Overview

• National Disability Data in India
  – Disability in the Census
  – Disability in the National Sample Survey

• World Bank Village Disability Survey (2005)
The Census

• No question on disability up to 2001

• 2001 Census included one question:
Q15 If a person is disabled, enter only one of the five disabilities for that person, in codes, as given below :-

  In Seeing      1
  In Speech      2
  In Hearing     3
  In Movement    4
  Mental         5
The Census (Cont.)

The 2001 Census found 21.91 million PWD (2.13 percent of the population)

Having this question in the Census is progress...

But the question is problematic.
The National Sample Survey (NSS)

• Disability module in 1991/92 and 2001

• **Disability**: A person with restrictions or lack of abilities to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being is treated as having disability. It excludes illness/injury of recent origin (morbidity) resulting into temporary loss of ability to see, hear, speak or move.

• What can be done with the disability module?
COMPARING THE INCOMPARABLE: DISABILITY ESTIMATES IN THE CENSUS AND THE NATIONAL SAMPLE SURVEY

Disability shares by type, census and NSS, early 2000s

% of PWD population

- Multiple
- Locomotor
- Speech
- Hearing
- Visual
- Mental

Census rates
NSS rates
Limitations of Census and NSS

- *exclusion of disability categories in both NSS and census*. The reliance on PWD Act categories is a limiting factor. There are numerous examples of excluded disability categories, including autism, thalassemia, haemophilia, and many learning disabilities.

- the method of questioning on disability in both census and NSS which relies on a traditional “diagnostic” identification of disability by untrained interviewers, which recent work coming out of a UN expert group suggests is the method which yields the lowest disability estimates.
The World Bank Village Disability Survey (2005)


The purpose of the survey was not to estimate disability prevalence, but to specifically study the economic well-being of PWDs and their households in rural India.

Survey of households with and without Persons With Disabilities (PWDs).
The World Bank Village Disability Survey (2005) - Components

• **Quantitative**
  – Structured Interviews in all identified households with PWDs
  – Structured Interviews in all households without PWDs

• **Qualitative**
  – Village Profiling with Community leaders
  – Informal group discussion with the community and village mapping
  – Focus Group discussions FGDs with community (1 male and 1 female)
  – Focus Group discussions with Caretakers of PWDs
  – Semi structured interviews with
    • Auxiliary Nurse-Midwife and the Anganwadi Workers,
    • Teachers
    • Health care providers
  – Slice of life observation and case study with selected PWD cases
The World Bank Village Disability Survey (2005) - Oversampling

- A total of about 25-30 PWD households were required to be covered in each village.
- During the pilot study, it was observed that majority of the PWDs were suffering from Polio. To avoid over representation of this segment it was discussed that while sampling of the PWDs, the team would concentrate on other types of PWDs as well. To have good representation of all types of PWDs in a village the PWDs were divided into five categories:
  - Locomotor Polio
  - Locomotor Non Polio
  - Vision
  - Speech/Hearing
  - Mental Illness/Mental retardation
- A maximum of 6-7 PWDs were covered in each of the categories 2,3,4 and 5. In case the team was unable to cover 25-30 PWD households, locomotor PWDs (due to polio) were covered.
- A total of 20 non-PWD households were also covered in each village. The sampling of non-PWD households in the village was done through mapping and clustering of the village and then selecting households randomly from each cluster. This was done for better representation of the village
The World Bank Village Disability Survey (2005) – Sample achieved

PWD Interviews
  Uttar Pradesh 395
  Tamil Nadu 397
  Total 792

Non-PWD Interviews
  Uttar Pradesh 307
  Tamil Nadu 302
  Total 609
The World Bank Village Disability Survey (2005)

- A similar household survey questionnaire was administered to all households, and questions on demographic characteristics, disability, employment, education were asked for each household member.
- Selected questions on attitudes toward disability were directed toward household heads and PWDs.
• Disability Questions for adults:
  - Questions on functional limitations in seeing, hearing, walking/climbing, remembering/concentrating and communicating.
  - Questions on activity limitations, attending place of worship, going to the market or village market place.
  - Question on use of cane/crutch/wheelchair.
  - Question on person having a disability card.
  - Question on age at onset of difficulty.

• For each, the person is asked if she/he has “no difficulty; some difficulty; a lot of difficulty” or was “unable” to perform the function.

• Also Disability questions for children
Thank you!