health facilities is one of the important factors of social empowerment. In the study area, Hundred percent

of the respondents are able to obtain the health and treatment facilities if they visit the health centres and hospitals.

SCHOOL VISITING PROBLEM, PERFORMANCE AND REQUIREMENTS

Parents, who are educated, are aware of their children education but in the study area, parents are not well educated, backup education and age limitation are also the affecting causes of going to school for the disabled children. Fig.7 below shows the situation of school going respondents.

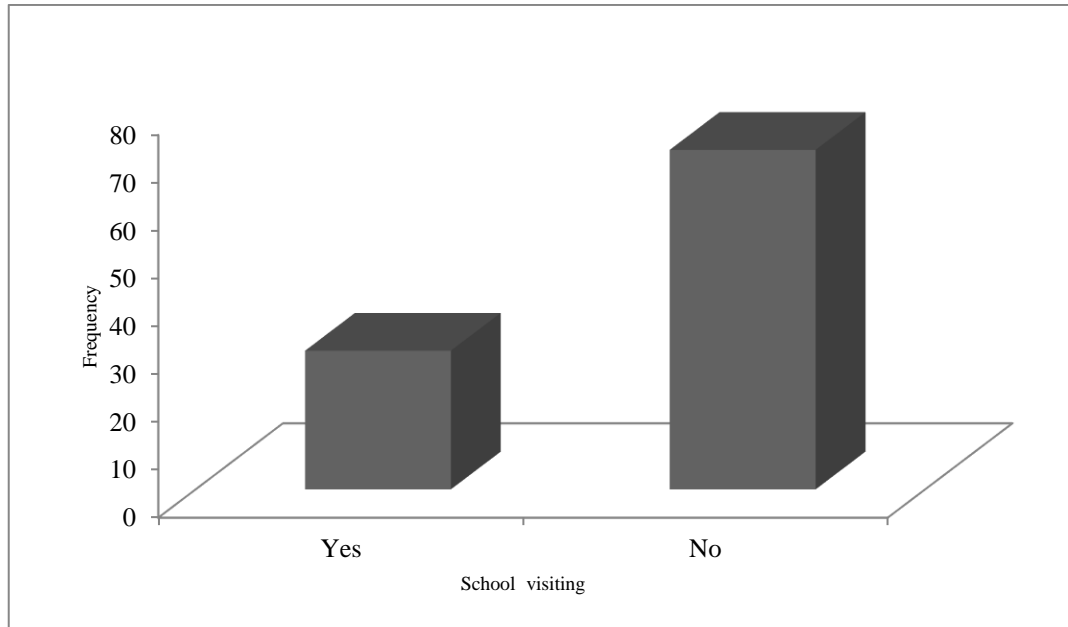


Fig. 7 School Visiting

Fig. 7, clearly indicates that 57 (71.25percent) of the respondents are not able to go to the school and only 23 (28.75percent) of the respondents have been able to go to the school.

OCCUPATION AND INCOME OF PARENTS

One of the most important variables of economic empowerment is the parental occupation. In order to earn a living, human being needs to engage with certain kind of occupation or job. It is the responsibility of the parents to fulfil their children’s need to make them civilized in this modern society. So, they engage in different types of occupation. In this research area, traditional as well as modern occupation has been adopted by the parents.

Table 10 : Occupational Distribution of Parents

Occupation	Frequency	Percent
Agriculture	30	37.50
Govt. Job	3	3.75
Teacher	12	15.00
Trade	18	22.50
Labour	17	21.25
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Table 10 clearly shows that large 37.5 percentages of the respondents have been involving in agriculture. Similarly, 22.5percent of them have been engaged in trade; whereas those involved in government job are 3.75percent and working as teacher occupy in the percentage 15percent which is less as compared to other. Among these types of occupations, income ratio is 0-20000 Rs. The table 4.13 exhibits the monthly income of the household.

Table 11: Income per Months

Income	Frequency	Percent
0-5000	29	36.25
5000-10000	35	43.75
10000-15000	11	13.75
15000-20000	5	6.25
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

Table 11 clearly indicates that 43.75percent of the respondents earn 5000-10000 rupee per month. Similarly, 36.25percent of them earn about 0-5000.Only a less percentage of them earn more than 10000 rupee that includes 13.75percent earning from about 10000 to 15000 and 6.25percent of them earn more than 15000 about 15000-20000 rupee. It shows that most of them are in poor economic condition.

INVOLVEMENT OF INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES

In the study area, most of the respondents are of small age group. So, lesser number of them involve in income generating. So, they depend on family income.They involve not for permanent job only in temporary earning. Thus, they are not self sufficient economically.

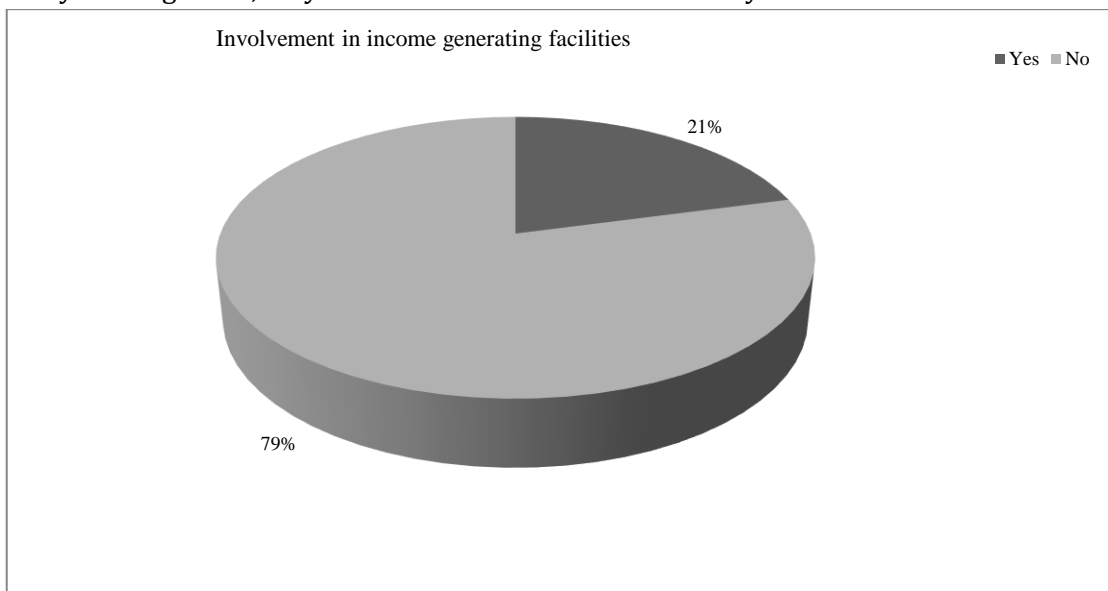


Fig. 8 Involvement in Income Generating Facilities

Fig. 8 clearly demonstrates that there is no involvement of the large 79 percentage of the respondents in income generating facilities. Only a less 21 percentage of them have involvement in income generating facilities.

KNOWLEDGE OF DISABLED RIGHTS AND LAWS/POLICIES

In national level different laws/policies are made for disabled persons and they are forming their rights. But almost all of the disabled are inside the boundary of house, so they do not know about the outside environment and their rights also. This study shows that most of the respondents and their parents are illiterate, so they are back ward.

Table 12: Knowledge about Legal Provision and Policies

Know	Frequency	Percent
Yes	11	13.75
No	69	86.25
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

The table 12 above clearly shows that 86.25 percentages of the respondents are unaware about the different laws and policies made for them and this is the reason that they are always lagging behind in getting equal opportunities. Only 13.75 percent of them know about various laws and policies made for them.

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION, DECISION MAKING AND DIGNITY

None of the respondents has been involved in any political activities. Almost in the situation only clever persons are engaged in politics and they are going upwards by the relation of powerful person. In this situation disabled are backward. Thus, they are unable to involve in any decision making power i.e. domestic or community level. The table 4.20 shows the situation of respondents' decision making.

Table 13: Domestic and Community Level Decision Making

Decision making	Frequency	Percent
Yes	17	21.25
No	63	78.75
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

Table 13 shows that 78.75 percent of the respondents don't take participation in domestic and community level decision making as well. Only 21.25 percentages of them are able to make the participation in such programmes.

EXPECTED NEEDS OF HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD

Most of the respondents' family background is weak or economically poor. So the family expects the need and support from the organizations to their disabled members. The support given to them differs family to family. It is shown in the figure 9 below.

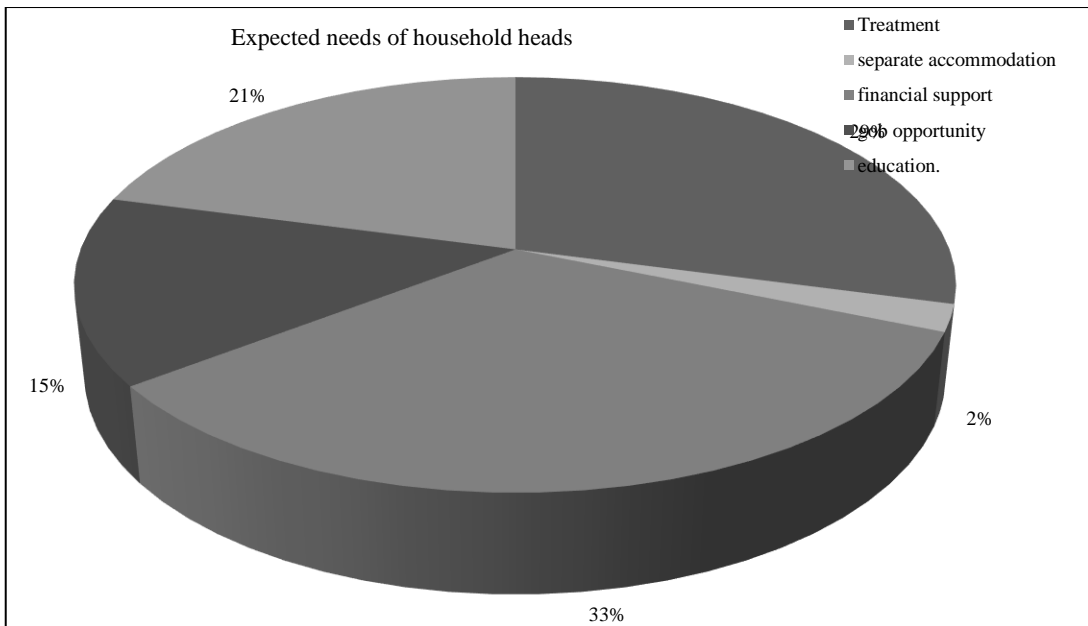


Fig. 9 Expected Needs of Head of the Household

Fig. 4.13 clearly shows that 33 percentages of the heads of the household expect financial support. Similarly, 29 percent of them expect the treatment services. 21 percent do expect the education and almost 15percent expect the job opportunities. Only 2 percent of them expect for the separate accommodation.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

The major findings of the study can be summarized in the following points:

- Most of the respondents were in the age group of 0-19 years which is 52.5 percent.
- Out of total, respondents 53.75percent have received ID card and 46.25percent have not received it yet.
- Maximum 63.75percent of the respondents were the victims of feeling discrimination in the society and only 36.25percent did not feel about it. Among the 38.75percent faced exclusion, 32.5percent faced mockery and only 28.75 percent suffering from abuse by peers in the name of discrimination.
- Majority of the respondents feel that disability is a problem of marriage, 75percent felt about this problem and 25percent did not feel about it.
- Majority of the respondents (that is 85percent) went to the neighbours and 15percent also did so. 52 percent sometime helped neighbours, 46 percent usually helped and 2 percent never helped the neighbours.
- Almost all the respondents have availability of health facilities for hospital equally 50 percent respondents got treatment from faith-healer and doctor whereas 50percent did not get any treatment also. Among 17.5 percent had no improvement and 12.5 percent got short term benefit from that.
- School going respondents were just 28.75 percent and majority of them 71.25 percent did not go to school. Among them, school going percent only (17.39 percent) had well, 13.75 percent had satisfactory and 10 percent had weak performance at school.
- 17.5percent were living with dignity 17.5, whereas 82.5percent did not live with dignity.

- 73.75 percent of the respondents did nothing before the organization support. 26.25 percent had been doing income generating facilities.
- The expected need of respondents and heads of household is different from each other. 29percent had the expectation of treatment, 2percent desire for separate accommodation, 33percent expected financial support, 15 percent looked for job opportunity and 21 percent looked for education.

CONCLUSION

With the deep analysis of research issue, respondents and household views, status of social-cultural, economic and political empowerment. We found out many practices of our society which overlooked the disabled in many areas. The disabled have always been oppressed and exploited and never given the chances for better involvement in each and every sector of the society. Among them, one of the prominent areas is the empowerment situation, which plays a vital role in the betterment of disabled and also in the development of the nation. Although, many organizations have been working to uplift the condition of disabled but the empowerment condition of disabled is not so good and they have not been fully empowered yet.

REFERENCES

1. District Development Committee Banke, CBR Local Network Banke Planning Report, 2078, .Rehabilitation for Disabled People.
2. Handicap International Kathmandu Nepal,(2086).*Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) for People with Disability in Nepal*.
3. Nepal National Federation of the Deaf and Hard of hearing (NADH) Kathmandu, Nepal, (1998, October).*Report of the Workshop on UN Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities*.
4. New Era, (1999 Feb). *A situation Analysis on disability in Nepal*.
5. Nepal Government Gajatte,(2005).
6. Parajui,B.(2059-2064).*Planned Development and Ten Year Plan in Nepal*, Dillibazar, Kathmandu.
7. Pokharel, T.P (2000).*Man and Women with disabilities problems, prospects*Published by Tika Prasad Pokharel, Kathmandu, Nepal.
8. Ronnie, L.L. (1999), Cross-cultural Rehabilitation.
9. Sarokar,(2000).*Half Yearly Publication of Nepal Association of the Blind Kathmandu, Nepal*.
10. Shrestha, S.shrestha,N.K. Sunil,D.(2009), *Asia Pacific Disability Rehabilitation Journal 2009*.
11. Thapa, N.B.(2060).*Brief Information of Tenth Plan (2059-2064)*.Dalphin Offset Press, Katmandu.
12. UNDP, (1999).*Nepal Human Development Report 1999*.
13. UNDP, (2004).*Nepal Human Development Report 2004*.
14. UNICEF/HMG Nepal, National Planning Commissions, (2001 Feb).*A Situation*
15. *Analysis of Disability in Nepal (Volume 1 Chapter 7)*.
16. WHO, (2003). Report of the International consultation to Review community based Rehabilitation.*He/siniki*.Hosted by the Government of Finland Geneva.WHO/DAR03.2.