

## FOREWORD

The Central Statistics Office conducted a Housing and Population Census in year 2000. Census 2000 was the seventeenth for the Island of Mauritius and the seventh for the Island of Rodrigues.

A series of table reports covering housing and living conditions, demographic and fertility characteristics, economic characteristics, educational characteristics, household characteristics, geographical and migration characteristics and disability was published during the following year. Analysis and evaluation of the census data are currently being carried out and the results published in a series of analytical reports.

This report is the fifth of the series and deals with the socio-economic characteristics of persons with disabilities as reported at Census 2000. Where necessary figures have been rounded off to the nearest digit and hence in some tables, there may be slight discrepancies between the sum of the constituent items and the total.

It is hoped that the report will be of use to the public in general, and in particular to policy makers and planners in the implementation and monitoring of policies and programmes for the disabled.

I would like here to thank all the staff who contributed in one way or another to the production of this report.

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## CHAPTER 1 – INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Introduction

A question on disability was asked at the 2000 Housing and Population Census following the recommendations set out in the manual “Principles and Recommendations for Housing and Population Censuses – Revision 1 of the United Nations Statistics Division” of 1998. The topic on disability was however investigated for the first time at the 1990 Housing and Population Census.

### 1.2 Background information

In 1980, the World Health Organisation published the International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities, and Handicaps (ICIDH) which provides a common framework and definitions of disability-related issues. The ICIDH distinguishes three dimensions to monitor the situation of people suffering from disabilities: impairment, disability and handicap.

The manual “Principles and Recommendations for Housing and Population Censuses” recommends that focus be on the disability dimension. The reasons given are as follows:

- (i) In the impairment approach, the focus is at the organ or body level and therefore requires knowledge of specific medical details. Respondents would have the tendency to report only severe impairments. This approach will underestimate the population with disabilities;
- (ii) The disability approach focuses on the person’s experience in participating in daily life activities. Persons easily recognise mild and moderate limitations in daily life activities as well as severe ones;
- (iii) The handicap approach examines the relationship between a person with a disability and the social and physical environment in which he lives. Some aspects of handicap can be measured by comparing the disabled persons with the non-disabled with respect to other social and economic characteristics.

According to the manual, the disability approach is more relevant for determining policy and programmes concerning the rehabilitation needs of and the equalisation of opportunity for persons with disabilities.

### 1.3 Definition

A person with a disability is defined as one who experiences any limitation in performing a daily-life activity in a manner considered normal for a person of his age, because of a long-term physical condition, mental condition or health problem. Disabilities are considered as long-term if they have lasted or are expected to last for more than six months.

### 1.4 Questions asked at the Census

#### 1.4.1 2000 Population Census

The question asked at the 2000 Population Census was as follows:

“Does the person experience any disability (i.e., any limitation to perform a daily-life activity in a manner considered normal for a person of his/her age) because of a long-term physical/mental condition or health problem?”

If the person stated “Yes”, he was requested to insert as many disabilities as applicable as follows:

SPCH	speaking and talking disabilities
EAR	hearing and listening disabilities even with hearing aid
EYE	seeing disabilities even with glasses
MTION	walking, running and other ambulation disabilities
MANU	manual activity disabilities such as fingering, gripping and holding
LEARN	disturbance of ability to learn and acquire education
BEH	disturbances of behaviour, including antisocial behaviour, maladjustment and liability to self injury
CARE	inability to look after oneself with regard to personal care and hygiene, feeding, etc.
OTHER	other disabilities

The broad categories used are in line with the recommendations of the manual “Principles and Recommendations for Housing and Population Censuses”.



### 1.4.2 1990 Population Census

The question asked at the 1990 Population Census was as follows:

“Does the person have any long-term disabilities or handicaps which limit his/her participation in individual and/or social activities which are considered normal for a person of his/her age?”

If the person stated “Yes”, he was requested to insert as many disabilities as applicable as follows:

LF	incomplete use of legs/feet
AF	incomplete use of arms/fingers
EYE	partial or total loss of sight even with glasses
EAR	partial or total loss of hearing
SPCH	partial or total loss of speech
SLOW	slow development/learning difficulties
BEH	behaviour problems/mental disability
CFB	loss of consciousness, fits, blackouts
OTHER	other disabilities

### 1.5 Classification used for tabulation at the 2000 Census

Although respondents were asked to list all disabilities that they had, only the first three disabilities were coded. After examination of a sample of returns, it was found that most disabled persons fell in one of the categories listed below. These categories were therefore retained for tabulation, and any person not falling in one of them was counted in a residual “other” category.

MTION:	Walking, running and other ambulation disabilities
MANU:	Manual activity disability such as fingering, gripping and holding
MTION & MANU:	Ambulance and manual activity disabilities
EYE:	Seeing disabilities even with glasses
EAR:	Hearing and listening disabilities even with hearing aid
EYE & EAR:	Seeing disabilities and hearing and listening disabilities
SPEECH:	Speaking and talking disabilities
EAR & SPEECH:	Hearing and listening disabilities and speaking and talking disabilities

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LEARN:	Disturbance of ability to learn and acquire education
BEHAVIOUR:	Disturbances of behaviour, including anti-social behaviour, maladjustment and liability to self injury
PERSONAL CARE:	Inability to look after oneself with regard to personal care and hygiene, feeding, etc.

Thus a person who was reported as having “Walking, running and other ambulation disabilities” followed by “Hearing and listening disabilities even with hearing aid” would be classified in the “MTION” category. It is to be noted that each disabled person was counted only once.

### **1.6 Differences in classifications used at the 1990 and 2000 Censuses**

Classifications used at the 1990 and 2000 Censuses are not strictly comparable. The differences lie in the category “disturbances of behaviour, including antisocial behaviour, maladjustment and liability to self injury” used in 2000 compared to “behaviour problems/mental disability” used in 1990 and the category “inability to look after oneself with regard to personal care and hygiene, feeding, etc” which was not used in 1990. The residual category “other” therefore also differs.

However, to allow comparison between 1990 and 2000, some categories have been grouped.

## CHAPTER 2 – DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

### 2.1 Introduction

This chapter covers the demographic characteristics of the disabled population. This would help in the detection of any demographic characteristics peculiar to the disabled and hence would lead towards a better understanding of people with disabilities.

### 2.2 Prevalence of disability

At the 2000 Population Census, there were 40,790 persons in the Republic of Mauritius who were reported as being disabled compared to 27,852 at the 1990 Population Census. This represents an increase of 46.5% in the number of disabled persons during the inter-censal period.

Among the disabled population enumerated in 2000, 20,576 were males and 20,214 were females. The sex ratio, that is the number of disabled males per 100 disabled females, works out to 101.8. Comparatively, there were 14,613 disabled males and 13,239 disabled females in 1990 giving a sex ratio of 110.4. The sex ratios indicate more males than females among the disabled population both in 1990 and in 2000. However, the decline in the sex ratio in 2000 denotes that female disabled population has been growing at a faster rate than the corresponding male population.

Table 2.1 - Disabled population by sex - 1990 and 2000 Population Censuses

Sex	1990			2000		
	Island of Mauritius	Island of Rodrigues	Republic of Mauritius	Island of Mauritius	Island of Rodrigues	Republic of Mauritius
Male	14,230	383	14,613	20,034	542	20,576
Female	12,867	372	13,239	19,606	608	20,214
<b>Both Sexes</b>	<b>27,097</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>27,852</b>	<b>39,640</b>	<b>1,150</b>	<b>40,790</b>

In 2000, the crude disability rate, defined as the number of disabled per 1,000 mid-year population, was 34.6 (35.2 for the males and 34.0 for the females). Corresponding figure for 1990 was 26.4 (27.7 for the males and 25.0 for the females). The higher prevalence rates observed at the last census may be due to a change in the age structure of the population between 1990 and 2000. In order to remove the effect of the age structure, standardised rates for year 2000 using the population of 1990

as standard have been calculated. The standardised rate worked out to 30.6 for both sexes (31.6 for the males and 29.7 for the females). The results still point to higher prevalence in 2000 but at a lesser extent.

The 40,790 disabled persons enumerated at Census 2000 reported a total of 51,064 disabilities, of which 25,475 by the males and 25,589 by the females. On the average, a disabled female suffered from 1.3 disabilities against 1.2 disabilities for a disabled male. "Walking, running and other ambulation disabilities" was the most common disability with 12,017 cases. This was followed by "Seeing disabilities" with 7,954 cases. These disabilities were also the two most common ones reported at the 1990 Census.

Table 2.2 - Cases of disability by type, 1990 and 2000 Population Censuses - Republic of Mauritius

Type of disability	Number of cases					
	1990			2000		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Walking, running and other ambulation disabilities (MTION)	4,100	3,012	7,112	6,427	5,590	12,017
Manual activity disabilities	2,109	1,425	3,534	2,100	1,745	3,845
Seeing disabilities	2,892	3,871	6,763	3,519	4,435	7,954
Hearing and listening disabilities	1,254	1,552	2,806	1,648	2,123	3,771
Speaking and talking disabilities	1,091	913	2,004	2,023	1,578	3,601
Disturbance of ability to learn	912	799	1,711	1,216	1,072	2,288
Disturbances of behaviour (BEH)	} 5,146	} 4,282	} 9,428	3,116	2,518	5,634
Inability to look after oneself, with regard to personal care and hygiene, feeding, etc. (CARE)				2,576	3,674	6,250
Other disabilities				2,850	2,854	5,704
<b>All disabilities</b>	<b>17,504</b>	<b>15,854</b>	<b>33,358</b>	<b>25,475</b>	<b>25,589</b>	<b>51,064</b>

Further analysis will consider number of disabled persons rather than number of cases of disabilities.

### 2.3 Distribution by geographical district

In 2000, the largest proportions of disabled were found in the districts of Plaines Wilhems and Port Louis with respectively 32.4% and 13.0% of the total disabled. Clearly, these two districts come topmost as a result of their large population size. Comparison of the disability rates by district however shows that the district of Port Louis had the highest prevalence with a disability rate of 41.3 per 1000 population, followed by Plaines Wilhems with a rate of 36.9 (Table 2.3).

Table 2.3 – Disabled population by district and sex – 1990 and 2000 Population Censuses

District	1990				2000				Standardised Disability rate (per 1,000)
	Number of disabled			Disability rate (per 1,000)	Number of disabled			Disability rate (per 1,000)	
	Male	Female	Both sexes		Male	Female	Both sexes		
Port Louis	2,129	2,128	4,257	32.0	2,591	2,695	5,286	41.3	38.8
Pamplemousses	1,434	984	2,418	23.8	2,061	1,880	3,941	32.2	35.4
R. du Rempart	1,216	951	2,167	25.0	1,747	1,698	3,445	34.8	37.7
Flacq	1,453	1,328	2,781	24.7	2,101	1,990	4,091	32.3	35.2
Grand Port	1,304	1,188	2,492	25.8	1,693	1,630	3,323	31.2	32.5
Savanne	957	772	1,729	28.4	1,051	975	2,026	30.5	31.0
Plaines Willems	4,407	4,337	8,744	27.2	6,582	6,635	13,217	36.9	33.5
Moka	762	705	1,467	22.5	1,219	1,275	2,494	33.0	34.6
Black River	568	474	1,042	23.8	989	828	1,817	30.0	33.1
Island of Mauritius	14,230	12,867	27,097	26.5	20,034	19,606	39,640	34.7	34.5
Island of Rodrigues	383	372	755	22.1	542	608	1,150	32.1	34.9
<b>Republic of Mauritius</b>	<b>14,613</b>	<b>13,239</b>	<b>27,852</b>	<b>26.4</b>	<b>20,576</b>	<b>20,214</b>	<b>40,790</b>	<b>34.6</b>	

Nevertheless, given that the number of disabled is also affected by the age structure of the population, it would be more appropriate to use the standardised disability rates to compare disability prevalence among districts. The standardised disability rate per 1,000 population using the total population as the standard was calculated for each district. The results show a different picture. Thus, in 2000, disability prevalence is found to be highest for the district of Port Louis (standardised rate of 38.8) followed by R. du Rempart (standardised rate of 37.7). Savanne and Black River had the lowest prevalence rates (standardised rates of 31.0 and 33.1 respectively).

## 2.4 Disability by type

According to Table 2.4, some types of disability have a greater incidence on the population than others. At Census 2000, the most common disability reported was “Walking, running and other ambulation disabilities” with 9,144 persons reporting as having such disability, representing 22.4% of all disabled persons. This was followed by “Seeing disabilities” reported by 6,670 persons or 16.4% of the disabled.

These two disabilities were also predominant in 1990. It should be mentioned that those suffering from “Ambulation and manual activity disabilities” decreased from 1,689 in 1990 to 803 in 2000. This may be due to the fact that many of those suffering from this type of disability may have reported as suffering from “Inability to look after oneself, with regard to personal care and hygiene,

feeding etc.”, category which was introduced at Census 2000. About 4,000 persons were reported as suffering from the latter disability at Census 2000.

Table 2.4 - Disabled population by type of disability and sex, 1990 and 2000 Population Censuses  
- Republic of Mauritius

Type of disability	1990			2000		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Walking, running and other ambulation disabilities (MTION)	3,034	2,239	5,273	4,996	4,148	9,144
Manual activity disabilities (MANU)	813	463	1,276	1,321	974	2,295
Ambulation and manual activity disabilities (MTION & MANU)	972	717	1,689	417	386	803
Seeing disabilities (EYE)	2,476	3,237	5,713	2,977	3,693	6,670
Hearing and listening disabilities (EAR)	712	885	1,597	887	1,146	2,033
Seeing, hearing and listening disabilities (EYE & EAR)	206	333	539	322	533	855
Speaking and talking disabilities (SPCH)	631	514	1,145	1,523	1,107	2,630
Hearing and listening and speaking and talking disabilities (EAR & SPCH)	253	233	486	403	398	801
Disturbance of ability to learn (LEARN)	767	641	1,408	813	689	1,502
Disturbances of behaviour (BEH)				2,755	2,150	4,905
Inability to look after oneself, with regard to personal care and hygiene, feeding, etc. (CARE)	4,749	3,977	8,726	1,571	2,412	3,983
Other				2,591	2,578	5,169
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,613</b>	<b>13,239</b>	<b>27,852</b>	<b>20,576</b>	<b>20,214</b>	<b>40,790</b>

In 2000, “Walking, running and other ambulation disabilities” was more frequent among the males and accounted for 24.3% of disabled male population compared to 20.5% for the female disabled population. Conversely, “Seeing disabilities” was most frequent among the females and accounted for 18.3% of the female disabled population compared to 14.5% for the male disabled population. In 1990, a similar pattern was observed: “Seeing disabilities” was found to be most frequent among females while “Walking, running and other ambulation disabilities” was most common among males.

## 2.5 Disability by age and sex

Table 2.5 indicates that the disabled population was relatively older than the overall population. About 63% of the disabled persons were aged 45 years and over compared to 24% for the overall population. The median age of the disabled population works out to 53.0 years compared to 29.2 for the total population. Furthermore, the female disabled population was relatively older than its male counterpart, the median age of the female disabled being 57.4 years against 48.7 for the male disabled population. It is to be noted that in 2000, the elderly disabled females, that is, those aged 60 years and over, accounted for nearly half of the total female disabled population.

Table 2.5 - Percentage age distribution of the disabled population and of the total population, 2000 Population Census -Republic of Mauritius

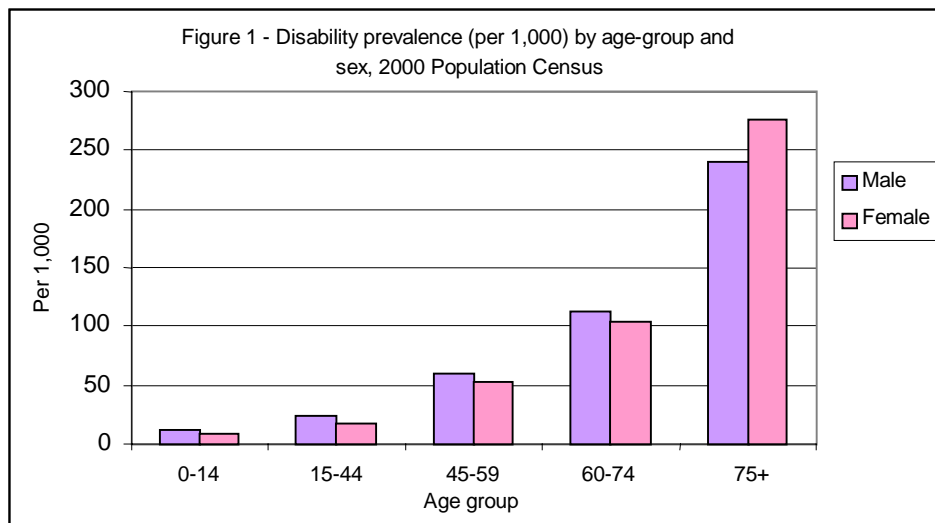
Age group	Disabled population			Total population		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
0 - 14	8.3	6.0	7.2	25.7	24.7	25.2
15 - 44	35.1	24.7	29.9	51.5	50.0	50.8
45 - 59	25.0	23.4	24.2	14.8	15.0	14.9
60 - 74	19.9	22.7	21.3	6.3	7.4	6.8
75+	11.6	23.2	17.4	1.7	2.8	2.3
<b>All ages - %</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>no.</b>	<b>20,576</b>	<b>20,214</b>	<b>40,790</b>	<b>583,756</b>	<b>595,092</b>	<b>1,178,848</b>

Census results indicate that the likelihood of having a disability increases with age (Table 2.6). In 2000, among children aged 0 to 14 years, 10 out of 1,000 had some form of disability. In the age groups 15 to 44 years and 45 to 59 years, the figures were 20 and 56 per 1,000 respectively; the number increased to 108 for those aged 60 to 74 years and finally culminated to 263 for those aged 75 years and above. Prevalence of disability was higher among males than among females at all age groups except at the age group 75 years and over, where the disability rate per 1,000 worked out to 276 for the females against 240 for the males. This can be explained by the fact that in that particular age group, the proportions of oldest old women were more important than the corresponding proportions of men, and thus the higher disability prevalence among females. Similar patterns were noted at the 1990 Census.

Table 2.6 also shows that the likelihood of having a disability was higher in 2000 than in 1990. This is true for all age groups irrespective of sex.

Table 2.6 - Disability prevalence (per 1,000) by age group and sex,  
1990 and 2000 Population Censuses - Republic of Mauritius

Age group	Disability prevalence					
	1990			2000		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
0 - 14	9.1	7.1	8.1	11.4	8.3	9.9
15 - 44	20.5	15.7	18.1	24.0	16.7	20.4
45 - 59	56.1	41.4	48.6	59.7	53.1	56.3
60 - 74	97.3	83.0	89.7	112.0	104.2	107.7
75+	200.5	211.0	207.4	239.7	276.4	262.8
<b>All ages</b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>26.4</b>	<b>35.2</b>	<b>33.9</b>	<b>34.6</b>



## 2.6 Type of disability by age and sex

In Table 2.7, prevalence of disability at Census 2000 has been calculated by broad type of disabilities, age group and sex. Among males of all ages, “ambulation and manual activity disabilities” were the most prevalent (12 per 1,000 male population) while among females, “seeing, hearing and listening, speaking and talking disabilities” were predominant (12 per 1,000 female population). Other disabilities prevailed almost equally among males and females.



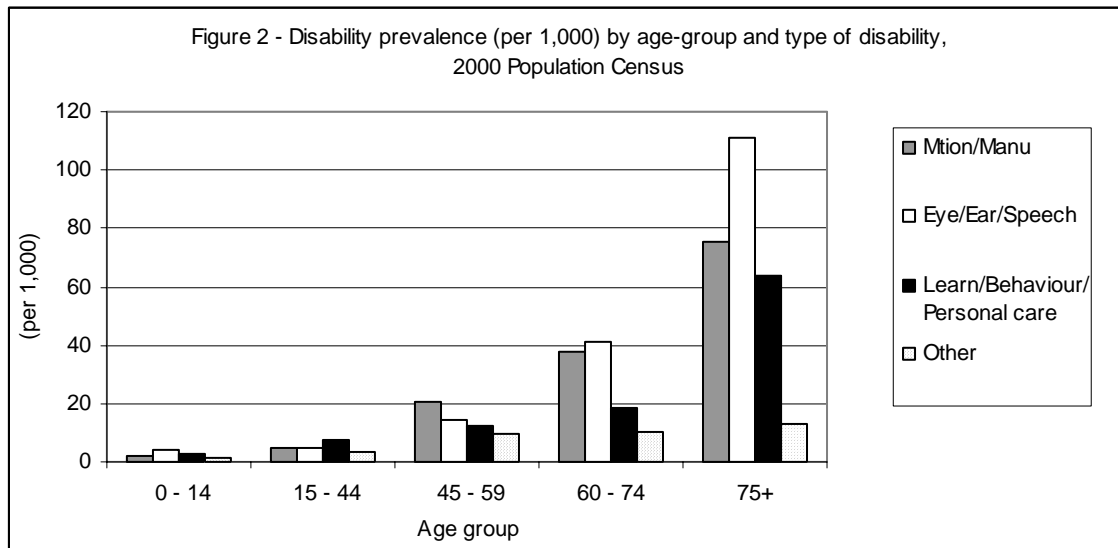
Table 2.7 - Disability prevalence (per 1,000) by age-group, sex and type of disability,  
2000 Population Census - Republic of Mauritius

Sex	Age group	Mtion / Manu	Eye/Ear/ Speech	Learn/ Behaviour/ Personal care	Other	Total
Male	0 - 14	2.7	4.2	3.1	1.5	11.4
	15 - 44	6.5	5.5	8.5	3.5	24.0
	45 - 59	23.9	14.5	11.9	9.4	59.7
	60 - 74	43.7	40.5	17.4	10.4	112.0
	75+	73.7	109.3	45.9	10.8	239.7
	<b>All ages</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>35.2</b>
Female	0 - 14	1.6	3.5	2.1	1.1	8.3
	15 - 44	3.5	4.6	5.9	2.8	16.7
	45 - 59	16.7	14.1	12.2	10.0	53.1
	60 - 74	33.0	41.6	18.8	10.7	104.2
	75+	75.9	112.3	74.1	14.1	276.4
	<b>All ages</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>33.9</b>
Both sexes	0 - 14	2.1	3.8	2.6	1.3	9.9
	15 - 44	5.0	5.0	7.2	3.2	20.4
	45 - 59	20.2	14.3	12.0	9.7	56.3
	60 - 74	37.9	41.1	18.2	10.6	107.7
	75+	75.1	111.2	63.7	12.8	262.8
	<b>All ages</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>34.6</b>

However, the disability pattern changes with age. Thus, among males aged 0 to 14 years, “seeing, hearing and listening, speaking and talking disabilities” were most prevalent with 4 out of 1,000 males in that age bracket concerned, while among those in the age group 15 to 44 years, “learning, behaviour and personal care disabilities” were most current with about 9 out of 1,000 being affected. The disabilities prevailing the most in the age groups 45 to 59 and 60 to 74 years were “ambulation and manual activity disabilities” with 24 and 44 out of 1,000 male population in the respective age groups being affected. Among those aged 75 years and above, “seeing, hearing and listening, speaking and talking disabilities” ranked first in terms of prevalence: 109 out of 1,000 persons in that age group were concerned.

A similar pattern was observed for the female disabled population, except for those aged 60 years and above for whom the most prevalent disabilities were “seeing, hearing and listening, speaking and

talking disabilities”. Some 42 out of 1,000 in the age group 60 to 74 years and 112 out of 1,000 in the age group 75 years and above were affected.



## 2.7 Disabled persons in private households

Of the 40,790 persons with disabilities, about 39,360 (96.5%) were living in private households, about 1,380 (3.4%) were living in institutions and the remaining in other households. Among those residing in private households, just over 50% were males. A breakdown by age group shows that 7.4% of the disabled in private households were less than 15 years, 30.2% were in the age group 15 to 44 years, and 38.1% were aged 60 years and over.

About 34,000 households or 11.5% of all households enumerated in 2000 had one or more disabled members against 23,600 or 10.0% of all households in 1990. The proportion of households with disabled persons decreased from 12.3% for one-member households to 7.9 % for four-member households; the proportion then increased to a maximum of 25.3% for households of size ten and above.

In 2000, there were 2,266 disabled persons living alone compared to 1,537 in 1990. Furthermore, some 639 two-member households and 91 three-member households comprised disabled members only. The corresponding figures for year 1990 were 368 and 42 respectively.

Table 2.8 - Disabled population in private households by size of household,  
1990 and 2000 Population Censuses- Republic of Mauritius

Household of:	1990			2000		
	All households	Households with disabled persons	Disabled population	All households	Households with disabled persons	Disabled population
1 person	12,336	1,537	1,537	18,484	2,266	2,266
2 persons	25,092	2,630	2,998	39,184	4,768	5,407
3 persons	39,673	2,835	3,247	59,082	5,522	6,346
4 persons	55,797	3,654	4,185	86,512	6,840	7,844
5 persons	42,905	3,924	4,439	50,851	6,112	7,009
6 persons	26,905	3,361	3,902	23,179	4,121	4,913
7 persons	15,166	2,337	2,765	9,918	2,195	2,727
8 persons	8,352	1,408	1,734	4,495	1,015	1,330
9 persons	4,432	802	971	2,209	545	716
10+ persons	5,452	1,099	1,399	2,380	603	803
<b>All households</b>	<b>236,110</b>	<b>23,587</b>	<b>27,177</b>	<b>296,294</b>	<b>33,987</b>	<b>39,361</b>

## 2.8 Disabled persons in communal households

The disabled population in institutions, which stood at 1,380 in 2000, consisted of a higher proportion of females - some 58.7% compared to 49.3% in private households, and of old persons – about 52.4% were aged 60 years and over compared to about 38.1% in private households. Only 2.0% of the institutional population were aged less than 15 years. More than 50% of the disabled population living in institutions were single compared to about 35.1% of the total disabled population being single. Some 17.0% were widowed.

About 520 or 37.6% of the disabled living in institutional households were suffering from disabilities of behaviour and another 400 or 29.3% were unable to look after themselves, with regard to personal care and hygiene; about 170 or 12.1% were suffering from ambulation disabilities. Comparatively, the percentages of disabled persons living in private households suffering from these three disabilities were 11.1%, 9.1%, and 22.8% respectively.

## CHAPTER 3 – SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

### 3.1 Introduction

This section attempts to shed some light on the social profile of the population of disabled especially in relation to their marital, educational and household characteristics. This would contribute towards a better understanding of the social conditions of people with disabilities.

### 3.2 Marital characteristics

Analysis of the marital characteristics of the disabled will be restricted to the population aged 20 years and over, as marital status is more likely to change at around the age of 20 years. A comparison of information obtained on the marital status of the disabled at the 1990 and 2000 Population Censuses will provide some insight about the evolution of their marital status.

Table 3.1 - Percentage distribution of resident population aged 20 years and over by marital status and sex, 1990 and 2000 Population Censuses- Republic of Mauritius

(i) Disabled persons

Marital Status	1990			2000		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Single	32.6	28.5	30.7	30.3	24.5	27.4
Married	54.8	28.2	41.9	56.9	29.2	42.9
Widowed	6.8	37.6	21.7	7.5	40.3	24.1
Divorced/ Separated	4.5	5.6	5.0	4.8	6.0	5.4
Not Stated	1.3	0.1	0.7	0.5	0.0	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(ii) Overall Population

Marital Status	2000		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Single	26.9	14.7	20.7
Married	68.6	65.9	67.2
Widowed	2.0	14.7	8.5
Divorced/ Separated	2.3	4.2	3.3
Not Stated	0.2	0.5	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Among the 36,412 disabled aged 20 years and over enumerated in 2000, 9,970 were single, 15,606 were married, 8,763 were widowed and 1,973 were divorced or separated; these represent respectively 27.4%, 42.9%, 24.1%, and 5.4% of disabled persons aged 20 years and above. Disaggregated figures by sex show that the proportion of married among the males (56.9%) was much higher than the corresponding proportion among the females (29.2%) while the proportion of widowed was more important among females, that is 40.3%, compared to only 7.5% among the males. This may be due to the fact that there is a higher proportion of elderly among disabled women.

The proportions of single, married, widowed and divorced/separated among the disabled at the 1990 Census were 30.7%, 41.9%, 21.7%, and 5.0% respectively.

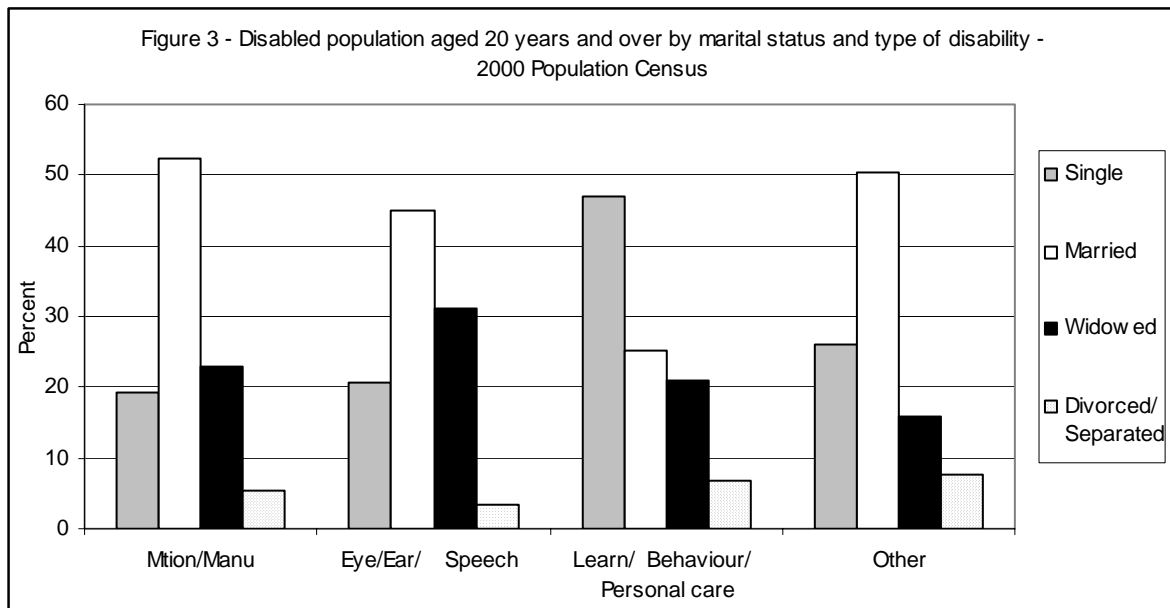
When comparison is made with the overall population of the corresponding age group, we find that the proportion of single or never married persons was higher among the disabled than among the overall population, that is 27.4% among the disabled compared to 20.7% among the overall population. One possible reason may be that disabled persons have a lower propensity to get married because of their disabilities.

### 3.3 – Type of disability by marital status

Figures in Table 3.2 point to the existence of some relationship between the marital status of the disabled and the type of disability they suffer. Thus, in 2000 among those suffering from “ambulation and manual activity disabilities” and “seeing, hearing and listening, speaking and talking disabilities”, the married predominated and accounted for 52.3% and 44.9% respectively, followed by the widowed which represented 23.1% and 31.0%. Persons with “learn, behaviour and personal care” disabilities are less likely to be married – 46.9% of those suffering from these disabilities were single while 25.1% only were married.

Table 3.2 - Percentage distribution of the disabled population aged 20 years and over by marital status and type of disability, 2000 Population Census - Republic of Mauritius

Marital Status	Type of disability				Total
	Mtion/Manu	Eye/Ear/ Speech	Learn/ Behaviour/ Personal care	Other	
Single	19.3	20.6	46.9	25.9	27.5
Married	52.3	44.9	25.1	50.3	43.0
Widowed	23.1	31.0	21.1	16.0	24.1
Divorced/Separated	5.3	3.4	6.9	7.8	5.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>



### 3.4 – School attendance

There has been a general improvement in the school participation of the disabled during the intercensal period. Thus, the proportion of disabled aged 2 years and over who never attended school decreased from 37.6% in 1990 to 33.3% in 2000 while the proportion currently attending school increased from 5.5% to 5.6% in 2000. Those who attended school in the past was 59.8% in 2000 compared to 56.0% in 1990.

It is however noted that the proportion of males currently attending school and that of males who attended school in the past were significantly higher than those of females while the proportion of disabled females who never attended school was almost twice as high as the males, indicating gender disparity in school participation of the disabled.

Disabled persons are less likely to attend school than the non-disabled persons. Comparison with the overall population shows that a very low percentage of disabled persons were reported as currently attending school in 2000, only 5.6% compared to 25.4% for the overall population. Moreover, the proportion of disabled who never attended school was significantly higher than that of the overall population, 33.3% against 9.2% only. These observations may be explained to some extent by the fact that the disabled population was relatively older than the overall population with as result a lower proportion among the disabled currently attending school and a higher proportion never attended school.

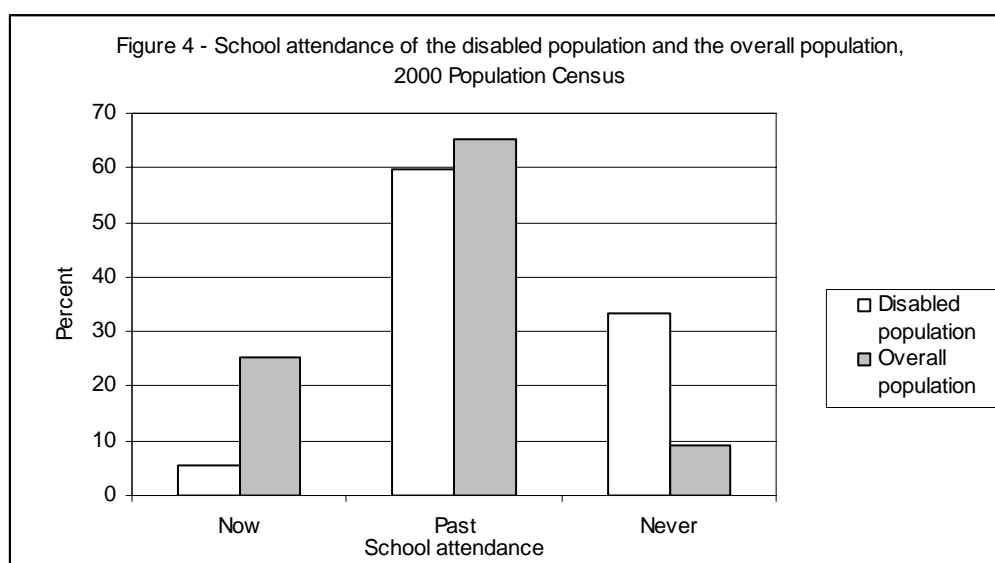
Table 3.3 - Percentage distribution of the resident population aged 2 years and over by school attendance and sex, 1990 and 2000 Population Censuses - Republic of Mauritius

(i) Disabled persons

School attendance	1990			2000		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
Now	5.9	5.0	5.5	6.7	4.6	5.6
Past	64.7	46.3	56.0	68.6	50.8	59.8
Never	28.2	48.0	37.6	23.5	43.3	33.3
Not stated	1.2	0.7	0.9	1.2	1.3	1.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(ii) Overall population

School attendance	2000		
	Male	Female	Both sexes
Now	26.0	24.8	25.4
Past	67.8	62.8	65.3
Never	6.0	12.3	9.2
Not stated	0.2	0.1	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>



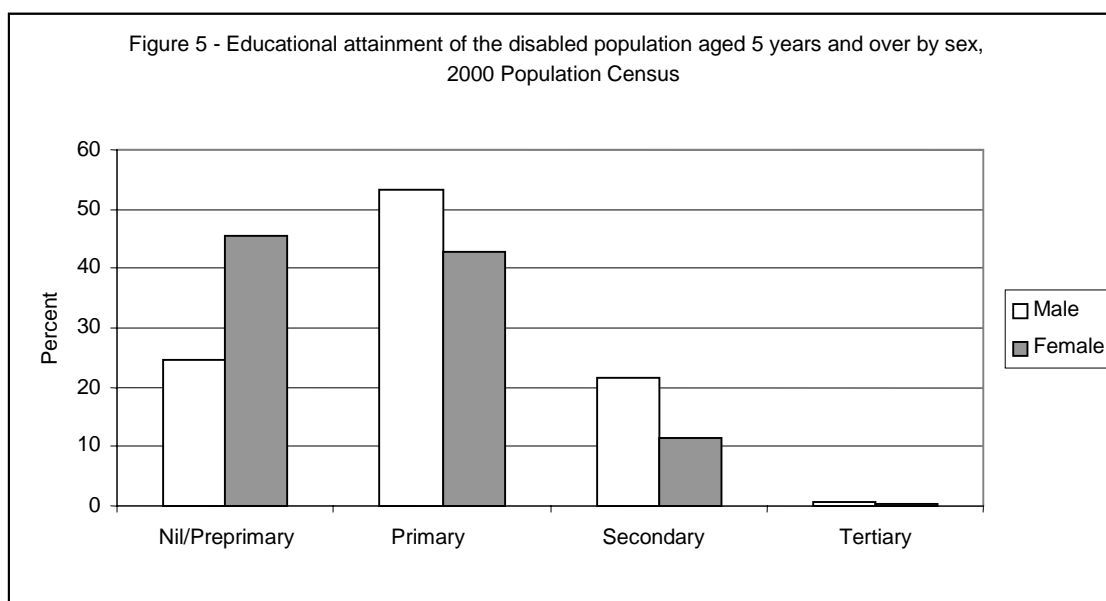




## (ii) Overall population

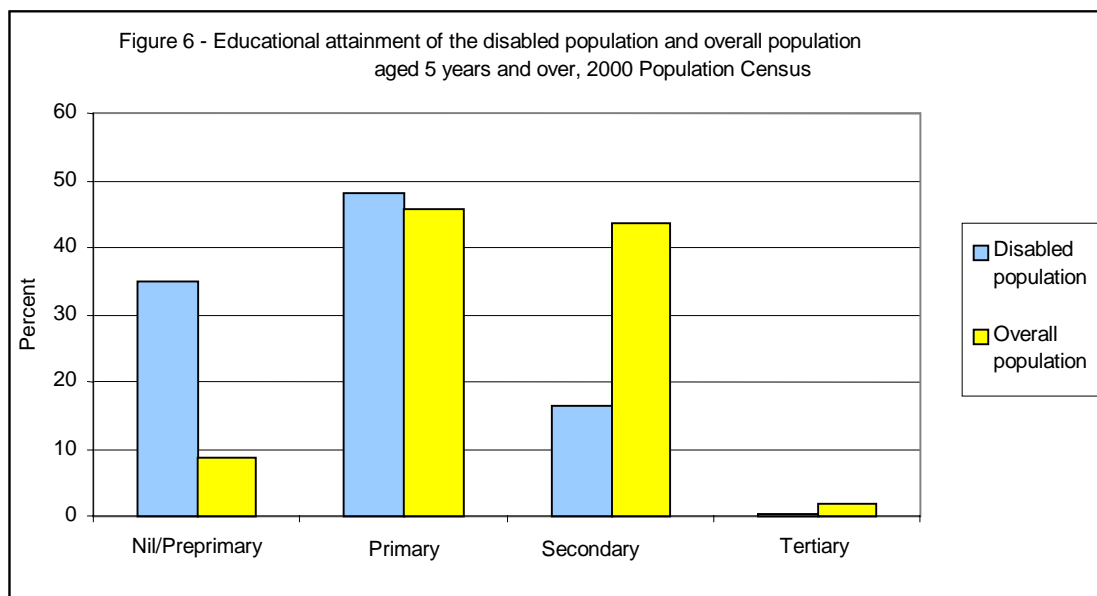
Level of educational attainment	2000		
	Male	Female	Both sexes
Nil and preprimary	5.3	12.1	8.7
<i>Std I-VI but not passed CPE</i>	41.3	40.8	41.0
<i>Passed CPE</i>	4.5	4.6	4.5
Primary	45.8	45.4	45.5
<i>Forms I-V but not passed SC</i>	28.6	25.5	27.1
<i>Passed SC or HSC</i>	17.3	15.5	16.4
Secondary	45.9	41.0	43.5
University degree or equivalent	2.5	1.1	1.8
Not stated	0.5	0.4	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The proportion of disabled with no education and with only primary level of education has decreased in favour of secondary level of education. Thus, the proportion of disabled persons with no education and with only primary level of education, excluding those with Certificate of Primary Education (CPE), decreased from 82.3% in 1990 to 76.8% in 2000. During the same period, holders of CPE increased from 3.5% to 4.2% while those with secondary level of education increased from 11.7% to 16.2%. School Certificate (SC) and Higher School Certificate (HSC) holders increased from 3.4% in 1990 to 4.8% in 2000. The proportion with tertiary qualifications remained at 0.4%.



A study of the educational attainment by sex reveals that disabled females are more disadvantaged than their male counterparts. About 44.4% of the females had no formal education compared to 24.1% for the males. In contrast, the proportion having attained either primary, secondary or tertiary level was higher among the males.

Marked differences are observed between the educational attainment of the disabled and that of the overall population. The proportion of disabled with no formal education (34.2%) was significantly higher than that of the overall population (8.7%). Moreover, disabled persons with a primary level of education, but who did not pass the CPE represented 42.6% against 41.0% for the overall population. The proportion of the overall population with secondary level of education was 43.5% compared to 16.2% for the disabled while the proportion of SC and HSC certificate holders for the overall population was about four times higher.



### 3.6 – Relation with other members of household

At Census 2000, out of 39,361 disabled persons living in private households, 14,747 (10,437 males and 4,310 females) were reported as heads of households. This works out to a headship rate of 37.5%. The rate for males was 52.3% and that for females was 22.2%.

Table 3.5 - Headship rate (%) among persons with disabilities by sex, 1990 and 2000 Population Censuses -Republic of Mauritius

Sex	1990	2000
Male	49.2	52.3
Female	21.5	22.2
<b>Both sexes</b>	<b>36.1</b>	<b>37.5</b>

Female disabled heads of households were relatively older than their male counterparts. Thus, in 2000, the mean age of disabled heads was 57.8 years for the males and 65.1 years for the females; the corresponding figures for year 1990 were 56.6 years and 61.6 years respectively. Furthermore, disabled heads are relatively older than other heads of households, the mean age of all heads being 46.0 years for the males and 56.2 years for the females.

Table 3.6 shows the relationship of the disabled with the head of household. In 2000, about 37.5% were heads, 11.9% were spouse of head, 25.8% were children of heads. The remaining comprised parent of head (10.2%), grand child (1.4%) and other (13.2%).

Table 3.6 - Percentage distribution of the disabled population in private households by relationship to head and sex, 1990 and 2000 Population Censuses - Republic of Mauritius

Relationship to head	1990			2000		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Head	49.2	21.5	36.1	52.3	22.2	37.5
Spouse	1.6	20.3	10.4	1.5	22.5	11.9
Children	33.8	27.9	31.1	30.1	21.3	25.8
<i>of which single</i>	<i>31.6</i>	<i>25.8</i>	<i>28.9</i>	<i>27.3</i>	<i>19.2</i>	<i>23.3</i>
<i>of which ever married</i>	<i>2.2</i>	<i>2.1</i>	<i>2.2</i>	<i>2.8</i>	<i>2.1</i>	<i>2.5</i>
Spouse of child	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3
Grandchild	1.5	1.2	1.4	1.7	1.1	1.4
Parent of head	3.2	12.4	7.6	4.7	15.9	10.2
Other relatives	9.9	15.5	12.5	9.1	16.3	12.6
Other and not stated	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

A significant increase was observed in the proportion of parent of head, the proportion rising from 7.6% in 1990 to 10.2% in 2000. It is worth noting that the proportion of parent of head among disabled was much higher than among the overall population (2.0%) at Census 2000. As regards disabled children, the proportion decreased from 31.1% in 1990 to 25.8% in 2000.

## CHAPTER 4 – ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

### 4.1 Introduction

Physical and/or mental conditions of the population of disabled may impose some restrictions on the types of jobs that the disabled are able to perform and hence may have an impact on the level of activity of the disabled. This section will probe into the level of activity and the employment situation of the disabled.

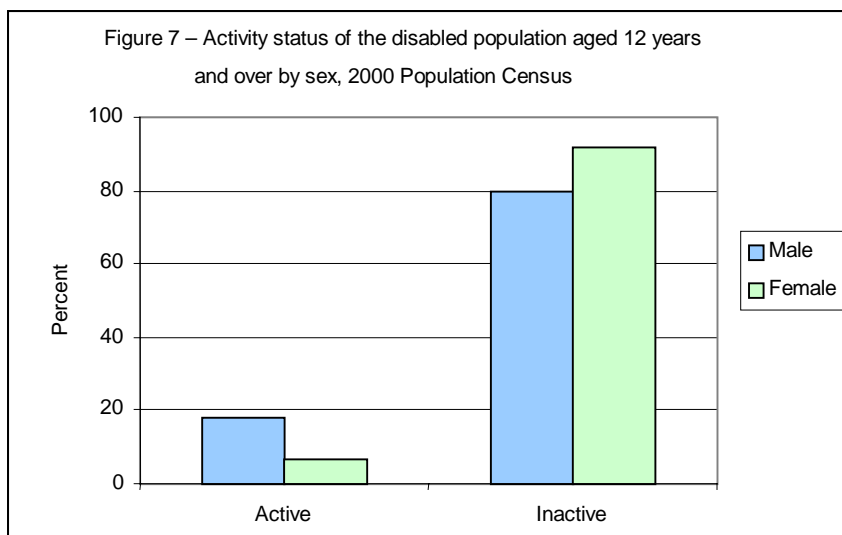
### 4.2 Activity status

At the 2000 Population Census, there were 40,790 persons with disabilities, among whom 38,614 were aged 12 years and over. The number of active was 4,751 and the number of inactive 33,078 (Table 4.1). These represent respectively 12.3% and 85.7% of the disabled population aged 12 years and above. Among the active population, 88.5% were in employment and 11.5% unemployed.

Table 4.1 - Disabled population aged 12 years and over by current activity status and sex, 1990 and 2000 Population Censuses- Republic of Mauritius

Activity Status	1990			2000		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
Employed	2,972	873	3,845	3,133	1,070	4,203
Unemployed	226	50	276	390	158	548
<b><i>Economically active</i></b>	<b><i>3,198</i></b>	<b><i>923</i></b>	<b><i>4,121</i></b>	<b><i>3,523</i></b>	<b><i>1,228</i></b>	<b><i>4,751</i></b>
Household duties	184	5,053	5,237	205	6,531	6,736
Studies	313	208	521	486	329	815
Disability	6,465	5,100	11,565	9,754	8,690	18,444
Retired	3,150	953	4,103	4,816	1,730	6,546
Other	127	133	260	136	401	537
<b><i>Economically inactive</i></b>	<b><i>10,239</i></b>	<b><i>11,447</i></b>	<b><i>21,686</i></b>	<b><i>15,397</i></b>	<b><i>17,681</i></b>	<b><i>33,078</i></b>
<b><i>Activity not stated</i></b>	<b><i>178</i></b>	<b><i>90</i></b>	<b><i>268</i></b>	<b><i>404</i></b>	<b><i>381</i></b>	<b><i>785</i></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,615</b>	<b>12,460</b>	<b>26,075</b>	<b>19,324</b>	<b>19,290</b>	<b>38,614</b>

Disaggregated figures by sex show that the proportion of actives among the disabled males was almost three times higher than the proportion of actives among the disabled females (Figure 7). Thus, the activity rate worked out to 18.2% for the males compared to 6.4% for the females. Almost 90% of the active males and of the active females were in employment.



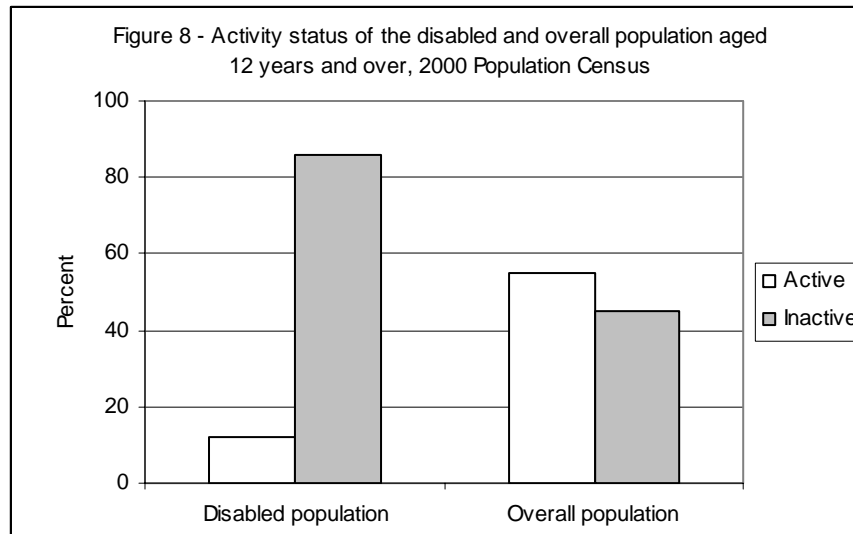
Among the inactive population, the main cause of inactivity was disability; it accounts for 55.8% among the total inactive, 63.4% among inactive males and 49.1% among inactive females.

The next most important reason of inactivity among the males was “retirement” as reported by 31.3% while among the females, “household duties” which accounted for 36.9% of the inactive females comes in the second place. Only 9.8% of the inactive females reported “retirement” as the reason for their inactivity.

### 4.3 Level of activity

Comparison with the 1990 Census results shows that the activity rate of the disabled has regressed from 15.8% in 1990 to 12.3% in 2000. So did the proportion of employed among the actives; this proportion dropped from 93.3% in 1990 to 88.5% in 2000. Conversely, the proportion of the inactive has increased from 83.2% in 1990 to 85.7% in 2000.

When compared with the overall population, we find that activity rates among the disabled population were quite low, 12.3% against 54.8% for the total population.

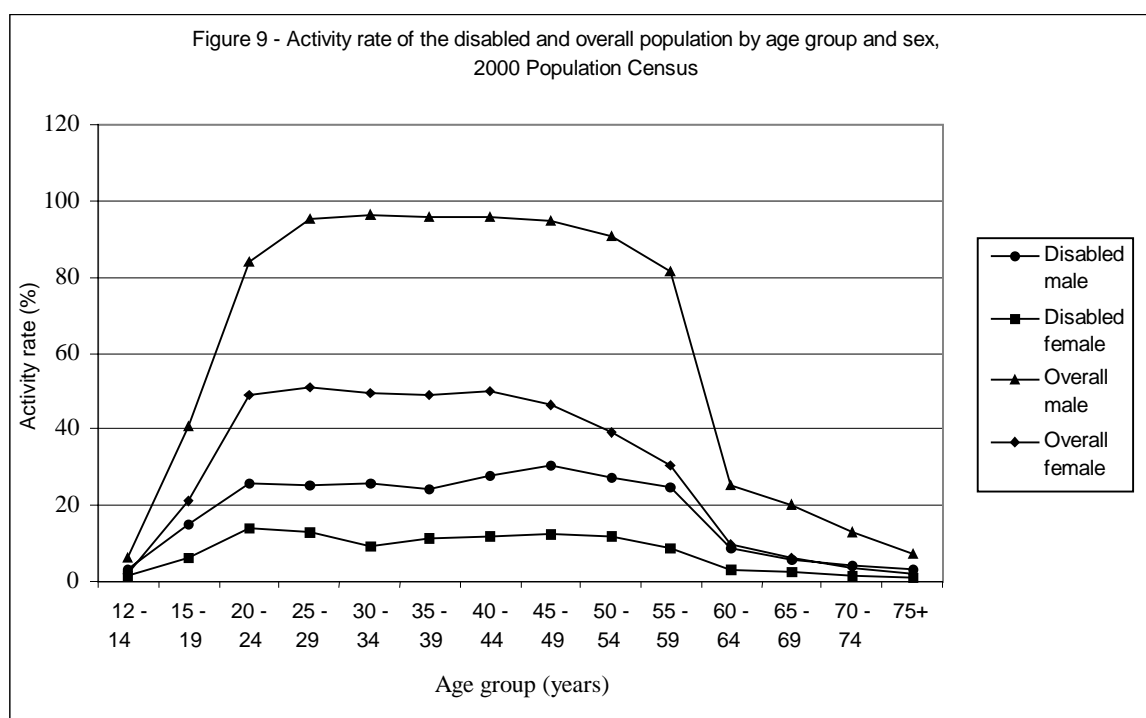


Strictly speaking, the comparison of the activity rates of the disabled with the overall population should be made on the basis of the standardized rates, the reason being that the age structure of the population may affect the rate. The standardized rates using the 2000 population as standard show some improvements, but still indicate a lower level of activity among the disabled (Table 4.2).

Table 4.2 - Activity rates (%) of the disabled and the overall population, 2000 Population Census - Republic of Mauritius

	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Overall population	73.9	36.4	54.8
Disabled population			
- activity rate	18.2	6.4	12.3
- standardised activity rate	21.5	9.3	16.2

Figure 9 shows the activity rates of the disabled population and the overall population by age group and sex. The level of activity was highest, around 30%, for the disabled males in the age bracket of 45 to 49 years while it peaked at about 14% for the disabled females in the age bracket of 20 to 24 years. For the overall population, the activity rate peaked at 97% for the males aged between 30 to 34 years while for females, the rate was highest for the age group 25 to 29 years when it reaches a level of 51%. It is to be noted that the activity rates of the female disabled follow the M-shape curve which is usually associated with the female activity rates.



#### 4.4 Activity status by type of disability

Table 4.3 shows the percentage distribution of the disabled population aged 12 years and over by current activity status and type of disability. The economically inactive predominates among all types of disability, but was higher among persons suffering from “ambulation and manual activity disabilities” and “Learn, behaviour and personal care” disabilities where the inactive accounted for about 87% of the disabled. Also persons with “Learn, behaviour and personal care” disabilities were less likely to be employed. Thus, 76.3% of the active suffering from these disabilities were employed in 2000 compared to 86 to 91% for actives suffering from other types of disabilities.

Table 4.3 - Percentage distribution of the disabled population aged 12 years and over by current activity status and type of disability, 2000 Population Census - Republic of Mauritius

Current activity status	Type of disability				Total
	Mtion/Manu	Eye/ Ear/ Speech	Learn/ Behaviour/ Personal care	Other	
Economically active	12.9	15.3	5.9	16.6	12.3
<i>Employed</i>	<i>11.7</i>	<i>14.0</i>	<i>4.5</i>	<i>14.3</i>	<i>10.9</i>
<i>Unemployed</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>1.3</i>	<i>1.4</i>	<i>2.3</i>	<i>1.4</i>
Economically inactive	86.9	84.3	87.2	82.9	85.7
Not Stated	0.2	0.4	6.9	0.5	2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

#### 4.5 Employment by industry

In 2000, there were 4,203 disabled persons in employment, 3,133 were males and 1,070 were females. Table 4.4 gives the employed disabled persons by industry and sex for the years 1990 and 2000.

The employed disabled were mainly working in “manufacturing”, “community, social and personal services” and “wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels” industry groups where 24.1%, 23.4%, and 16.5% of the employed were engaged respectively.

Table 4.4 - Employed disabled population aged 12 years and over by industry and sex, 1990 and 2000 Population Censuses - Republic of Mauritius

Industry	1990			2000		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	549	152	701	507	161	668
Mining and quarrying	2	0	2	5	3	8
Manufacturing	789	362	1,151	643	368	1,011
Electricity, gas and water	28	0	28	39	3	42
Construction	378	2	380	380	4	384
Wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels	411	66	477	541	151	692
Transport, storage and communication	170	9	179	219	18	237
Financing, insurance, real estate and business services	59	6	65	139	22	161
Community, social and personal services	577	268	845	656	328	984
Activities not adequately defined	9	8	17	4	12	16
<b>All Activities</b>	<b>2,972</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>3,845</b>	<b>3,133</b>	<b>1,070</b>	<b>4,203</b>

#### 4.6 Employment by occupation

Table 4.5 shows the employed disabled persons by major occupational group and sex for years 1990 and 2000.

In 2000, the majority of the employed disabled persons were engaged in “elementary occupations” (32.5%), “craft and machine operators and assemblers” (20.8%) and “service workers, shop and market sales workers” (13.0%) occupational groups.



Table 4.5 - Employed disabled population aged 12 years and over by occupational group and sex, 1990 and 2000 Population Censuses - Republic of Mauritius

Occupational Group	1990			2000		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Legislators, senior officials and managers	183	15	198	80	24	104
Professionals	56	7	63	58	14	72
Technicians and associate professionals	104	45	149	154	81	235
Clerks	147	44	191	176	78	254
Service workers, shop and market sales workers	166	57	223	406	141	547
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	219	28	247	259	31	290
Craft and machine operators and assemblers	811	99	910	763	113	876
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	326	209	535	293	149	442
Elementary occupations	951	360	1,311	939	428	1,367
Occupations not stated	9	9	18	5	11	16
<b>All Occupations</b>	<b>2,972</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>3,845</b>	<b>3,133</b>	<b>1,070</b>	<b>4,203</b>

Among the disabled males, 30.0% were engaged in “elementary occupations” and 24.4% were “craft and machine operators and assemblers”. As for the female disabled, 40.0% were engaged in “elementary occupations” and 13.9% were working as plant and machine operators and assemblers.

## CHAPTER 5 – CONCLUSION

The United Nations declared the years 1983 – 1992 as the decade of the disabled, the theme of the decade being “Full participation and Equality”. In this context, the Government started working for the integration of the disabled persons in the mainstream of society.

Thus, two pieces of legislation, namely the Trust Fund for Disabled Persons Act and the Employment of Disabled Persons Act, were passed in Parliament in November 1988. Their respective objectives were (i) “to set up training centers and sheltered workshops for, develop and provide appropriate training to, disabled persons with a view to enabling them to secure employment or to work on their own account” and (ii) “to provide for the employment of disabled persons or in the alternative, a contribution to a Trust Fund from employers”. Another piece of legislation, the Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Act, which reinforced the existing ones, was passed in 1996. This act, stipulates, inter alia that the work force of all employers having 35 employees or more should include 3% of disabled persons. Moreover with the amendment of the Building Act, 1999 a number of buildings have been retrofitted to increase accessibility to disabled persons. Furthermore, the African Union of which Mauritius is a member proclaimed the year 1999 – 2009 as the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities. The aim is to bring about full participation, equality and empowerment of people with disabilities. In this context, the Government took the decision in November 2000 to set up a National Committee under the aegis of the National Council for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons (NCRD) to work out and monitor programmes for the decade.

The Government, through the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity & Senior Citizen Welfare and Reform Institutions in conformity with the United Nations Standards Rules on Equalisation of Opportunities for persons with disabilities has worked towards the empowerment of the disabled. In this respect, several institutions within the Ministry were set up. These are

- (i) the Rehabilitation Unit which serves as focal point for issues relating to disability,
- (ii) the National Council for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons (NCRD) which acts as the national co-ordinating committee. It groups most of the non-governmental organizations operating in the field of disability and advises on policy matters, makes proposals for improving the quality of life of the disabled, co-ordinates the activities of voluntary associations and liaises national and international organizations.
- (iii) the Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Board which was set up under the Training and Employment of the Disabled Persons Act of 1996. The main objective of the board is to promote training and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

The Ministry also provides financial assistance to the disabled. Thus in 2000/2001, an amount of Rs. 482 Mn was disbursed in the form of basic invalid's pension to some 23,000 beneficiaries. Other forms of assistance such as prosthesis, wheelchairs and hearing aids are also provided while with a view to encouraging parents to send their disabled children to school, bus fares of disabled children as well as accompanying parents are refunded.

In order to enable planners and policy makers to improve efficiency and effectiveness of services, identify emerging problems and develop appropriate policy services, a few recommendations based on analysis made in previous chapters of this report are listed below.

- (i) The likelihood of having a disability increases with age. During the inter-censal period 1990 – 2000, an increase of 46.5% is observed in the number of the disabled population. At Census 2000, nearly half of the disabled population is aged 60 years and over. Due to the ageing of our population, this disabled population is expected to increase in the coming decades. Thus, appropriate planning and adequate resources will be required for their well being.
- (ii) In 2000, among the disabled living in institutions about half are aged 60 years and over. While better services should be provided in these institutions, special income support to carers should be encouraged to prevent these people from moving away from their homes.
- (iii) Census data shows that leg and arm disability is the most common type of disability. The main reasons could be accidents and injuries at work and the consequences of diabetes. Thus, actions must be taken for a safe workplace and for the provision for education on proper dieting for a healthy life.
- (iv) Training and Employment is a key to successful integration of disabled persons in the social and economic development. Government and Non-Governmental Organisations should encourage the participation of people with disabilities in education and economic activity to enable them to play fully their role in society. At Census 2000, only 65.4% of the disabled persons were currently attending or attended school in the past compared to 90.7% of the overall population. Activity rate of the disabled population was 12.3% compared to 54.8% for the total population

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