

SRI LANKA

Country Report

"Educational Supports for children with multiple disability with sensory impairment, including deafblindness" in Sri Lanka

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1. Key Indicators for Sri Lanka (2003)

Population	19.1 million (26% 0_14 years)
Annual population growth	1.3%
Life expectancy	73.1 years
Infant mortality rate	13.3%
Under 5 Mortality rate	19% per 1000 live birth
Literacy rate	92%
Primary school net enrolment	8.4%(2001)
Secondary ,, ,,	70% male, 74% female
Un employment	8.4% (G D P)
Gross Domestic Product per Capita	\$ 825
GDP growth	5.6%(2001)
Government Expenditure on education	2% of GDP (2001)

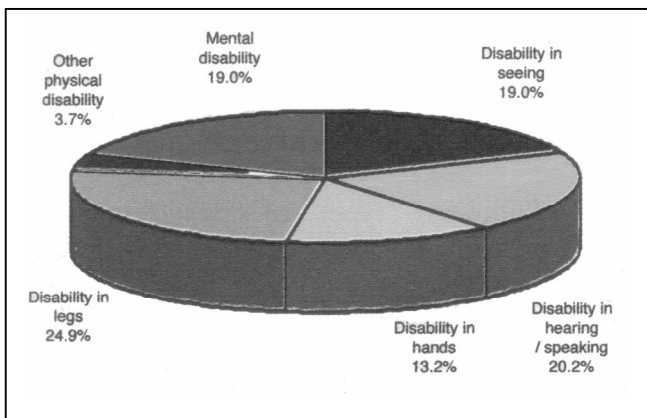
(S C F - Sri Lanka)

The distribution of ethnic groups, Sinhalese 81.9%, Sri Lanka Tamil 4.3, Indian Tamil 5.1%, Sri Lanka Moor 8.0%, Other 0.7%. (Censuses - 2001)

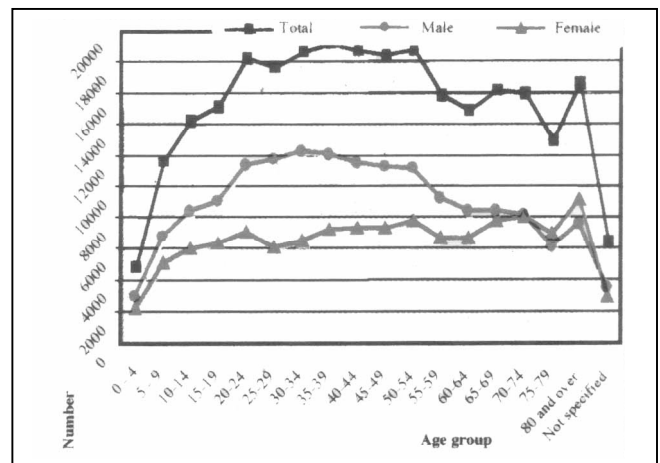
2. Present Status

The general Census conducted by the Department of Censuses & Statistics in 2001 reveals the statistics of the person with disabilities. The survey was completed only in 18 districts out of 24. In the North Eastern province, the survey was not successful due to the ethnic conflict. 158,446 males and 116,265 females were there out of 274,711 disabled persons.

Percentage of distribution of the disabled in Sri Lanka - 2001



Disabled population in Sri Lanka by age group - 2001



3. Services for the children with disabilities

The Ministries of Social welfare, Health and Education and NGOs of Sri Lanka provide various services for persons with disabilities.

- Health
- Education
- Social Welfare

3.1 Health Services

An island wide health service is conducted by the Ministry of Health through Provincial Councils. Family Health Nurses are given a major role in this sector and they are attached to health centers. They visit expecting mothers, children up to year 5 and provide various services. Medical treatment and test, PT, OT, ST, and counseling services are available in government and private hospitals for the children with disabilities. They are directed for other services according to their necessities.

3.2 Educational Services

The education service is administrated by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education of Central Government and Provincial Councils. Every child of Sri Lanka is entitled to free education up to the graduation. There is a separate section for special education in Central Ministry and Provincial Councils. NGOs also have taken a prominent place in giving education for children with disabilities.

3.2.1 No. of students by type of Disabilities 2003

	Hearing Impairment	Visual Impairment	Speech language Difficulties	Dyslexia	Intellectual Impairment	Physical Disability	Group Label	Behavior Difficulties	Multiple Disabilities	Others	Total
M	2174	5118	4829	8071	5952	1730	570	2509	2663	1259	35485
F	1841	4949	2246	5205	3806	1173	443	965	1657	855	23141
Total	4015	10067	7075	13276	9758	2903	1013	3474	4320	2114	58626

The above chart shows the statistics of the disabled children study in schools. But the data of the disabled children living in their own houses and institutions are not included. Figures can be increased accordingly.

3.2.2 Types of Educational Services for children with special needs

- Inclusive Education / Special Education units / Special Schools/ Non-formal Education/ Children's Homes

The Government accepts the policy of United Nations "Education for all". Accordingly more steps have been taken to widen the system of inclusive education and give equal opportunities to the

children with special needs. However, there are many practical difficulties in the implementation of such programmes

3.2.3 Educational support for children with multiple disability and sensory impairment with deafblindness

It is accepted, the children that cannot be integrated with inclusive education or integrated education must be educated in a special education unit, special school or in a residential institution. A large number of children with multiple disability are unable to enter the prevailing educational system due to the difficulty of accessibility, lack of staff and other various matters. Therefore social welfare sector has a lot of responsibilities on children with multiple disabilities.

3.3. Social Welfare Services

A wide range of services are conducted by Social welfare sector for the benefit of children with special needs. Children with multiple disability give more priority to gain welfare services and less importance to education due to economical status of their families, less facilities of their living environment, lack of educational centres, attitudes etc. Parents are more likely to send the children with multiple disability to residential institutions for the easiness of the family. Under these circumstances, children with multiple disabilities are kept and looked after in their own houses or residential institutions.

3.3.1 Some services provided by Social Welfare Sector

1. Child Guidance Center
2. Staff / Pre school Teacher Training
3. Community based Rehabilitation Programme for disabled
4. Financial and other supporting services
5. Services connected with NGOs

There is no any residential institution for children with multiple disability under Government. A very limited number of institutions are conducted by NGOs. In these institutions mostly the basic daily

activities; bathing, feeding, cleaning are practiced. The society has a very little awareness and education on the possibility of training and educating the children with multiple disability. To overcome this matter, the correct ways of working with children with disabilities and proper stimuli are taught through the ministry of social services, preschool teacher training for intellectual disability children and awareness programmes of parents.

The CBR programme highlights the fact that it is the responsibility of the family and the community to rehabilitate the children with disabilities while allowing them to be in the community. Volunteers are involved in visiting the houses of the persons with disabilities, work together with parents and providing various services.

There are some institutions in Sri Lanka, carrying out educational services to assist children with multiple disability

1. Class for the Children With Multiple Disability in Child Guidance Center
2. Prithipura Infant home
3. Swarnadama Foundation
4. Mark Sri Sarana Children home
5. Special class at Ratmalana Blind school

In present, providing services for the children with multiple disability has become one of the major responsibilities of the social welfare sector.



Child Guidance Centre



Prithipura Infant Home