

DEFINITION AND CLASSIFICATION OF DISABILITY IN NEPAL

**Revised by Nepal
Government
in 2006**

New Definition and Classification of Disability In Nepal:

Definition of Disability: Disability is the condition of difficulty in carrying out daily activities normally and in taking part in social life due to problems in parts of the body and the physical system as well as obstacles created by physical, social, cultural environment and by communication.

1. **Classification of Disability:** According to the nature of the problem and difficulty in the parts of the body and in the physical system, disability has been classified into the following seven categories.

2.1 Physical Disability: Physical disability is the problem that arises in operation of physical parts, use and movement in a person due to problems in nerves, muscles and composition and operation activities of bones and joints. For example: polio, cerebral palsy, absence of a body part, effect of leprosy, muscular dystrophy, problem with joints and spinal chord, club feet, rickets, weakness produced due to problem related to bones etc. are physical disability. Short and stunted also fall into this category.

2.2 Disability related to vision: Disability related to vision is the condition where there is no knowledge about an object's figure, shape, form and color in an individual due to problem with vision. This is of two types.

- a) Blind: A person who cannot see the fingers of hand by both eyes at a distance of 10 feet despite treatment (medicine, surgery and use of glasses), or cannot read the first line of Snellen chart (3/60), then that person is blind.
- b) Low Vision: If any person who cannot distinguish fingers of a hand from a 20 feet distance despite treatments like medicine, surgery and use

of glasses, in other words, cannot read the letters of the fourth line of Snellen chart, then that person has low vision.

2.3 Disability related to hearing: Problems arising in an individual related to discrimination of composition of the parts of hearing and voice, rise and fall of position, and level and quality of voice is a disability related to hearing. It is of two types:

2.3.1 Deaf: An individual who cannot hear, speaks incoherently or cannot speak and who has to use sign language for communication is deaf. An individual who cannot even hear sound above 80 decibels is deaf.

2.3.2 Hard of Hearing: An individual who can hear only little but can hear little and cannot talk clearly, can only speak little, who needs to put hearing aid in the ear to listen, is a hard of hearing. An individual who can hear sound between 65 decibels and 80 decibels is a hard of hearing.

2.4 Deaf-Blind: An individual who is without both hearing and vision is a deaf-blind disabled.

2.5 Disability related to voice and speech: Due to difficulty produced in parts related to voice and speech and difficulty in rise and fall of voice to speak, unclear speech, repetition of words and letters is disability related to voice and speech.

2.6 Mental Disability: The inability to behave in accordance with age and situation and delay in intellectual learning due to problems arising in relation to implementation of intellectual activities like problems arising in the brain and mental parts and awareness, orientation, alertness, memory, language, calculation is mental disability.

2.6.1 Intellectual disability/Mental retardation: An individual having difficulty in carrying out activities relative to age or environment due

to absence of intellectual development before age of 18 years is intellectual disability/mental retardation.

2.6.2 **Mental illness:** Mental disability is an inability where there is difficulty in living daily life due to mental illness or weakness or deviation.

2.6.3 **Autism:** Absence by birth of normal behavior in accordance with a person's age, to show abnormal reaction, to keep on repeating one activity, to not socialize with others or to show extreme reaction is autism.

2.7 Multiple disability: Multiple disability is a problem of two or more than two types of disability mentioned above.

2. Classification of disability based on the seriousness of weakness:

- a. Complete disability:** Total disability is a condition where there is difficulty in carrying out daily activities even with the continuous assistance of others.
- b. Sever disability:** The condition of having to continuously take other people's assistance in order to carry out individual daily activities and to take part in social activities is acute disability.
- c. Moderate disability:** The condition of being able to perform daily activities by self with or without taking others' support, if the physical facilities are available, the physical environment is removed and there are opportunities of training and education, is called Moderate disability.
- d. Mild disability:** The situation where taking part in regular daily activities and social activities by self is possible if there is no social and environmental obstacle is ordinary disability.

Notes:

1. By composition and function of physical parts of an individual, we should understand related to operation of body, related to vision, related to voice and speech, related to nerves, mental, muscle and related to parts and functions of other systems.
2. By regular daily activities and participation in social life, we should understand activities and participation of a persons learning, daily chores, communication, movement, self care, home life, interaction, inclusive education, employment, and activities and participation in areas of community and civil life.
3. By obstacles created by existing social and physical environment, we should understand the obstacles created by psychosocial technology, natural and human made environment, ideological, service system and policies.
4. In the case of mentally retarded and highly dependent disabled people mother father or individual directly involved in nurturing is considered guardian or concerned for participation, facilities, representation.
5. The classification done on the basis of dependency will be clarified by directive.
6. Other things related to this will be according to Acts, Regulations.