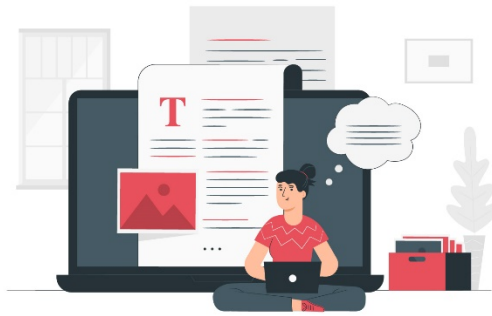


IMPACT FACTOR: 7.86

ISSN 0976 - 8165



# THE CRITERION

AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL IN ENGLISH

12<sup>th</sup> Year of Open Access

Bi-Monthly Refereed and Peer-Reviewed  
Open Access e-Journal

Vol. XII, Issue-2 (April 2021)

Editor-In-Chief : Dr. Vishwanath Bite  
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ISSN 2278-9529

Galaxy: International Multidisciplinary Research Journal

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## **Social Status of the Differently Abled Persons: With Special Reference to Marriage**

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**Article History:** Submitted-22/03/2021, Revised-27/04/2021, Accepted-04/05/2021, Published-05/05/2021.

### **Introduction:**

In this world of globalization research in social sciences taking its wide range of attention. It is one of the important duties of social scientists to undertake the study of socio-economic condition of those people whom we are calling as vulnerable sections of the society, to know whether they are receiving the reasonable share of the national income of the country along with respectful social status in the society. Differently abled persons are most vulnerable section of the society, facing tremendous problems in day to day life and are thrown out from the mainstream of the society. Helen Keller said, “It has been said that my life has treated me harshly; and sometimes I have complained in my heart because many pleasures of human experience have been withheld from me...if much has been denied me, much, very much, has been given to me...”. These are the words of the person who accepted the challenges of multiple disabilities and proved that disable person is not disabled by mental or physical capacity. They are having the wings to fly over from the problems and they should be regarded as differently abled. As a social phenomenon, disability studies gaining wide recognition from social scientists all over the world. Disability should not be taken only as personal impute or limited to impairment, but as a circumstance that evolved from the interaction between person and his environment in total.

Ira Singhal, differently abled women, IAS 2014 topper shares, “I want to be an IAS officer. I want to do something for the benefit of physically handicapped people, every struggle teaches you something. There is possibility of defeat but in life you have to fight on”.

Gota Satish Kumar, Guinness Book of World recorder, double amputee who covered 29 states and five union territories by travelling 50,000 km. by riding bike, rightly said that, “Ability and Disability are just human perceptions”.

Oscar Pistorius, Olympic medalist quotes, “You are not disabled by the disabilities you have; you are able by the abilities you have.”

Chen Guangcheng, civil rights activist, blind by physically but not mentally by giving importance to Social attitude states, “How a society treats its disabled is the true measure of a civilization”.

Deepa Malik first Indian women to win Paralympics silver medalist in Shot put in her inspirational speech that, “I dared to dream and I have determination to work hard and the passion and perseverance to follow that dream. Women often loose that and I have ensured that my family is not neglected, my children are doing well too”.

### **Objectives:**

1. To study the marital status of differently abled persons.
2. To compare the marital status of locomotors and intellectual disabled.
3. To aware about the causes for being unmarried,
4. To know about the marital status of the parents.

### **Hypothesis:**

1. Marital status of differently abled is not satisfactory.
2. Marital status of the parents of differently abled is among close relation.

### **Research Methodology:**

This research paper is based on exploratory and descriptive research design, for which both primary and secondary sources have been used. Primary source is based on the fieldwork done by the researcher and secondary source researcher used books, journals, research articles, thesis etc.

### **Theoretical Methodology:**

Before 1970's the studies on disable persons are made from the angle of medical theory but now sociologists, economists and other social scientists are also giving their concern to study the disables from different ways. Sociologists are doing studies on disability from social angle as new branch of sociology emerged called as Medical Sociology by using Social Model Theory, Marxist analysis of disability theory etc. The studies under disability previously made from the medical angle but now Social theories are so developed that social scientist can make studies on the disability from different socio-economic aspects.

### **The Medical Model of Disability:**

The medical model sees the disability as a problem of the person, directly caused by disease, trauma, or other health condition which therefore requires sustained medical care provided in the form of individual treatment by professionals. The medical model seeks medical/ rehabilitation system alone and special services to repair broken or to restore normal functioning. This disability model is physical disability is a physical condition intrinsic to the individual that may reduce the individual's quality of life and cause clear disadvantages.

In this model, medical of therapeutic care perceived as the chief concern and at the political level, the primary answer is of making improvements or restructuring the healthcare policies (Nikora, Karapu, Hickey and Teawakotuku, 2004).

In this model, medical care is viewed as main issue, and at the political level, the principal response is that of modifying or reforming healthcare policy. Main aim of this model is to 'cure', or individuals adjustment and behavioural change that would lead to an almost cure or effective cure. (Maitreya Balsara, 2014)

Medical model treats the individual from their deficiency to do the work. The person who is providing services to the disabled people look disables as sick person who needs the treatment for his disease.

Oliver narrates basic lacuna with medical model is that, "There are two fundamental points that need to be made about the individual model of disability. Firstly, it locates the problem of disability within the individual and secondly it sees the causes of this problem as stemming from the functional limitations or psychological losses which are assumed to rise from disability." (Oliver 1990).

### **The Social Model of disability:**

The Social model was adopted by the British Council of Organizations of Disabled People

In this model disability issues are seen as a socially created problem and a matter of the full integration of individuals in the society. Social model encompasses restriction on people with disabilities, ranging from negative social attitudes to institutional discrimination, from inaccessible public buildings to unusable transport system, from segregated education to exclusion in work arrangements.

"It is not the physical, sensory, cognitive or mental impairment of the individual that disables, but rather disability results from the structural handicapping effects of society geared towards able-bodiedness as the norm" (Hughes, 1998).

The social model of disability gives us the words to describe our inequality. It separates out (disabling barriers) from impairment (not being able to walk or see or having difficulty learning)... Because the social model separates out disabling barriers and impairments, it enables us to focus on exactly what it is which denies us our human and civil rights and what action needs to be taken (Morris 2000).

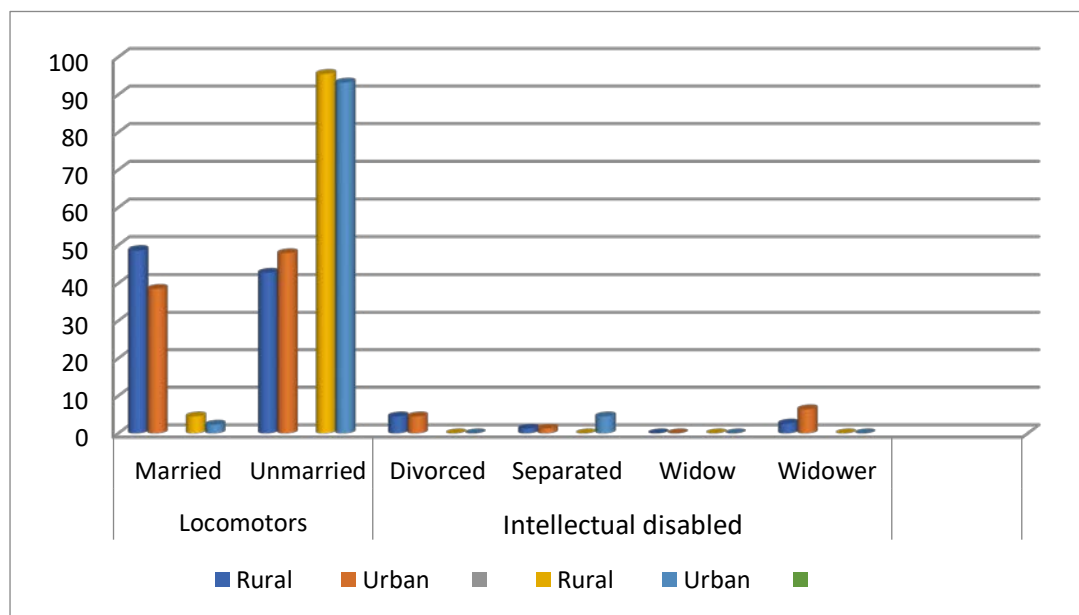
**Marital Status of Differently abled Persons:**

**Table No. 1: Marital Status of the Respondents:**

Sr. No	Status	LOCOMOTORS				INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY					
		Rural		Urban		Rural		Urban		Total	
		F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P
1	Married	76	48.7	60	38.5	2	4.5	1	2.3	139	34.7
2	Unmarried	67	42.8	75	48.0	42	95.5	41	93.2	225	56.3
3	Divorced	7	4.5	7	4.5	0	0	0	0	14	3.5
4	Separated	2	1.3	2	1.3	0	0	2	4.5	6	1.5
5	Widow	0	0	2	1.3	0	0	0	0	2	0.5
6	Widower	4	2.6	10	6.4	0	0	0	0	14	3.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(Source: Compiled By Researcher, F = Frequency, P = Percentage)

**Graph No: 1: Marital Status of the Respondents**



Marriage is one of the key social institutions of the society. Indian society believes in ‘**Ashrama System**’, the system where individual must pass through four important stages of life. Brahmacharya, Grihastha, Vanaprastha and Sanyasa. So, **Grihasthashrama** here means the getting married and performing marital duties. It is believed that marriage is long lasting tie between the two persons. Indian society believes in marriage as religious rite and it ends only with the death of either party to the marriage. So, partners were great supporters in every phases of life with emotional bond. Marriage is only the legal bond to satisfy the physical need of human-being. Indian society will not permit for pre-marital and extra-marital affairs. Cohabitation of marital tie is not great issue among normal persons as compared with differently abled person. Majority of the differently abled persons were not getting the opportunity to enter into the stage of Grihasthashrama which in turn leads to physical and psychological problems to the greater extent among these people.

In above table no 1 researcher has extracted the information that 48.7% (76) of rural and 38.5% (60) of urban respondents living in urban area married. But in case of I.D. the picture is different. Among rural I.D. 4.5% (2) and in urban 2.3% (1) of I.D. respondents got married. 42.8% (67) of rural and 48.0% (75) of urban loco-motors and 95.5% (42) of rural and 93.2% (41) of urban I.D. were not married. 4.5% (7) of loco motor respondents living both in rural and urban areas respectively were divorced. 1.3% (2) both in rural and urban area respectively the loco-motor respondents were separated and in I.D. 4.5% (2) from urban locale were separated. 1.3% (2) of women were widow and 6.4% (10) of male members were widower among urban locomotors and 2.6% (4) of male in rural areas were widower. So, in total

34.7%(139) were married, Unmarried were 56.3% (225), Divorced were 3.5% (14), Separated were 1.5% (2), Widow were 0.5% (2), widower were 3.5%(14).

No doubt married percentage among locomotors is little high but among them many respondents become differently abled after their marriage. Some were left by their spouses because of disability. Cohabitation of marriage is very difficult task in these people. The respondents who got married with another differently abled feel comfortable than marrying normal person. Researcher while giving lecture on awareness programme in one of the reputed institution run for I.D. experienced that head of the institution strongly opposes the marriage right given for all in constitution of India. They were of the opinion that the right of marriage to all must be replaced with the phrase except 'I.D.'. But researcher found one of the married I.D. working in the same institution is living happily with normal kids. Many mild I.D. were interviewed by the researcher having all the capacity to understand the marital responsibility. They were very eager to get married. Some of the respondent openly told that they were satisfying their sexual needs by prostitute and also aware about the family planning methods. So, large amount of depression is found among locomotors and I.D. regarding marital life. Female members were facing worst situation in this case. They were not supported by the family members to get married. I.D. women were forced to do the sterilization, which affect badly on their health. So, over all differently abled persons were didn't get any moral and physical satisfaction, which in turn makes many psychological effects on them.

**Table No. 2: Status of Marriage of the Parents of Respondents:**

Sr. No	Status	LOCOMOTORS				INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY					
		Rural		Urban		Rural		Urban		Total	
		F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P
1	Close Relatives	40	25.6	45	28.8	6	13.6	6	13.6	97	24.3
2	Outsiders	116	74.4	111	71.2	38	86.4	38	86.4	303	75.7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(Source: Compiled by Researcher, F = Frequency, P = Percentage)

Cohabitation of marriage between parents in close relation or outside the family plays very important role to determine whether the disability arises out of genetic problem or not. It has been said that more particularly in intellectual disability one of the prime reason is parent's marriages in close relation. Above table no. 2 visualizes the picture regarding this factor. Researcher observed that among loco-motors 25.6% (40)and 28.8% (45)marriages were tied in

close relation whereas this case in I.D. is 13.6% (6) respectively both in urban and rural areas. 74.4% (116) and 71.2% (111) among loco-motors parents and 86.4% (38) both in rural and urban parents cohabited their marriage outside the blood relations.

From this above table researcher has found that in Karveer taluka marriage among blood relation is not the main cause for the disability. But possibilities much arises when parents have same blood group or either party to the marriage have positive and negative blood group

**Table No. 3: Respondents Causes for being Unmarried**

Sr. No	Causes	LOCOMOTORS				INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY					
		Rural		Urban		Rural		Urban		Total	
		F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P
1	Abandoned by Spouses	33	21.1	30	19.2	4	9.1	5	11.4	72	18.0
2	Family Discouragement	17	10.9	4	2.6	0	0	0	0	21	5.2
3	Self Stigma	7	4.5	17	10.9	6	13.6	2	4.5	32	8.0
4	Other	12	7.7	24	15.4	32	72.7	34	77.2	102	25.6
5	Not Applicable	87	55.8	81	51.9	2	4.5	3	6.9	173	43.2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>100.0</b>

In this table no .3 researcher examined that 21.1% (33) of rural and 19.2% (30) of urban locomotors and 9.1%(4) among rural and 11.4% (5)of urban I.D. have searched for the spouses but did not get the spouse and those who were youngsters were still searching the spouse for marriage. Lack of family support makes many loco-motors to remain unmarried. This percentage among loco-motors is 10.9% (17)in rural and 2.6%(4) in urban respondents but this is not in case of I.D.. 4.5% (7) of rural and 10.9% (17) urban locomotors and 13.6% (6) and 4.5% (2)I.D. were not married because of self-stigma and in Others which includes problems of ill health and severe I.D. counts for 7.7% (12)in rural and 15.4% (24)in urban loco-motors and 72.7% (32)in rural and 77.2% (34)among I.D. 55.8% (87) of rural and 51.9% (81) of urban loco-motors and 4.5% (2)of rural and 6.9% (3)of urban I.D. were married so this question is not applicable to them. So, in total 18.0% were abandoned by spouses, 5.2% not got married because of family discouragement, 8.0% were self-stigmatized and 25.6% for some other reasons not got married and it is not applicable to 43.2% of respondents as they got married.



It is seen from above table researcher has come up with the fact that differently abled persons were more prone towards not getting married life as they were abandoned by the spouses. Many loco-motors were discouraged by the family members as they don't want take the burden of other disable spouse. Many earning female loco-motors were not allowed to marry as parents may loose the family income. Self-stigma that we were not able bodied so that we should not get into the married life also makes these person to remain unmarried and mostly in I.D. they could not marry because they won't even understand the meaning of marriage.

**Hypothesis testing:**

**1. Marital status of differently abled persons is not satisfactory**

**Table no: 4 The Marital Status of Respondents according to the Locality and Disability.**

<b>The Marital Status of Respondents according to the Locality and Disability</b>				
<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Locality</b>			
	<b>Rural</b>		<b>Urban</b>	
	<b>Type of Disability of Respondents</b>		<b>Type of Disability of Respondents</b>	
	<b>Loco-Motor</b>	<b>Intellectual Disability</b>	<b>Loco-Motor</b>	<b>Intellectual Disability</b>
	<b>Count</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Count</b>
<b>Married</b>	76	2	60	1
<b>Unmarried</b>	67	42	75	41
<b>Divorced</b>	7	0	7	0
<b>Separated</b>	2	0	2	2
<b>Widow</b>	0	0	2	0
<b>Widower</b>	4	0	10	0

<b>Pearson Chi-Square Tests</b>		
<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Locality</b>	
	<b>Rural</b>	<b>Urban</b>
	<b>Type of Disability of Respondents</b>	<b>Type of Disability of Respondents</b>
<b>Chi-square</b>	38.198	33.961

<b>Df</b>	4	5
<b>Sig.</b>	.000 <sup>*,b,c</sup>	.000 <sup>*,b,c</sup>

### Null Hypothesis:

The social status determined on the basis of marital status of differently abled persons according to disability and locality is equally satisfactory.

### Alternative Hypothesis

The social status determined on the basis of marital status of differently abled persons according to disability and locality is not equally satisfactory.

### Interpretation:

Using SPSS package for the cross table no.4 and by applying Chi-square test, the calculated value of  $p = 0.000$  and  $p = 0.000$  which are less than 0.05. Hence the null hypothesis is false and it is rejected at 5% level of significance. Therefore there is reason to accept the alternative hypothesis that the social status on the basis of marital status of differently abled persons (loco-motor and I.D.) according to the locality (rural and urban) is not equally satisfactory with 95% of confidence level (i.e. 95% significantly different). *Among loco-motors majority of the rural respondents got married but among intellectual disabled cohabitation of marriage is just too impossible.*

### Hypothesis 2:

**Marital status of the parents of differently abled is among close relation.**

**Table no: 5 Cohabitation of Marriage between Parents According to Caste and Locality.**

Type of Disability of Respondents			Marriage of Parents Cohabited between			
			Close Relatives		Outsiders	
			Locality		Locality	Locality
			Rural	Urban	Rural	Rural
			Count	Count	Count	Count
Loco-Motor	Caste	Brahmin	0	0	4	6
		Maratha	18	18	62	63

		<b>SC</b>	10	4	20	10
		<b>Other</b>	11	16	21	25
		<b>OBC</b>	1	7	9	7
<b>Intellectual Disability</b>	<b>Caste</b>	<b>Brahmin</b>	0	4	4	15
		<b>Maratha</b>	3	1	16	6
		<b>SC</b>	1	1	9	6
		<b>Other</b>	0	0	6	6
		<b>OBC</b>	2	0	3	5

<b>Pearson Chi-Square Tests</b>				
<b>Type of Disability and Caste</b>			<b>Marriage of Parents Cohabited between</b>	
			<b>Close Relatives</b>	<b>Outsiders</b>
			<b>Locality</b>	<b>Locality</b>
<b>Loco-Motor</b>	<b>Caste</b>	Chi-square	7.730	4.331
		df	3	4
		Sig.	.052 <sup>a</sup>	.376
<b>Intellectual Disabled</b>	<b>Caste</b>	Chi-square	7.000	12.014
		df	3	4
		Sig.	.072 <sup>a,b</sup>	.017 <sup>a,*</sup>

### **Null Hypothesis:**

The social status determined on the basis of marriage of parent's (close relation and outsider) of differently abled persons to caste and disability is equally satisfactory.

### **Alternative Hypothesis:**

The social status determined on the basis of marriage of parents of differently abled persons, according to caste and disability is not equally satisfactory.

### **Interpretation:**

Using SPSS package for table no.5, the calculated value of  $p = 0.052$ ,  $0.376$ ,  $0.072$  are greater than  $0.05$  while  $p = 0.017$  is less than  $0.05$ . Hence in above three cases the null hypothesis is true at 5% level of significance and these are accepted. But in fourth case i.e.  $p = 0.017 < 0.05$ , the null hypothesis is false and it is rejected at 5% level of significance. Therefore

in fourth case alternative hypothesis is accepted at 95% level of confidence. It has been shown as follows.

Sr.No	Type	Sub Hypothesis	Decision	Level of Significance
1	H <sub>0</sub>	The parents marriage in close relation on the basis of caste is not making significant effect on locomotors	(H <sub>0</sub> ) Accepted p = 0.052	0.05
2	H <sub>0</sub>	The parent's marriage with the outsiders on the basis of caste is not making significant effect on locomotors	(H <sub>0</sub> ) Accepted p = 0.376	0.05
3	H <sub>0</sub>	The parent's marriage with close relatives on the basis of caste is not making significant factor on ID's	(H <sub>0</sub> ) Accepted p = 0.072	0.05
4	H <sub>1</sub>	The parent's marriage with outsiders on the basis of caste is making significant effect on ID's	(H <sub>1</sub> ) Accepted p = 0.017	0.05

### Findings, Conclusion and Suggestions:

- *Unmarried* respondents found in majority (56.3%). It is more in I.D. (94.3%). Unmarried status found among *congenital respondents* in more number (36.8%). This unmarried status caused disturbance in socio-psychological and sexual feelings of these respondents.
- It is observed that in Karveer taluka *marriage among blood relation* is not the main cause for the disability. *i.e. (75.7%) married outside.*
- Researcher has come up with the fact that differently abled persons are more prone towards causes for *not getting into marital life* as they have 'other' (25.6%) reasons like health problems and severe disability which has been followed by *abandoned by the spouses* (18.0). So, differently abled for one or other reason are not able to enjoy marital life.

**Suggestions:**

- Marriage bureaus shall be set up particularly meant for differently abled. Even mild I.D. who is having full capacity to marry can also register for marriage.
- Awareness programme regarding marital responsibility have to be organized so that they can perform their marital responsibility very well. Differently abled persons have full right to get marry societal attitude towards their marriage must be changed, so that they can get more emotional support which is particularly needed in old age.

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