

## Economics Status of Physical Disable People in Birendranagar Municipality

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### Abstract

*Disability refers to a physical, mental, cognitive, developmental condition that limits an individual's ability to perform daily activities independently. It can be congenital or acquired later in life through accidents, diseases, inherited conditions. The Disability Services Act (1993) of Australia defines disability as a permanent or likely permanent impairment that may be intellectual, psychiatric, sensory, physical in nature. In Birendranagar Municipality, the capital of Karnali Province a 2024 survey by Save the Children identified 1,480 persons with disabilities, comprising 54.3% males and 39.3% females. The local government has introduced several economic empowerment programs, including vocational training in areas such as dairy and bakery production, to enhance self-reliance and income opportunities. However, the economic status of people with disabilities remains affected by challenges such as unemployment, low income, limited education, and inadequate government support, highlighting the need for inclusive and sustainable development strategies.*

**Key Words :** Economics, Disable, Condition, Status, Tasks

### Introduction

Disability can be described as any physical or mental condition where a person or individual is unable to perform day to day activities without the assistance of specialized equipment's or somebody else. Merriam Webster says that disability is a physical, mental, cognitive developmental condition that impairs, interferes with or limits a person's ability to engage in certain tasks or actions disability has always been inevitable and indistinguishable part of human life.

Individuals are born with a disability, while others acquire a disability later in life due to a variety of factors including infectious disease, inherited conditions different types of accidents. The disability services act (1993) of Australia defines disability as a meaning. Attribute to an intellectual, psychiatric, cognitive, neurological, sensory physical impairment or a combination of those impairments.

Nepal is a small nation having the area of just 1,47,181 square kilometers and occupying only 0.3 percent land area of Asia and 0.03 percent area of the world. It lies in between two large countries India and China. India surrounds Nepal from western, southern and eastern sides while China lies in the northern part. Although Nepal is a small country in terms of its geography but elevation changes drastically in a short span due to its unique and varying physiographic regions, which includes high Himalayas, high mountains, middle mountains, Siwalik and Terai. Nepal is indeed very rich in bio-diversity and socio-cultural diversity due to its unique and varying physiographic regions (Bhattachan, 2003). Despite having small territory, Nepal is very rich in terms of its socio-cultural diversity. It is really unique in the world having enormous range of racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious and cultural diversity along with rapid political changes. There is a long-standing process of ethnic, identity construction and ethnic conflict. Rapid political changes, pervasive diversity and complexity as well as the interface between change and continuity are really significant issues to study about Nepal and Nepalese society.

Socio-economic means something relating to concerned with interaction of social and economic factors. Status is the legal position of a person, group country. It is in fact the complex mixture of many elements including social, political, economic, religious, ethnicity and many others. When we relate the term socio-economic with status, it denotes the social stratification of people in terms of their economic base. It replicates the position of people regarding whether they have decisive economic power in the family and society or whether they earn or not and whether they can spend by their will or not etc. The term is often used to deal with the stratification in a society without the need for the assumption that these are distinct social classes (Bhusan, 1989). The status of women is obstructed by the hindrance for their participation despite the fact that the opportunity of participation is the rights of the women. Every human being has the right to participate in decisions that define her or his life. This right is the foundation of the ideal of equal participation in decision-making among women and men. This right argues that since women know their situation best, they should participate equally with men to have their perspective effectively incorporated at all levels of decision making from the private to the public spheres of their lives, from the local to the global (Miranda, 2005).

Economic power, political strength and knowledge are the most important components to determine the position of people in the society. In this concern Chow talked about the

Asian Women in 1987. Writing an article *The Development of Feminist Consciousness among Asian American Women*, Chow argued that the social circumstances, both current and past that have affected the development and transformation of feminist consciousness among Asian American women. Gender, race, class and culture all influenced the relative lack of participation of Asian American women in the mainstream feminist movement in the United States (Chow, 1987). The article that the small number of Asian American women also caused their voices and identities to be silent. The lack of political power and economic strength also caused that group of women not to be heard by the government. Their works were considered to be unproductive and it was closely associated with their inferior social status. Chow also talked that the non-socialist countries were the extension of capitalism that has further marginalized the economic and social role of women. The determinants of decision making of women were family constraints, illiteracy, traditional barrier, attitude and women's ability. Chow suggested to form grass root level organization responsive to the needs of the poor, local women and suggested such groups to study social organizations like families and household, thereby to bring change in the position of the women in the society.

Birendranagar is a municipality city and capital city of Karnali province located at surkhet district. According to the census of (2021) the population of Birendranagar is 154000 according to Birendranagar and Save the Children survey 2024, there is 1480 disability people where 54.3% are male and 39.3% are female in Birendranagar municipality local government plan for economic empowerment of personal disability. There are different kinds of training like produce product item like dairy product, bakery product etc. support of the local government for the disabilities.

Economic status refers to the level of person group financial and material wellbeing. It is usually determined by income, employment, education level etc. The economic status of people with disabilities refers to the financial and social standing with economy which is often affected by multiple barriers including low unemployment, low income, government support aid and education etc.

Every person with disability wants to get a job and grab opportunities. But many of them are unclear what the job they would like to do is disability people work in different places but they do not know the skills and qualification of work. Therefore, they are rejected in many fields of job. And they are frustration because they are disabilities. Many previous studies have investigated the needs of persons with disabilities but not many have focuses on

economic status of them. This research focuses on economic status of them. Very little previous research has been conducted over eight years. This research shows the needs, economic opportunities, poverty and barrier to education. Hence the topic has been chosen as economic status of disable people in Birendranagar municipality.

### **Objectives**

The objectives to identify the economic status of disable people and to know the present condition of disable people.

### **Literature Review**

Lamichhane (2012) has done research titled on “employment situation and life changes for people with disabilities: evidence from Nepal and his objective is to bring attention to the situation of people with disabilities in the developing world by focusing on the labor market of Nepal. Utilizing a data set collected from people with hearing, physical and visual impairments through questionnaire based interview methods and have compare across employment based on types of impairments and education levels to identify variations in occupational choices as well as examining by positive life changes brought by their employments. Their findings indicate that income, greater social inclusion, increased confidence, skilled education and discovering the new abilities were some of the positive life change experienced by employees with disabilities.

A report by the World Bank 2018 found that people with disability are less likely to be employed and earn lower wage than their peers without disabilities. The economic marginalized can be attributed to factors such as physical in accessibility discrimination and educational opportunities. The UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (CRPD) calls for equal access to economics opportunity but implements remains uneven globally

CBS 2021 analyzed multi disable poverty in Nepal based on the main indicates of poverty dimensions such as wellbeing capacity and inclusion (economic, political and cultural) using this data. There is about 1.9 million or about 4.3% of population lines with same form of disability among than 1.8 million are people with physical disability while others are different types. There is 55%of the disabilities represent men and 45% women. The CBS data also highlight that Bagmati and Koshi province have larger disability population size.

Prevalence and condition of disability in Nepal a case study of 2001 was conducted by NPC/ UNICEF reported 1.6% prevalence where as various district level studies indicate 3-5% WHO estimate 7-10% prevalence in underdeveloped countries including Nepal. NPC/UNICEF (2001) noted that approximately 70% of persons with disabilities are not engaged in any income generating activity, and some 69 percent of people with disabilities depend on their families, which poses an economic problem for the household.

### **Methodology**

The present study employs a quantitative research design as its data collection strategy. This study develops questionnaire and using messenger and WhatsApp schedule used as tools of information collection the question in the survey. This study acquire assistance from a few individuals from different disable people organization to get more research participation for this study. This study used secondary data from the Birendranagar municipality website, NFDN Karnali province office, SAC Nepal.

### **Data and Interpretation**

#### **Age Structure**

Age is considered as an important socio-economic factor which influences the decision making capacity of human being. Age also gives an idea with respect to the earning capacity of a person. Age is the duration of time that a person or things existed. Table 1 shows that 44 percent of the disabilities belongs to below 20 years and 30 percent of total disabilities were above 21-50 years. And 26 percent are above 51 years.

Table 1

*Distribution of respondents by Age structure*

Age group	Number of respondents	Percent
Below 20	22	44
21-50	15	30
51- above	13	26
Total	50	100

Source : Field Survey, 2025

The survey results show that the majority of respondents are below 20 year old, making up 44% of the total participants. The 21–50 age group accounts for 30%, while the 51 and above group represents 26%. This indicates that younger individuals (below 20) form the

largest portion of the respondents, suggesting that the survey reached a predominantly youthful audience, with fewer participants from middle-aged and older groups.

### **Ethnicity Structure**

This question was designed to measure the religion status of the respondents. The following table shows the detail information of the respondents on the basis of ethnicity.

Table 2

*Distribution of respondents by Ethnicity status*

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>No. of Respondent</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Brahamn	13	26
Janajati	8	16
Chhetri	7	14
Dalit	6	12
Muslim	3	6
Others	13	26
Total	50	100

Source : Field Survey, 2025

The data indicates that the Brahmin and Others groups each make up the largest share of respondents both representing 26% of the total. They are followed by Janajati participants, who account for 16% and Chhetri, making up 14%. Dalit respondents form 12%, while Muslim participants represent the smallest group at 6%. The survey reveals a relatively diverse representation across caste and ethnic groups, with a particularly strong presence of Brahmin and Others categories among respondents.

### **Categories of impairment**

The respondents exhibit a variety of impairments with physical disabilities being the most common, followed by mental health conditions and visual impairments. Hearing impairments and other less common conditions, such as speech learning disabilities are reported by a smaller proportion of respondents. This distribution indicates that while all categories of impairment are present, certain types especially physical and mental health-related disabilities are more prevalent, highlighting areas where targeted support, accessibility measures, and specialized services may be most needed.

Table 3

*Distribution of respondents by Categories of impairment*

Categories	No. of Respondent	Percentage
Hearing	5	10
Physical	17	34
Visual	8	16
Speech	3	6
Learning	2	4
Mental health	10	20
Others	5	10

Source : Field Survey, 2025

The data shows that the physical disability category has the highest number of respondents, accounting for 34% of the total. This is followed by mental health disabilities at 20% and visual impairments at 16%. Hearing and others each represent 10%, while speech and learning disabilities have the smallest shares at 6% and 4%, respectively. The majority of respondents experience physical mental health disabilities, indicating these are the most prevalent types among the surveyed group, while learning and speech related disabilities are less common.

#### **Education status**

Education plays a key role in the development of an individual. Education has great role for uplifting the position of the society. The sustainable development of the country depends on the full and equal participation of women and men.

Table 4

*Distribution of respondents by Education status*

Education	No. of Respondent	Percentage
Secondary	16	32
Illiterate	11	22
Primary	10	20
Diploma	7	14
Bachelor	4	8
Masters	2	4

Source : Field Survey, 2025

The data reveals that the secondary education level has the highest number of respondents, making up 32% of the total sample. This is followed by illiterate individuals at 22% and those with primary education at 20%. Respondents with a diploma represent 14%, while bachelor's and master's degree holders account for 8% and 4%, respectively. The majority of respondents have attained secondary or lower levels of education, with a relatively small proportion achieving higher education, suggesting limited access or opportunities for advanced study among the surveyed population.

### **Status of employment**

Occupation of the people is another important factor that determines the socio-economic status of people. It could be seen in the following table:

Table 5

*Distribution of respondents by employment of status*

<b>Employment</b>	<b>No. of Respondent</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Unemployed	15	30
Unable to work	14	28
NGO	6	12
Self-employment	7	14
Government job	5	10
Private job	3	6

Source : Field Survey, 2025

At the time of data collection 50 research participants 10 percent have government jobs, while 6 percent's have private jobs 12 percent's of disabilities are engaged in NGOs. Similarly, 14%, 30% and 28% are self-employment, unemployment and unable to work. More than half of the respondents 58% are either unemployed or unable to work, indicating significant employment challenges among the group. Only small fractions are engaged in formal employment, with self-employment and NGO work being more common among the working respondents.

### **Receiving financial aid**

A majority of respondents receive financial aid from the government, which serves as the primary source of support for meeting their daily needs and essential expenses. A smaller proportion benefit from assistance provided by NGOs, while some respondents do not receive



any financial aid at all. This distribution indicates that government programs play a crucial role in supporting vulnerable populations, though gaps still exist, as a portion of respondents remains without any form of financial assistance. Overall, financial aid is a significant factor in helping respondents manage their living costs and maintain a basic standard of living.

Table 6

*Distribution of respondents by receiving financial aid of status*

Sectors	Numbers of respondents	Percent
Government	32	64
NGO	8	16
None	10	20
Total	50	100

Source : Field Survey, 2025

The survey also identifies the number of research participants who receives financial aid either from government, NGO and none. In addition, 32 (64%) receives monetary aid called APANGA BHATTA from government while 16% receives financial aid from NGO and 20% unable to receive financial aid. The findings suggest that government programs play the primary role in supporting respondents, with NGOs contributing to a smaller extent. However, the fact that one-fifth of respondents receive no assistance highlights a gap in coverage that may need to be addressed to ensure more inclusive support.

#### **Monthly expenses**

The monthly expenses of respondents reflect their financial capacity and priorities. A significant portion of respondents likely allocate most of their income to essential needs, such as food, housing, healthcare, and transportation. Those in the lower income group may spend a larger share of their income on necessities, leaving little room for discretionary expenses or savings. Conversely, respondents with higher income levels may have more flexibility for education, leisure, investments. The pattern of monthly expenses highlights the balance between meeting basic needs and managing limited financial resources with many respondents likely experiencing constraints that affect their overall standard of living.

Table 7

*Distribution of respondents by Monthly expenses of status*

Amount	Number of respondents	Percent
1000 below	9	18
1001-5000	31	62
5000 above	10	20
Total	50	100

Source : Field Survey, 2025

The data in table 7 shows that 18 percent of respondents have below rupees 1000 expenses while 62 percent's expenses between 1001-5000 and 20 percentages of expenses above rupees 5000 in one month. Most respondents fall into the low to middle income range with fewer individuals at the very low or higher income levels. This suggests that the surveyed population primarily experiences modest financial means, with only a small proportion in higher income brackets. This study people with disabilities expenses such as food, clothing, transportation etc.

### Conclusion

We obtained several positive finding, from the survey especially education status. There is also some troubling points such as unemployment, monthly expenses is high and lack of action plan of local government for people with disability. The economic status of people with disability in Birendranagar by various factors such as: employment, education, financial aid, monthly expenses etc. 58% of disability are unemployment The illiterate level is increasing positively, about 78% of disability people are literate. 80% people receive financial aid from government and NGO/INGO

The study only gathers superficial data and limited number of sample in Birendranagar therefore its finding must not be generalized but this data also assists the disabled community, disability forum and their representative organization, this data can help to make policy and improving economic status level of disability people in Birendranagar.

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