

# Quality Of Life Among Self Employed Differently-Abled Persons With Special Reference To Ddawo, Tiruchirappalli District

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**ABSTRACT:** *Disabled humans are wearing a too many hats which includes physically they could manage themselves, control their quality of work life, compete with the normal entrepreneurs, managing their monetary support and so on. Persons with disabilities are not always considered as "experts" in the enterprise area as compared with normal perspectives. Self employment is one of the innovative approaches to sustain the disabled person socio-economically. They should be enabled to manage business or economic activities, with their ability and nature of disability. Hence, the present study aims to assess the Quality of Life among differently abled persons who are self-employed in Tiruchirappalli District. The researcher has adopted descriptive research design by adopting random sampling method and used WHOQOL-BREF Tool which is a 26-item instrument consisting of four domains. The data was analyzed and statistical tests like correlation and Independent sample t-tests were applied. Salient findings and suggestions pertaining to the study are discussed in the full paper.*

**Keywords:** *Self-employed differently abled, Quality of Life, Innovative approaches, Role of DDAWOs*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Differently abled person is difficult to quickly illustrate, as impairment may vary in terms of the type, duration, stability, and severity (World Health Organization, 2011). According to the World Health Organization disability is an umbrella term that has three components: (1) impairments, (2) activity limitations, and (3) participation restrictions. This is a broadly based definition included for medical classification referred to as the International Classification of Functioning established by the World Health Organization (2011). This includes people with mental and physical disadvantages that are affected by society in which they live.

The World Health Organization approximates that 1 billion people (World Report on Disability, 2011) live with some type of disability globally of whom 80% live in under developed countries. The degree of differently abled person in India poses a public health challenge. Estimates of the degree of differently abled person are available from very few sources at the national level though some studies have provided evidence in selected pockets

of the country. In India as per the Census 2011, out of 121 crore population, 2.68 crore are 'disabled' which is 2.21 per cent of the total population. Among the differently abled person population 1.5 crore (56%) are males and 1.18 crore (44%) are females. Majority (69%) of the differently abled person population resided in rural areas (1.86 crore differently abled person in rural areas and 0.81 crore in urban areas).

Disability as per the Person's with Disability Act (India) can be defined as 'A person suffering from not less than 40% of any disability as certified by a medical authority. A differently abled person may be physical, cognitive, mental, sensory, emotional and developmental or some combination of these. Thus differently abled person is a complex phenomenon, reflecting an interaction between features of a person's body and features of society in which he or she lives'. The enactment of the Persons with Disabilities (equal opportunities, protection of rights and full participation) Act, 1995 – aims to protect and promote economic and social rights of people with disabilities.

The Act covers seven disabilities (impairments). These are:

- Blindness
- Low vision
- Leprosy cured
- Hearing impairment
- Locomotor disability
- Mental retardation
- Mental illness

### **Quality of Life**

The degree to which a person enjoys the important possibilities of his/her life. Possibilities result from the opportunities and limitations each person has in his/her life and reflect the interaction of personal and environmental factors. QoL requires in-depth research, using sound methodological techniques to determine the universal aspects, as well as the various needs of disability-specific groups.

### **The Big Gap**

According to the Census 2011, about 1.34 crores persons with disabilities are in the employable age of 15 to 59 years. About 99 lakh persons with disabilities in the employable age group were non-workers or are marginal workers.

- Persons with disabilities are among the poorest in the population.
- Urgent need to scale up the skill training infrastructure in view of the huge demand-supply gap.
- The training, being offered through various institutions / mechanisms is non homogenous, lacks quality and is low on employability.
- Very low access of the present training infrastructure to the PwDs in rural areas.
- Low level of involvement of private sector in the skill training of PwDs.
- The skill training offered by various ministries / departments to the PwDs is fragmented or overlapping.

### **National Action Plan for Skill Development of Persons with Disabilities**

Persons with disabilities in India face many challenges when looking to develop employable skills and in gaining meaningful employment. While India has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disability (UNCRPD), persons with disabilities continue to face many difficulties in the labour market.

Improving vocational training and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities is a critical element for enhancing the quality of life for individual with disability, their families, but there are also substantial gains for the broader economy. There are substantial costs to individuals and to society associated with these poor employment outcomes for persons with disabilities. The World Bank considers that leaving persons with disabilities, outside the economy, translates into a foregone GDP of about 5% to 7%. In addition to the individual and family benefits, there is also a strong economic imperative to increased labour force participation which will help to address country's shortage of skilled labour force, while at the same time reducing fiscal pressures associated with welfare dependency.

### **The existing Skill Training Landscape for PwDs**

- National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
- Vocational training courses offered by National Institutes of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and its affiliate organisations like National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC), National Trust etc.
- Ministry of Labour and Employment supervising more than 20 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres for Handicapped (VRCHs), more than 10,000 ITIs and more than 1000 Employment Exchanges.
- Technical and Vocational courses, being offered through Community colleges, IITs and Universities, affiliated with Ministry of Human Resources Development.
- NGOs focusing on vocational training and skill development.
- Private sector training organizations: Under the CSR initiative, many organizations have done exemplary work.
- Public Sector Undertakings have also contributed substantially to vocational training of persons with disabilities.
- National Rural Livelihood Mission of Ministry of Rural Development.
- National Urban Livelihood Mission of Ministry of Urban Development.
- Vocational training / livelihood programs of other Central Govt. Ministries and State Governments.

### **Review of Literature**

**E. Saranya Devi and S. Rajamohan (2019)** described about National Handicapped Finance and

Development Corporation (NHFDC). It is one the biggest concern established by Ministry of social justice and Empowerment. The organization is helping to the disabled people by offering loans, scholarship, providing a handholding support, training and development programme and so on. The authors have explained schemes and policy, analyzed by the government sanctioned to the people and number of beneficiaries received loan by year wise report has mentioned clearly.

**Alex Maritz and Laferriere (2016)** has noted that some reason ranging from inequity to own ambition and desire were identified as leading differently abled person to think an entrepreneurial venture. Problems were besides identified, related to the societal factors, push factors, weakness in policy and support. The need of developing for policy to differently abled person business skill training, increase awareness of entrepreneurial activity and also the provision of training to support workers and business mentors to realize differently abled impairment

**OECD and European Union (2014)** have revealed that the first approach is to reconsider current business start to support contributions to ensure that it is obtainable in accessible formats and to educate business advisers on the potential and risks that selfemployment have for differently abled persons. A second approach of action for government

is to support the expansion and acceptance of assistive technology.

**Kitching (2014)**, reporting for the OECD on the barriers for entrepreneurship among the disabled, highlights the lack of skills being connected to level of education and work experience.

**Paul Adam (2010)** has noted that the assured skill has also been known as being significant when self employed, such as decision- making, organizational skills, managing money, problem solving, and so on. Nevertheless, unlike personality several skills can be educated or you may decide to find a business partners who is skilled in these field. Having an awareness of self and your disease means knowing your and being conscious of how your disease affects your ability to function on a daily activities.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

The aim to assess the Quality of Life among self employed differently abled person with reference to DDAWO, Tiruchirappalli District.

### *Objective of the study*

- To know the socio demographical profile of the respondents.
- To know the quality of life among the respondent.

### *Statement of the Problem*

Being a differently abled person, getting employment and gaining income is another significant issue to them to sustains their lifestyle. Differently abled persons are engaging differing types of self employment activities to satisfy their family expenses. For that they need to cross many obstacles and problems not only in their business, but being a differently abled person may be a main explanation for barrier. The government also supports the differently abled person through providing loans and subsidy scheme for their economic development. In this regard the researcher wants to study the Quality of Life of the differently abled person.

### *Sampling Procedures*

The researcher adopted a descriptive research design. The Universe of the sample is 700. The researcher selected 4 Category of disability people in this research study. The categories are Hearing Impairment (HI), Visually Impairment (VI), Locomotor Disability (LD), and Mental Retardation (MR). The researcher using simple random sampling method. Out of 700 population 50 differently abled person were selected as sample for this present study with the reference to DDAWO, Thiruchirappalli district.

### *Tool of Data collection*

The WHOQOL-BREF is a 26-item instrument consisting of four domains: physical health (7 items), psychological health (6 items), social relationships (3 items), and environmental health (8 items); it also contains QOL and general health items.

### **Statistical Tools**

The statistical tools of Mean, Median, and SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) were used for statistical analysis of the quantitative data.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table No: 1  
 DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS BY THEIR OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE AND WITH THEIR DIMENSIONS

S. No.	Various Dimensions	No. of Respondents (n = 50)	Percentage
1.	<b>Physical Health</b>		
	Low	11	22
	Average	35	70
	High	4	8
2.	<b>Psychological Health</b>		
	Low	13	26
	Average	31	62
	High	6	12
3.	<b>Social Relationship</b>		
	Low	20	40
	Average	25	50
	High	5	10
4.	<b>Environment</b>		
	Low	20	40
	Average	22	44
	High	8	16
5	<b>Overall Quality of Life</b>		
	Low	17	34
	Average	21	42
	High	12	24

The above table indicate that, the overall quality of life, less than half of the respondents (42 percent) have average level of overall quality of life, more than one third of the respondent (34 percent) have low level of overall quality of life and remaining less than one fourth of the respondent (24 percent) have high level of quality of life. Hence the dimension of physical health, psychological health, social relationship and environment of overall quality of life are in average level and it will reflect in the overall quality of life as average level of self employed differently abled person.

Table No: 2  
 ASSOCIATION BETWEEN RELIGION OF THE RESPONDENTS AND THEIR LEVEL OF QUALITY OF LIFE

S. No.	Religion	LEVEL OF QUALITY OF LIFE			Statistical Inference
		Low	Average	High	
1	Hindu	15	16	10	$\chi^2 = 1.035$ Df- 4 P<0.05 Cramer's V= .102 <b>Significant</b>
2	Christian	1	3	1	
3	Muslim	1	2	1	

The above table indicates that there is a association between Religion of the respondents and their level of quality of life. Hence research hypothesis is accepted and null hypothesis is rejected.

#### Suggestions

- Flexible and different training methods can be adopted to deliver the knowledge and skills.
- Psychologically they need lot of support from NGO and Government hospital in related to counseling and health benefits towards their wellness.
- Through CSR fund specific skill development programme for the differently abled person and motivate as self employed person.
- Formation of Network for the entrepreneurs forum to discuss pros and cons.
- Creating Employability opportunity is a temporary solution for the differently abled person.
- The government will provide government job opportunity for them or otherwise their family member who will take care of them is permanent solution for their economic sustainability

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Many of these differently abled people have their willingness to take challenges in business activities. Their key obstacles are financial support, lack of awareness about EDP, lack of

family support, market competition etc. They are struggling, but at the same time they are very hardworking and persistent in their tasks earning for their livelihood. Government should increase their support and raise their voice providing required and necessary support for these differently abled people.

## 5. REFERENCE

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