

## Abstract

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Title: A study of Awareness and Attitude of Health care Professionals and Care givers towards Person with Disability among the vulnerable group of isolated district of Ladakh (J&K)

Disability has been ignored and secluded for ages. The research topic based on disability was initiated to highlight and uncover the issues related to disability which needs an immediate attention. According to World Health Organization “Disability is an umbrella term, covering impairments, activity limitations and restrictions. An Impairment is a problem in body function or structure; an activity limitation is a difficulty encountered by an individual in executing a task or action; while a participation restrictions is a problem experienced by an individual in involvement in life situations. Thus disability is a complex phenomenon, reflecting an interaction between features of a person’s body and features of the society in which he or she lives”.

Need of the study: Ladakh today stands as an isolated barren island of forgotten people disconnected from rest of the country. Kargil district of Ladakh is the most unserved and unreached region of J&K. The region is geographically poor with a population of 140,802 out of which 74.49% are literate. Arisha Qayyum et al., “With significant regional disparities, the position is much worse in disadvantaged regions where there is wide-spread poverty, illiteracy, cultural barriers, and gender discrimination. It is widely acknowledged that personal attitudes and circumstances, combined with environmental factors, can either precipitate or help to prevent disability. Beliefs about causality, valued attributes and perceptions of adult roles in the community will determine how a particular cultural group views disability”. Ignorance and negative attitudes are among the greatest obstacles that people with disabilities have to contend with especially in an isolated region as well as in rural area. Thereby Barriers of all kinds such as Social, Structural and Psychological obstruct or delay opportunities for person with disability. Therefore it was necessary to study the Awareness and Attitude towards disability of Health Care Professionals and Care Givers residing in such a conditions of Kargil through a combination of research tools specifically designed to serve the objectives of the study.

Objective of the study:

1. To study the Awareness of Health Care Professionals and Care Givers towards the Person with Disability
2. To find out the Difference in Awareness between Health Care Professionals and Care Givers toward persons with disability
3. To study the Attitude of Health Care Professionals and Care Givers toward persons with disability
4. To find out the Difference in Attitude between Health Care Professionals and Care Givers toward persons with disability
5. To explore the availability of Educational and Health Services and applicability of Government Schemes and Provisions regarding Person with Disability in Kargil

Methodology:

1. Population: The population for the study is the Healthcare Professionals and Caregivers in the field of Disability of the Kargil District
2. Sample: Using purposive sampling method, data from the 100 Healthcare professionals and 100 Caregivers to be collected for the study
3. Tools used: Questionnaire studying Awareness level of Healthcare professionals and Care givers who are dealing with Person with Disability. 2 Different sets of questionnaire were developed for Healthcare professionals and Care givers. Attitude towards the Person with Disability Scale for Healthcare professionals and Care givers who are dealing with Person with Disability. Checklist to explore the provisions and schemes which are available for the disabled group in Health and educational set-ups

Tool Construction: Items of the tools were identified through thorough review of literatures, including journals, books, dissertations, thesis, articles and encyclopedia. The Reliability was computed through Split half method and for Validity of the tool Content Validity and Face Validity by experts in the field of disability was conducted. Pilot study was conducted on 20 Health Care Professionals and 20 Care Givers.

Data analysis: The data was analyzed quantitatively as well as qualitatively. The descriptive statistical techniques namely Mean and Standard Deviation, Percentage was employed. The Inferential statistics namely t-test was employed. For the qualitative analysis the method of content analysis was performed.

Result and Discussion: Health Care Professionals and Care Givers indicated Average Awareness level towards person with disability this may be due to the limited exposure to the latest trends and information about the disability management in Kargil. Thus the limited information seems to be as sufficient form of information needed by them to work with Person with Disability in the remote area with lesser facilities and connections with the other professionals and agencies at a regular basis. Health Care Professionals has better awareness than the Care Givers. Due to their routinely exposure to treatment of disability it helps them acquire knowledge about its management at a better level. The majority of Health Care Professionals and Care givers have shown favorable Attitude towards Person with Disability. This may be due to their constant contact with Person with Disability. The Health and Rehabilitation Centers were providing all the services viz. Health Check-up, Immunization, Oral Drops, Eye Check-up, Ear Check-up, Physiotherapy, Speech Therapy, Assessment and counselling, Awareness Campaign, Community Based Rehabilitation and Assistive Devices and Aids like Prosthesis, Orthosis and Wheelchair for Person with Disability There was structural availability of Educational setup namely Special School, Inclusive School and Resource room for Children with Special Needs. The Educational services namely Special Educator, Early detection for Intervention, Classroom and Informal Assessment, Teaching Remediation and Modification, Individual Education Plan and Teaching Learning material were provide for Children with Special Needs

Educational Implications: Facilitate the Health Care Professionals of remote areas such as Kargil to acquire Awareness and Attitude which are suitable to meet the needs of person with disability in relation to health related services or educational programs. This finding proves to be potential help and encouragement for person with disability to access education and employment amongst the care givers who have optimistic perspectives towards them.