

Disability Indicators for the SDGs and Their Relevance for India

Thematic Session 6.2: Strengthening Social protection.

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Background:

Disabled persons are the largest marginalized group in India.

MDGs were devised for poor & marginalized, yet the goal and targets made a noticeable exclusion of any enabling elements for the disabled.

Post-2015 Development Agenda: Disability is referenced in various parts of SDGs (education, growth and employment, inequality, accessibility of human settlements, data collection and monitoring)

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UN Statistical Commission (Inter Agency Expert Group + High Level Group) → Indicators Framework → Assess Disability Progress under SDG.

Objective:

Inquire whether the disability related SDG targets in indicators framework relevant for addressing disability issues in India.

Study Plan:

Account of disability prevalence in India (rural-urban, male-female, types, age distribution, literacy and employment aspects).

Evaluate India's preparedness to accomplish the disability-related SDG target.

Paper Structure

1. Introduction:
2. Disability in Development Goals:
3. Disability in India: Prevalence and Character:
4. SDG Indicators on Disability:
5. India's Preparedness in Adopting Disability Related SDG Indicators:
6. Conclusion:

2. Disability in Development Goals:

(Tracks on how Disability was dealt in previous UN Resolutions)

- Several UN resolutions mentioned - persons with disabilities are subjected to multiple discrimination - remain invisible in implementation & evaluation of development goals.
- General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/65/186, dated: 21 December, 2010) : Persons with disabilities constitute 10% of world population, of whom 80% live in developing countries.
- In the context of human right - MDGs recognized principles of human dignity, equality and equity and stressed on the equality of persons with disabilities.
- UN resolutions recognized Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) as a human rights treaty & development tool.

- MDG 2010 Report: Limited opportunities to differently-abled children.
- Ministerial Declaration of July 2010, High Level Meeting of General Assembly on MDG: Focus on persons with disabilities.
- UN General Assembly stressed on improved disability data & statistics based on internationally accepted guidelines.
- Washington Group on Disability Statistics: Representatives of national statistical authorities, disability organizations & international organizations to coordinate health and disability statistics in country censuses and national surveys.
- Washington Group developed short set of disability questions based on WHO's International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF) → Tested & Found suitable.

3. Disability in India: Prevalence and Character:

- Is Census/NSS Disability Prevalence data an Underestimate:

21 ml. (Census 2001), 20.7 ml. (NSS 2002) → 2% of population.

World Bank [2007]: 4 – 8%

WHO's World Health Survey data: 24.9% in 2002-2004.

Census 2011: 2.2% of population.

Application of Washington Group Questions: 12.2% in Telangana.

- Highlights of Census 2011 Data:
 - Disability Prevalence rates varies widely across states in India.
 - Rural disability prevalence remained higher than the urban rate
 - Male disability prevalence rate exceeded the same for females
 - Disability prevalence prominent in physical disability type (seeing, hearing, speech and movement).
 - Disabilities of different types are extensive in the 15-59 age-groups.
 - There are 11 states where the proportion of illiterates remained higher among the disabled class.
 - Analysis of worker-population ratio across types of disability indicates that about 60% or more remained as non-workers.

Figure 1.1: Percentage of Disability in Total Population, 2011

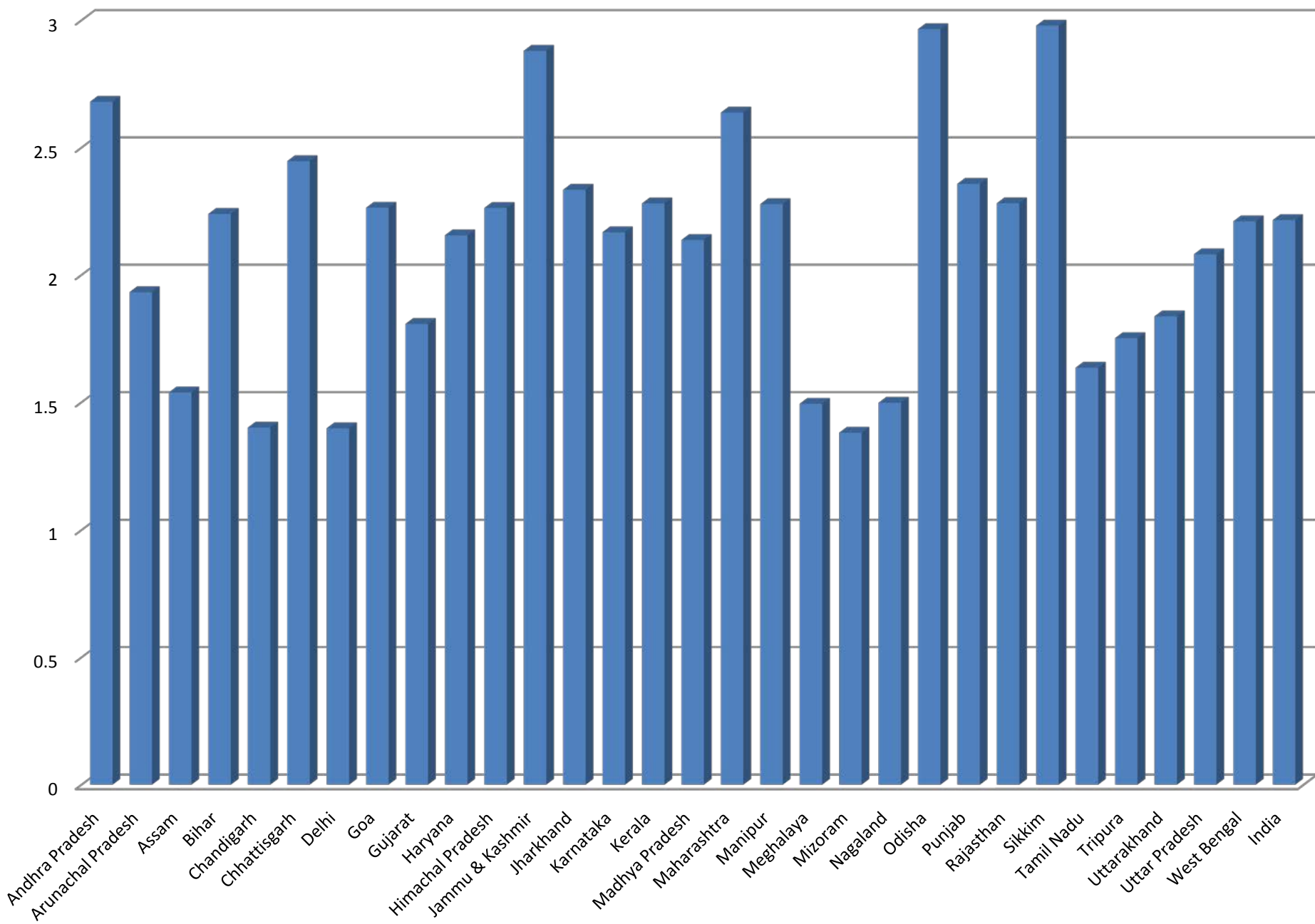


Figure 2: Disability Prevalence in States of India, 2011

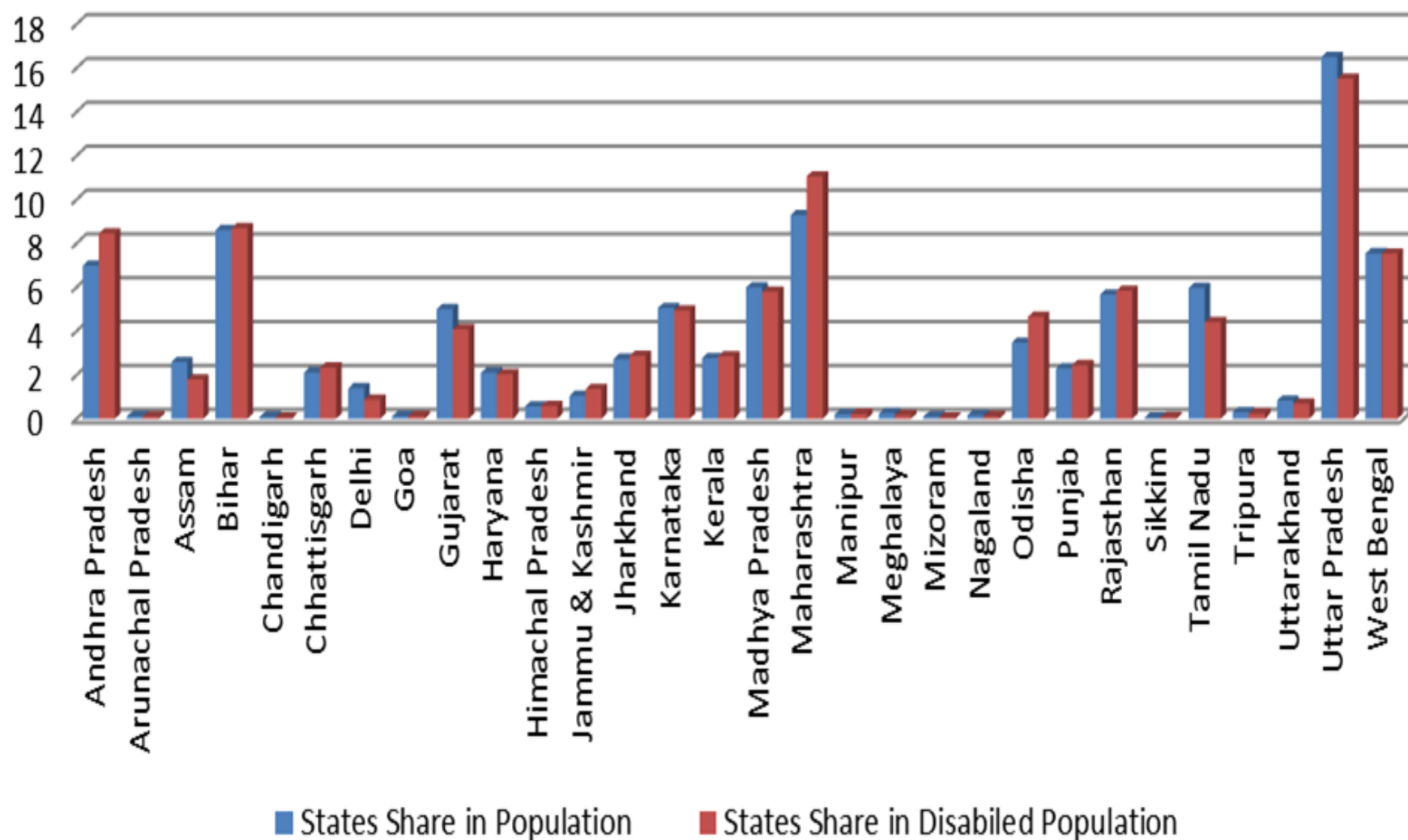


Figure 3: Rural-Urban Proportion of Disability within States of India, 2011

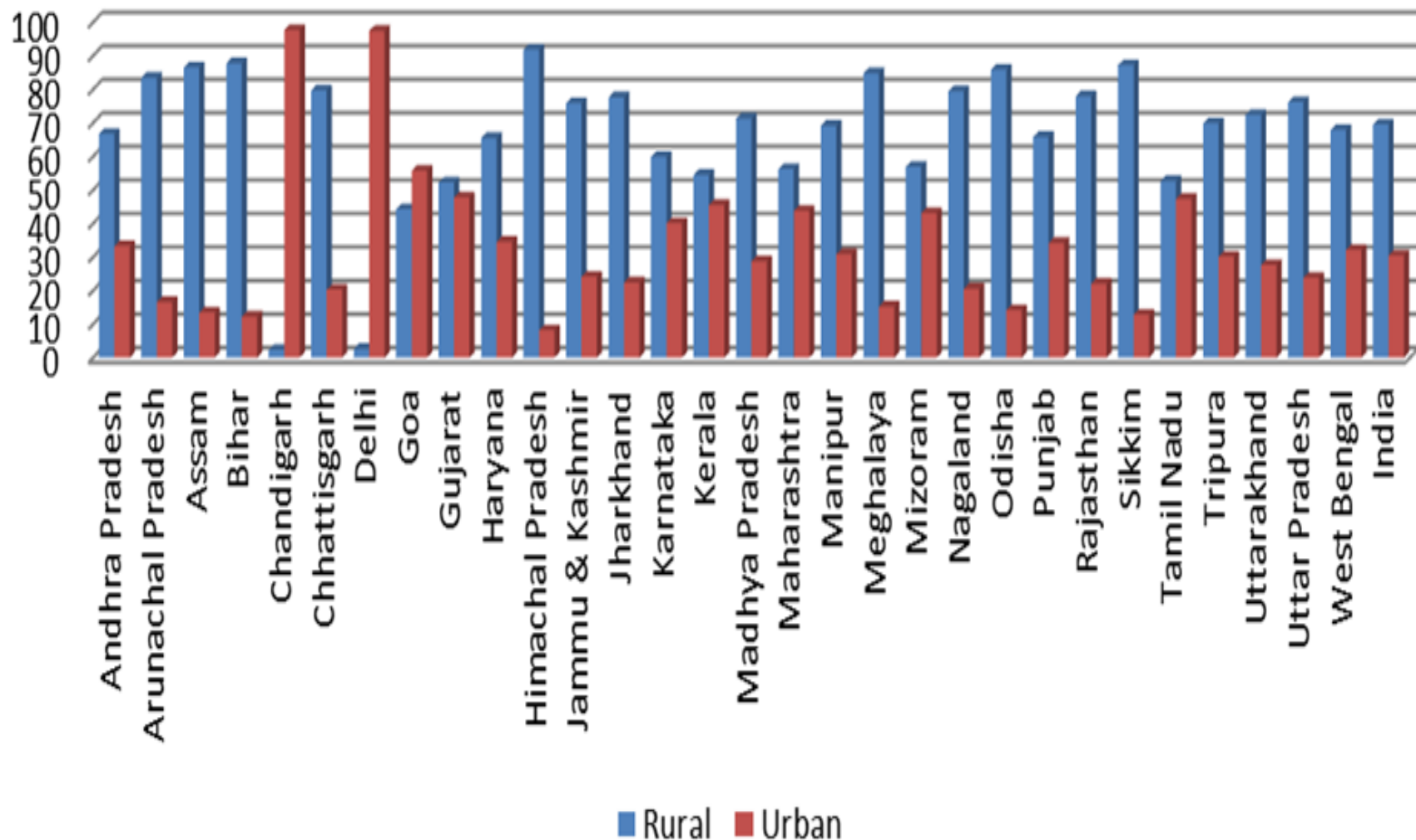


Figure 4: Male-Female Proportion of Disability within States of India, 2011

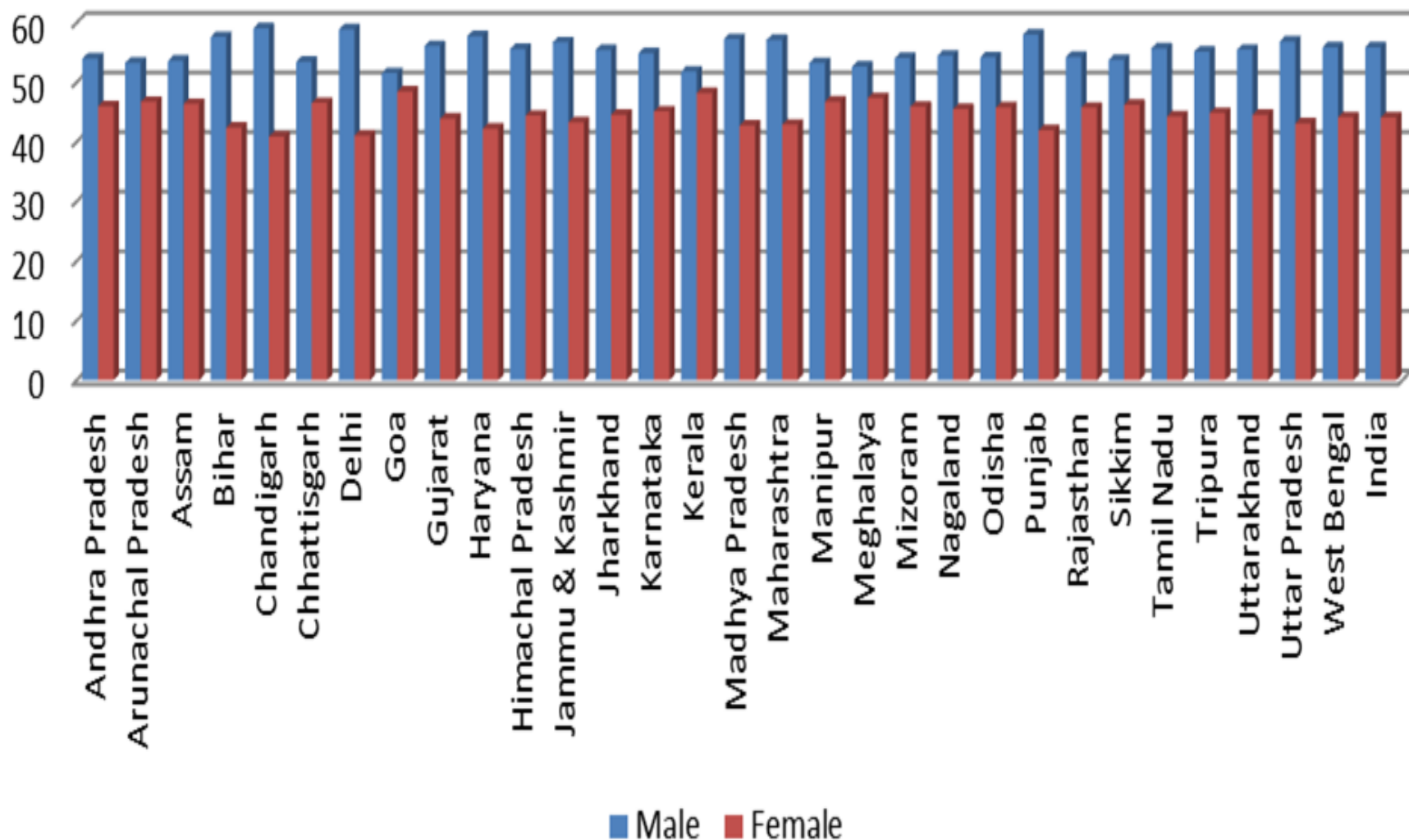


Figure 5: Composition of Disability Across Types in States of India, 2011

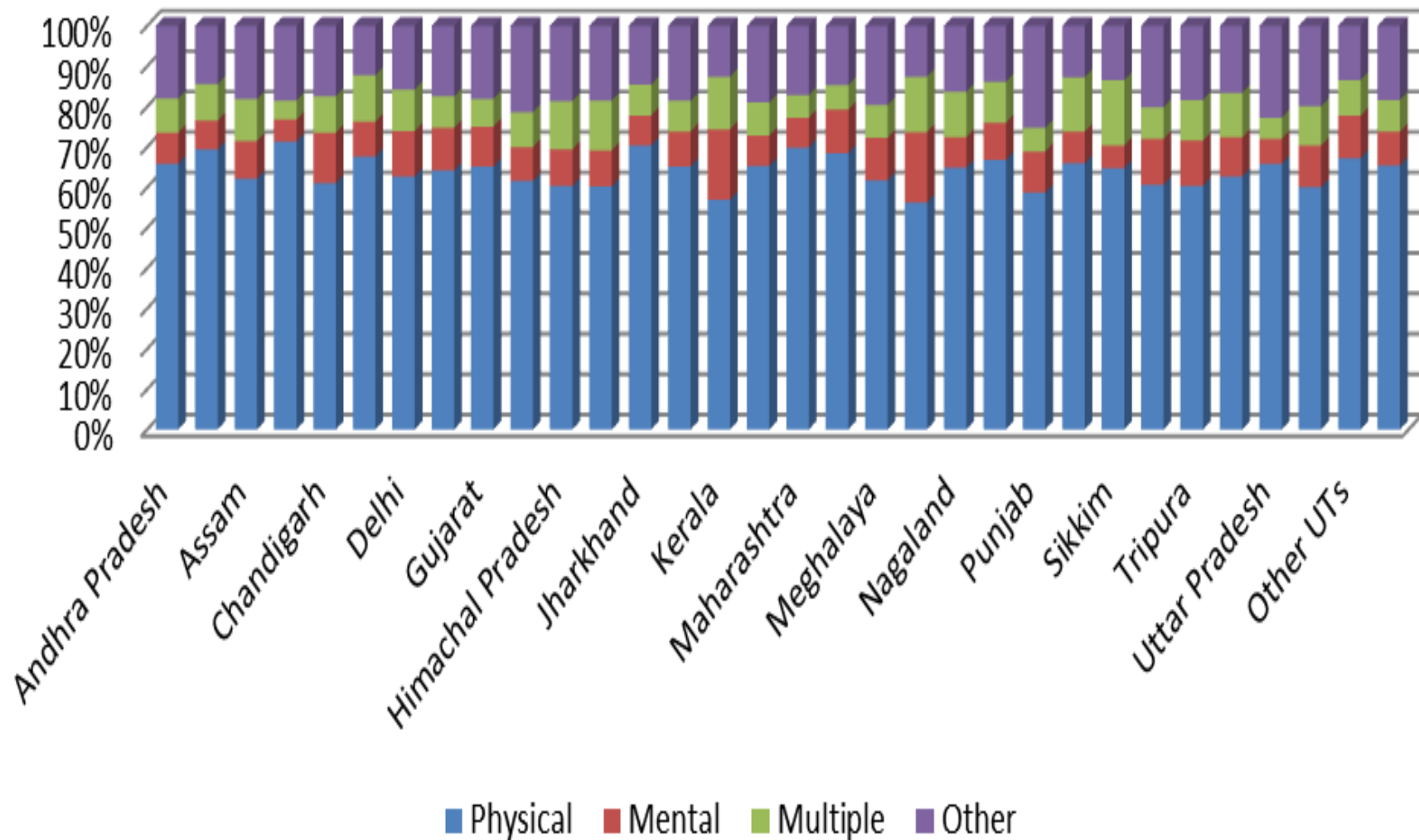


Figure 6: Disability by Different Types Across Age Groups in India, 2011.

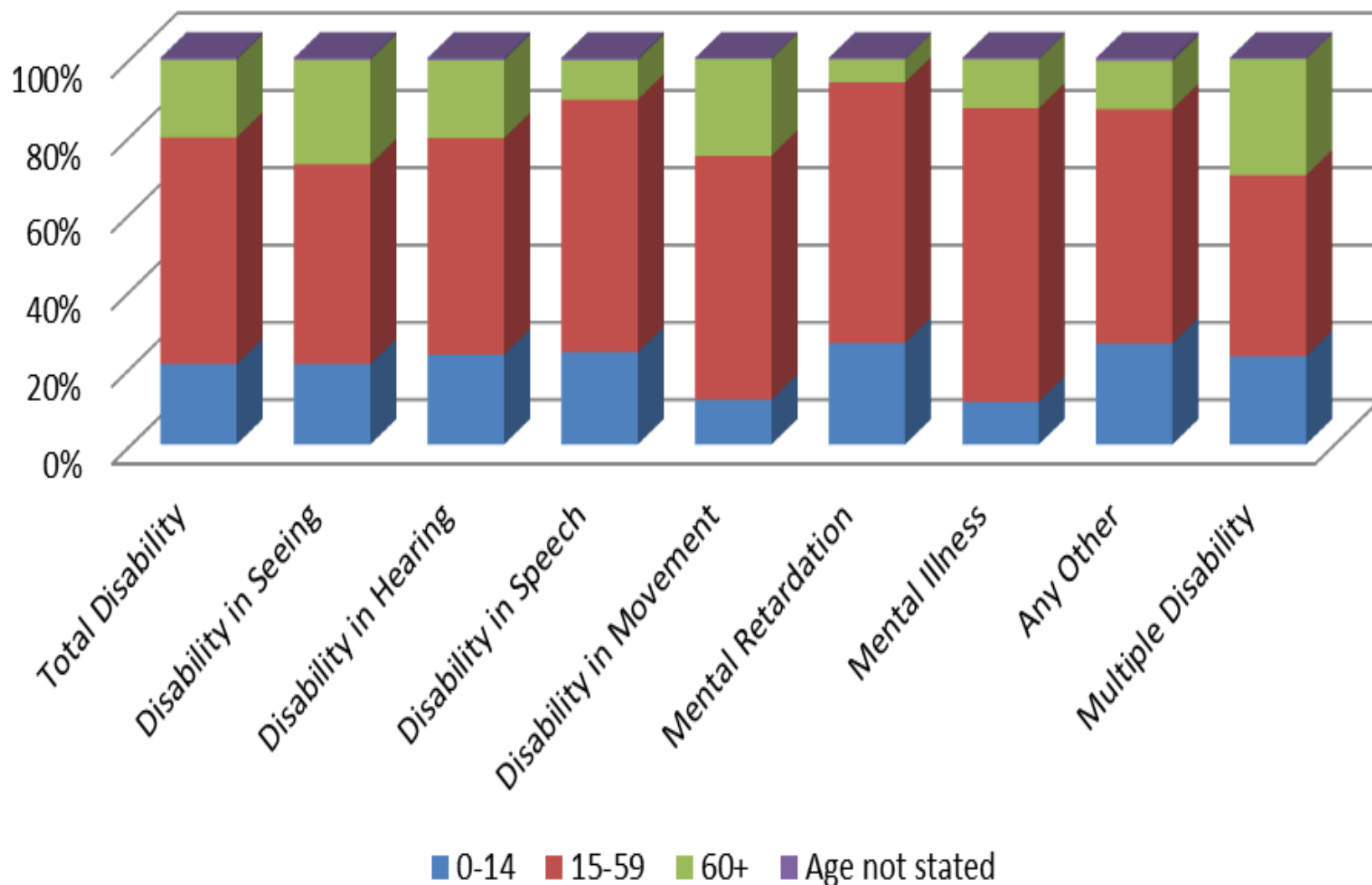


Figure 7: Proportion of Literacy among Disabled Population in States of India, 2011.

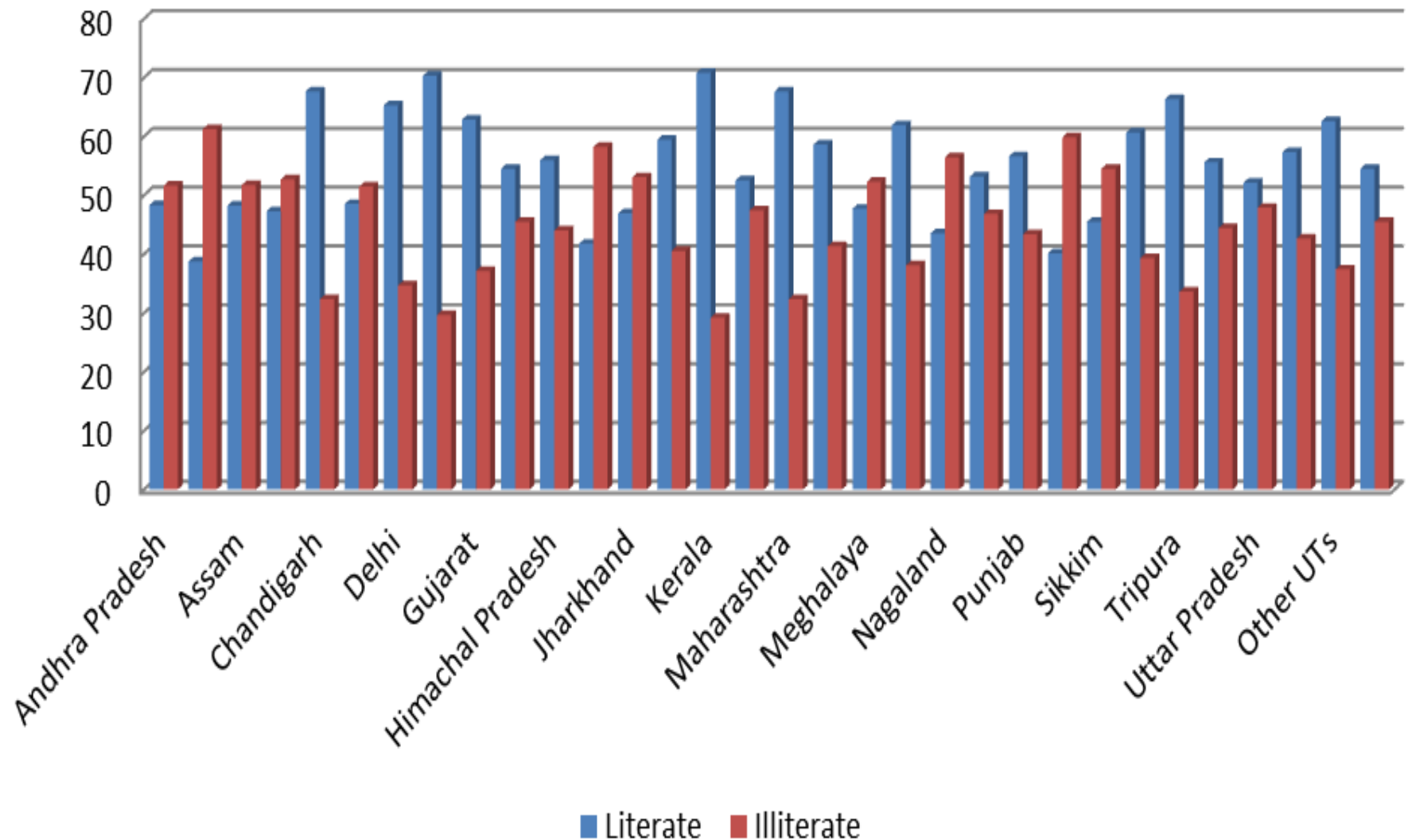
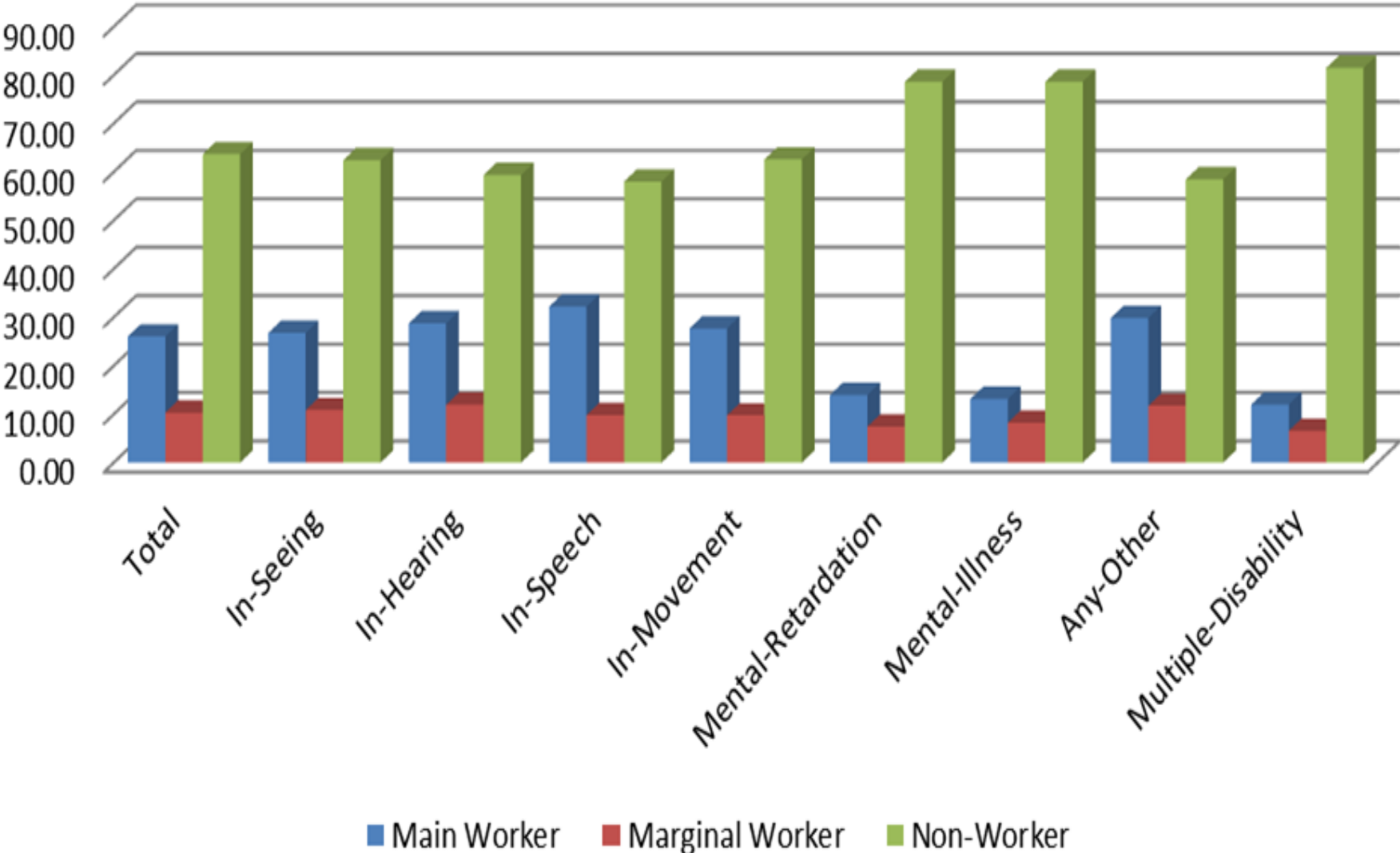


Figure 8: Worker-Population Ratio Across Types of Disability in India, 2011.



4. SDG Indicators on Disability:

- SDG Outcome Document: 17 goals and 169 accompanying targets.
- Statistical Commission formed Inter Agency Expert Group (IAEG).
- TOR of IAEG: Technical support to Indicator Framework for monitoring SDG targets.
- SDG Targets explicitly referring to disability must include disability related indicators.
- Washington Group to provide structure of questionnaire for developing disability dataset
- SDG refers to 7 targets that explicitly refer to persons with disabilities (Table 1)

Table 1: Goals, Targets and Indicators Explicitly Addressing Persons with Disabilities.		
Goals	Target	Proposed Indicator
Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.	4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including <i>persons with disabilities</i> , indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.	4.5.1 Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top quintile and others such as disability status, indigenous people and conflict-affected as data become available) for all indicators in this list that can be disaggregated.
	4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, <i>disability</i> and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.	4.a.1 Percentage of schools with access to: (a) electricity; (b) Internet for pedagogical purposes; (c) computers for pedagogical purposes; (d) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities; (e) single-sex basic sanitation facilities; and (f) hand-washing facilities (as per the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) indicator definitions). 4.b.1 Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships by sector and type of study.
Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and <i>persons with disabilities</i> , and equal pay for work of equal value.	8.5.1 Average hourly earnings of female and male employees by occupation, age group and persons with disabilities. 8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age group and persons with disabilities.
Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries	10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all irrespective of age, sex, <i>disability</i> , race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.	10.2.1 Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, disaggregated by age group, sex and persons with disabilities
Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, <i>persons with disabilities</i> and older persons.	11.2.1 Proportion of the population that has convenient access to public transport, disaggregated by age group, sex and persons with disabilities
	11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for women and children, older persons and <i>persons with disabilities</i> .	11.7.1 The average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, disaggregated by age group, sex and persons with disabilities 11.7.2 Proportion of women subjected to physical or sexual harassment, in the last 12 months, by perpetrator and place of occurrence
Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the number of countries that have their own national statistical systems	17.18.1 Proportion of sustainable development indicators produced at the national level with full disaggregation by sex and persons with disabilities relevant to the target, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

- 6 additional SDG targets that refer to persons in vulnerable situations & include persons with disabilities (Table 2).

Table 2: Goals Addressing Persons in Vulnerable Situations.

Target
1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable
1.4 By 2030 ensure that all men and women, particularly the poor and the vulnerable , have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership, and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology, and financial services including microfinance
1.5 By 2030 build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations , and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters
2.1 By 2030 end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round
6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
11.5 By 2030 significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of affected people and decrease by y% the economic losses relative to GDP caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with the focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations

- 2 objectives of Statistical Division:

(i) Develop international guidelines for measuring disability

(ii) Enhance capacity of national statistical systems to generate disability statistics based on international guidelines.

- Work started in May 2015 and runs through March 2019 to enable national statistical offices to produce/disseminate reliable disability statistics and monitor the progress.

- UN [2016 a]: Indicators grouped into 3 tiers depending on levels of methodological development and data availability:

Tier I: Established methodology exists and data are available

Tier II: Methodology has been established but data are not available

Tier III: Internationally agreed methodology has not developed

5. India's Preparedness Adopting SDG-Disability Indicators:

- India ratified UNCRPD in 2007 → obligatory on India to frame up domestic laws/policies with this international treaty.
- Requires India to generate disability data through Washington Group questions to comply with SDG indicators framework.
- As per websites of UN Statistics Division & CRPD Secretariat:
 - 41 countries included Washington Group questions in recent censuses
 - 54 countries pre-tested or added in the national survey
 - India does not feature in any of the list
- Census 2011 Data:
 - Disability prevalence by rural-urban, social groups, sex, age, literacy, types & worker status
 - Disability prevalence by 8 different types
 - Disability prevalence in constituent states
 - No data on disability by income groups or rehabilitation support

- World Disability Report indicated developing countries collect disability data through Censuses using narrow impairment choices & report low disability prevalence rates (Table 3).
- Use of Washington Group questions in Telangana Disability Study Group of International Centre for Evidence in Disability: Prevalence rate 12.2%. (2.68% for Andhra Pradesh in Census 2011)
- Recent government documents: GOI [2011] and GOI [2012] mention about Washington Group questions but silent on any plans using them in census/surveys.

Washington Group Questions

Census Question

1). Do you have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?

a) No: No difficulty, b) Yes: Some difficulty, c) Yes: A lot of difficulty, d) Cannot do at all

2). Do you have difficulty hearing, even if using a hearing aid?

a) No: No difficulty, b) Yes: Some difficulty, c) Yes: A lot of difficulty, d) Cannot do at all

3). Do you have difficulty walking or climbing steps?

a) No: No difficulty, b) Yes: Some difficulty, c) Yes: A lot of difficulty, d) Cannot do at all

4). Do you have difficulty remembering or concentrating?

a) No: No difficulty, b) Yes: Some difficulty, c) Yes: A lot of difficulty, d) Cannot do at all

5). Do you have difficulty (with self-care such as) washing all over or dressing?

a) No: No difficulty, b) Yes: Some difficulty, c) Yes: A lot of difficulty, d) Cannot do at all

6). Using your usual (customary) language, do you have difficulty communicating, (for example understanding or being understood by others)?

a) No: No difficulty, b) Yes: Some difficulty, c) Yes: A lot of difficulty, d) Cannot do at all

Is the person mentally/physically disabled?

- Disability Organizations: *Leonard Cheshire Disability* argued for additional indicators:

- i) Ratio of disabled persons living on less than USD 1.25 per day

- ii) Percentage of schools accessible to children with disabilities,

- iii) Proportion of children with disabilities in need of assistive devices, adapted curricula, learning materials,

- iv) Percentage of teachers receiving in-service training on inclusive education,

- v) Proportion of disabled persons who use government health care as compared to total population.

- No such data exists on these aspects in Indian disability sector.

- Table 4: Definition/Method of computation, Data Source and Tier Levels for the 7 SDG disability indicator.

- Disability Data in India appears inadequate in the light of Table 4.

Table 4: Goals, Targets and Indicators Explicitly Addressing Persons with Disabilities.

Indicator	Definition and Method of Computation	Source	Tier
4.5	Parity indices require no additional data than the specific disaggregation of interest. They are simply the ratio of the indicator value for one group to that of the other. Typically, the likely more disadvantaged group is the numerator. A value of exactly 1 indicates parity between the two groups.	UNESCO, UNICEF, UN-Women, WB.	1
4.a	The percentage of schools by level of education (primary, lower secondary and upper secondary) with access to the given facility or service.	UNESCO-UIS, UNICEF	2 1
3.5	The gender wage gap measures the relative difference between the average hourly earnings for men and the average hourly earnings for women. It is computed as the difference between the gross average hourly earnings of male and female employees expressed as percentage of gross average hourly earnings of male employees. Earnings refers to regular remuneration received from employers, in cash and in kind, and includes direct wages and salaries for time worked or work done, remuneration for time not worked (e.g. paid annual leave), as well as bonuses and gratuities that are regularly received. It excludes contributions paid by employers to social security and pension schemes in respect of their employees, benefits received by employees under these schemes, and severance and termination pay.	ILO, UN-Women	2 1
10.2.	The indicator is calculated as the proportion of persons living in households (adjusted for household size) below 60% of the national median income, using population-weighted subgroup estimates from household surveys.	UNDESA, OECD	1
11.2	No internationally agreed methodology exists for measuring convenience and service quality of public transport and these data are not available in most middle income countries. It is proposed to use an innovative mechanism of data collection and analysis.	UN-Habitat	2
11.7	<p>11.7.1 Public space is publicly owned land and available for public use. Public spaces encompass a range of environments including streets, sidewalks squares, gardens, parks, conservation areas. The use of this indicator aims to integrate urban form and spatial analysis in the monitoring of Goal 11 of the Sustainable Development Goals.</p> <p>11.7.2 Number of girls and women aged 15+ who were subjected to physical or sexual harassment in the last 12 months, as percentage of all women aged 15+, disaggregated by perpetrator and place of occurrence (of latest episode). Due to the lack of agreed definition and comparable data, this indicator is currently classified as Tier III.</p>	UN-Habitat UN-Women	3
17.18	<p>17.18.1 The ability of National Statistical Offices and other bodies within countries to report on the diversity of SDG indicators is itself a measure of capacity, particularly when we think about the eventual complexity of the indicator framework as well as the points of disaggregation. Right now, a number of the existing indicators are calculated or modeled at global level, and the purpose of this indicator is to measure the shift in that calculation process to the national level.</p> <p>17.18.2 No metadata received on current indicator formulation.</p> <p>17.18.2 No metadata received on current indicator formulation.</p>	UNCDF, UNEP, UNFPA	1

Source: Extracted from Annex III of UN [2016 a].

6. In conclusion:

- Absence of specific reference to disability in MDGs resulted increased marginalization of persons with disabilities.
- Objective of the Indicators Framework (through IAEG & HLG): Develop statistical guidelines to review progress of SDGs → National Ownership over Country-level data → Responsibility of National Statistical Systems.
- India does not use Washington Group questions but figures in the list of 8 countries that undertakes nationally representative surveys.
- Status/Availability of disability data could be a challenge for monitoring India's progress.

- Need for capacity building in Indian Statistical Systems to prepare disability statistics as per the Indicators Framework of IAAG-SDG.
- Reliable set of disability statistics useful to plan and implement development goals for disabled persons in India.
- Development initiative like SDG has provided a big priority for disability indicators – India can use the opportunities to remove the disabling barriers.

Thank You ...