

Suggestions for Implementing the Disability Measure

By
Group (2)

1- Introduction

Development for all citizens should be the right of all persons, healthy and unhealthy persons. In order to get benefit from the developmental process and even to participate in this process, accurate information on disable persons in any society should be available.

In most of developing countries, the statistics on disable persons are not accurate. Under reporting is the main obstacles against availability of these statistics. All efforts should be done to collect more accurate data on disable persons according to the type of disability since these statistics are the backbone of establishing any service program to help these disable people to be involved into the developmental process of the whole country.

This paper aims at raising some suggestion to implement the general disability measure in some countries from a pilot study as a first step for more comprehensive implementation in case of success.

2-Objectives of the paper:

- 1- Selecting some countries to apply a pilot testing study for the short questions suggested by Group (1).
- 2- Raising some suggestions for questionnaire translation, enumerator training and comparability between countries.

1- Implementing a pilot testing Study:

The short form (questionnaire) decided by Group (1) should be examined in only one or two countries from each continent (Africa, Asia, Europe, U.S.A, and Australia) as a pilot study. After selecting the countries, we will try to select two areas of each country, one urban and one rural, if exist. Each member of Washington City group could play a role in backing the implementation of this pilot testing study in his country as well as its data processing and analysis to be presented in one of the annual WG meetings in future.

For more details, the head of steering committee or the WG Secretariat should contact Heads of Statistical Offices in the selected countries in order to agree to conduct a pilot testing study of the questionnaire prepared by group (1). The UN interesting organizations could share funding of the pilot testing study. The statistical offices in the selected countries could also accomplish the data processing and data analysis of the results of pilot study

2-Translailion the questionnaires:

The statistical office in the selected countries could be the best in translating the questionnaire in public language. After finalizing the field work, the tables and results could be published by both English & public language

3- Training for Enumerators:

Some selected persons from WG could be nominated to travel to the selected countries to guide the training of enumerators in each country. This is because raising awareness for the importance of collecting accurate data about disability is really important and it is the key factor that leads to the success in collecting accurate data. Unfortunately many enumerators even those who have good and long experience in data collection mostly considered the disable persons are those who cannot do anything for themselves (completely handicapped) while disable persons are those who cannot do all thing as other healthy persons of their ages. Hence, great under- enumeration was shown in many developing countries. Raising awareness of the appropriate definition of disable persons taken from ICF should be one of the main purpose for sending one of WG members to guide training in each country, that selected to conduct the testing pilot study.

4- Comparison between Countries:

Since the results are published, comparative analysis should be held by members of group (2). The comparative study could be discussed in the WG annual meeting.

5- Difficulties could be faced:

1. Funding for the suggested pilot testing:

Fund is the key factor for undertaken any study. Hence, all interesting international organizations should be contacted in order to offer some of needed funds.

2. Getting permission from the statistical offices for conducting the pilot testing in their countries:

In many countries, the statistical office permission for conducting any field survey should be taken before starting the work. Hence, in case of selecting some specific countries to conduct the field pilot testing study, the statistical office should be asked to give the permission for such studies.

3. Difficulties in coverage:

The population coverage is another methodological topic that could face the survey especially for homeless people. This could be shown in poor and underdeveloped countries more than developed ones.

4. In case of some administrative data on disable persons; discussion should be raised for how to combine the use of administrative data and survey data. However, there is an impression that the administrative data could be incomplete as compared with the survey data.