

NEWSLETTER

DSD/JICA PROJECT ON DISABILITY



Department of Social Development (DSD) / Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
Project for the Promotion of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Disability Mainstreaming

A year has passed since the Project for the Promotion of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Disability Mainstreaming was kick-started on 9th May 2016.

The 4th Newsletter will share the findings of the baseline survey conducted in Lim345 where the project site locates and overview the progress of the project activities.

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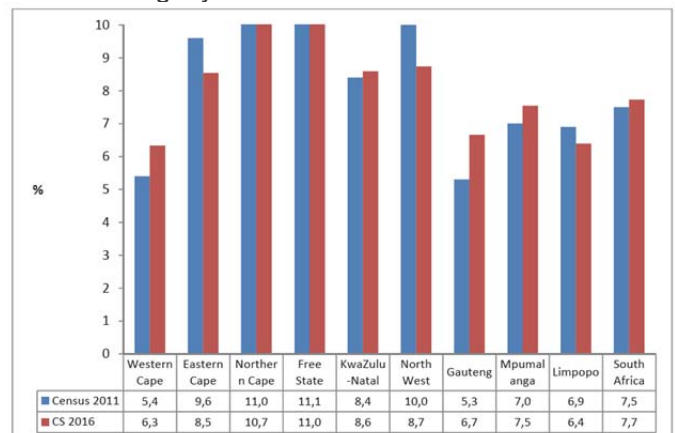
Findings of Baseline survey

In order to grasp the situations and needs of persons with disabilities, the Project conducted the baseline survey in the project site which includes 1) analysis of national data on disability, 2) questionnaire, 3) focus group discussion, 4) key informant interview, 5) home visit, and 6) resource map making of disability related services and organisations.

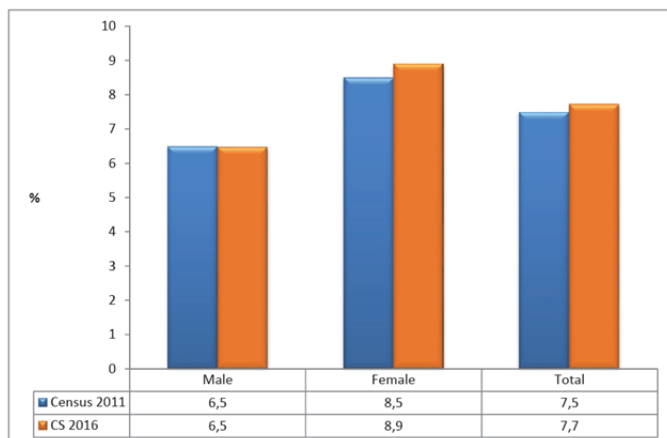
<Findings of analysis of national data on disability>

The project team gathered the disability related data from the Statistics South Africa, namely the Census 2011 and the Community Survey 2016 to investigate the number of persons with disabilities and the poverty level of people living in the area, etc. The Census 2011 and the Community Survey 2016 show similar national disability prevalence rates, 7.5% and 7.7%, respectively.

2011 and 6.4% in the Community Survey 2016. Both ratios are slightly lower than the national ratio.



Disability prevalence in South Africa by province



Disability prevalence in South Africa

Regarding the poverty ratio by province (including persons without disabilities), the poverty ratio of Limpopo in the Census 2011 is 10.1% and that of the Community Survey 2016 is 11.5%. Both ratios are relatively higher than other provinces. Moreover, the poverty ratio of the former Thulamela municipality (municipality of Vhembe district was reorganised in August 2016 after the Census 2011 and the Community Survey 2016. The current project site is Lim345 municipality which includes some parts of the former Thulamela municipality) where the project site locates shows 22.8% in the Census 2011 and 18.9% in the Community Survey 2016. It indicates that the project site is located at the relatively poor area where one in every 4 or 5 people is poor.

The disability prevalence of Limpopo province where the project site locates shows 6.9% in the Census

**Census 2011 is complete count survey and Community survey 2016 is sample survey.*

With regards to educational attainment in the former Thulamela municipality, while 14.7% of persons without disabilities have not completed 5 years of education, 39.7% of persons with disabilities have not completed 5 years of education (variance is 25%) in the Census 2011. The percentage in the Community Survey 2016 is remarkable; while the percentage of not-completed 5 year education of persons with disabilities is 62.7%, counterparts without disabilities is 14% (variance is 48.7%). It shows access to education of persons with disabilities is significantly lower than that of persons without disabilities. Similarly, the percentage of access to cooking and heating fuel and internet, persons with disabilities have less access than persons without disabilities.

<Findings of questionnaire survey>

The project team conducted questionnaire survey in Lim345 municipality. The questionnaire was developed based on the Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Indicators Manual developed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and with reference to the questionnaires utilised in other JICA projects such as Colombia, the Philippines and Rwanda, etc. Then, the draft questionnaire was tested by 5 persons with disabilities and additions and modifications were made. Furthermore, the draft was finalised after reflecting the inputs from public hearings through the "Disability Rights" mailing list where disability stakeholders such as disabled people's organisations and researchers belong to. The questionnaire consists of 80 questions which are categorised into 6 sections, namely, general information, health, education, livelihood, social participation and empowerment. The project team collected 100 responses in collaboration with persons with disabilities living in village who worked as enumerators.



Person with disability fills in the questionnaire

The findings of the questionnaire revealed a number of difficulties which persons with disabilities are facing. Regarding the employment, 93% of persons with disabilities are not working. The reasons of unemployment are; refused a job because of impairment / disability, work place is too far away and

no transportation and do not know where to go to apply for job. On the other hand, 48% of unemployed persons with disabilities are looking for opportunity to work. With regards to the rights of persons with disabilities, 51% of persons with disabilities feel they are not respected, 40% of them do not know their rights as persons with disabilities and 50% of them do not participate in any advocacy efforts to promote the rights of persons with disabilities. These responses highlight the necessity of empowerment of persons with disabilities. In terms of social participation, 40% of persons with disabilities do not go out regularly, 51% do not participate in artistic, cultural, religious, recreational, leisure and sports activities and 74% feel they do not influence the way community run. These answers point out that the social participation of persons with disabilities is extremely limited.

<Findings of group discussion>

The project team organised 8 group discussions of persons with disabilities, their family members and stakeholders. Through the discussions, a various challenges faced by persons with disabilities were disclosed.



Group discussion of persons with debilities and stakeholders

Regarding persons with disability, the following voices were raised; they do not participate in community activity, they stay at home and depend on the disability grant and there is no platform to represent their voices. With regards to parents of persons with disabilities, participants discussed that some parents do not allow their children with disabilities to participate in society, parents do not know the rights of persons with disabilities and there is no platform for parents to share their information and challenges. As of society, the challenges such as there is no accessible public transportation for persons with disabilities, the government does not prioritise the issue on disability, there is no accurate information on disability such as the number and needs of persons with disabilities and there is no regular dialogue between persons with disabilities in community and the government were shared.

Outcomes of project activities

Through baseline survey, the significance of the implementation of both disability-specific activity (empowerment) and social change activity (mainstreaming) are revealed. The Project believes that persons with disabilities should play the central roles in the project activities. In this connection, the Project commence with the empowerment of persons with disabilities through peer counselling and the establishment of self-help group.

<Peer counselling>

Peer counselling is the method to empower persons with disabilities where persons with disabilities listen to each other in equal manner. Mr July Mathebula, a peer counsellor whose capacity has been developed by the JICA partnership project conducted in South Africa supported to execute peer counselling in 2 villages with persons with disabilities who supported baseline survey in the project site.

Most of persons with disabilities in village said they have spent most of their time in their houses to avoid being discriminated and teased. However, participants of peer counselling stated that they were encouraged through peer counselling and Mr July's remarks; persons with disabilities need to accept themselves as they are, can participate in society regardless their impairments and have equal rights with their counterparts without disabilities. In addition, persons with disabilities in the village started to plan establishing their groups as they heard its importance and significance of the activities from Mr July.



One on one session of peer counselling

<Establishment of self-help group>

Persons with disabilities who participated in peer counselling decided to establish self-help group to meet and exchange their experiences regularly, visit other persons with disabilities to listen to and make village people be aware of the issues on disability. Currently, the group members meet constantly and look for new members through home visit. The Project conducted 2nd peer counselling in 2 villages in respond to the request from the groups. In addition, the group is now seeking the land and financial support to start income generating activities in collaboration with the officials and social workers of DSD.



Persons with disabilities conducting peer counselling under tree

Wayforward

Through experiences in 2 villages, the Project learnt that peer counselling and establishment of self-help group of persons with disabilities by involving stakeholders are an effective way to empower persons with disabilities. The Project plans to visit 2 other villages to promote and expand empowerment of persons with disabilities.

The Project will continue to share the progress through the project homepage.

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