



Disability and Government Schemes: Social Work Perspective

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ABSTRACT

The abstract focuses on the disability with social work perspective. The paper tries to build the linkages between the challenges faced by the handicapped people and the reach of government schemes available for the same. The paper explores the social status of the disabled people. The people with disability are discriminated in the society. The social work field is known for the advocacy for the oppressed and discriminated people for their empowerment and upliftment. The paper focused on the contemporary and social issues with special reference to benefits of government schemes. The plea is made to the social work profession and the disability movement to combine the efforts towards the upliftment of people with disability.

Key words: *Disability, Social Work, Government Schemes, Discrimination*

INTRODUCTION

As per the World Health Organisation's definition disability is a part of human being. It results from the interaction between individual with health conditions such as Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, Depression and several other disorders. There are many social and environmental factors that contribute towards the cause. The surrounding environment of the person has a huge impact on the experience and extent of disability.

As per the definition of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), A disability is any condition of the body or mind (impairment) that makes it more difficult for the person with the condition to do certain activities (activity limitation) and interact with the world around them (participation restrictions).

There are many types of disabilities, such as those that affect a person's:

Vision

Movement

Thinking

Remembering

Learning

Communicating

Hearing

Mental health

Social relationships

Although "people with disabilities" sometimes refers to a single population, this is actually a diverse group of people with a wide range of needs. Two people with the same type of disability can be affected in very different ways. Some disabilities may be hidden or not easy to see.

According to the World Health Organization, disability has three dimensions:1

Impairment in a person's body structure or function, or mental functioning; examples of impairments

- PWD is an Indian government agency responsible for building and maintaining public services, such as public government construction, highways, bridges, public transportation, drinking water sources and more.

Status of Disability

An estimated 1.3 billion people – about 16% of the global population – currently experience significant disability. This number is increasing due in part to population ageing and an increase in the prevalence of noncommunicable diseases (WHO, 2023).

According to an estimate by the WHO, globally, 15 percent of the population live with some form of disability, while over 80 percent of that share live in Low- and Middle-Income Countries. While India is home to over 1.36 billion residents, over 2.2 percent of this population endures some form of severe mental or physical disability. In today's progressive era, where integration and inclusion of all people is emphasized as the gateway toward sustainable development, targeted measures for the health and wellbeing of people with disabilities is becoming more indispensable. Conceptually, since the condition of disability is rather transient than static, there is no one universal definition of what comprises a disability or who is considered disabled. In India, the list of criteria that categorizes people as disabled was revamped in 2016 and came into effect with the Rights of People with Disabilities act (RPwD) – an established list of disabilities comprising of 21 criteria. According to the Census 2021, the revised definition based on the RPwD act of 2016 also includes the recognition of physical deformities and injuries relative to acid attacks as disabilities which entitles these victims to various forms of governmental aid and support (Sanyukta Sapkal, 2022).

Criteria for PwD

The Government of India only considers people for PwD reservation who suffer from minimum 40% of relevant disability. In simple terms, if you have low vision, it would have to be at least 40% low compared to the normal eye-sight in order for your case to be considered for PwD reservation.

Types of disabilities

Disability has been defined based on an evolving and dynamic concept.

The types of disabilities have been increased from existing 7 to 21 and the Central Government will have the power to add more types of disabilities. The 21 disabilities are given below: -

- Physical Disability
 1. Leprosy Cured Person
 2. Cerebral Palsy
 3. Dwarfism
 4. Muscular Dystrophy
 5. Acid Attack Victims
- Visual Impairment
 - i. Blindness
 - ii. Low Vision
- Hearing Impairment
 1. Deaf
 2. Hard of Hearing
 3. Speech and Language Disability
- Intellectual Disability
 - 1) Specific Learning Disabilities
 - 2) Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Mental Behavior (Mental Illness)
- Disability caused due to-
 - Chronic Neurological Conditions such as
 - Multiple Sclerosis
 - Parkinson's Disease

- Blood Disorder
 1. Hemophilia
 2. Thalassemia
 3. Sickle Cell Disease
 4. Multiple Disabilities

Persons with "benchmark disabilities" are defined as those certified to have at least 40 per cent of the disabilities specified above.

Availability of Government Schemes

Article 21 of our Indian Constitution states that "Protection of Life and Personal Liberty: No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to the procedure established by law."

Among the many different ways and scenarios, the law has been interpreted, there is one that states-

A person's life is not just about the right to survive. It is something more than surviving or animal existence. It also entails being able to live a complete life of dignity and meaning. Dignity and meaning are the two things the government is aiming to provide through the Chief Ministergi Shotharabasingi Tengbang (CMST). There are other several schemes given below,

- Scheme of National Scholarship for Persons with Disabilities
- 3% reservation in govt / govt aided institutes
- Comprehensive Education Scheme for Disabled Children
- Integrated Education for the Disabled in the Secondary Stage.
- Rajiv Gandhi Fellowship to pursue higher education
- Financial assistance from NHFDC
- Special employment exchanges
- The Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDP)
- Composite Regional Centers for Persons with Disabilities (CRCs)
- District Disability Rehabilitation Centers (DDRCs)
- Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase /Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP Scheme)
- 'Scheme of Public Sector Banks for Orphanages, Women's Home and Physically Handicapped persons'
- The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC)
- Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)
- Indira Awas Yojana
- Scheme of National Awards for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
- Trust Fund for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities via Civil Appeals
- Technology Development Projects in Mission Mode.

Objectives of the study

- To identify the Person with Disability in Bhikhpura village of Jetpur Pavi Taluka.
- To identify the challenges faced by Person with Disability.
- To observe the availability and utilization of Government Schemes by Person with Disability.

Research Methodology

The Survey was conducted among the person with disability in Bhikhpura Village of Jetpur Pavi Taluka. The close ended questionnaire was administered. There were total 14 respondent including 10 males and 4 females respondents.

Data Interpretation

The following points were identified,

- **Question 1-5 (Personal information – Address + Mobile number)**

The total number of respondents were 14 with 4 female respondents. They are from different faliyas like Darbar faliyu, Market faliyu, Thakor faliyu, Borkanda faliyu, Kotar faliyu, Sovanchari, Nishal faliyu, Pavi-jetpur faliyu, Jamva kotar faliyu. Out of 14 only 11 of them shared their contact number.

- **Question 6 (Age)**

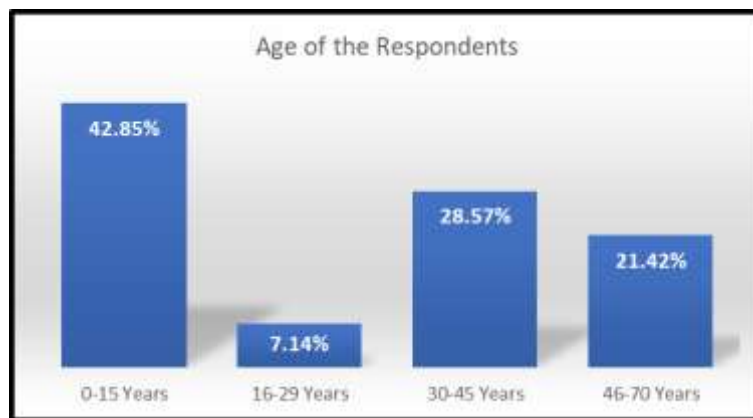
As we can see in the chart below the age group of respondents are as below:

0 - 15 years - 6 people (42.85%)

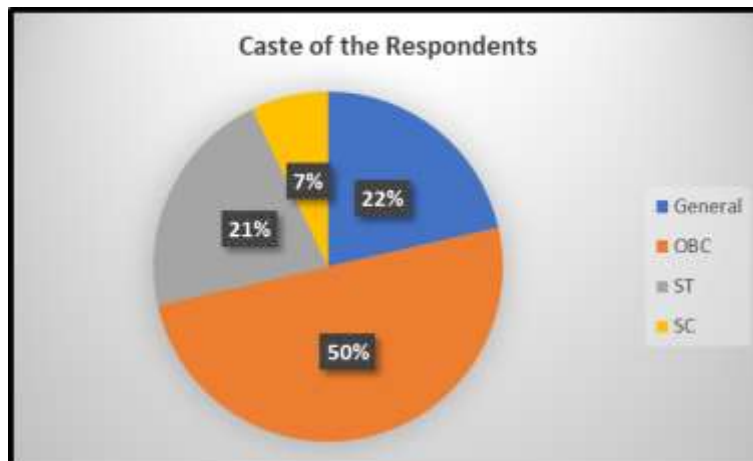
16 - 29 years - 1 person (7.14%)

30 - 45 years - 4 people (28.57%)

46 - 70 years - 3 people (21.42%)

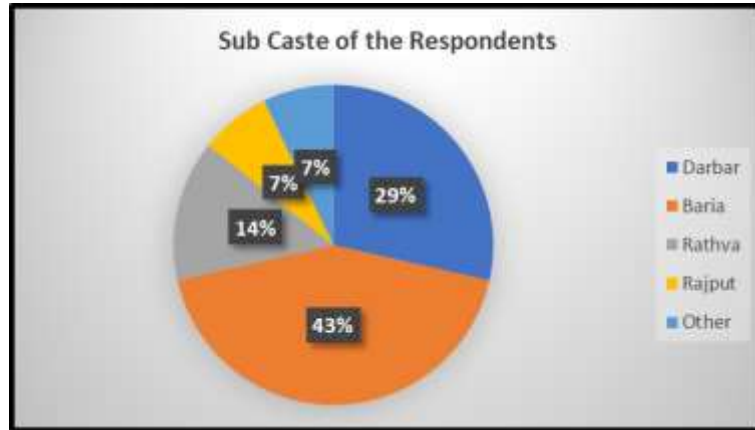


- **Question 7 (Caste)**



As per the chart it shows that half of the respondents belongs from the OBC caste. Less than one forth of them belong to the General and ST caste, while rest of them are from SC caste.

- **QUESTION 8 (Subcaste)**



There were 5 categories of subcaste which were Darbar, Rajput, Baria, Rathwa and other. As per chart less than one-half of respondents are Baria. More than one fourth respondents belongs to Darbar. While one seventh of the respondents belongs to Rathva sub caste. Less than one eighth of the respondent belongs to Rajput and Other category of the sub caste.

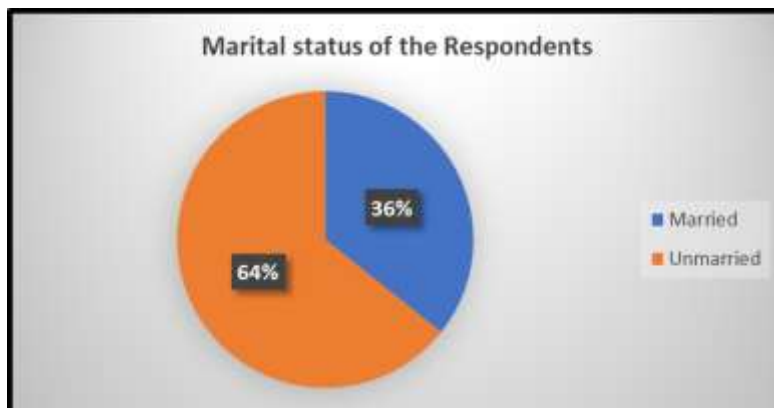
- **Question 9 (Educational Qualification)**

More than one fourth of the total respondents are studying and perusing their education in 1st - 10th. While other less than one fourth of the total respondents are studying in 11th to 12th or are uneducated respectively. One seventh of the total respondents are Graduated and in the Play group respectively.



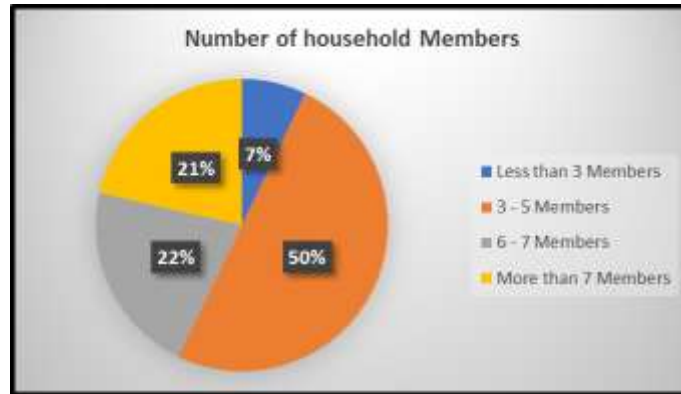
- **Question 10 (Marital status)**

Two third of the respondents are unmarried while one third of the respondents are married.



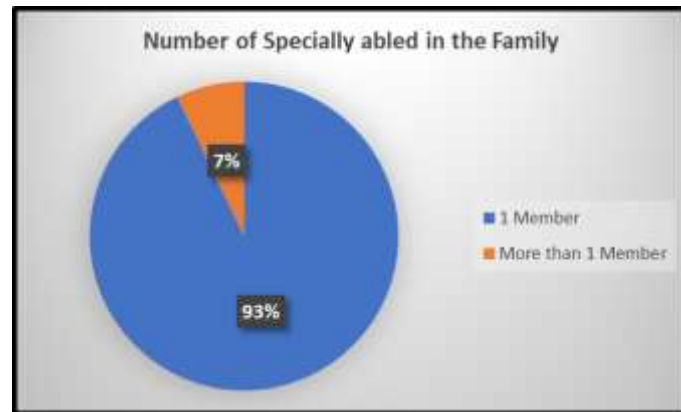
- **Question 11 (Number of household members)**

As per the chart half of the total respondents have three to five family members in their family. More than one fourth of the total respondents have six to seven members in their family while less than one fourth of the total respondents have more than seven members in their house. Only less than one eighth of the respondents are having less than three family members in their house.



- Question 12 (Number of specially abled in the family)**

Majority of the total respondents have only one member specially abled in their family while only one eighth on the total respondents have two specially abled in their family.

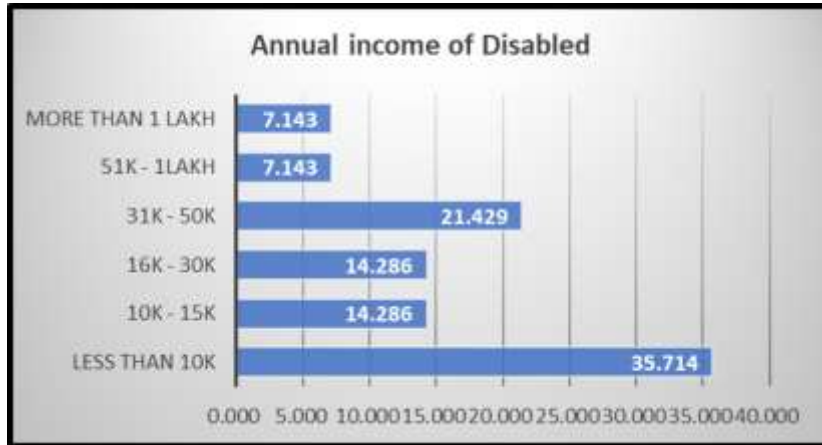


- Question 13 (Occupation of disabled person)**



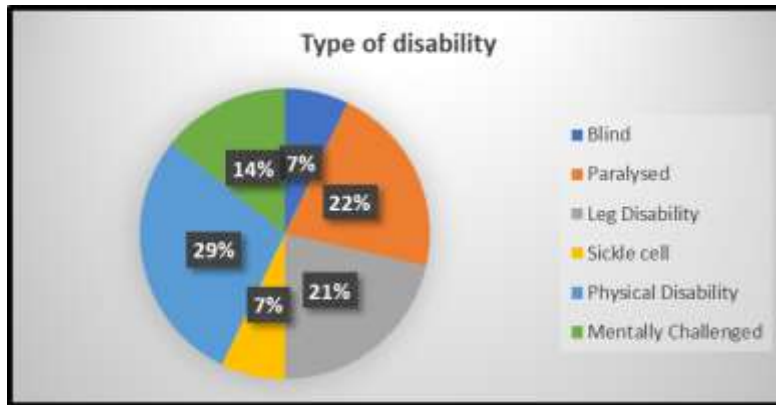
Less than one half of the total respondents are doing farming as their occupation. More than one seventh of the total respondents are doing business while one seventh of the total respondents are doing labour work and job respectively. While one fourth of the total respondents are unemployed or engaged with other activity.

- Question 14 (Annual income of disabled)**



Nearly Two third of the total respondents are having less than 10 thousand rupees as their annual income while less than one fourth of the total respondents have annual income between more than 30 thousand but less than 50 thousand. More than one fourth of the total respondents have annual income in between 10 thousand rupees to 30 thousand rupees. Only one seventh of the total respondents earns more than 51 thousand rupees as their annual income.

- **Question 15 (Type of disability)**



Out of data collected there has been found many kind of disabilities among village people which are as below:

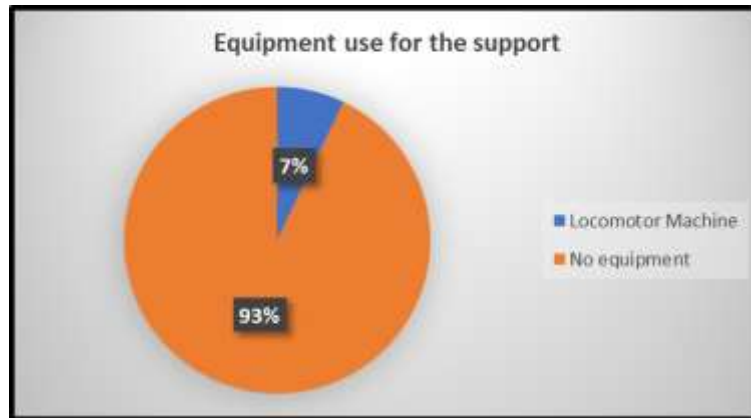
Blindness (7%), Paralysis (22%), Leg disability (21%), Mentally disability (14%), Physical disability (29%) and Sickle cell anemia (7%).

- **Question 16 (Do they have disability certificate)**



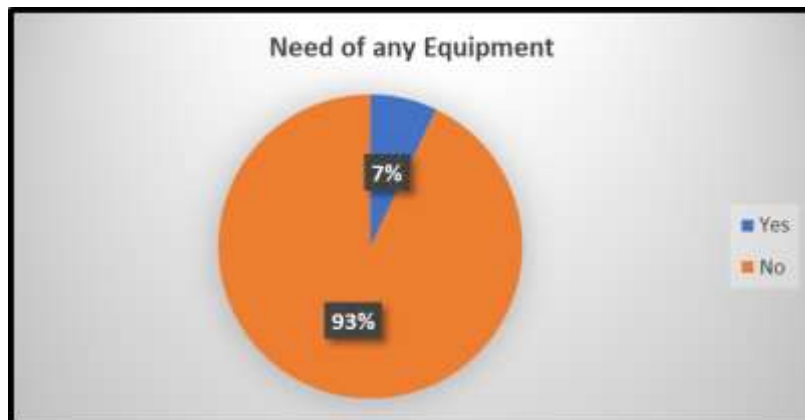
More than one half of the total respondents have the certificate of the disability while the other do not have the certificate of the disability.

- **Question 17 (Equipment they use)**



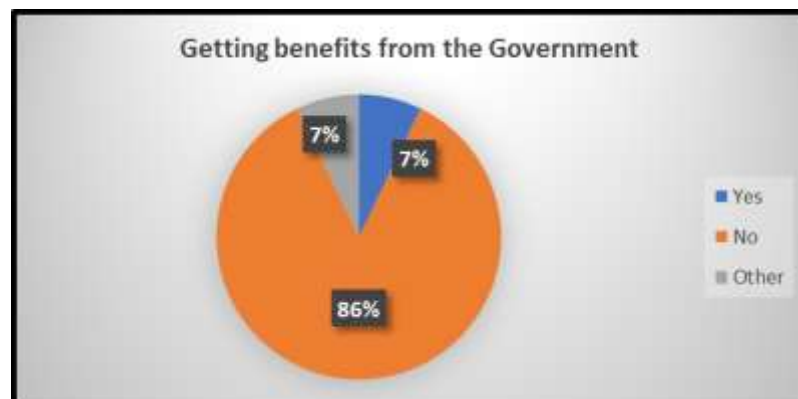
Out of the total respondents only one of them uses kind of equipment which is locomotor machine while others does not have any kind of access to any equipment for the support.

- **Question 18 (Need of any equipment)**



Out of the total respondents only one of them have wished to need any equipment which is a Stick other than that none of them have wished to have anything as equipment for the support.

- **Question 19 (Benefits from government)**

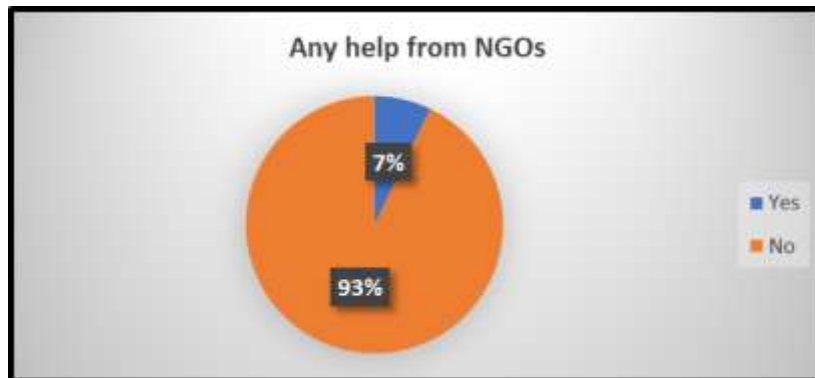


More than three fourth of the total respondents are not availing benefits from the Government organisation while one seventh of the total respondent have not responded to the question and not availing Government benefits from any organisation.

- **Question 20 (Which kind of help they are getting from government)**

As mentioned in above question one respondent is getting help from the government and that too related to education. Others are not getting any kind of help from the government.

- **Question 21 (Do they get any kind of help from NGOs?)**

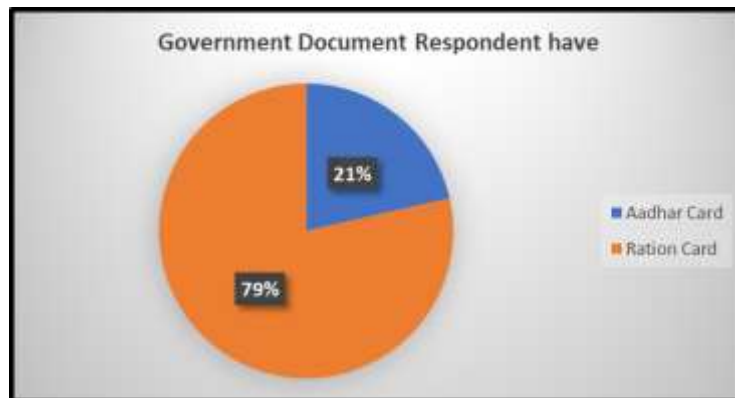


Out of the total respondents only one of them is getting help from a NGO while the other respondents do not have any access to avail help from NGOs.

- **Question 22 (Which kind of help they are getting from NGOs?)**

As mentioned in above question one of the respondent is getting help from the NGO and they are provided him cycle. Other than that none of the respondent availed any kind of help from any NGOs.

- **Question 23 (Which kind of government documents do they have?)**



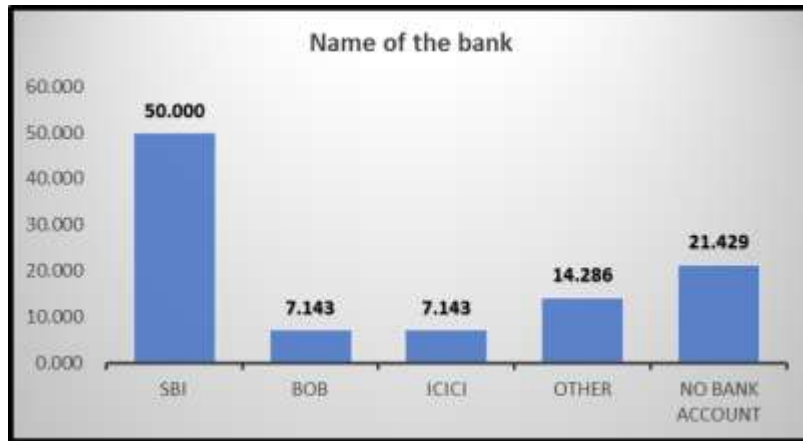
More than two third of the total respondents have Ration card as their Government document while the other less than one fourth of the total respondents have Aadhar card as their Government document.

- **Question 24 (Do they have bank account?)**



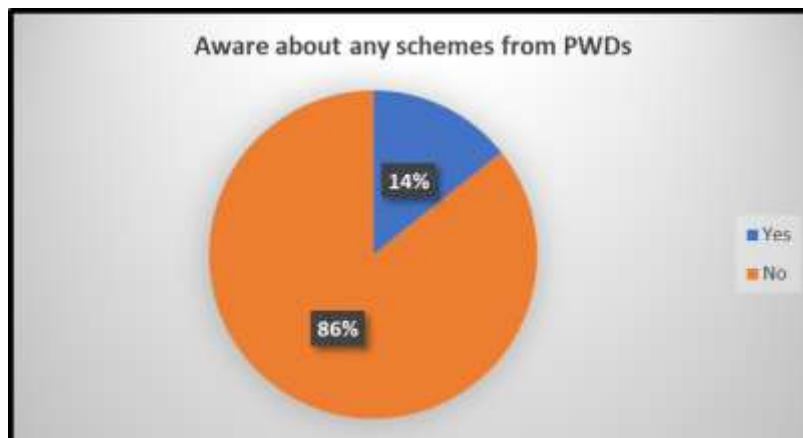
More than two third of the total respondents have their bank account while the other less than one fourth of the total respondents do not have any bank account.

- **Question 25 (In which bank they have their accounts?)**



Out of two third of respondents responded yes for the availability of bank account and from that 2 respondents did not responded to this question. Further which majority of them have their savings account in the State bank of India while rest have in ICICI and Bank of Baroda respectively.

- **Question 26 (Are they aware about any schemes from PWDs?)**

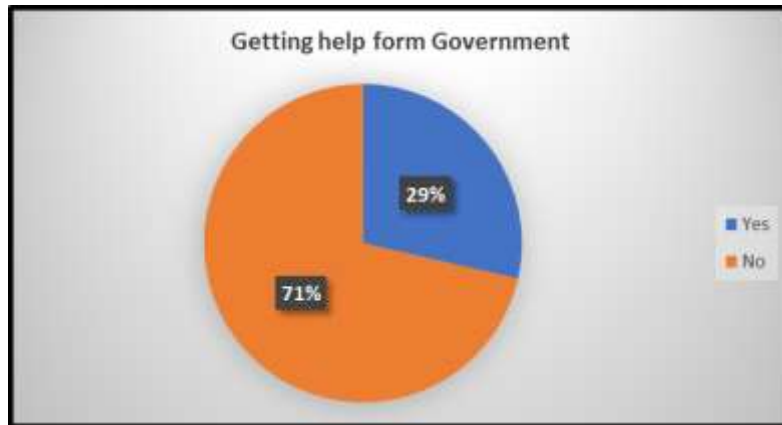


Out of collected data is shows that only two of total respondents are aware about schemes from PWDs. Other than that rest are not aware about any schemes.

- **Question 27 (If yes than which are they?)**

As mentioned in question above less than one seventh of the respondent know about the schemes from PWDs which is related to education while rest of them are unaware about the schemes from the PWDs.

- **Question 28 (Are they getting any kind of help form government?)**



Less than three fourth of the total respondents are not availing and help or support from the Government while more than one fourth of the total respondents are aware and availing help from the Government.

- **Question 29 (Which kind of help they are getting from government?)**

More than three fourth of the total respondents are availing help from the government as a sewing machine as a source of income to earn. While other one seventh of the total respondents is not getting any help from the Government.

- **Question 30 (Any feedback/suggestions)**

As a closing question there was a section for suggestion and feed backs where some of them respondedd:

- They need medical help,
- Doctor or nearby consultant for emergency,
- Awareness on government schemes on Disability to be provided,
- Need help to get disability certificate,
- Government and NGO must aware the people about the benefits for the disable people.

Findings and Suggestions

- There are very few NGOs from who the help can be seek.
- The people are unaware about the government schemes.
- Only 25% people avail the benefit of the government schemes.
- There is less awareness about government schemes related to education.
- More than 50% of the respondents are having certificate of disability.

Suggestions

- There is a need to create more awareness about the Government Schemes related to PwD.
- The social worker can play an important role of facilitator in availing the benefits of the schemes.
- The social worker can become an advocate for the discriminated and oppressed people.
- There is a need of more networking between NGOs and various Government Organisations.

Conclusion:

The new profession of disability social worker needs to introduce to work especially in the area of disability. There has to be a greater number of collaborations happening between the GOs and NGOs in order to help the disabled people. The Social Worker can play an important role of facilitator, moderator, educator and advocate in the field of disability.

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