

Situation Analysis on PwDs in Melaneelithanallur block, Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu, India

The preliminary survey conducted by SIVA Trust in its working area of 14 villages in Melaneelithanallur block of Tirunelveli district in Tamil Nadu State of India revealed an astounding picture. There are 254 adults and 58 children (total 308) with disabilities, in the total population of around 5200 in these villages. They constitute 6% of the population and almost all of them belong to poor sections of the society. Among the 308 persons with disabilities (PwDs), the major chunk (63%) is locomotors disabled, 10% are visually impaired and 5% are hearing impaired. Incidentally, 20% are mentally retarded or mentally ill and unfortunately 28% of the mentally challenged are children. Most of them are abandoned by the society and even by the family. They cannot be given any worthwhile education, but the mild category among them could be given some vocational training suitable to their capacity and can be made an earning member. Their parents also need proper counseling for handling them. The society, in general also need to be given proper orientation on disability, so that the society could be an inclusive one, respecting the human rights of the persons with disabilities and want contribution they can make for the society.

The PwDs have to be provided with available aids and appliances to assist them in free mobility, to enhance their hearing capacity and to ensure easy accessibility to all places. They also need assistance to access the facilities given to them by the Government departments and also in health care. Following are the details of disabled population in Melaneelithanallur block:-

Sl no	Name of village	LD		MR		HI		MI		VI		Total
		Adult	Children	Adult	Children	Adult	Children	Adult	Children	Adult	Children	
1	Kurukkalpatti	30	2	2	0	4	0	3	1	6	0	48
2	Dharmathoorani	10	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	15
3	Naduvakurichi	11	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	5	0	20
4	Thirumalapuram	8	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
5	Aayaalpatti	5	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
6	Koovachipatti	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
7	Achampatti	18	1	8	2	1	0	0	0	4	1	35
8	Muthukrishnapuram	4	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
9	Vanniconendal	14	2	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
10	V. Puliampatti	4	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
11	M.N. Nallur	18	5	5	2	1	0	0	0	9	1	41
12	J. Elanthaikulam	9	1	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
13	P. Kovilankulam	9	3	3	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	20
14	Meenthulli	20	7	4	4	1	0	5	0	4	0	45
	<b>Total</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>308</b>

Note:

- LD - Locomotors Disabled (Physical)
- MR - Mentally Retarded
- HI -Hearing Impaired (Deaf)
- MI -Mentally Ill (insane)
- VI - Visually Impaired (Blind)