Disability Amongst the Elderly in Sri Lanka

**COMPARISON OF DISABILITY RATES IN THE CENSUSES OF 1981 AND 2001**

W Indratal De Silva, W P Amarabandu, H R Gunasekera

Systematic and reliable data on actual trends in disability are scarce and limited. To address this gap, the Institute for Health Policy commissioned this study to analyze the data collected on disability in the two last national population censuses. The study, undertaken by experts from the Department of Census and Statistics and the University of Colombo, shows that the incidence of disability in Sri Lanka has increased during the period 1981 to 2001. It analyzes the pattern of disability by district and by type, and reveals that disability rates have increased dramatically among the elderly primarily due to exogenous factors, whilst disabilities at birth have declined significantly. It concludes that disability rates are likely to increase in future.

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Ravi P. Rannan-Eliya, Lankani Sikurajapathy

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