

A Study of the Budget and Schemes for People with Disability in Rajasthan



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Astha Sansthan

 **Sightsavers**
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Abbreviations

AE	Actual Estimate
BE	Budget Estimate
BPL	Below Poverty Line
GoI	Government of India
GoR	Government of Rajasthan
No.	Number
OBC	Other Backward Classes
PWD	People with Disabilities
RE	Revised Estimate
SC	Scheduled Caste
SSA	Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
ST	Scheduled Tribes

Foreword

The central and the state governments are running various schemes and programmes for the welfare and development of the people with disabilities. However, the situation of the people with disabilities in the state has remained the same. Even today, this community is far from the mainstream of development and is compelled, to live life on the margins.

This study conducted by the Budget Analysis Rajasthan Centre (BARC), a unit of Astha Udaipur, as part of “Rajasthan Social Inclusion Programme” supported by Sightsavers India has attempted to understand the gaps in effective implementation of these programmes. The study focuses on the status of budget and programmes for the people with disabilities in Rajasthan and the effectiveness of the provisions and schemes for their welfare. There are very few ground level studies available on this in the context of Rajasthan. The study also presents a brief survey of the provisions and schemes in the state for their welfare. We hope this study contributes to the existing knowledge base of status of provisions and schemes for the welfare of people with disabilities in Rajasthan.

Though the study has its own limitations, we hope that it will be useful for the NGOs, campaigns working for the betterment of the status of people with disabilities and upholding their rights. BARC would be happy to receive any comments and suggestion on this report.

Nesar Ahmad

Coordinator, BARC

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Equality, freedom, justice and dignity to all citizens are ensured by the Constitution of India. While developing the Constitution in 1950, special emphasis was laid on building an inclusive society for which development of backward and weaker sections of the society was taken into priority. This made the central and state governments to form and implement various policies, programmes and schemes for social, economic and political development of the weaker sections of the society including people with disabilities. Government of India passed the 'Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights & Full Participation) Act' in 1995 and 'National Policy for Specially Abled Persons' in 1996 for the welfare of people with disabilities and to connect them with the mainstream of development. To implement this Act in the state, Rajasthan Government formulated rules in 2011 and passed the 'State Policy for Specially-abled Persons' in 2012. As an effort towards the development of people with disabilities, the Government of Rajasthan established a dedicated Directorate in 2011 namely 'Directorate of Specially-abled Persons'.

Even though, both Central and State Governments have taken important steps towards the welfare of the persons with disabilities, there is still a long way to go for including the people with disabilities in the mainstream of development. Central and State Governments are now trying to lay more emphasis on the social rehabilitation along with medical rehabilitation of the people with disabilities and attitude change of the society. Despite the efforts of the government, most of the people with disabilities are still behind the rest due to the biased outlook of the society towards them, non-accessibility of the welfare schemes & programmes to the eligible persons, and lack of adequate monitoring & evaluation at grassroots level.

1.1.1 People with Disabilities in India

According to 2011 Population Census, 2.21% of the total population i.e. 2.6 crore people in India are people with disabilities. The following table provides a picture of the share of population of people with disabilities in India.

Table: 1.1 Population of people with disabilities in India

	Numbers (% of PWDs in the total population)	Male (% of PWDs in male population)	Female (% of PWDs in female population)
India	26810557 (2.21%)	14986202 (2.41%)	11824355 (2.01%)
Rural Areas	18631921 (2.24%)	10408168 (2.43%)	8223753 (2.03%)
Urban Areas	8178636 (2.17%)	4578034 (2.34%)	3600602 (1.98%)

Source: Census-2011

The above table shows that out of the total male population in the country 1.49 crore i.e. 2.4% are differently abled and out of total female population of the country, 1.18 crore i.e. 2.01% are differently abled. Out of the total rural population of India 2.24% is differently abled which includes 2.41% of total male population of rural areas and 2.01% of total female population in the rural areas. The total urban population of India comprises of 2.17% of differently abled which includes 2.34% of total male population of urban areas and 1.98% of total female population in the urban areas.

The table indicates that there are more people with disabilities in the rural areas than in the urban areas. This shows that in the urban areas people have more access to important healthcare and preventive services and scheme as compared to the people in the rural areas.

The table below provides nature of disability wise classification of people with disabilities.

Table: 1.2 Classification of people with disabilities in India based on the nature of disability
(Numbers in crores)

Type of disability		No. of person	Percentage
Total		268.10	100%
Disability in vision		50.32	18.8%
Disability in hearing		50.71	18.9 %
Disability in speaking		19.98	7.5%
Disability in walking		54.36	20.3%
Mental Disability	I. Total	22.28	8.3%
	II. Mental disabilities	7.22	2.7%
	III. Mental illness	15.05	5.6%
Other types of disability		49.27	18.4%
More than one disability		21.16	7.9%

Source: Census-2011

The table shows that most of the people with disabilities in India are facing challenges in motor skills (20.3% of total PWDs), sense of hearing (18.9% of total PWDs) and vision (18.8% of total PWDs). People facing mental illness and mental challenges makes 8.3% of the total number of people with disabilities in India.

1.1.2 People with Disabilities in Rajasthan

According to 2011 Population Census, 2.21% of the total population i.e. 2.6 crore people in India are people with disabilities. The following table provides a picture of the share of population of people with disabilities in India.

Table: 1.3 Population of people with disabilities in Rajasthan

	Numbers (% of PWDs in the total population)	Male (% of PWDs in male population)	Female (% of PWDs in female population)
Rajasthan	1563694 (2.27%)	848287 (2.39%)	715407 (2.17%)
Rural	121986 (2.37%)	655135 (2.46%)	564051 (2.27%)
Urban	344508 (2.02%)	193152 (2.17%)	151356 (1.86%)

Source: Census-2011

The above table shows that out of the total male population in the state 2.39% are differently abled and out of total female population of the state 2.17% are differently abled. Out of the total rural population of Rajasthan 2.37% is differently abled which includes 2.46% of total male population of rural areas and 2.27% of total female population in the rural areas. The total urban population of India comprises of 2.02% of differently abled which includes 2.17% of total male population of urban areas and 1.86% of total female population in the urban areas.

As observed in the case of India as whole, we find similar trend in the State of Rajasthan, that there are more people with disabilities in the rural areas than in the urban areas. Again, this shows that in the urban areas people has more access to important healthcare and preventive services and scheme as compared to the people in the rural areas.

The table below provides nature of disability wise classification of people with disabilities.

Table: 1.4 Classification of people with disabilities in Rajasthan based on the nature of disability

Numbers in lakh

Type of disability		No. of person	Percentage
Total		15.63	100%
Disability in vision		3.14	20.08
Disability in hearing		2.18	13.94
Disability in speaking		0.69	4.41
Disability in walking		4.27	27.32
Mental Disability	I. Total	7.8	49.9%
	II. Mental disabilities	2.63	16.82%
	III. Mental illness	5.21	33.33
Other types of disability		1.99	12.73
More than one disability		2.11	13.49

Source: Census-2011

The table shows that in Rajasthan 50% of people with disabilities is in the category of mental illness and mental disabilities. Proportion of people facing challenges in motor skills in total number of people with disabilities in Rajasthan is 27.33%, of people with challenges in the sense of vision is 20.12% of total number of people with disabilities and people suffering from hearing disorders is 13.99% of total number of people with disabilities.

1.2 About the Study

This study was initiated to understand problems and issues faced by the people with disabilities in Rajasthan, the status of implementation of various programmes and schemes available for them focusing on 'Astha Card Scheme' and 'Chief Minister Specially-abled Self Employment Scheme' and their access of these schemes in the State through structured interview schedules. Relevant information for this study was collected from the office of Deputy Director- Specially-abled persons in three districts of the State - *Udaipur*, *Chittorgarh* and *Jaisalmer*. However, the process of data collection suffered due to lack of efficient record-keeping by the relevant implementation agencies at various levels of implementation.

1.2.1 Chapter Plan

In the First Chapter of this study, the background of study is explained along with population scenario of the people with disabilities and their current status in the state of Rajasthan and in the country. The second chapter consists of constitutional, legislative and statutory provisions related to welfare of the people with disabilities in India and Rajasthan along with the welfare schemes, programs and budgetary provisions for them. Rationale of the study, objectives, methodology and limitations of the study are described in the third chapter. The fourth chapter entails the main findings of the study and the last chapter gives the recommendations from the analysis and the conclusion of the study.

2. Policies and Budgets for the Welfare of People with Disabilities

People with disabilities face discrimination and exclusion from the mainstream of development. They are mostly socially, educationally and economically weak. Central and State Governments, have from time to time, formed and implemented various administrative units/ systems and special provisions to provide equal opportunity to the people with disabilities and to protect them from social and economic exploitation. Some of the major efforts taken by the government towards welfare and upliftment of people with disabilities are given in this chapter.

2.1 Legislations and Rules for Welfare of People with Disabilities

- ❖ **Constitutional provisions for people with disabilities:** In the Constitution, emphasis is given on equality of social, economic, religious & political freedom, prestige and opportunity for all citizens (including the people with disabilities). Along with this some special provisions for the development and upliftment of backward communities of the society are also included in the constitution, such as - Article 15 (1), 15 (2), 17, 21, 23, 24, 25, and 32. Apart from this, ensuring welfare and upliftment of all the citizens (including the people with disabilities) have also been mentioned in State Policy Director Elements and Fundamental Duties.
- ❖ **The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights & Full participation) Act:** The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights & Full participation) Act was passed by the Central Government in the year 1995, in which the provisions have been made to provide education, employment, easier environments, social security, protection from exploitation, economic and social equality to the people with disabilities and to link them with the mainstream of development. In addition to this, there is also a provision of imprisonment and financial penalty for those found guilty of violating the Act.
- ❖ **Rights of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 :** Recently, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha have passed a new law for the the people with disabilities- 'Rights of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016' which will replace the 'Rights of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995'. According to this Act, the types of disabilities has been increased from 7 to 21, which include - Blindness, low vision, recovering persons from leprosy, hearing difficulty, walking disability, dwarfism, intellectual disability, mental illness, autism spectrum disorders, cerebral palsy, muscular-rogue, chronic muscular dysfunction, specific learning disability, multi-sclerosis, speaking disability, thalassemia, hemophilia, Cecil cell disease, deaf blindness, including many disability, acid attack victims, and Parkinson's disease.
- ❖ **National Policy for Specially-abled persons:** This Policy was introduced in the country in the year 2006. This policy recognizes that persons with disabilities are important resources of the country. It envisions creating an environment that ensures equal opportunities, protection of their rights and full participation in society, for the

people with disabilities. In addition, this policy informs in detail about the provision of education, employment, social and economic development, basic facilities of medical and housing, and enhancing their self-reliance and self-employment.

- ❖ **Social Justice & Empowerment Department:** The Central and the State Governments have constituted Social Welfare and Social Justice & Empowerment Department in order to implement the work of development and upliftment of backward and weaker sections in the country and the state.

The Government of Rajasthan established Backward Caste Welfare Department in the year 1951-52. But in the year 1955-56, the name of this department was changed to the Social Welfare Department; and by issuing a notification in 2007, the department was named 'Department of Social Justice and Empowerment'. This department performs the implementation and monitoring of various welfare programs / schemes being run for scheduled castes, tribes, children and Specially-abled persons. The implementation of welfare schemes for Specially-abled persons in the state was done through this department till 18th October 2011.

- ❖ **The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights & Full participation) Rules:** The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full participation) rules were created in the year 2011 by the Government of Rajasthan. Various provisions of the Act passed in 2005 related to the people with disabilities, have been clarified in these rules, therefore it can be implemented effectively at ground level.
- ❖ **Reservation in government services :** The Central and State Governments have provided for reservation of 3% posts for the people with disabilities in all the vacancies of central and state government services, state services and local services.

In the State of Rajasthan :

- ❖ **Rajasthan State Policy for Specially-abled Persons:** Rajasthan State Government introduced Specially-abled persons Policy in the year 2012. The purpose of this policy is to increase the abilities and capacities of the people with disabilities of the state, to provide them equal opportunity, to develop inclusive systems in all government sectors for the handicapped, to provide complete independence and self-respect, to ensure community responsibility and participation, and to implement various awareness programs and innovation for the social and economic rehabilitation of the disabled.
- ❖ **Directorate of Specially-abled persons :** Before October, 2011 the welfare schemes for the people with disabilities were being operated through the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, in Rajasthan. But in the Budget Announcement 2011-12, a separate 'Directorate' for the solution of short and long term problems of the people with disabilities of the State was announced. The directorate for the people with disabilities started functioning in the State in November, 2011. On 14th February 2012, the name of this Directorate was changed to the 'Directorate of

Specially-abled persons'. Separate Commissioner and employees have been appointed for the operation of this Directorate.

2.2 Budgetary Provisions for Welfare of People with Disabilities

Allocation from Central Budget: At the union government level, most of the benefits to the people with disabilities are received through Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, and Department of Social Justice & Empowerment. Apart from this, there are some other departments also through which expenditure is being made on welfare schemes for the people with disabilities. The table below provides information on the allocations made for the people with disabilities under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in the central budget in last three years.

Table: 2.1 Allocations for Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in the Central Budget (Amount in Crore)

Main Heads	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18
	RE	AE	BE	RE	BE
Revenue expenditure	575.95	520.32	753.56	753.56	822.26
Capital expenditure	35.00	34.65	30.00	30.00	32.74
Total	610.95	554.97	783.56	783.56	855.00

Source: Budget Document, Government of India

According to the above table, a provision of Rs. 610.95 crore was made for the people with disabilities in the revised budget for the financial year 2015-16, but in the actual expenditure of this year, a total of Rs. 55.98 crore has been deducted. In the budget estimate of 2016-17, a provision of Rs. 783.56 crore was made for the people with disabilities and there was no change in the revised estimates of the year. For the current year 2017-18, a provision of Rs 855 crore has been made for the people with disabilities in the Budget Estimate, out of which 96.18% has been allocated as revenue expenditure and remaining 3.82 percent has been allocated as capital expenditure. In the current year 2017-18, the Country's budget estimate for the people with disabilities is Rs.855.00 Crore, which is 0.04 percent of Rs. 2146734.78 crore - the total budget of the country.

Allocation from the State Budget : Expenditure on programs and schemes for the upliftment and welfare of the specially-abled persons in the state is done under social security and welfare and general education. The budget for PWD is allocated under minor head welfare of disabled persons under sub major head social welfare, under major head Social Security and Welfare and this fund is spent on hostel management, scholarships for disabled, rehabilitation and pension for specially-abled persons, self-employment and trainings for disabled persons; and through education it is spent on inclusive education for the people with disabilities. The following table gives information on the allocations made by the Government of Rajasthan for the people with disabilities in the last six years.

Table: 2.2 Allocations for People with Disabilities in the State Budget of Rajasthan
(Amount in Crore)

Description	2012-13 (AE)	2013-14 (AE)	2014-15 (AE)	2015-16 (AE)	2016-17 (RE)	2017-18 (BE)
Social Security and Welfare	102.80	197.90	237.80	239.12	259.08	265.89
Capital Outlay on Social Security and Welfare	9.40	8.80	4.50	-0.65	3.54	7.77
General Education	2.45	4.24	2.66	3.84	14.50	10.21
Total	114.7	210.9	244.96	242.31	277.13	283.86

Source: Budget Document, Government of India

As per the above table, in the current year 2017-18, a provision of Rs 283.86 crore has been made for the welfare of the people with disabilities by the state government. This is the highest allocation in all the years. In the year 2016-17, an increase of only 35 crores compared to the previous year and an increase of only 6 crores in the current year 2017-18 compared to the previous year, are observed. It is important to note that in the current year, the amount allocated for the welfare of the people with disabilities is only 0.7% of the total budget of the state.

The table below gives a comparison of the allocations done for the people with disabilities to the total budget of the state in last six years.

**Table: 2.3 Allocation for Welfare of People with Disabilities
as percentage of total budget of the State** (Amount in Crores)

Year	Budget of the State	Allocation for Welfare of People with Disabilities	Percentage
2012-13 (AE)	81263.91	114.70	0.14%
2013-14 (AE)	94101.08	210.90	0.22%
2014-15 (AE)	116605.48	244.96	0.21%
2015-16 (AE)	129736.02	242.31	0.19%
2016-17 (RE)	148506.69	277.13	0.19%
2017-18 (BE)	166753.90	283.86	0.17%

Source: Budget Books, Government of Rajasthan

It can be seen in the above given table number 2.3, the budget allocated for the disabled increased, year by year in last six years. The budget for the welfare of disabled increased from 114.70 crores in year 2012-13 to 283.86 crores in the current year 2017-18. But if the allocation for the welfare of the disabled is compared to the total budget of the state, then the situation looks exactly the opposite. It's less than 0.5% of the total state budget and it is also showing a declining trend. In the last 5 years, the budget for the disabled from the state's total budget has dropped from 0.22 in 2013-14 to only 0.17 percent in the year 2017-18.

2.3 Pension for People with Disabilities

In order to provide financial security and assistance to the people with disabilities, the Government of Rajasthan is mainly implementing two pension schemes- Indira Gandhi Disability Pension and Chief Minister Specially-abled Self Employment Scheme. Details of these pension schemes are given in the following table.

Table: 2.4: Pension Schemes for People with Disabilities

(Amount in Crores)

Description	2012-13 (AE)	2013-14 (AE)	2014-15 (AE)	2015-16 (AE)	2016-17 (RE)	2017-18 (BE)
Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension	3.99	5.73	4.55	4.36	5.75	6.19
Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension for Scheduled Caste	1.05	1.51	1.29	1.18	1.82	2.01
Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension for Scheduled Tribe	0.70	1.29	1.33	1.15	1.52	1.70
Mukhyamantri Vishesh Yogyajan Samman Pension Yojana	87.26	171.25	205.51	204.04	216.50	218.00
Total	93.00	179.78	212.68	210.73	225.59	227.09

Source: Budget Books, Government of Rajasthan

As seen in the table, for pension for the people with disabilities, funds are allocated under the Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme by the Central Government and Mukhyamantri Vishesh Yogyajan Samman Pension Yojana (Chief Minister Specially-abled Pensions Scheme) by the State Government. The funds for pension for the people with disabilities in the Scheduled Castes and in the Scheduled Tribes are allocated under sub-schemes of the Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension. In the last six years, the amount of pension for the people with disabilities has been increasing. A total of Rs 210.73 crore was spent for the pension of the people with disabilities in the year 2015-16, which increased to Rs 225.59 crore in the revised budget of 2016-17. But in the current year, a total of 227.09 crore has been allocated for pension of the disabled, which is only 1.5 crore more as compared to the last year.

Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension: The Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme has been started by the Central Government in February, 2009. The Rajasthan Government started implementing this scheme in state in November, 2009. Under this scheme, the person of the BPL family who is suffering from multi-disability or geriatric

disability and whose age is 18 years or more, is eligible for pension. In this scheme, people who are challenged with the disabilities mentioned in 7 categories in The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights & Full participation) Act-1995, are eligible to get its benefit. But their family income should not exceed 60,000 in urban areas and Rs 48,000 in rural areas per annum.

Pension Amount: A pension of Rs. 500 per month is payable to persons with disabilities, who are less than 75 years old and Rs. 750 per month are given to persons of 75 year old or above age.

The following table provides a snapshot of the amount spent of pension and number of people who received benefits of the pension schemes.

Table: 2.5 Number of Beneficiaries and amount spent under Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (Amount in Lakhs)

S. No.	Year	Expenditure amount	Beneficiaries
1	2011-12	446.34	15442
2	2012-13	573.78	17549
3	2013-14	854.48	22874
4	2014-15	718.97	23182
5	2015-16*	523.34	17324

Source: Website of DoSJ&E, Rajasthan

* Till December 2015

The table above shows that a total of 23,182 persons have been benefited in this scheme, spending a total of Rs 718.97 lakhs in the year 2014-15. A total of 17324 persons were benefited by the total expenditure of Rs. 523.34 lakhs till December 2015, in the year 2015-16. It can be seen year-by-year increased amount of Indira Gandhi National Pension Scheme and number of beneficiaries, in last 5 years.

Chief Minister's Specially-abled Pensions Scheme: Differently-abled person of any age who is suffering from any one or more than one disability given below, are eligible to get pension under this scheme:

- Blindness, low vision, inability to walk, leprosy-free, hearing loss, mental retardation/ mental patient (40% or more disability)
- Natural dwarfism (in case of adult person, height should be less than 3 feet 6 inch and holder of a certificate for the same, given by any authorized medical officer)
- Transgender

People with above mentioned disabilities who are residents of Rajasthan and who earn annual income (from all sources) is up to 6,000/- are eligible for this pension. In addition, relaxation of income related conditions has been given to the specially-abled persons of BPL / Antyodaya / Astha cardholder family / Sahria / Kathodi / Khairwa caste.

Pension Amount: Pension amount for Specially-abled persons has been changed by the State Government as per its Budget Announcement of 2017-18. Now the amount of Rs. 750/- per month will be payable to all the Specially-abled persons in the state without any age factor, since 01.07.2017.

Table: 2.6 Number of Beneficiaries and amount spent under Chief Minister Specially-abled Pensions Scheme (Amount in Lakhs)

S. No.	Year	Amount of expenditure	Beneficiaries
1	2011-12	7629.05	115339
2	2012-13	8726.27	147127
3	2013-14	17125.67	328302
4	2014-15	20551.14	355027
5	2015-16*	14760.00	325407

Source: Website of DoSJ&E, Rajasthan

* Till December 2015

As seen in the above table, a total of 35,5027 persons were benefited in this scheme by the total expenditure of Rs. 20551.14 lakh in the year 2014-15. A total of 325407 persons were benefited by the total expenditure of Rs. 14760 lakh in the year 2015-16 till December. In last 5 years, it can be seen an increase year by year in the amount and the beneficiaries numbers in this scheme.

2.4 Welfare Schemes for People with Disabilities

Nearly 21 schemes are running in the state for the welfare and all round development of specially-abled persons with support of central and state governments. Purposes of these schemes are to provide rehabilitation, self-employment, education and various training facilities to the disabled in the state.

Currently, schemes and programs given below are being implemented and supervised by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Directorate of Specially-abled persons for overall development and welfare of the specially-abled persons in the State:

1. **Scholarship scheme for differently-abled persons:** The facility of scholarship to differently-abled students is given to regular students of any educational institution of the State Government or any recognized institution. There is also facility of reimbursement of fees in post-matriculation classes for specially-abled students from general and other backward classes.
2. **Astha Card Scheme:** Astha Cards are given to those families in which two or more than two persons are differently-abled, more than 40%. By this, they are provided benefits equivalent to a BPL family.
3. **Vishesh Yogyajan Sukhad Dampatya Jeevan Yojana:** differently-abled youths are provided financial assistance of Rs 25,000 per couple for a happy married life. Along with this, it is granted Rs. 20,000 as organizing expenditure to the organizations that organize such convention of Specially-abled.

4. **A lump sum amount to differently-abled pensioner for starting a business:** If the differently-abled pensioner wants to start his own business with the intention of becoming self-sufficient, then s/he will be paid a lump sum amount of Rs. 15000/- by closing his monthly pension.
5. **Mukhyamantri BPL Jeevan Raksha Kosh Yojana:** Under the scheme, a person or family member of the differently-abled category is provided free of cost treatment (indoor and outdoor) in all state hospitals. And if required, they can be referred to AIIMS and PGI for free treatment.
6. **Polio Correction Camp Scheme:** Grants of Rs. 5000 per operation are sanctioned to NGOs for making physically capable to polio affected differently-abled persons through free polio correction operations.
7. **State level Award Scheme for Specially-abled persons:** Every year on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3rd December), outstanding individuals and organizations working in the field of Specially-abled are awarded.
8. **Inclusive Education:** Under inclusive education component of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (SSA), for the 10 types of differently-abled children studying in class 1 to 8, are provided medical, applied educational and therapeutic support as per the requirement.
9. **Economic Strength Award for Girls with Physically Inability (Arthik Sabalta Purushkar):** Under this scheme, financial assistance of Rs 2000 is been made available to physically handicapped/ dumb-blind and blind girls who are regular students of classes 9 to 12 in the state schools.
10. **Scholarship to the dependents of martyrs in Kargil:** In this scheme, scholarship of Rs.300 per month for higher education is to be given to the dependents of martyred in Kargil.
11. **Scholarships for the children / widows of deceased / handicapped in Indo-Pak and China war:** There is a provision of scholarships for the children and widow of deceased / handicapped soldiers in Indo-Pak and China war. This provision of scholarship is till graduation on the basis of their Entitlement Card.
12. **Salt worker welfare scheme:** Under the scheme, there is a provision for issuance of identity card for social security of salts workers. In addition to insurance, there is a provision to provide gum boots, goggles, and bicycles according to the Budget.
13. **Mukhyamantri Vishesh Yogyajan Swarojgar Yojana:** Under this scheme, an amount of Rs. 2.5 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs in form of loans are given to the differently-abled people of the state to provide them self-employment.
14. **Scholarship to children of disabled parents - Special scholarship scheme for the studying children of Leprosy sufferers / Disabled parents:** In this scheme, there is a provision of scholarships of Rs. 40 to Rs. 170 per month for the studying children of parents suffering from leprosy/disability.
15. **Sports scheme for Specially-abled persons:** In this scheme, there is a provision of Rs.

50,000 to Rs. 75,000 as incentives to encourage the sport talent of the specially-abled persons. So that specially-abled persons can be linked to the mainstream of the society.

16. **Vishesh Yogyajan Anuprati Yojana:** There is a provision of grant up to Rs. 2000 to Rs. 75,000 for the Candidates of specially-abled category who are joining:-
- Union Public Service Commission's examination for Central and State administrative services;
 - Entrance examination of national level education institutes;
 - Admission test in Government Engineering /Government Medical College of the State
17. **Vishesh Yogyajan Vivah Yojana (Wedding Scheme for Specially-abled persons):** Differently-abled young men and women are provided financial assistance of Rs 25,000 per couple in order to live happily married life. In addition, Rs. 20,000 is been sanctioned for organizing expenditure to the organization conducting the Convention of differently-abled person.
18. **Joint Assistance Grant:** Eligible, differently-abled persons, whose family members are not income tax payers, is provided financial assistance up to Rs. 7,000 / - for artificial limbs / equipment in order to fulfill of their physical dearth as well as their financial requirement for self-employment.
19. **Motorized tri-bicycle scheme:** Under this scheme, motorized tri- bicycles are provided to differently-abled persons who have 50 percent or more disability in walking, and are engaged in self-employment or higher education.
20. **Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme:** This is a central government's scheme, in which provisions have been made to provide monthly pensions of Rs.500 and Rs.750 to specially-abled persons.
21. **Mukhyamantri Vishesh Yogyajan Samman Pension Yojana (Chief Minister Specially-abled Pensions Scheme):** This is a state government's scheme, in which provision has been made to provide monthly pension of 750 rupees to differently-abled persons.

Two major self-reliance schemes for the differently-abled persons in the state were studied by BARC. These are – 'Astha Card Scheme' and 'Mukhyamantri Vishesh Yogyajan Swarojgar Yojana' (Chief Minister Specially-abled Self Employment Scheme). Maximum benefits to Specially-abled persons in the state come from these two schemes. Basic information about the nature, implementation and benefits of these schemes are as follows:-

- **Astha Card Yojana:** This is a scheme of the State Government, in which Astha Cards are issued. Astha Cards are issued to those families in which two or more members are differently-abled (more than 40 percent) and annual family income does not exceed Rs. 1.20 lakh. It provides BPL equivalent benefits to the differently-abled family. Since the year 2013-2014, Astha card holder's families are being benefitted from all the related department's schemes, such as free medical facilities, concession

in ration and other schemes of pension department, etc.

- **Mukhyamantri Vishesh Yogyajan Swarojgar Yojana** (Chief Minister Specially-abled Self Employment Scheme): It is a State Government's scheme launched in the year 2013-14. Under this scheme, the differently-abled persons of the State whose total annual income is up to Rs 2 lakh (both – individual and of family), are provided an amount of Rs. 5.00 lakh as a loan to start their own business/employment. In addition to this, 50 percent of the loan amount or maximum 50,000 rupees, whichever is lower, will be given in the form of a grant. Persons with 40 percent or more disability, and whose age is in between 18-35 years, are eligible to apply for this scheme.

3. Study on the Status of the Schemes

3.1 Rationale

At the state level, various schemes and programs are being implemented by the State Government keeping in view the welfare of the specially-abled persons and their overall development. But despite the tireless efforts of the Central and State Governments, the situation of the specially-abled community in the state has remained the same. Even today, this community is far from the mainstream of development and is compelled, to live life on the margins. On one hand, where the government spends huge amount in the name of welfare and upliftment of specially-abled persons every year; on the other hand, a large section of this class is still deprived from the benefits of these schemes.

There are many reasons for not reaching the benefits of government schemes to specially-abled persons, which include illiteracy, lack of awareness, deficiencies in government structure, and lack of proper implementation etc. So, BARC has attempted to analyze the status of the people with disabilities and the implementation of the schemes and programs to understand the gaps which need to be addressed for the development of the people with disabilities.

3.2. Objectives

The current study focuses on two schemes for the people with disabilities to understand the status of awareness and access. The objectives of the study are as follows:

- To understand the status of the welfare efforts for the people with disabilities in the center and the state
- To understand the allocation and expenditure for the welfare of people with disabilities in the center and the state
- To study the access of the development and welfare oriented schemes being operated in the State for people with disabilities – 'Astha Scheme', and 'Chief Minister Specially-abled Self Employment Scheme'.
- To collect information about various welfare schemes of the Directorate of Specially-abled persons and the welfare schemes being operated through other departments.

3.3 Methodology

For conducting the study, a questionnaire was prepared and 100 beneficiaries of each of two select schemes-'Astha Scheme' and 'Chief Minister Specially-abled Self Employment Scheme' were interviewed. List of beneficiaries of related schemes were obtained from the offices of Deputy Director, Specially-abled persons (Udaipur, Chittorgarh, and Jaisalmer) for the Study. Samples were taken based on the list received. In addition, some of the respondents were also included that were not in the list but were eligible as per the schemes.

For both the schemes 35 respondents each have been taken for Udaipur and Chittorgarh districts, and 30 samples from Jaisalmer district. Thus, a total of 100 beneficiaries of each scheme were studied.

3.4 Limitations

During the survey study, the following limitations have been fixed, on the basis of which the results of some facts may be varied or in the study results may be varied at the wide level. But at every level, efforts have been made to reduce these limitations as much as possible:

- This study is based on the information collected from a small sample, which are 100 beneficiaries of 2 schemes selected from 3 districts of the state.
- This study is based on the information provided by the 300 beneficiaries of the state, so the situation of specially-abled persons cannot be estimated at the large scale in the state, other districts and selected three districts.

4. Findings of the Study

4.1 General Profile of the respondents:

A total of 200 respondents were interviewed for the study out of which 100 were interviewed specifically to understand the status of implementation of Astha Scheme and 100 were interviewed specifically to understand the status of implementation of Chief Minister's Specially-abled Self Employment Scheme. Out the 200 respondents 55 were from the general category, 46 were from ST, 41 were from SC and 58 from other backward castes. Out of the total Astha Card holders selected for the study, 23 were BPL¹ and 77 were non-BPL class and out of the total respondents of Chief Minister Specially-abled Self Employment Scheme, there were included 55 BPL and 45 Non-BPL.

4.1 Awareness about Government Schemes and Provisions

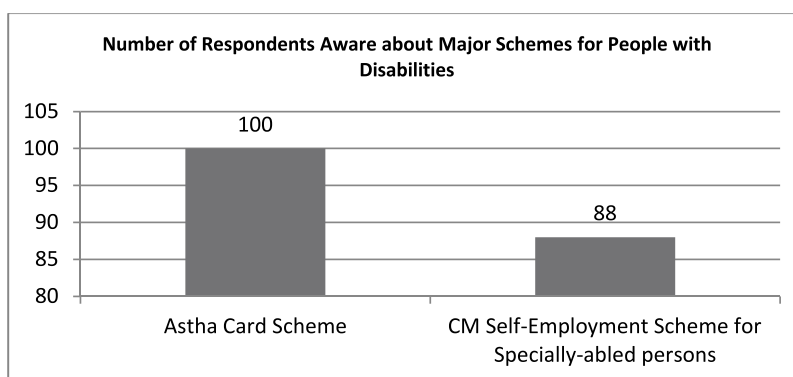
In order to understand the status of implementation of any scheme, it is important to know the awareness level of the beneficiaries (potential beneficiaries) of the scheme about the scheme. The following table provides a picture of the awareness level of the respondents on the Astha Scheme and Chief Minister's Specially-abled Self Employment Scheme.

Table 4.1 Awareness about Astha Card/ Chief Minister Specially-abled Self Employment Scheme

Description	YES	NO
Astha Card Scheme	100	0
Chief Minister Self-Employment Scheme for Specially-abled persons	88	12
Total	188	12

Source : BARC Study

Figure 4.1 Awareness about Astha Card/ Chief Minister Specially-abled Self Employment Scheme



Source: Table 4.1

It is important to note that the Astha card scheme is for Non-BPL families, so that they can also get BPL category benefits. But in all three districts, it was observed that BPL families were also included as Astha cardholders.

The table shows that all the respondent beneficiaries of Astha card scheme are aware about the scheme under which they are getting benefitted and 88 out of 100 respondent beneficiaries of Chief Minister Specially-abled Self Employment Scheme told that they are aware about the scheme they are getting benefitted in.

On the response of question related to information about the benefits of the relevant Scheme, only 5 out of total Astha Card holders admitted that yes they know what the benefits are gained from the Astha Card, while 95 Astha Card holders told that they do not know the benefits of this scheme. Similarly, 83 beneficiaries of the Chief Minister Specially-abled Self Employment Scheme admitted that they know what the benefits they are getting from this scheme, while 17 beneficiaries said they do not know what the benefits of this scheme are.

Out of the total aware respondents 60 said that they got information about the schemes from newspapers, 95 said that their relatives / friends motivated them to get benefits under the two select schemes and while 21 respondents were motivated by their neighbors.

4.2 Access to Government Schemes and Provisions

Astha Scheme

The following table gives information on the access of the people with disabilities to the Astha Scheme.

Table 4.2 Benefits received through Astha Card

Benefits do received under Astha Card Scheme	Nothing	Ration	Ration/Pension
Number of respondents	33	59	8

Source : BARC Study

Out of the total number of Astha cardholders, 59 got the benefit of ration and 8 got the ration / pension benefits. While there were 33 those respondents who said that they have not yet received any benefit after making this card. In addition, it was revealed based on the analysis of data that only BPL families have got the benefit through the Astha card and Non-BPL families have not got any benefit from this card.

When asked about any difficulty in getting benefits of Astha Card, 82 people out of total Astha Card holder respondents said that they did not face any difficulty in availing the benefit. Along with this, 18 respondents accepted that they faced difficulty in taking the benefits.

Chief Minister Specially-abled Self Employment Scheme

It was found that out of the 100 respondents for Chief Minister Specially-abled Self Employment Scheme, for four respondents reported to have received any training for self-employment under this scheme, till now.

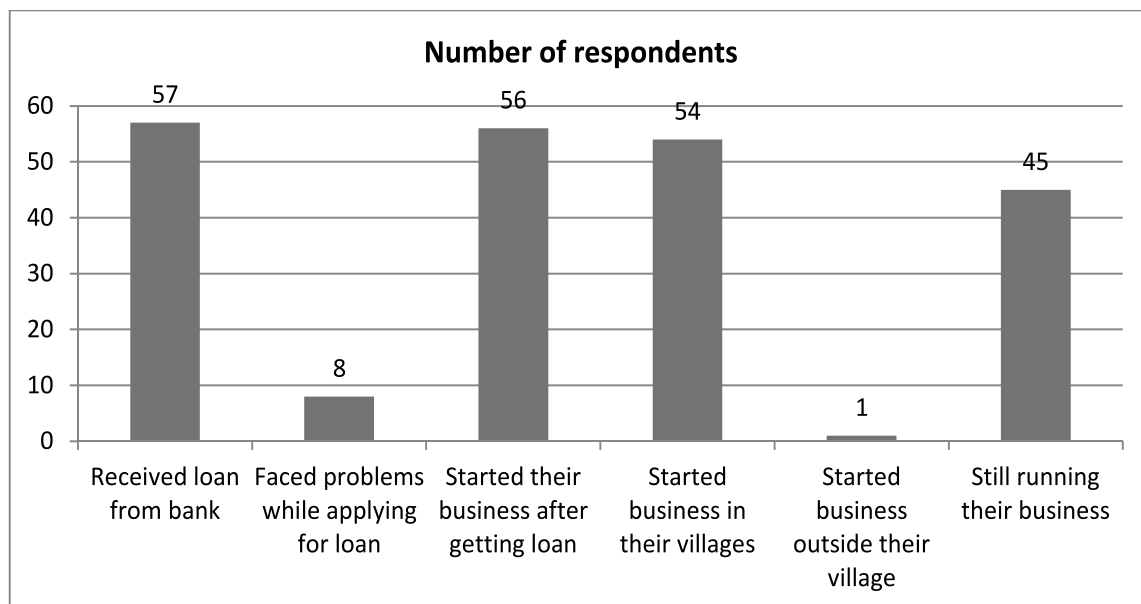
Credit: The following table gives information on the benefit of credit facilities and the way the beneficiaries have utilized the loans.

Table 4.3 Respondents who received loans from bank and started their business

Number of respondents who received loan from bank	57
Number of respondents who faced problems while applying for loan	8
Number of respondents who started their business after getting loan	56
Number of respondents who started business in their villages	54
Number of respondents who started business outside their village	1
Number of respondents still running their business	45

Source : BARC Study

Figure 4.3 Respondents who received loans from bank and started their business



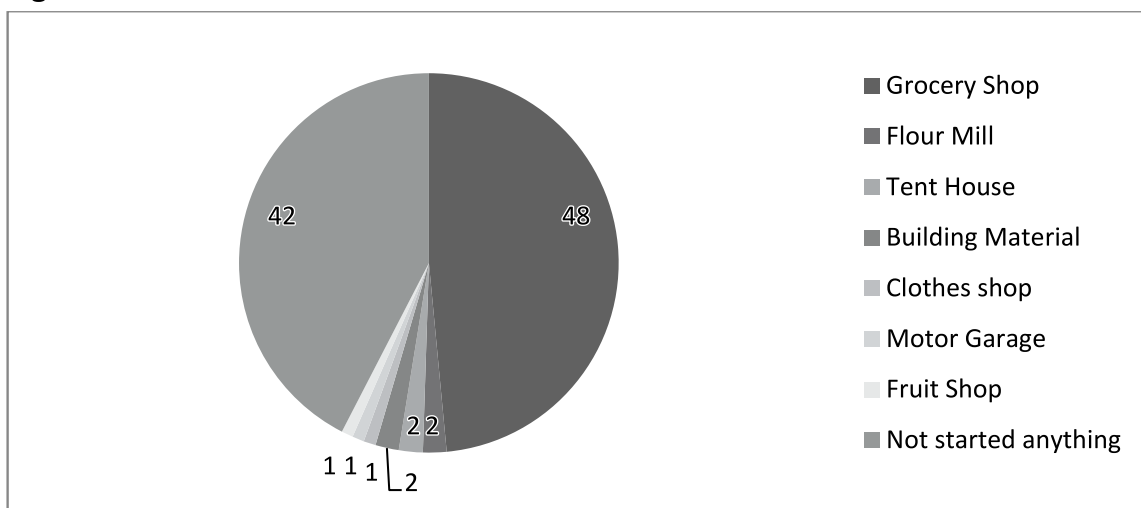
In the response on any bank loan received by the beneficiaries of the Chief Minister Specially-abled Self Employment Scheme, 57 beneficiaries of the total respondents accepted that they have received loan from the bank under this scheme. Along with this, 43 respondents told that they could not get any loan from the bank under this scheme. The following table gives information about the businesses for which the loan has been taken by the respondents.

Table 4.4 Business for which loan is received

Which business have you received a loan for?	Grocery Shop	Flour Mill	Tent House	Building Material	Clothes shop	Motor Garage	Fruit Shop	Not started anything
Total	48	2	2	2	1	1	1	42

Source : BARC Study

Figure 4.4 Business for which loan is received



Source: Table 4.4

It was found that 48 out of the total beneficiaries have taken loan from the bank for grocery shops. In addition, two beneficiaries each took loan under this scheme for floor mill, tents house and shop of building material. Out of the total respondents, 42 said that they did not start any shop/ self-employment unit. Those who did not start any shop are either those people who have not received any loan or are currently under consideration in the process of getting a loan, from the bank.

In response of the information about the inconvenience in getting a loan under the Chief Minister Specially-abled Self Employment Scheme, 49 of the total beneficiaries informed that they did not face any inconvenience in getting a loan from the bank. Along with this, 8 beneficiaries admitted that they had inconvenience in getting loans from the bank.

Out of the total beneficiaries who took loan, 55 beneficiaries told that they have started their business in their own village. Only one respondent said that he has started his business outside of the village, in a nearby city.

Out of total beneficiaries of the Chief Minister Specially-abled Self Employment Scheme, 45 beneficiaries told that the business they started is still going on. However, 11 respondents are not running their business anymore.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

Analysis of India and Rajasthan budgets show a very dismal allocation going towards the welfare of people with disability. In both cases less than 0.5% of the total budget is being allocated towards the benefits of the people with disability. An analysis of Rajasthan Budget suggests that the budget allocated for the disabled increased, year by year in last six years. The budget for the welfare of disabled increased from 114.70 crores in year 2012-13 to 283.86 crores in the current year 2017-18. But if the allocation for the welfare of the disabled is compared to the total budget of the state, then the situation looks exactly the opposite. It's less than 0.5% of the total state budget and it also showing declining trend. In the last 5 years, the budget for the disabled from the state's total budget has dropped from 0.22 in 2013-14 to only 0.17 percent in the year 2017-18.

The field based study was conducted to understand the status of the implementation of the schemes and programmes related to the development of the people with disabilities in Rajasthan focusing on Astha Card Scheme and Chief Minister Specially-abled Self Employment Scheme. The area of the study was Udaipur, Chittorgarh and Jaisalmer. The study also analyzed the budget allocated for major schemes including pension for the people with disabilities. The study finds a huge difference in the allocated amount from the State Budget and allocated amount according to the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment for the Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme and the Chief Minister Specially-abled Pensions Scheme.

Even though Astha Card Scheme is for Non-BPL so that they can also get benefits same as people below poverty line. But in all three districts, it is seen that BPL people are also included as Astha cardholders.

In the study, 38 percent beneficiary respondents of Astha card and Chief Minister Specially-abled Self Employment Scheme said that they do not have any information about any scheme of the state government, especially designed for the Specially-abled persons and 95 percent of the total number of Astha card holders told that they have no information about the benefits of Astha card.

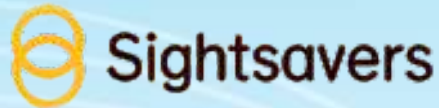
Under the Astha card Scheme, 33% cardholders out of total beneficiaries responded that they have not received any benefit since issuing their Astha card, so far. In the study, 96% out of total beneficiaries under the Chief Minister Specially-abled Self Employment Scheme, have stated that they have not received any training for self-employment so far.

Under the Chief Minister Specially-abled Self Employment Scheme, 43% out of total beneficiaries have stated that they have not received any loan from the bank for self-employment, till now. Under the Chief Minister Specially-abled Self Employment Scheme, 20% Out of total beneficiaries have stated that the business they started with bank loan has been closed, now.

Recommendations

- In the budget 2016-17, the GoR allocated a sum of Rs.280.5 cr for various schemes and programmes for the differently abled people in Rajasthan. Out this, Rs. 228.1 cr has been allocated for disability pension alone and only Rs. 52.5 cr has been provided for other schemes for the differently abled people. Therefore, we demand for a substantial increase in allocation on the welfare schemes for the differently abled people along with the increase in the pension.
- The GoR must allocate at least 1% of its total budget on the welfare of the differently abled people and all the departments must make efforts for increasing the inclusion of differently abled people in their schemes.
- There must be an increase in the amount given as pension to the differently abled people.
- All the schemes and programmes run by the State Government must set and achieve targets for the differently abled beneficiaries.

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