DISABILITY IN MALDIVES
HOUSEHOLD INCOME & EXPENDITURE SURVEY 2019
Using Washington Group Short Set on Functioning (WG-SS)

National Bureau of Statistics,
Ministry of National Planning, Housing & Infrastructure
The prevalence of disability stands at 9% for MALDIVES or close to one in every 10 people is a person with disability.

With increase in age, prevalence of disability increases. At age 75+ prevalence of disability is at its highest with 58% of the population experiencing disability.

The prevalence of disability among children (aged 5-17 years) is at 4%.

Almost 35% of the population with disability experience multiple disability. Among them, most experience difficulty in two domains. Men tend to experience more difficulty by multiple kind with majority of them having disability in 2 or 3 domains.

People with disability tend to own a mobile phone than any other asset.

Women with disability tend to have children at earlier ages (within one year of marriage). For women without disability there is a gap of 3 years between their marriage and then child bearing.

Women with and without disability get married at the age of 20.

Men with disability tend to marry 3 years later than women with disability.

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With increase in age, person who have difficulty in walking is more compared to other domains.

Disability by age

Disability by age group, 2019

Prevalence of disability by type of difficulty and age

Prevalence of disability by type of difficulty, 2019

Average age of marriage and average age at birth of first child

Asset ownership

Asset ownership, 2019
The literacy rate of persons with disability in Dhivehi is at 90%.

Only one third of the persons with disability is literate in English and only one third of women is literate in English.

The current school attendance remains at almost 91% for children with disability. With increase in age, children who are currently not studying increases for both with and without disability.

The NEET rate is high among persons with disability in Male’ while in the Atolls there is no difference in youth NEET by their disability status.
DISABILITY IN MALDIVES - EMPLOYMENT
FOR MALDIVIANS 15 YEARS AND ABOVE (HIES 2019)
Using Washington Group Short Set on Functioning (WG-SS)

KEY LABOUR FORCE INDICATORS BY DISABILITY STATUS, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Both Sexes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labour force participation Rate (%)</td>
<td>23.9%</td>
<td>43.0%</td>
<td>31.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment to population ratio (%)</td>
<td>21.4%</td>
<td>41.2%</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate (%)</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population outside labour force (%)</td>
<td>76.1%</td>
<td>57.0%</td>
<td>69.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STATUS IN EMPLOYMENT

STATUS IN EMPLOYMENT BY DISABILITY STATUS, 2019

- Majority of those without disability works as employees.
- Among females with disability, most work as own account workers

TOP 5 OCCUPATION AMONG WOMEN AND MEN WITH DISABILITY

TOP 5 OCCUPATIONS AMONG FEMALES WITH DISABILITY, 2019

- Food processing and related trades (4.2%)
- Hotel and catering services (2.6%)
- Domestic house and office cleaners (2.1%)
- Refuse workers (2.0%)
- Other services (1.8%)

TOP 5 OCCUPATION AMONG MEN WITH DISABILITY, 2019

- Industrial workers (3.6%)
- Manufactured goods (2.5%)
- Domestic house and office cleaners (2.1%)
- Refuse workers (2.0%)
- Food processing and related trades (1.8%)

POPULATION ENGAGED IN INFORMAL JOBS BY DISABILITY STATUS, LOCALITY AND SEX, 2019

In Maldives, jobs done by persons with disability are largely informal.

Women with disability are more likely to work in informal sector and 4 in 5 women with disability work in the informal jobs.

Note: The components of informal employment are employment in the informal sector, in the formal sector and in households. Employment in the informal sector (that is informal enterprises) is comprised of employers, employees, own-account workers and contributing family workers. Informal employment in the formal sector includes employees and contributing family workers in formal enterprises who do not receive social protection contributions by their employer or, in the absence of information on social protection, do not receive paid annual and paid sick leave. Informal employment in households consists of domestic workers employed by households who do not receive social protection contributions from their employers or, alternatively do not receive paid annual paid sick leave.

AVERAGE HOURS WORKED AND AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS BY EMPLOYEES AND DISABILITY STATUS, 2019

Compared to persons without disability, employees with disability tend to work one hour less.

Employees with disability receive fewer hourly earnings compared to persons without disability.

AVG. HOURLY EARNINGS & HOURS WORKED BY EMPLOYEES

DEFINING DISABILITY IN MALDIVES

The WG-SS measures disability using the following 6 questions:
Because of a Health problem:
1) Do you have difficulty seeing even if wearing glasses?  
2) Do you have difficulty hearing even if using a hearing aid?  
3) Do you have difficulty walking or climbing stairs?  
4) Do you have difficulty remembering or concentrating?  
5) Do you have difficulty with (self care such as) washing all over or dressing?  
6) Using your usual language, do you have difficulty communicating (for example understanding or being understood by others)?

The response categories for each of these questions are: ‘No difficulty; Yes-Some difficulty; Yes-a lot of difficulty; cannot do at all.’

For the purpose of reporting and generating internationally comparable data, the WG recommended cut-off has been used to define the population of persons with disabilities as:
‘The sub-population identified as with disability includes those with at least one domain that is coded as a lot of difficulty or cannot do it at all.’

The cut-off used for identifying those ‘with disability’ is:

- With disability
  - No difficulty
  - Some difficulty
  - A lot of difficulty
  - Cannot do at all

NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS, MINISTRY OF NATIONAL PLANNING, HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE