



# **NCPEDP - Javed Abidi Fellowship on Disability**

Supported by Azim Premji Foundation

## **Baseline Report**

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**Outreach of UDID and Inclusion of Disabled  
People in Livelihood Schemes**

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# 1 Executive Summary

As per the 2011 census, the disabled population of India is 26,814,994. For entitlements and empowerment, identification is the threshold through which Persons with Disabilities can credibly avail and claim government benefits. However, according to the 76th round of NSS on disability, only 28.8 per cent of Persons with Disabilities possess disability certificates<sup>1</sup>. The most prevalent disability certification is the state-level disability certificate issued by district hospitals.

In 2016, the Unique Disability Identification (UDID) was introduced to create a centralised database and identify Persons with Disabilities. Nonetheless, most of the entitlements are still linked to state disability certificates, with UDID being an ad hoc document. However, the introduction of mandatory provision of UDID by the Department of Persons with Disabilities has created a need for better reach among the community of Persons with Disabilities.

To begin with, the loopholes in the disability certification process must be plugged. This involves working with district hospitals and the health ministry. Besides, disability certification cannot be seen as an isolated process. The UDID project aims to create a database of Persons with Disabilities; however, the quality of the data is unsatisfactory<sup>2</sup>.

To assess the penetration of schemes, two major planks of schemes were selected; the state disability pension scheme and the Mukhyamantri Rozgar Srijan Yojana, which provides loans for starting non-agricultural businesses. The former assesses the need for compensation while the latter takes the argument to the self-sustenance paradigm. It is also important to examine the budgetary allocation and utilisation to understand the government's priority for policy implementation in the respective areas.

After the survey, possible solutions which involve improving the disability certification process, community mobilisation through the formation of DPOs (Disabled People Organisations) and SHGs of Persons with Disabilities, and data collection of Persons with Disabilities in Gram Panchayats and blocks need to be outlined for the financial empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

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<sup>1</sup> Persons with Disabilities in India: NSS 76th round (July-December 2018)-

<https://ruralindiaonline.org/en/library/resource/persons-with-disabilities-in-india-nss-76th-round-july-december-2018/>

<sup>2</sup>

Centre publishes disability database stripped of socio-economic figures

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/govt-shelves-socio-economic-data-of-pwds-as-disability-database-goes-online/article67312174.ece>

## 2 Background

Deoghar is one of Jharkhand's 24 districts. With the setting up of an AIIMS and an airport, it has been in the news of late. These developments are expected to contribute to the local economy, which is built around religious tourism. In this scenario, it is important to understand the penetration of financial outreach to Persons with Disabilities in the district.

The selection of Sonaraitari - 35 km from the district headquarters - as an area of intervention was primarily because it has the highest work participation rate despite the lowest literacy rate among the ten blocks that comprise Deodhar district. As per the 2011 census, its literacy rate is 58.03 per cent while the district average is 64.85 per cent <sup>3</sup>.

## 3 Historical Background

Deoghar is considered the cultural capital of Jharkhand<sup>4</sup>. The main city is known for Baidyanath Dham - a Shiva temple and one of the 12 Jyotirlingas in India - that attracts religious tourists from across the country and beyond. As a consequence of the tetrafurcation of the erstwhile Santhal Pargana district, the district of Deoghar was created on 1 June 1983. It is bound on the north by the district of Banka (Bihar), on the east by the district of Dumka, on the south by the district of Jamtara and on the west by the districts of Jamui (Bihar) and Giridih.



**Baidyanath temple**

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<sup>3</sup> District handbook- <https://deoghar.nic.in/document/census-2011-part-a/>

<sup>4</sup> District handbook- <https://deoghar.nic.in/document/census-2011-part-a/>

## 4 Climatic Conditions

Deoghar has a humid, subtropical, dry-winter climate. The average yearly temperature is 28.5°C (83.3°F); 2.53 per cent higher than India’s average. It typically receives about 42.5 mm (1.67 inches) of precipitation and has 35.53 rainy days annually. The climate of this district is salubrious as it is surrounded by forests and mountains.



**Block-wise distribution of Deoghar district: Deoghar, Devipur, Madhupur, Margomunda, Mohanpur, Sarwan, Sonaraithari, Sarath, Karon, Palozories**

## 5 Economic Background of Area of Intervention

Sonaraithari block predominantly sustains agriculture and home-based bidi manufacturing. Of the population of 76,116, 37,281 are engaged in work activities. 56.8 per cent of workers describe their work as Main Work (employment or earning for more than six months in a year) while 43.2 per cent are involved in marginal activity that provides livelihood for less than six months in a year. Of 37,281 workers engaged in Main Work, 6,546 are cultivators (owner or co-owner) while 6,785 are agricultural labourers.<sup>5</sup>

The work participation rate (total workers) is the highest for any block in the district (48.98 per cent according to the 2011 census)<sup>6</sup>. With that in view, there is structural backing for Persons with Disabilities to improve their employability. Carved out of Sarwan block in 2009, Sonaraithari does not have community health centres.

In the rural context, the Disability Pension Scheme was a major area of study to understand the interrelation between poverty, disability and public policy implementation<sup>7</sup>. Inputs were gathered from newspaper articles and observations at the grassroots level. The study helped understand the interaction with the government mechanism as its benefits are direct and tangible. It also interconnects with other issues such as disability certification, which is the starting point for all government schemes Persons with Disabilities are entitled to receive. There are instances of the pension being discontinued after physical verification due to the absence or inadequacy of documents.

Another primary area the pension scheme touches upon is access to the Aadhar card, bank account, and ration card. This presents specific challenges to Persons with Disabilities, such as the requirement of fingerprints and retina scans while authenticating for these documents. According to the RPWD Act 2016, Persons with Disabilities are entitled to an additional 25 per cent compared to other social categories, considering their vulnerability within each social group.

An important question about pension schemes is whether over-dependence on them stagnates the growth of Persons with Disabilities. Shouldn't Persons with Disabilities improve their skills and move beyond pension? The Jharkhand state government gives a 40 per cent subsidy to vulnerable social groups including Persons with Disabilities under the Mukhyamantri Rozgar Srijan Yojana and waives the requirement of a guarantor for up to Rs 50,000, which can be availed for starting for an enterprise<sup>8</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> Census 2011, Sonaraithari block <https://www.censusindia.co.in/subdistrict/sona-rai-tharhi-block-deoghar-jharkhand-2548>

<sup>6</sup> District handbook: <https://deoghar.nic.in/document/census-2011-part-a/>

<sup>7</sup> Newspaper reports <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1s53ScceO9d7VpH-BKN4kUUywMw42Esg3>

<sup>8</sup> CMEGP, Jharkhand website- <https://cmeqp.jharkhand.gov.in/index.php/WebSetup/index>

## 6 Research Methodology

### 6.1 Secondary research

Literature review, which included:

- a. Newspaper articles
- b. Census and various other government surveys
- c. RTI replies
- d. Budget data
- e. Analysis of government schemes allocation by CSOs

### 6.1 Primary research

The primary study commenced with a pilot in collaboration with local NGO Pravah, which works in the field of organic farming and malnutrition. A questionnaire was prepared after conducting a mock survey of 20 individuals in the 6-64 age group through random sampling.

During the survey itself, several community meetings and Cross Disability Trainings were organised to mobilise Persons with Disabilities and the larger village community.

For the primary survey, the block office was contacted. A monthly meeting is presided over by the Block Development Officer where Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members are present. In the monthly meeting of January, the PRI members were informed about the survey to be conducted. Thereafter, Panchayat officials were approached for coordination with the village community.

Initially, Persons with Disabilities were identified through snowball sampling and later mixed with stratified sampling. To mobilise people to participate in the study, several community meetings were held in two gram panchayats with the help of Panchayat officials.

## 7 Secondary Research

### 7.1 Mukhyamantri Rozgar Srijan Yojana

In his speech in Deodhar on 6 June 2022, the Chief Minister stated that 5392 beneficiaries had been allotted Rs 77.88 crore<sup>9</sup>, whereas the Governor in the address speech of the budget session stated that 5618 beneficiaries have been allotted over Rs 46 crore. There is a discrepancy between the two statements.

The Sankalp document, which states the structural and procedural framework, mentions four state nodal agencies namely:

- I) Jharkhand State Tribal Cooperative Development Corporation
- II) Jharkhand State Scheduled Caste Cooperative Development Corporation
- III) Jharkhand State Backward Class Finance Development Corporation
- IV) Jharkhand State Minorities Finance and Development Corporation

These agencies are supposed to get funds from institutions such as NSTFDC, NBCFDC, NMDFC and NHFDC against State Government Guarantee and Government Assistance as subsidies.

However, looking at the state-level nodal agencies, there are no clearly demarcated agencies that would provide loans to Persons with Disabilities. The website of Jharkhand State Tribal Cooperative Development Corporation states its objective is to provide loans to Persons with Disabilities under their categories but the other agencies have no website. Also, there is no clarity about the disbursement of loans to those who do not fall under the mentioned categories.

According to data from the Department of Social Welfare, Deoghar for the year 2022-23, Rs 1.36 crore was disbursed under the Chief Minister's Employment Generation Programme (CMEGP) in the district. The social categories targeted were scheduled tribes, backward castes, minorities, and Persons with Disabilities.

#### Category-wise beneficiaries (Deoghar, 2022-23):

Category	Number of Beneficiaries
ST	54
BC (Backward Caste)	471
MINORITY	658
PwD	4
TOTAL	1187

<sup>9</sup> Hemant Soren address in Deoghar- <https://cm.jharkhand.gov.in/node/13214>



The above data reveals that the number of Persons with Disabilities beneficiaries is starkly low.

## 7.2 Unique Disability Identification (UDID)

The UDID Project comes under SIPDA (Scheme for Implementation for Persons with Disabilities Act), which aims to create a centralised database of Persons with Disabilities. According to the notification of 1 June 2021, it became mandatory for a disability certificate to be issued only through the UDID Swavlamban portal. As reported in the news on 6 June, 2023, 94.30 lakh UDIDs spanning over 716 districts have been generated, as stated by Social Justice Empowerment Minister Virendra Kumar<sup>10</sup>. According to an RTI reply, received on 5 July 2023, Jharkhand has generated 1,57,099 UDIDs, of which, 3610 are from the Deoghar district<sup>11</sup>. This is a significant number but far less than the number of disability pension holders in the district.

The SIPDA scheme's revised budget estimate is 50 per cent lower than the original budget, which includes the UDID project showcases the negligence of the central government. It is only 13 per cent of the total outlay of the Department of Persons with Disabilities.

### Estimated total budget allocation for UDID project 98.753 crore year-wise data for expenditure under UDID project (actuals)<sup>12</sup>

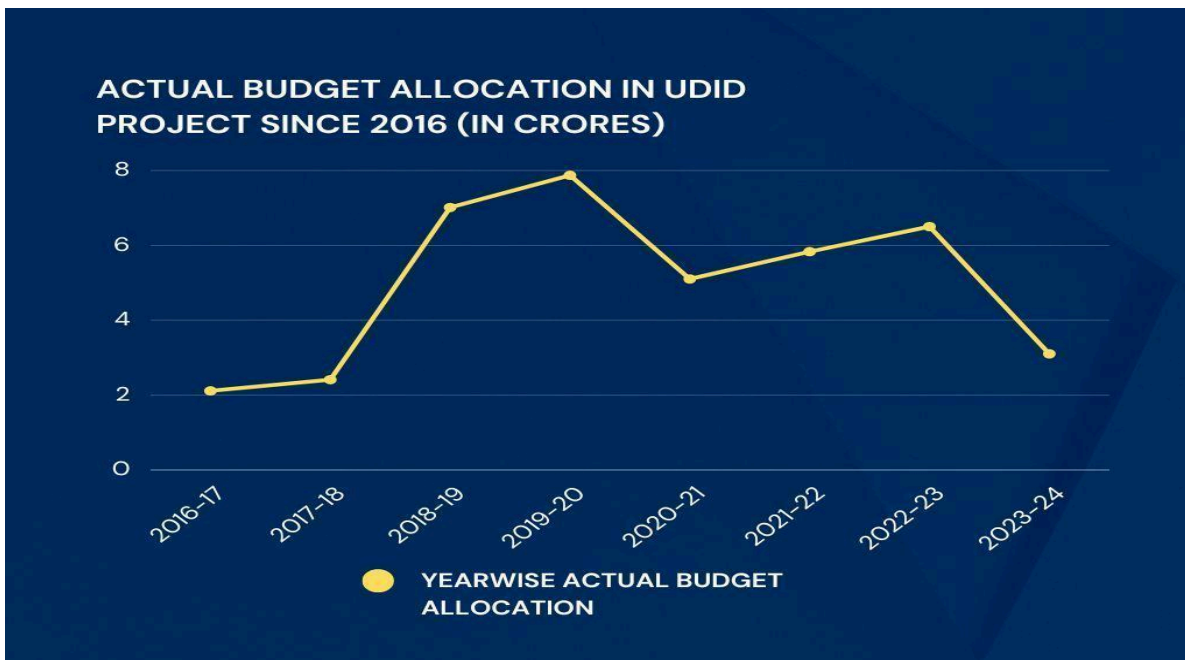
Year	Budget Allotted in Crores
2016-17	2.11
2017-18	2.41
2018-19	7.01
2019-20	7.87
2020-21	5.10
2021-22	5.83
2022-23	6.50
2023-24	3.10 (as on 01.08.2023)
TOTAL	39.93

<sup>10</sup> 94 Lakh Unique Disability ID Cards Issued In India, Just 9 In Bengal: Data <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/94-lakh-unique-disability-id-cards-issued-in-india-just-9-in-bengal-data-4099341>

<sup>11</sup> RTI reply received on 05.07.2023 [https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1MmOnfGwfa\\_vCXT0TsR1wi0iN4Xm5H9qc](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1MmOnfGwfa_vCXT0TsR1wi0iN4Xm5H9qc)

<sup>12</sup> RTI reply received by Akeel Usmani [https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1MmOnfGwfa\\_vCXT0TsR1wi0iN4Xm5H9qc](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1MmOnfGwfa_vCXT0TsR1wi0iN4Xm5H9qc)

As indicated by the data, over the years, the expenditure is merely 40 per cent of the total allocation. It is under the budget allocation of the SIPDA scheme. Some states mention the



breakdown of the SIPDA scheme in their state budget estimates but most do not have a clearcut breakdown indicating specific allocations in UDID projects.

**DATA OF UDID APPLICATION VS ACTIVE USERS AS OF 27.7.2023<sup>13</sup>**

UDID	Total	Male	Female	Others
Application	10270677	6857297	3411060	2319
Active	8842020	5913172	2926995	1852

<sup>13</sup> RTI reply received by Akeel Usmani [https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1MmOnfGwfa\\_vCXT0TsR1wi0iN4Xm5H9qc](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1MmOnfGwfa_vCXT0TsR1wi0iN4Xm5H9qc)

### 7.3 SIPDA<sup>14</sup>

The SIPDA includes the budgetary allocation for the UDID project. In recent years, a pattern of the revised budget being less than half of the original has been observed. This affects the effective implementation of several schemes related to accessibility, research, and skill-building of Persons with Disabilities

SIPDA's outlay of expenditure	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24 (In Crore)
Budget Estimate	251.5	209.77	240.39	150
Revised Estimate	122.89	147.31	100	NA
Budget Estimate	18.98	17.90	19.83	12.24
Revised Estimate	13.65	14.10	9.84	NA

### 7.4 State Disability Certificates

However, the UDID project cannot be viewed in isolation. To understand its constraints, the issues concerning the State Disability Certificate must be considered. According to the 76th round of NSS on Disability, only 28.8 per cent of Persons with Disabilities have disability certificates. Disability comes under the State list of the seventh schedule of the Indian Constitution. To certify Persons with Disabilities, state governments have tasked government hospitals at the district level to constitute medical boards for in-person medical verification and determine the type and degree of disability in terms of percentage. According to the RPWD Act 2016, 40 per cent is the benchmark disability for availing facilities such as receiving reservations, pensions and assistive aids provided by state governments. Conventionally, possessing a state disability certificate was enough to receive all the facilities provided at the state level.

Getting a disability certificate from a hospital tends to be a cumbersome process, especially in rural areas where the distance from the hospital is a barrier. Even after reaching a hospital, navigating the crowd drawn from entire districts discourages Persons with

<sup>14</sup> Union budget analysis for schemes for Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities:  
<https://www.scribd.com/document/625245205/Union-Budget-Analysis-23-24-NCPEDP>

Disabilities from going through the process of medical verification<sup>15</sup>. There are cases of unavailability of doctors<sup>16</sup>, and malpractices in disbursing certificates<sup>17,18</sup>. UDID doesn't have its own independent system for verification of disability, it relies upon the verification already done by the medical board. Course-correction is necessary to make the UDID effective.

Gender-based barriers are also prevalent in the disability-certification process. The 2018 NSS report based on 21 types of disabilities highlights the significant gap in access to disability certificates. The report also reveals how this gap is gendered. Only 24 per cent of women with disabilities have disability certificates against 32.4 per cent of men. The gap is wider between males (34.4 per cent) and females (23.6 per cent) in urban areas than between males (31.7 per cent) and females (24.3 per cent) in rural areas.<sup>19</sup> An article at behanbox.com highlights the gender lens in getting the certificate.

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<sup>15</sup> Crowd gathered for disability test

<https://www.bhaskar.com/local/bihar/bhagalpur/saharsa/news/crowd-gathered-for-disability-test-in-sadar-hospital-chaos-ensued-129590184.html>

<sup>16</sup> Absence of neurologist at Erode GH puts differently abled to hardship

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Coimbatore/absence-of-neurologist-at-erode-gh-puts-differently-abled-to-hardship/article30976193.ece>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/archive/punjab/3-civil-surgeons-found-guilty-of-fraud-one-faces-demotion-688985>

<sup>18</sup> 'To Issue My UDID, I Was Ill-treated & Denied Access To My Documents at Hospital'

<https://www.thequint.com/my-report/denied-access-to-my-own-documents-and-ill-treated-at-delhis-hospital>

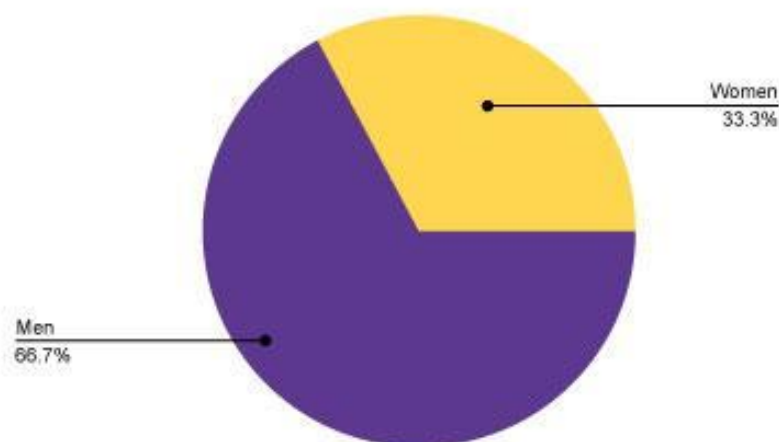
<sup>19</sup> Tangled In Red Tape, The Disability ID Card Process Is Steeped With Gender Barriers

<https://behanbox.com/2022/02/10/tangled-in-red-tape-the-disability-id-card-process-is-steeped-with-gender-barriers/>

## 8 Objective of the Primary Study

To explore the status of Persons with Disabilities in basic indicators with a specific focus on disability certification, disability pension and loan-seeking ability among Persons with Disabilities in two gram panchayats (Sonaraithari and Binjha) of Sonaraithari block, comprising 16 villages.

**8.1 Survey Composition** The survey included Persons with Disabilities in the 5-65 age group, as this group is eligible for Swami Vivekananda Nishakt Swavlamban Protsahan Yojana, which is the state disability pension scheme. There were 207 respondents from 18 villages. Sonaraithari gram panchayat has a population of 6642 and the Binjha gram panchayat has a population of 5724 (Census 2011).

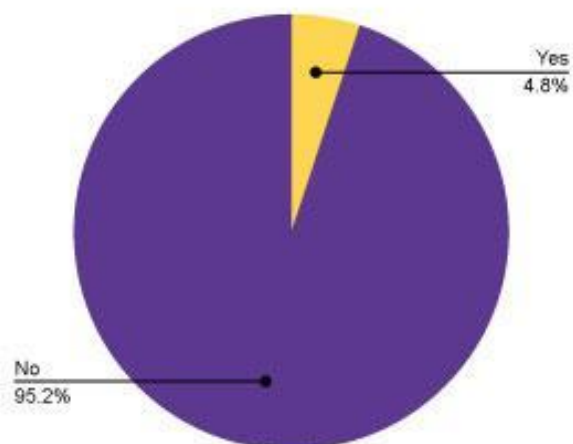


The survey also included two villages of Bhodajamua gram panchayat. The intended sample size was 160 persons with disabilities; however, it ended up being 207. The 2011 census does not have disaggregated block-level data of Persons with Disabilities. The only official data registering the numbers of Persons with Disabilities at the panchayat and block level is the list of disability pension recipients available on the NSAP portal.

**Disaggregated data of Persons with Disabilities based on gender in two gram panchayats as in the survey**<sup>20</sup>

Gram panchayats	Male (PwDs)	Female (PwDs)	Total number of PwDs
Sonaraithari	49	27	76
Binjha	86	42	128
Bhodajamua (2 villages)	3	0	3

<sup>20</sup> District handbook- CMEGP DEOGHAR DATA  
<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1170sZ25xwF73v5QHHXzAmZyru7BVJTP6>



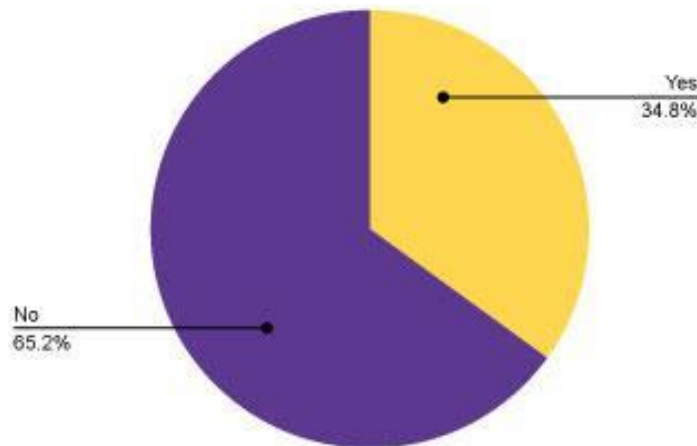
**Survey Results in brief**

Category	YES in %	NO in %
Disability certificate	YES 72 (34.8 %)	NO 135 (65.2 %)
Disability pension	YES 36 (17%)	NO 171 (83 %)
UDID	YES 10 (4.8 %)	NO 197 (95.2 %)
Loans	YES 195 (94.2 %)	NO 12(5.8 %)
Bank Account	YES 146 (70.5)	NO 61 (29.5 %)

## 9 Finding and Analysis

### 9.1 Persons having Disability Certificate

The most critical findings of the primary study have been the access to disability certification and pension scheme. 65.2 per cent of the respondents do not have a disability certificate - the basic identification and documentation proof for availing government schemes as Persons with Disabilities.



**Whether Having UDID Cards**

Only 4.8 per cent (10 respondents) possess UDID cards. Currently, they do not seem to understand the utility of UDID cards, since the state disability certificate enables access to all necessary facilities. A state disability certificate is necessary to obtain a UDID card. With the possession of UDID becoming mandatory to avail 17 centrally-sponsored schemes<sup>21</sup>, the situation is bound to change. However, it needs to integrate state-level schemes to have grassroots acceptance.

<sup>21</sup> From April 1, UDID mandatory to avail benefits of government schemes for persons with disabilities  
<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/from-april-1-udid-mandatory-to-avail-benefits-of-government-schemes-for-persons-with-disabilities/articleshow/98705702.cms?from=mdr>

## 9.2 Case Study 1: Shivraj Mishra

Shivraj Mishra is an 11-year-old boy from Sonaraitari block with cerebral palsy. His family consists of seven members, with his father being the sole earning member. He hails from a low socio-economic strata with a monthly household income of INR 6000. The family resides in Binjha village, The village is well connected with roadways and has basic public infrastructure like the health sub-center and Anganwadi center.



He was diagnosed with a disability at birth, yet does not hold a disability certificate. The family is concerned about acquiring a disability certificate. His father said, "We did not have a clear idea regarding the need for and the process of applying for a disability certificate and did not realise the entitlements he can receive as a person with a disability. We enquired about it few times but we could not receive the right information. Someone asked us to reach out to the Gram Panchayat secretary while others suggested meeting the Gram Panchayat Pradhan. Also, we were had lost hope about his future and lost interest in acquiring it." My intervention and the panchayat mukhiya's insistence reignited the family's hope and they received clarity on the application process.

In rural areas, not being well versed with the online application of UDID, most of the people take the help of Pragya Kendra (Common Service Centre). The centre - which usually charges INR 250 to apply for a UDID card - refused to assist him with the application. The executive asked him to seek assistance from the disability assessment camp. Accordingly, he had to wait for a few months till April 2022 due to the third wave of the pandemic. The information was provided through Gram Panchayat members and not through government channels. The camp was conducted in the last week of April 2022. Four-hour camps are supposed to be conducted at monthly intervals at the district level, catering to 10 blocks in the region. Camps are usually conducted at quarterly intervals at the block level, in view of the unavailability of medical practitioners for an hour to cater to Persons with Disabilities. Shivraj and his father visited the camp, incurring a one-way expense of INR 50 for the trip.

It was an uncomfortable experience for them. As his father expressed, "We reached there at

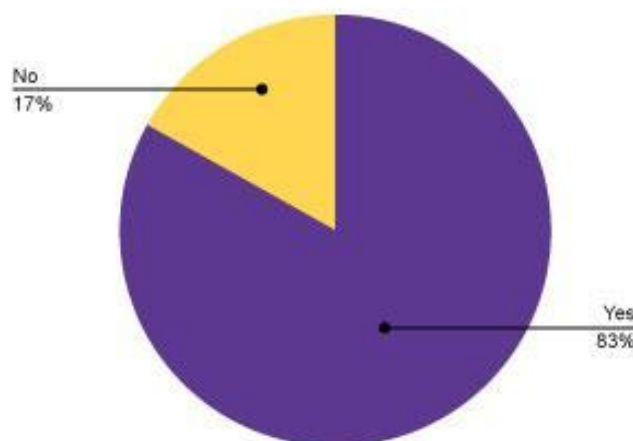


10 am and kept waiting till 1 pm. When the camp started at 1:30 pm, there was a rush and a long queue. We somehow managed to secure our place. The organisers of the camp distributed forms for disability assessments and UDID at a cost of INR 10. No one guided us about the form I was supposed to fill. I was worried that if we failed to complete the process, we might have to face this situation again. Thankfully, I got help from some people in the queue and applied for UDID. Shivraj did not have a disability certificate and I was told that he would undergo an assessment. It was difficult to understand the process of assessment. Those assessed were asked to be in a room. When we went to that room, we came to know that the doctor sitting there earlier had shifted to another room. Somehow, we managed to complete the assessment by 4 pm. It was excruciating to be part of the process under the sun without the availability of drinking water and food."

The process was completed with the submission of the form and persons with a disability from the block waited four months to receive only the disability certificate, not the UDID card. In the absence of a mechanism to track the application status, it was all a question of hope. Shivraj did not even receive the disability certificate. The policies and government efforts need to be revamped to make the process accessible, transparent, organised and accountable.

**Whether Availing Disability Pension**

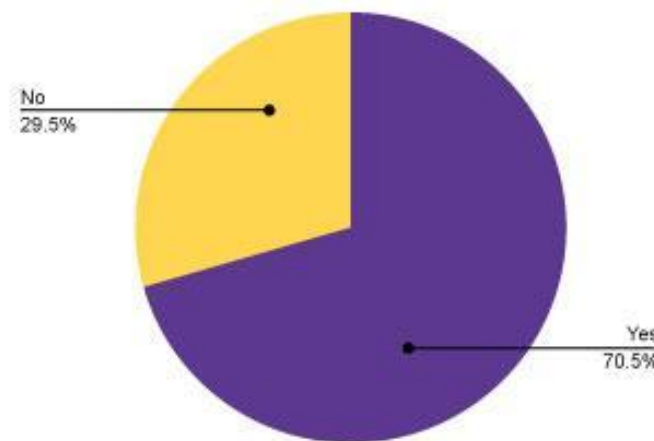
In Sonaraithari, as per the NSAP portal, there are 528 beneficiaries of the disability pension scheme, Swami Vivekananda Nishakt Protsahan Yojana as of March 2021. This is the least number of beneficiaries amongst all blocks. Sarwan block with 933 beneficiaries is next.



**In the survey, only 17 per cent were linked to the disability pension.**

**People Having Bank Account**

About two-thirds of the respondents had bank accounts. Grahak Seva Kendra seems to have good penetration in the villages. The successful implementation of Jan Dhan Yojana seems to be the reason. The most critical factor that emerged in the study is the distance of Sadar hospital and block office. It is a costly affair in rural areas to invest an entire day to get the paperwork done. The absence of medical verification at the block level makes it difficult for the village community to get the certification done.

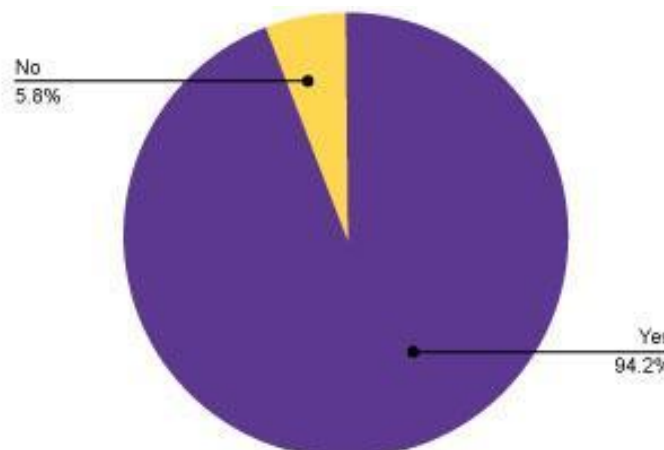


**People Availing Loans (Including Agricultural Loans)**

Mukhyamantri Rozgar Srijan Yojana includes Persons with Disabilities along with Backward Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Minorities. In the loan-seeking process, it was observed that Persons with Disabilities are not considered serious entrepreneurs. This is evident in the comments of the village community members such as:

“Ye toh Surdas hai. Ye vyapar kya karega.”

Translation: He is Surdas (a colloquial euphemism for blind). How he can do business. Such comment reflect the mentality of the village community and perception of Person with Disabilities. This affects the morale of the disabled community.



### 9.3 Case Study 2: Rahul Kumar Bhokta

Rahul Kumar Bhokta, 19, stays in Pipra village, Sonraithari block of Deoghar district. He has had a complete visual impairment since childhood. His father Sukhdeo Bhokta, 60, is a farmer by profession. His family consists of six members with a monthly income of INR 10,000. Rahul could not continue his studies after the seventh standard. He has a disability certificate and gets a disability pension. He was one of the 25 participants who completed the 10-day residential mushroom production training workshop for Persons with Disabilities conducted by RSETI, Deoghar last December.



His father recalls that before joining the workshop, he was a shy person, though active with his daily chores, but largely confined to his house. His only source of engagement was the community bhajan gatherings in the village where he sings bhajans at times. The workshop gave him the opportunity to move out of his village and visit the district headquarters for the first time. Initially, his father was skeptical whether he would be able to stay at the RSETI centre on his own. For three days, his father accompanied him to the centre. Even the trainers were not confident whether he would be able to navigate the physical space of the centre and most importantly, imbibe the training and study. He remained quiet for the first few days and had difficulty in socialising with other participants. He was the only participant with visual impairment; the majority had a locomotor disability.

On the fourth day of the workshop, after the training session, an informal gathering was organized for the participants to socialise. It was an opportunity for Rahul to showcase his talent. He sang bhajans in affirmation. For the first time, the group noticed Rahul and started cheering for him. That evening gave him much-needed confidence. The next day, he asked his father to leave for the village as he started feeling accepted by the group. Other participants, who were keeping away from him initially, started approaching him and assisting him navigate the centre. He started recording the workshop instructions on his phone and

sending them to his brother Santosh, 21, who helped him find relevant online content regarding mushroom production. He memorised the steps of mushroom production and in the final assessment, topped the group and received the certificate from the Deputy Commissioner of Deoghar.

After completing the workshop, he contacted the trainers for mushroom seeds. He bought chemicals and 3 kg of seeds of oyster mushroom, which are easy to cultivate. In one month, 10 kg of oysters were ready. He sold some with the help of a panchayat secretary and the rest through family contacts. His brother advertised on Facebook and got a few customers from there. After selling two batches of mushrooms, he wants to establish a proper setup for mushroom production, for which he needs a loan of one lakh rupees.

However, he cannot benefit from the Mukhyamantri Rozgar Srijan Yojana since mushroom production falls under the category of agricultural business. He is also encouraging other Persons with Disabilities in the area to take up self-employment as a viable option. The boy who was shy and only good for singing bhajans in the village has become a catalyst for encouraging self-employment for Persons with Disabilities. On a lighter note, he says, "Now, I will even charge for singing bhajans."

This case study shows that given the opportunity and basic identification, a person with a disability can aspire to move up the socio-economic ladder in a rural area too.

## 10 Conclusion

Several findings of the study highlight the issues of disability certification, which is the threshold for availing government schemes, but access to it is an issue that needs to be addressed. UDID has attained significance after the recent notification of the central government, but acceptance and adoption among the community needs policy tweaking.

## 11 Recommendations for Enhancing UDID Penetration

- 1 Enhancing the digital literacy of Persons with Disabilities with dedicated campaigns in urban and rural areas, so that they can utilise the benefits of UDID through voluntary exercise and not become dependent on middlemen and private agencies for a simple application process.
- 2 Ensuring 100 per cent utilisation of the budget allocation of the UDID project will improve the delivery of the project, which currently stands at 40 per cent. UDID currently covers a mere 38 per cent of the total population of Persons with Disabilities of 26,814,994 as per Census 2011.
- 3 The UDID is issued by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, but medical verification is done by doctors. Therefore, it should be officially endorsed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to enable seamless sharing of data between ministries.
- 4 Easing the medical verification process by introducing online medical verification wherever possible and making in-person verification only in cases where it is not possible to testify the disability of the person otherwise, to make the process hassle-free and reducing the crowd at medical verification camps. This will also solve the problem of the availability of doctors at a particular physical location.
- 5 Linking the UDID project to other prominent projects of the Central government such as Ayushman Bharat, PMAY, Skill India campaign and other major social-security projects for ensuring effective penetration of UDID.
- 6 The Ministry currently issues a separate photo-identity card for Persons with Disabilities to avail railway concessions. This facility should be merged with UDID to create a single window system.
- 7 Using the UDID database to understand the accessibility needs of Persons with Disabilities, where individual needs can be specified which an interactive interface.
- 8 Linking all Central and State government schemes and concessions for Persons with Disabilities to UDID, to make it a one-stop authorisation for Persons with Disabilities across India.
- 9 Enhancing the delivery mechanism system by connecting it to municipalities and panchayats to ensure last-mile accountability.
- 10 Linkage of UDID with Aadhar for seamless recognition of Persons with Disabilities across various government and non-governmental entities.
- 11 Uniformity of policies and regulations across states and union territories.
- 12 Clear-cut allocation of the budget for UDID under the SIPDA scheme to various states, with targets visible in outcome budgets of states.

## 12 Recommendations for improving the access to Mukhyamantri Rozgar Srijan Yojana among Persons with Disabilities

1. There should be a dedicated agency at the state level for the allotment of funds to Persons with Disabilities.
2. To increase enrolment, there should be a campaign to sensitise Persons with Disabilities regarding the provisions of the scheme.
3. Currently, the process of linkage of credit to various indicators is cumbersome and bogged down by procedural delays. A single-window system and speedier clearance is required.
4. The ambit of the scheme should be extended to agriculture for better penetration in rural areas.

### 12.1 Recommendations for overall empowerment of persons with disabilities in rural areas

1. Since the population of Persons with Disabilities is not constant and is dispersed across communities and geography, there should be an annual survey of Persons with Disabilities at the district level, comprising disaggregated data for gender and various categories of disabilities, and indicating educational, vocational and social needs at the gram-panchayat level.
2. Capacity building of Anganwadi workers every six months to assess the needs of Persons with Disabilities as per the provisions of RPWD 2016. These include disability certification, pension, enrolment of children with disabilities and their progress at the Anganwadi Centres.
3. Formation of DPOs at block and district levels, which includes the entire adult population of Persons with Disabilities, to highlight and resolve issues of the community with the collaboration of the panchayat, block, and district administration.
4. Formation of SHGs with the help of JSLPS, under the National Rural Livelihood Mission for Persons with Disabilities at the panchayat level to boost entrepreneurial potential among Persons with Disabilities.
5. Collaboration with RSETI, District employment office, Krishi Vigyan Kendra and NABARD to train Persons with Disabilities and enable them to explore avenues of enterprise. To ensure their participation, there must be a comprehensive study to assess the capabilities of Persons with Disabilities and local market needs. The accessibility of training centres, curriculum and learning material along with the sensitisation of resource persons must be considered.

## 12.2 Limitations of Study and Recommendations

1. The selected area of intervention is limited to two gram panchayats in Sonaraithari block. Therefore, the study findings cannot be used to project a generalised trend to a larger area.
2. Being an observational study, no claim to medico-legal scrutiny while interacting with Persons with Disabilities and determining their disability is being made.
3. Not being a household survey, the study does not claim to have included every Person with Disabilities in the two gram panchayats.
4. The calculation of the estimated budget increase under Recommendations is based on the unit cost derived from the total actual budget utilisation in UDID as on 01.08.2023 and the total number of applicants of UDID as on 27.07.2023.

## 13 Annexure:

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**Questionnaire**

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**Consent forms**

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