

DISABILITIES IN OMAN

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THE LOCATION OF OMAN

- **Population 2,340,815**
- **309,500 km²,**
- **8 regions**
- **59 Wilayah (districts)**



INTRODUCTION

The growing interest and concern about the disabled group of the population, their rights and the importance of integrating them in society led to increasing demand for the provision of data pertinent to them.

- In the Sultanate, the collection of data about the disabled is carried by the Ministry of National Economy, Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Development, through Censuses, specialized surveys and administrative records.
- The Ministry of National Economy, however, directed concerted efforts for the provision of a database about this group among the Omani's Society by conducting three consecutive population census (1993 – 2003 – 2010).

DEVELOPMENTS OF DISABILITY DATA COLLECTION IN THE THREE CONSECUTIVE CENSUSES OF 1993, 2003 AND 2010

- **1993 Census:**

- The 1993 Census was the first experience for the Sultanate with regard to collection of disability data.
- The 1993 census questionnaire embodied two questions in relation to this population group:
 - **Type of handicap. (7)**
 - - Blind – Lost eye – Lost one or two hands – Lost one or two Legs –
 - Deaf/Dumb – Mentally handicapped – Paralysed
 - **Reason for handicap.(5)** - Since birth, illness, car accident, work accident , others.
- The percentage of Omanis with **handicaps** reached about 1.9% of the total Omani population, according to the results of the 1993 Census.

2003 CENSUS

- 2003 Census adopted the definition endorsed by the United Nations in 1998 which considers the disabled as the person faced with continuous difficulties which impair his/her ability to exercise a number of activities which are appropriate to his capabilities.
- The 2003 Census of the Sultanate collected data about Omanis who face body or mental difficulty in carrying out their day to day activities at home, school or work.

2003 CENSUS (CONT.)

- The questions were based on international classification for **disability, which included the following:**
- **-Area of difficulty. (11)** -Seeing, Hearing, Speaking, Hearing and speaking, Learning, Inability to Control Behaviour, Moving from one place to another, Body moving, Gripping & holding things, Personal care, other difficulties.
- **-Frequency of difficulty.** -always – sometimes.
- **-Period since start of difficulty.** - less than 6 months – 6 months & more.
- -
- **Period since start of difficulty . (7)**
- oSince birth, Disease , Traffic accident, Work Injury, Mishap, Elderly , other reasons

MOST IMPORTANT RESULTS IN THE AREA OF DISABILITY DRAWN FROM 2003 CENSUS DATA

- Omani with **difficulty** reached 41303 individuals according to 2003 Census, representing 2.3% of the total Omani Population.
- The distributions of the disabled by gender shows that disability spreads among males by a slightly higher percentage than among females.
- Disabled males whose number reached 23086 persons according to 2003 Census, accounted for 56% of the total disabled and 2.3% of the total Omani male population.
- Disabled females on the other hand, reached 18217, or around 2% of total female Omani population.
- It is worth mentioning that the negative aspects of the 2003 Census form, is that, the respondents have the option to choose the person who would be authorized for disability, in the sense that the question is not for every member of the family.
- This may be a justification for obtaining a low rate of disability at that time

A NEW DISABILITY CONCEPT IN THE 2010 CENSUS

- The new measure of disability depends on the principles of equal opportunities in exercising day to day functions.
- The 2010 General Population Census identified seven dimensions of disability ,This group include people who face more difficulties in performing basic activities such as walking or hearing, even if these difficulties were eased by the use of aids or by living in a supportive environment or availed with abundant resources.

2010 Census included the following questions:

- **The main type of difficulty/disability the person is suffering from?**
- **The level of this difficulty / disability?**
- **The main reason for this difficulty / disability?**

QUESTIONS WERE AS FOLLOWS

- Does (X) suffers any **difficulty/ disability** in exercising daily life?
- 1. Seeing, even if wearing glasses
- 2. Hearing, even if wearing earphone
- 3. Walking or climbing up steps
- 4. Remembering or concentrating
- 5. Taking care of him/herself
- 6. Communicating in normal language
- 7. Movement of the upper part of the body

A NEW DISABILITY CONCEPT IN THE 2010 CENSUS (CONT.)

- **Three levels or degrees of difficulties** were identified for each dimension comprising of (Some difficulty, Enormous difficulty, cannot do at all)
- **Together with identifying six reasons** (Since birth , Disease, Car accident, work injury, Old age, Others).
- It is worth noting that the name was specifically used.
Does (X) suffers any difficulty/disability in exercising daily life?
The question ensures asking the respondent about all family members in terms of the presence of disabilities, their type and causes.
- It is important to note that the recommendations of the Statistical Commission at its annual meeting in early 2010, included a recommendation to adopt the short questions of the Washington Group as drafted by the group used by countries to monitor disability in Census 2010. These questions included 6 areas only.
- The Sultanate has seen its appropriate to add a seventh question to collect more data.

DISABILITY DATA

- In 2003 41303 individuals (2.3%) of the total Omani Population where disable.
- Disabled males 23086 persons (56%) of the total Omani male population.
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- Disabled females 18217, or around 2% of total female Omani population.

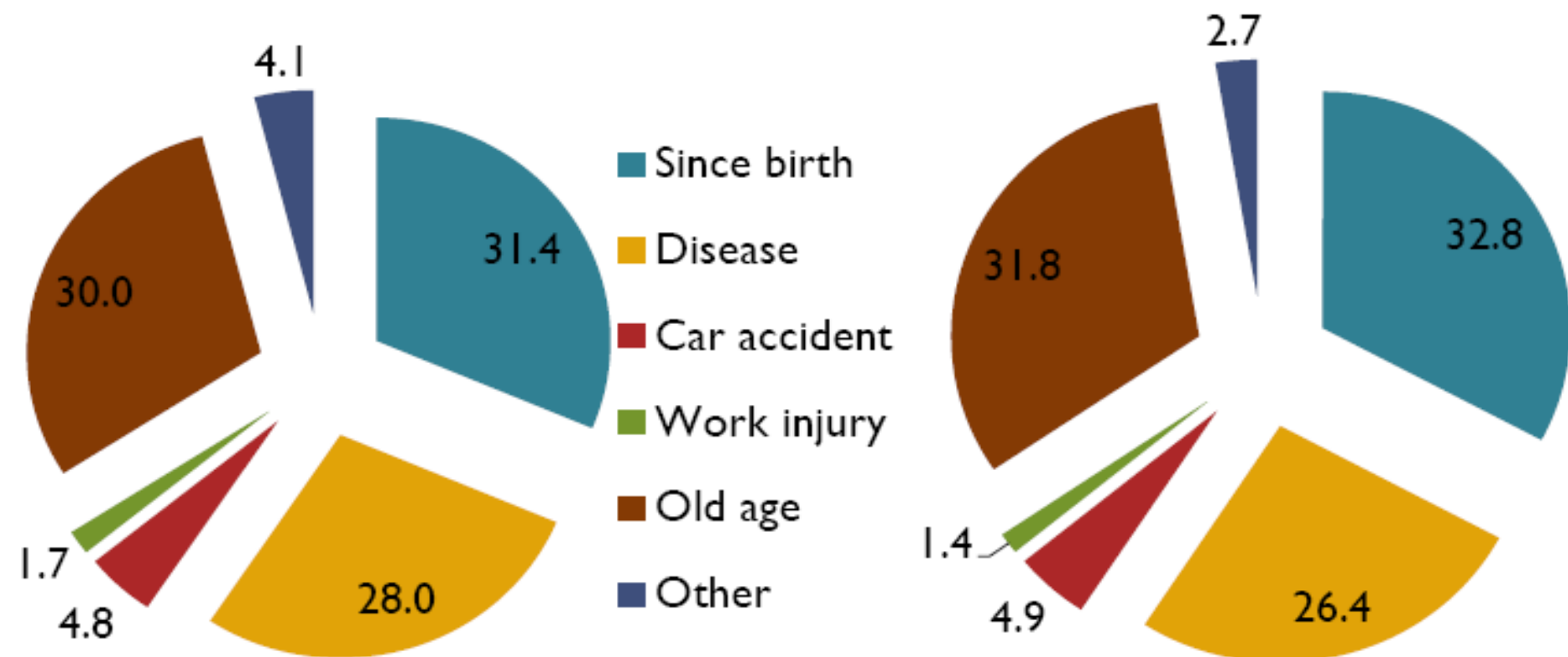
2003 Census

- Number of disabled/those with particular difficulties among is reached 62,506 individuals, representing 3.2% of the total i population.
- The distribution of disabled by gender
 - Males was 32,787 (53.3
 - Females 28,719 (46.7%).
- Also, 4.8 per cent of the total disability was caused due to road traffic accident

2010 Census

Most important results in the area of disability derived from the 2010 Census (Cont.)

Distribution of Omanis who suffer from difficulty/disability by reason of difficulty/disability



SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE MINISTRY FOR THE DISABLED

First, legislation and draw plans

Welfare Act and the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons, issued by Royal Decree No. 63/2008

The International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ratified by Royal Decree No. 121/2008

Regulation for the establishment of rehabilitation centers for the disabled issued by Ministerial Decree No. 124/2008

Regulation for the issuance of a disabled card issued by Ministerial Decree No. 94/2008

National Committee for the care of disabled issued by Ministerial Decree No. 1/2009, headed by the Minister and the membership of a number of Their Excellencies and agents concerned ministries and a representative of the private sector and a representative of rehabilitation centers for the disabled and a representative of persons with disabilities, and proceed with the terms of reference laid down in Article No. (14) of the Welfare Act and rehabilitation of the disabled.

Specialized sub-committees emanating from the National Committee for the care of the disabled and of (8) committees formed under the ministerial decisions, and headed Excellencies agents competent ministry except the committees of health services and financial matters, and these committees are:

Education Commission

Commission for rehabilitation
training

Employment

Transport

Communications Committee

Committee for Health Services

Commission an appropriate environmen

Sports Commission

Media Committee

Committee on financial matters

The formation of a monitoring committee at the national level to strengthen and activate the implementation of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities under the Ministerial Decree No. 124/2010

Identify the requirements of the care and rehabilitation of the disabled from technical disciplines for ten years.

SECOND, INSTITUTIONAL CARE AND REHABILITATION

- **First: the care and rehabilitation centers affiliated to the ministry**
- 1. The center of the care and rehabilitation of disabled persons:
- Works on the care and rehabilitation of disabled persons professionally with disabilities (audio and kinetic) of both sexes and aged between 14-25 years, and is the first center was established for the care and rehabilitation of the disabled professionally in the year (1987/1988) and accommodates annually about 150 students from all the provinces and regions of the Sultanate .
- Of the most important services:
- 1. Vocational rehabilitation programs are offered through (6) is a professional disciplines Computer, carpentry, paint, welding and blacksmithing, tailoring menswear, family education, decoration and decoration works.
- 2. Foundational program to raise the academic level to serve the vocational training program.
- 3. Mentoring programs and social and psychological counseling for the student and his family.
- 4. Program on job training for students expected to graduate from the center.
- 5. Social and cultural activities, sports and scouting and entertainment.
- 6. Services accommodation and subsistence full enrollment from outside the governorate of Muscat.
- 7. Daily transport services for students from within the governorate of Muscat.
- 8. Provide monthly financial aid to all students in the amount of (15) Real.
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2. CARE HOME FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IN MUSCAT

- Providing services for people with physical disabilities resulting from cerebral palsy from the age of 3-14 years of both sexes.
- House established in 1997 as a section within the center of the care and rehabilitation of the disabled and then raised to the level of the Department in 2002, and offers its services to a number (110) and beneficiaries in accordance with the Qualifying 2010/2011 .
- The most important services:
 - 1. Medical rehabilitation (physical therapy - occupational therapy - speech therapy).
 - 2. Mentoring programs and psychological and social counseling for the child and his family.
 - 3. Development of social skills of the child and build appropriate behaviors.
 - 4. The implementation of educational programs and recreational activities for children.
 - 5. Providing family care and rehabilitative services of assistance in provision of assistive devices appropriate for children.
 - 6. Services accommodation and subsistence full enrollment from outside the governorate of Muscat.
 - 7. Daily transport services for those who are inside the governorate of Muscat.

SECOND, PRIVATE REHABILITATION CENTERS

- There are (3) private rehabilitation centers in the governorate of Muscat has been licensed by the ministry under the Regulation for the establishment of rehabilitation centers for the disabled issued by Ministerial Decree No. 124/2008 for the conduct of the activities of rehabilitation centers for the disabled, which are:
 - Muscat Autism Centre
 - Innovation Center for Rehabilitation
 - Rehabilitation Center Roa
- Third, rehabilitation centers affiliated to Care Association of disabled children
- The number of these centers (10) in a number of states of the Sultanate in addition to the Counseling Center at the headquarters of the Assembly, and serves these centers for disabled children from the age of 5-13 years with hearing disabilities and mental Mini, medium and dual disabilities.

- In order to meet the needs of persons with disabilities, welfare and rehabilitation originated the idea of community-based rehabilitation is a strategy in place in most countries of the world rely on the local community to provide various services for people with disabilities.
- to meet the coverage of basic services to them, and this idea formed the number and range of centers currently stands (23) centers throughout the Sultanate has started this experiment since 1989 and is working to implement its programs through volunteer work in local communities.
- The total number of beneficiaries of its services to the general qualifying current about (2173) disabled and handicapped.
- These centers provide services rehabilitative and welfare by the cadre of volunteers have been rehabilitation specialist training courses.

THE MOST IMPORTANT SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES CENTERS:

- Training children on daily living skills and self-reliance.
- Awareness of child development and adjustment of social behavior.
- Create a child for admission to educational institutions and training.
- Work on the integration of children with disabilities in the community.
- Directing and guiding families.
- Dissemination of community awareness of disability issues.

INPATIENT CARE CENTERS OUTSIDE THE SULTANATE

- 30 people with disabilities were sent to Ibn Khaldun for Special Education Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

- The exchange of these services in the ministry of medical devices and prosthetic aids for the beneficiaries of the various families of the sons of the social security and low-income people, according to the list of aid issued by Ministerial Decree No. 54/90, and these devices, for example, but not limited to the following:
- Wheelchair Normal / electric medical beds Normal / electric, arranged normal medical / Electric, Air Mattress normal / electric, eyeglasses, medical earphones, dentures, breathing devices of different types, toilet chair, pillow Bags, driving a car , crutches, walkers, phlegm suction device, etc.

SOCIAL WORK AHLI

- **1. Society for Disabled Children:**
- It was established in 1991 under the Ministerial Decree No. (19/91) and serving children with mental disabilities simple, medium and hearing impairments and disabilities double from the age of 5-13 years of both sexes and serves qualifying through (11) center and has an enrollment of approximately (507) disabled and handicapped.
- **2. Omani Society for Disabled:**
- Founded in 1995 in the governorate of Muscat - The Assembly and one branch in Sohar. And extends its activities to include all parts of the Sultanate and offer their services to (500) of the categories of disabled people with motor disabilities mainly, aims to educate the community and its definition of disability issues and the needs and requirements of persons with disabilities and aims to provide care services, rehabilitation, training and employment for this group in the Sultanate and the provision of prosthetic devices necessary to Besides removing barriers environmental, architectural and provide the necessary facilities for the movement of this category in order to activate their role and their integration into society.

- **3. Noor Association for the Blind:**

Founded in 1997 and headquartered in Muscat and have (3) branches in Dhofar and internal and inward, extending its services to various provinces and regions of the Sultanate, and aims to educate the community and his issues with visual disabilities and including works to integrate them into society and provide services for 300 blind and legally blind.

- **4. Association of Early Intervention for Children with Disabilities:**

Founded in 2000 in Muscat and children receiving various types of disability except visual ones from different provinces and regions of the Sultanate. Provides diagnostic services and training and education for children with disabilities from birth to the age of six to help the natural growth accelerating growth motor, linguistic and evolutionary and social work to integrate them with normal children or directing them to the channels competent to take advantage of available services and benefits from the services currently about 140 boys and girls.

RUN WITH DISABILITIES

- The ministry's concern is the employment of persons with disabilities through the following:

Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Manpower to follow up the matter through the joint working group with the Ministry of Manpower to search for suitable jobs for people with disabilities in the private sector by qualified holding them and according to their abilities physical and mental.

- Was run (56) disabled and handicapped in 2008
2009 the number of employees (110)
while the number of those who were employed in 2010 (97)
disabled and handicapped and in the private sector.

The implementation of a joint project between the Ministry of Social Development and Labour Organization, ICRC and the Ministry of Manpower aims to increase opportunities for training and employment of persons with disabilities.

Has been conducting a study on the extent of the application of the private sector institutions that occupy (50) or more workers to 2% for the operation of the disabled in accordance with the Omani Labour Law and the Law of the care and rehabilitation of the disabled, and proved that there are opportunities for a great run for the disabled as a result of lack of commitment to these institutions by applying the percentage specified.

SELF-EMPLOYMENT

- Within the framework of the ministry diversified operating areas for people with disabilities and encourage them to self-employment through the establishment of individual projects, the ministry has updated the list of projects livelihoods to include and enable people with disabilities next to the families of social security to improve their incomes, by providing interest-free loans for the implementation of special projects they bring monthly income and be paid the amount of the loan one year after the start of the project and installments on very soft for a period of 7 years, and can be in the event of the success of the project is exempt beneficiary of the payment amount, if applied, it is also stimulating projects to conduct a competition and award the value of the first ones outweigh the value of the loan.
- The total number of beneficiaries of these projects until the end of 2010 (25) disabled and handicapped.

SERVICES AND OTHER FACILITIES

- 1. Card disabled person issued by the ministry which is the official document to prove disability under Article 12 of the Law on the care and rehabilitation of the disabled, which means the insurance to get the rights and privileges enjoyed by persons with disabilities in addition to the card is a source of data on the numbers of disabled people and help knowledge of the prevalence of disability and also geographically so as to provide data to determine their needs.
- 2. Exemption of domestic workers recruitment fees and your driver for persons with disabilities which incomes below 350 riyals, and this is done in coordination with the Ministry of Manpower in accordance with the procedures specified in this regard.
- 3. Exemption for persons with disabilities who earn less than 250 riyals from registration fees and renewal of their cars Royal Oman Police.
- 4. Granting disabled special discounts when buying some auto supplies and household items.

SERVICES AND OTHER FACILITIES

- 5. Parking permits for persons with disabilities that disposal of the ministry.
- 6. Transportation, including facilitating the movement of people with disabilities are exempted from the fee reduction and the use of means of transportation, a subsidiary of National Transportation, and 50% reduction of the price of air travel tickets.
- 7. Exemption from residential land for persons with disabilities whose income is less than (200) Real fees extraction ownership of residential land granted to them by the State and one-time only, and exemption from exceeding income (200) Real were reported (300) Real than half of the value.
- 8. Adoption of the card as a document sufficient to indicate the status of the person at the offer for careers in the public and private sector according to the prescribed percentage for each of them.

SIGN LANGUAGE

- The attention of the ministry in this aspect to be taken through a number of the most important actions as follows:
- Appointment of a sign language interpreter Omani.
- Version of the dictionary indicative of Oman.
- Interpretation of the news bulletins and some social programs and events in the Sultanate of Oman TV after the ministry in coordination with the Ministry of Information specialists.
- Implementation (11) training course at the level of the Sultanate targeted about (1000) co-publishing and the dictionary definition of sign language.
- A series of training courses in the field of sign language for workers in various government and private agencies.

SULTANATE OF OMAN



Thank you