

The Nexus between Disability and Poverty: Analysis Based on States Data in India

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Paper Abstract: The literature on poverty analysis in India has often directed its focus on examining the poverty spreads across social, religious and economic groups or among the women and children. However, the interdependent relationship between disability and poverty continues to remain a neglected area of research, despite the fact that the poorest and most marginalized group in the country is often represented by disabled persons. Research findings across the world have pointed out that disability remains an extremely important risk for falling under poverty among the working-age population. This paper compares the state level estimates of poverty that are prepared by the government department with the recently released census data on disability prevalence to explore on the potential link between poverty and disability. We observe a direct relationship between the poverty rate and disability prevalence for both rural and urban areas across Indian states. The persons with disability are also found to experience lower educational attainments and work opportunities in India. Our results convey as to why it is essential to break the nexus between disability and poverty in pursuing the inclusive development goals.