



DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS BY DISABILITY

HOUSEHOLD INCOME & EXPENDITURE SURVEY 2019

Using Washington Group Short Set on Functioning (WG-SS)



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SECTION 1: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS BY DISABILITY

HOUSEHOLD
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SURVEY 2019

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS BY DISABILITY

This section presents findings from Households Income and Expenditure 2019 (HIES 2019) on the demographic characteristics of the population by disability. Further detail of disability is presented by prevalence, disability by age, multiple disability, disability severity, migration, by their marital status and other such characteristics. The 95% confidence interval has been shown for key results to show the significance of the results and accuracy range of the values.

For definition of disability and methodology used, please refer to the section ‘Defining disability measurement’ section of this series. The results presented here are only for Maldivians (5 years and above) and includes population living in households in administrative islands¹.

1.1 Prevalence of disability in Maldives

The results from Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES 2019) shows that the prevalence of disability stands at 9% for the country or close to one in every 10 people is a person with disability.

The prevalence of disability is higher in Atolls compared to Male’. Disability prevalence is greater among females compared to males.

¹ HIES is carried out among normal households in administrative islands. This does not cover population living in institutions such as state care facilities.

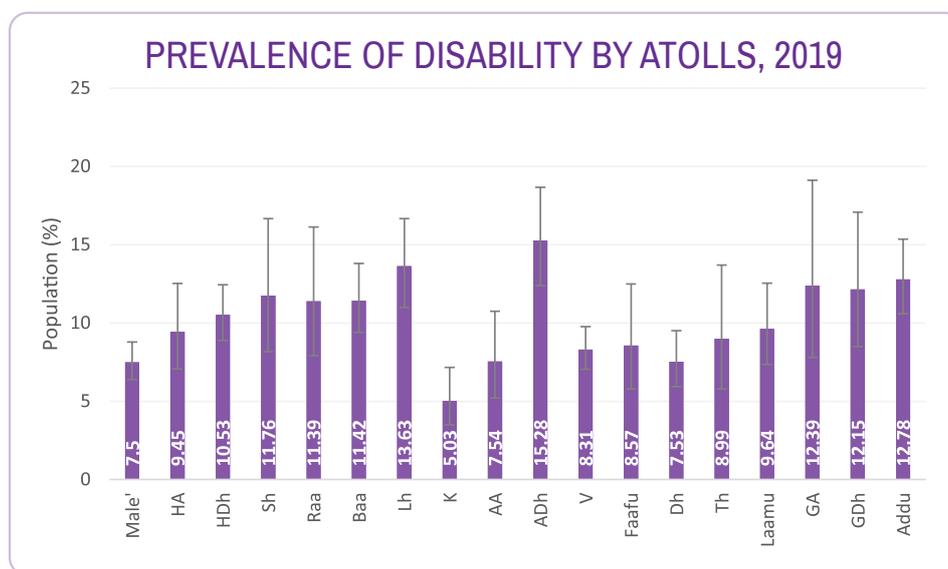
Table 1.1: Prevalence of disability in Maldives for population 5 years and above, 2019

Locality	Persons with disability			Prevalence of disability (With 95% CI)		
	Both Sexes	Female	Male	Both Sexes	Female	Male
Republic	36,325	22,055	14,270	9.2% [8.51, 9.95]	10.5% [9.52, 11.51]	7.8% [6.99, 8.58]
Male'	14,238	9,211	5,028	7.5% [6.36, 8.81]	9.4% [7.66, 11.45]	5.5% [4.42, 6.77]
Atolls	22,087	12,844	9,243	10.8% [9.98, 11.64]	11.4% [10.48, 12.41]	10.0% [9.08, 11.03]

Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

Figure 1.1 shows that the prevalence of disability varies across Atolls. ADh Atoll has the highest proportion of persons with disability followed by Lhaviyani Atoll. The results show that the prevalence of disability remains at a low level in Kaafu, Dhaalu and AA Atoll.

Figure 1.1: Prevalence of disability for population 5 years and above by Atoll, 2019



* Due to COVID, HIES2019 was not carried out in Noonu, Meemu and Gn Atoll and hence has been excluded in the results. The results are statistically significant

Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

1.2 Prevalence of disability by age

The population projection of Maldives² shows that one third of our population consists of children (0-17 years) while 5% of the population are those 65 years and above. The prevalence of disability among children (aged 5-17 years) is at 4%. Disability among boys is higher only for children aged 5-9 years.

With increase in age, prevalence of disability increases. Starting from age 55 years, there is a sharp increase in the prevalence of disability with striking contrast between men and women. Significant proportion of disability is seen among women in the youth and adult ages as well.

Table 1.2: Prevalence of disability by age group, 2019

Age group	Prevalence of disability (in %) with 95% Confidence Interval					
	Both Sexes		Female		Male	
5-9	3.4	[2.45, 4.83]	2.3	[1.39,3.91]	4.5	[3.07, 6.44]
10-14	5.7	[3.70, 8.63]	5.7	[3.21, 10.07]	5.6	[3.78, 8.24]
15-19	4.0	[2.76, 5.74]	5.0	[3.21, 7.85]	3.0	[1.76, 5.09]
20-24	3.1	[2.26, 4.31]	3.7	[2.59, 5.28]	2.5	[1.47, 4.21]
25-29	4.7	[3.02, 7.22]	4.6	[2.92,7.05]	4.9	[2.79, 8.38]
30-34	4.1	[3.25, 5.24]	4.8	[3.48, 6.46]	3.3	[2.06, 5.30]
35-39	5.4	[4.16, 6.95]	6.5	[4.76, 8.80]	4.0	[2.51, 6.30]
40-44	6.6	[4.93, 8.69]	7.4	[5.31, 10.34]	5.4	[3.62, 8.00]
45-49	9.0	[7.26, 11.13]	12.6	[9.91, 15.83]	4.1	[2.80, 6.07]
50-54	14.6	[12.07, 17.53]	19.0	[15.03, 23.82]	9.3	[6.61, 13.05]
55-59	19.2	[15.91, 22.98]	23.9	[18.89, 29.64]	14.4	[10.63, 19.29]
60-64	26.5	[21.94, 31.69]	33.3	[27.47, 39.67]	18.3	[13.74, 24.04]
65-69	33.4	[27.06,40.37]	37.2	[29.26, 45.95]	29.6	[21.94, 38.58]
70-74	43.6	[35.20, 52.46]	44.6	[32.42, 57.49]	42.5	[32.12, 53.63]
75+	57.8	[52.33, 63.13]	66.6	[59.32, 73.22]	49.7	[41.75, 57.63]
Broad age						
5-17	4.4	[3.47,5.46]	4.0	[2.76, 5.85]	4.7	[3.79, 5.76]
18-35	4.2	[3.56, 4.93]	4.7	[3.92, 5.64]	3.6	[2.76, 4.59]
36-64	11.7	[10.51, 13.05]	14.6	[12.98, 16.40]	8.2	[6.91, 9.58]
65+	45.4	[41.66, 49.12]	50.3	[45.28, 55.25]	40.5	[35.03, 46.20]

Note: Prevalence of disability for each age group is calculate out of the total population for that specific age group.

Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

Maldives population dynamics is expected to changes in the near future, with low population growth and population aging. The elderly population is expected to double by 2054 and with this, the proportion of persons with disability is expected to increase as well.

² Maldives population projection 2014-2054 (<http://statisticsmaldives.gov.mv/population-projection-2014-2054/>)

1.3 Disability by type of disability (domain)

Table 1.3 shows the disability prevalence by type of disability. Slight difference can be observed across men and women by disability domain except for difference in prevalence rates in terms of walking difficulty. Similarly, the disability prevalence increases with age and with increase in disability across all the activity domains.

Among children the prevalence of disability in all activity domains remains low (1-2%). With increase in age, person who have difficulty in walking is more compared to other domains. More than one third of the women in the elderly age experience difficulty in walking and it is the highest across all 6 domains.

Table 1.3: Prevalence of disability by type of difficulty and sex, 2019

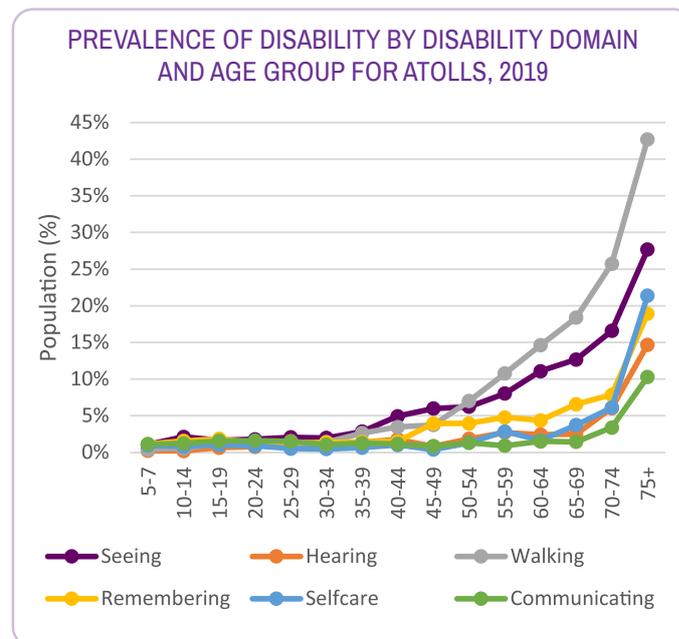
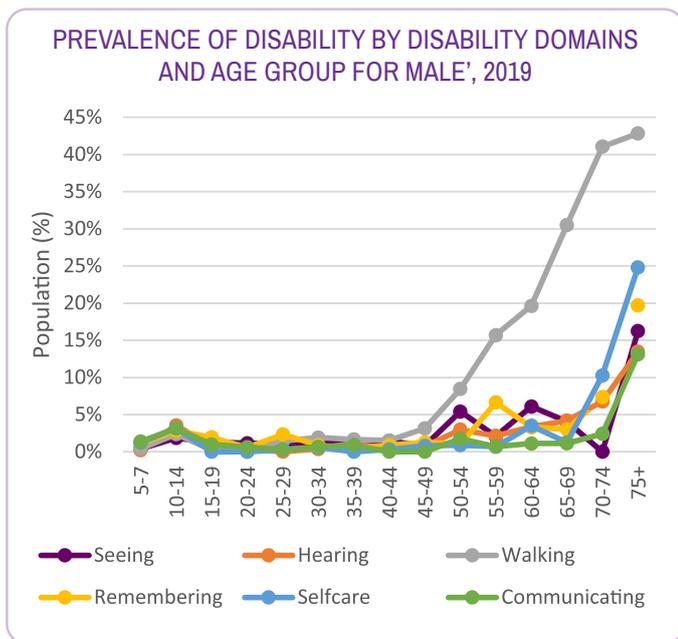
Detail	Type of difficulty & Sex											
	Seeing		Hearing		Walking		Remembering		Selfcare		Communicating	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Locality												
Republic	3.6%	2.8%	1.5%	1.5%	5.7%	3.5%	2.6%	2.1%	1.7%	1.4%	1.3%	1.5%
Male'	2.2%	1.3%	1.4%	1.3%	5.7%	2.6%	2.2%	1.6%	1.7%	0.9%	1.2%	1.1%
Atolls	4.9%	4.3%	1.6%	1.8%	5.6%	4.3%	3.0%	2.6%	1.7%	1.9%	1.3%	1.9%
by Age group												
5-17	1.3%	1.4%	0.8%	0.9%	0.7%	1.0%	1.3%	2.0%	1.2%	1.4%	1.1%	2.0%
18-35	1.6%	1.3%	0.6%	0.9%	1.6%	0.8%	1.6%	0.9%	0.6%	0.3%	1.0%	0.9%
36-64	5.3%	3.3%	1.9%	1.2%	8.1%	3.5%	3.0%	1.9%	1.2%	0.7%	0.8%	1.1%
65+	16.5%	14.3%	7.6%	9.1%	37.9%	28.1%	12.8%	9.8%	13.1%	10.2%	6.1%	5.1%

Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

Further analysis of prevalence of disability by domain and age group between Male' and Atolls is presented in Figure 1.2 and Figure 1.3. With increase in age, the disability that the population face in walking increases in Male'. In the Atolls, increase in disability in walking and seeing is significantly observed.

Figure 1.2: Prevalence of disability by disability domains and age group for Male', 2019

Figure 1.3: Prevalence of disability by disability domains and age group for Atolls, 2019



Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

1.4 Disability by severity indicator

Breakdown of six core question on disability by severity³ shows that 30% of the population experience difficulty in functioning between mild and severe levels. The results show that a relatively small proportion (2%) of the population experience severe disability with female experience more than men.

Table 1.4: Disability Severity indicators by locality and sex with 95% Confidence Interval, 2019

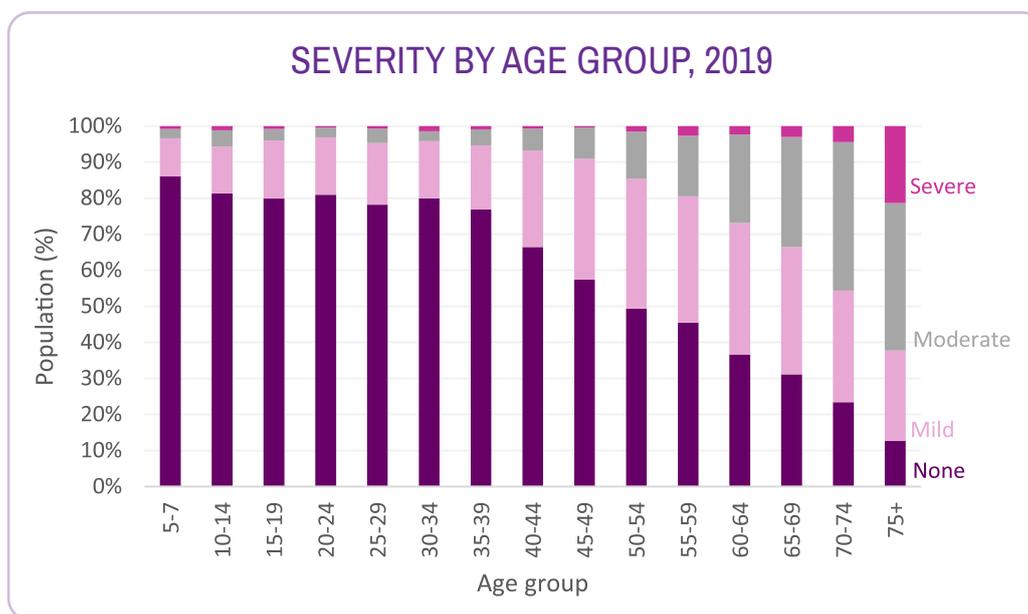
Level of Severity	Republic			Male'			Atolls		
	Both Sexes	Female	Male	Both Sexes	Female	Male	Both Sexes	Female	Male
None	70% [68.07, 71.48]	67% [64.89, 68.96]	73% [71.35, 74.69]	74% [70.86, 77.29]	71% [67.33, 75.06]	77% [73.95, 80.23]	66% [64.10, 67.31]	63% [61.25, 64.97]	69% [67.26, 70.47]
Mild	20% [19.18, 21.64]	22% [20.60, 23.54]	19% [17.23, 19.85]	17% [15.47, 19.72]	19% [16.13, 21.13]	16% [14.21, 18.91]	23% [21.72, 24.47]	25% [23.55, 26.74]	21% [19.22, 21.98]
Moderate	8% [7.10, 8.45]	9% [7.98, 9.66]	7% [5.86, 7.35]	6% [5.27, 7.64]	8% [6.31, 9.39]	5% [3.80, 6.30]	9% [8.34, 9.80]	10% [8.90, 10.61]	8% [7.41, 9.11]
Severe	2% [1.43, 1.88]	2% [1.45, 2.25]	1% [1.17, 1.80]	1% [0.95, 1.78]	2% [1.10, 2.74]	1% [0.45, 1.52]	2% [1.72, 2.22]	2% [1.58, 2.19]	2% [1.74, 2.47]

* Not stated is excluded

Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

Disability severity indicator by age group shows that those having no difficulty is highest at young age and decrease with increase in age. On the other hand, moderate and severe disability increases with increase in age with a slight jump in the elderly ages. Mild level of difficulty is experienced during mid-age and turns into moderate and severe disability with increase in age.

Figure 1.4: Disability by severity and age group, 2019



Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

3 Refer to 'Introduction- defining disability measurement in Maldives' for definition of disability by severity

1.5 Multiple disability:

A person is considered to have multiple disabilities if he/she has reported having ‘a lot of difficulty’ or ‘cannot do at all’ in more than one question in the WG- SS. If we are looking at persons with disabilities, this takes a combination from 1 to 6 - with 1 being assigned to a person having only one type of disability and 6 being disabled in all six domains. Persons with multiple disabilities are most vulnerable and has a combined impact on the health and wellbeing of the person and on their household. And in achieving the SDG’s, it is important to take into account and assess their condition in leaving no one behind.

Table 1.5: Population with disability (5 years & above) by multiple disability, 2019

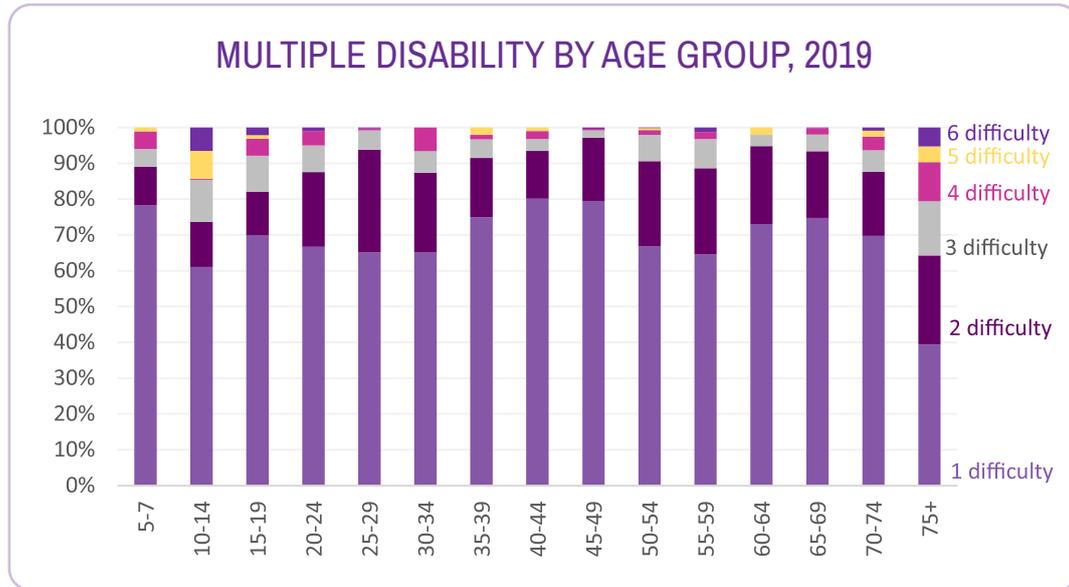
Multiple disability	Both Sexes		Female		Male	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
With 1 disability	23,897	66%	14,887	67%	9,011	63%
With 2 disability	7,288	20%	4,448	20%	2,839	20%
With 3 disability	2,680	7%	1,277	6%	1,403	10%
With 4 disability	1,235	3%	714	3%	521	4%
With 5 disability	652	2%	440	2%	212	1%
With 6 disability	573	2%	288	1%	285	2%

Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

Table 1.5 reveals that among persons with disabilities, almost 35% 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.

Furthermore, breakdown of multiple disability by age group shows that children and elderly population (with disability) experience a higher proportion of multiple disability. About 4% of the children with disability experience difficulty in 5 domain and the same goes for experiencing difficulty in 6 domains. This is mainly associated with their development and age as children are still in their development. Between ages 20-64 years, there is negligible disability in 5 or more domains. With elderly age, the composition changes within each age group with significant proportion having multiple disability.

Figure 1.5: Multiple disability by age group, 2019



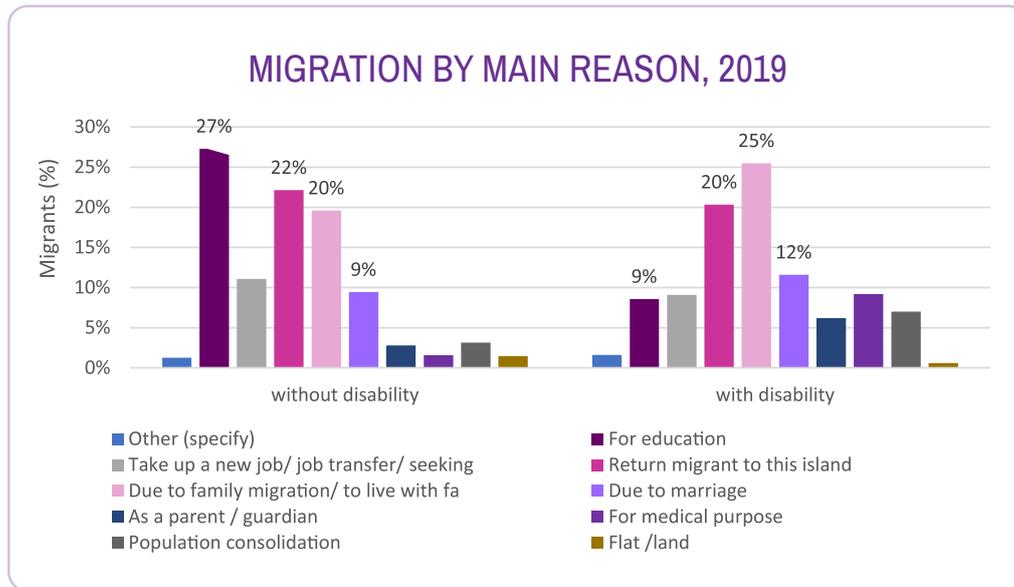
Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

1.6 Internal Migration

Out of the total migrant population 8% are persons with disability. Among migrants with disabilities, 61% are females. Among migrants with disabilities, majority are adults, between the age group of 35-64 years.

While education remains as the main reason for change in residence among migrants without disability, migrants with disability mainly migration due to family migration, or to live with family. This is followed by return migrants. This pattern is similar among men and women. This indicates that the choice of migration lies with the family rather than on the person. About 9% of migrants with disabilities, main reason to migrate was for medical purposes.

Figure 1.6: Migrants by reason for migration by disability status, 2019/20

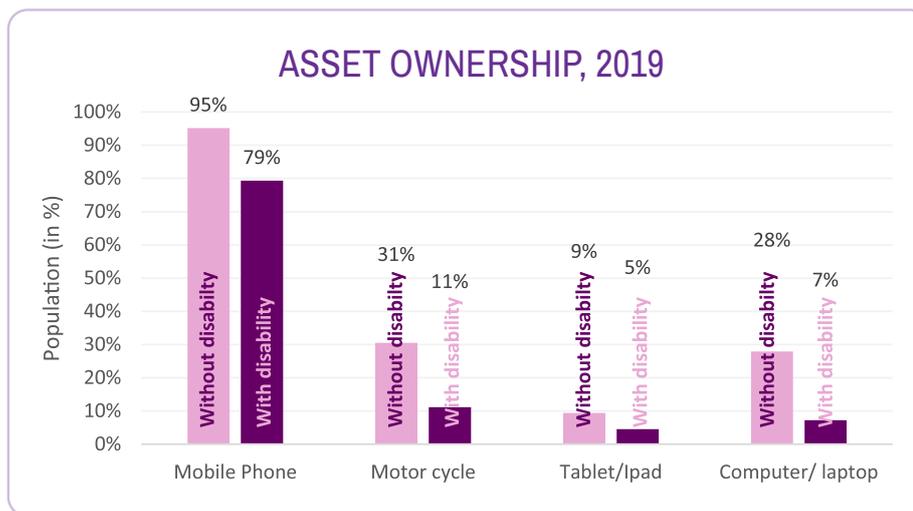


Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

1.7 Asset ownership

HIES 2019 collected information on the asset ownership for 15+ population. The results show that most of the people with disability tend to own a mobile phone than any other asset.

Figure 1.7: Asset ownership by disability status, 2019



* Each bar is out of 100%

Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

The usage of assets tends to be high among youth and adult ages and tend to decrease with old age. However, more than half of the elders with disability use mobile phone. The results also show that a significant proportion of children (15-17 years) with disability own tablet/lpad and Computer/laptop.

Breakdown of asset ownership by disability domain shows that those who have disability in selfcare and communication own assets the least.

Table 1.6: Ownership of assets among persons with disability by age group and disability domain, 2019

Indicator	Mobile Phone	Motor cycle	Tablet/lpad	Computer/laptop
Persons with disability by age group				
15-17	69%	0%	19%	16%
18-35	86%	23%	11%	26%
36-64	89%	11%	4%	4%
65+	63%	6%	2%	2%
Disability domain				
Seeing	28.2%	3.9%	1.0%	2.1%
Hearing	10.8%	2.2%	0.5%	0.9%
Walking	41.5%	4.5%	2.6%	2.5%
Remembering	16.4%	2.4%	1.3%	1.9%
Selfcare	6.6%	0.4%	0.7%	0.4%
Communicating	6.1%	0.6%	1.1%	0.8%

Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

The proportion of population who owns a mobile phone is also an indicator of SDG in achieving gender equality. It enables the use of technology, in particular the use of information and communication technology promote the empowerment of women, of most advantaged groups and those with disability. Additionally, access to timely and reliable information is important to everyone especially during crisis.

Further breakdown of this indicator by disability and locality shows gender differences in the ownership of mobile across country. A higher percent of female with disability tend to own mobile phone than men with disability in the Atolls. In contrast, ownership of mobile phone is more among men with disability in Male' than women in Male'.

Table 1.7: SDG 5.b.1 Access to ICT disaggregated by disability status and sex for 15+ population, 2019

Locality	Both Sexes		Female		Male	
	Without disability	With disability	Without disability	With disability	Without disability	With disability
Republic	95%	79%	95%	79%	96%	80%
Male'	97%	88%	97%	85%	97%	93%
Atolls	93%	74%	93%	75%	94%	73%

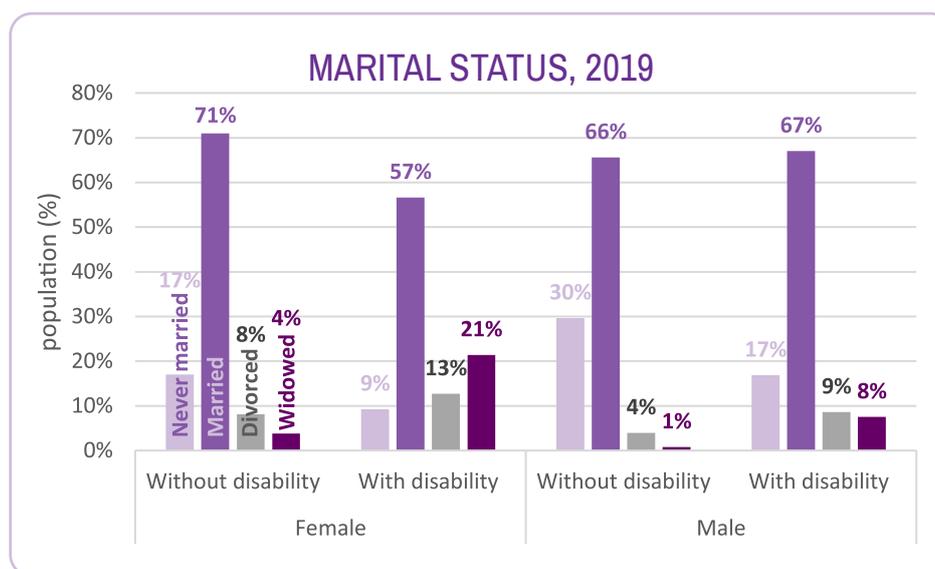
Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

1.8 Marital Status

Marriage as an institution is considered to contribute to wellbeing and provide social support to a family as whole. While it is normal for persons without to get married and start a married life, persons with disability faces certain difficulties due to their health conditions though not limiting them to start a family.

The results from the survey shows that among persons with disability, most males (67%) were married compared to females (57%). Interestingly, this is slightly higher than men without disability. Furthermore, a significant proportion of women with disability was divorced and widowed compared to men with disability.

Figure 1.8: Marital Status, 2019



Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

Table 1.8 presents marital status by broad age group and level of disabilities. It is important to note that no marriage has taken place among children (15-17 years) with disability and without disability. With increase in age a higher proportion of persons with disability were divorced and widowed. Among elderly population, 40% of the persons with disability was widowed.

Slight differences can be observed in the marital status between persons with multiple disability.

Table 1.8: Marital status by age group and disability status, 2019

Detail	Never married	Married	Divorced	Widowed	Total
Without disability- by age group					
15-17	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
18-35	32.9%	61.6%	5.3%	0.2%	100.0%
36-64	1.7%	87.9%	8.1%	2.3%	100.0%
65+	0.5%	64.3%	7.0%	28.2%	100.0%
With disability- by age group					
15-17	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
18-35	41.9%	50.7%	7.4%	0.0%	100.0%
36-64	5.1%	74.7%	14.3%	5.9%	100.0%
65+	1.1%	49.8%	9.5%	39.7%	100.0%
By multiple disability					
Single disability	10.0%	65.6%	11.6%	12.9%	100.0%
Multiple disability	16.1%	50.8%	10.4%	22.7%	100.0%
By disability severity					

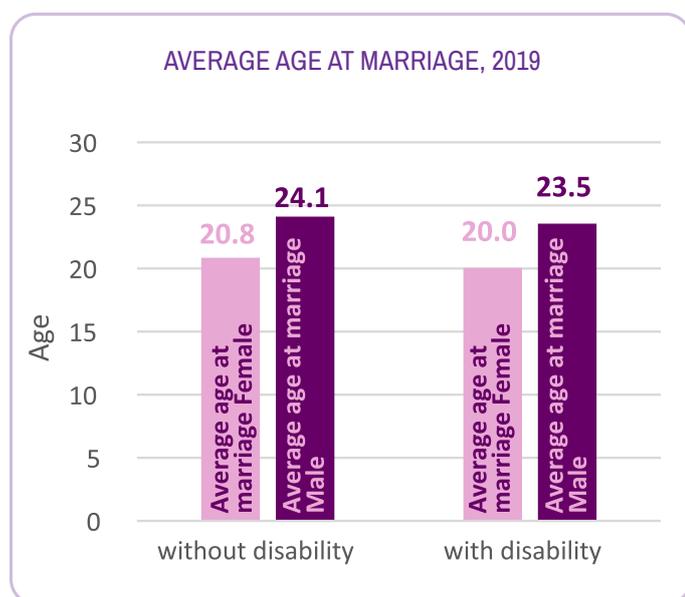
Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

1.9 Age at marriage and child bearing (aged between 15 to 49 years)

In Maldives women tend to get married earlier than men. While women in general get married earlier (at the age of 20), this is the same among women with disability. Men with disability tend to marry 3 years later than women with disability.

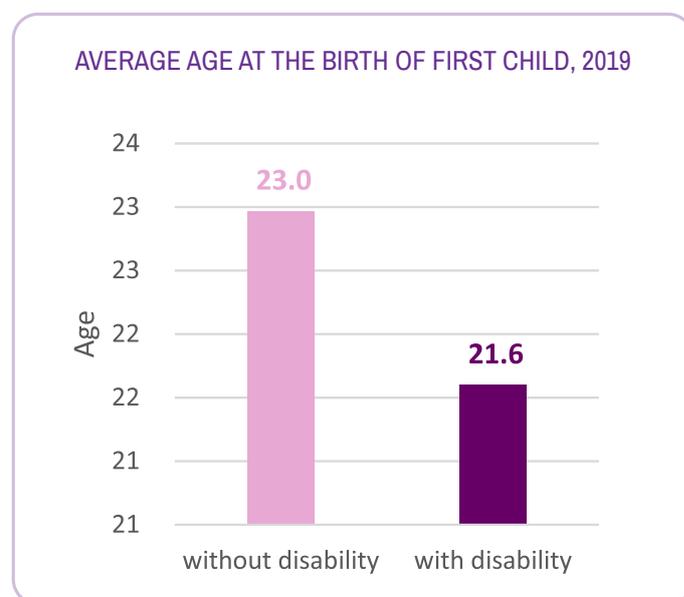
Even though women with disability get married at the same age as persons without disability, they tend to have children at earlier ages, within a pace of one year. For women without disability there is a gap of 3 years between their marriage and then child bearing.

Figure 1.9: Average age at marriage by disability status, 2019



Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

Figure 1.10: Average age at the birth of first child by disability status, 2019



Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

Another important aspect of marriage is child marriage or marriage before the age of 18 years. The practice of child marriage is a direct manifestation of gender inequality and a violation of human rights. Child marriage often compromises a girl's right to make decision on their reproductive health and well-being and forces them out of the education system. The prevalence of child marriage is more among girls than boys.

In this respect, the SDG 5.3.1 addresses the elimination of harmful practices such as child marriage and looks at the proportion of women aged 20-24 years who are married before the age of 18 years.

In Maldives the legal age of marriage was 18 years but with written consent of the parents, children 16 years and above can get married before the age of 18 years. With Child Rights Act of Nov 2019, marriage of children below 18 years is prohibited in the country (even with the consent of the parent).

The results from HIES 2019 show that child marriage is less than 1% in Maldives (at 0.5%). And no child marriage has taken place among women with disability.



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