

Disability Survey Report

INTRODUCTION

During the early years development and growth occurs rapidly in children making it essential to provide them with the best opportunities. Various medical problems faced by the children since infancy, if addressed in a timely manner can prevent any further development of symptoms that may lead to any form of disability. According to WHO, 70% of disabilities can be prevented if proper care is taken during pregnancy, infancy and early childhood years.

In order to facilitate Early Detection and Early Intervention of disability in children, various child development benchmarks can be used to discern and address the findings in a timely manner. With all this in mind, Dr. Geeta Chopra, Associate Professor from Institute of Home Economics, University of Delhi came up with a module. It was through collaborative efforts of Pratham and Dr. Chopra that a survey was designed aiming to find out the existing scenario of children in Delhi.

A training was organised for the field team of PDEI using Dr. Chopra's module that covered three important aspects for early detection and early intervention. The modules are divided into three parts:

1. Mother and Child Care: Promoting Health, Preventing Disabilities
2. Early detection of Childhood Disabilities and Persons with Disabilities in the Communities
3. Stimulating Development in Young children with Disabilities at Anganwadi and at Home

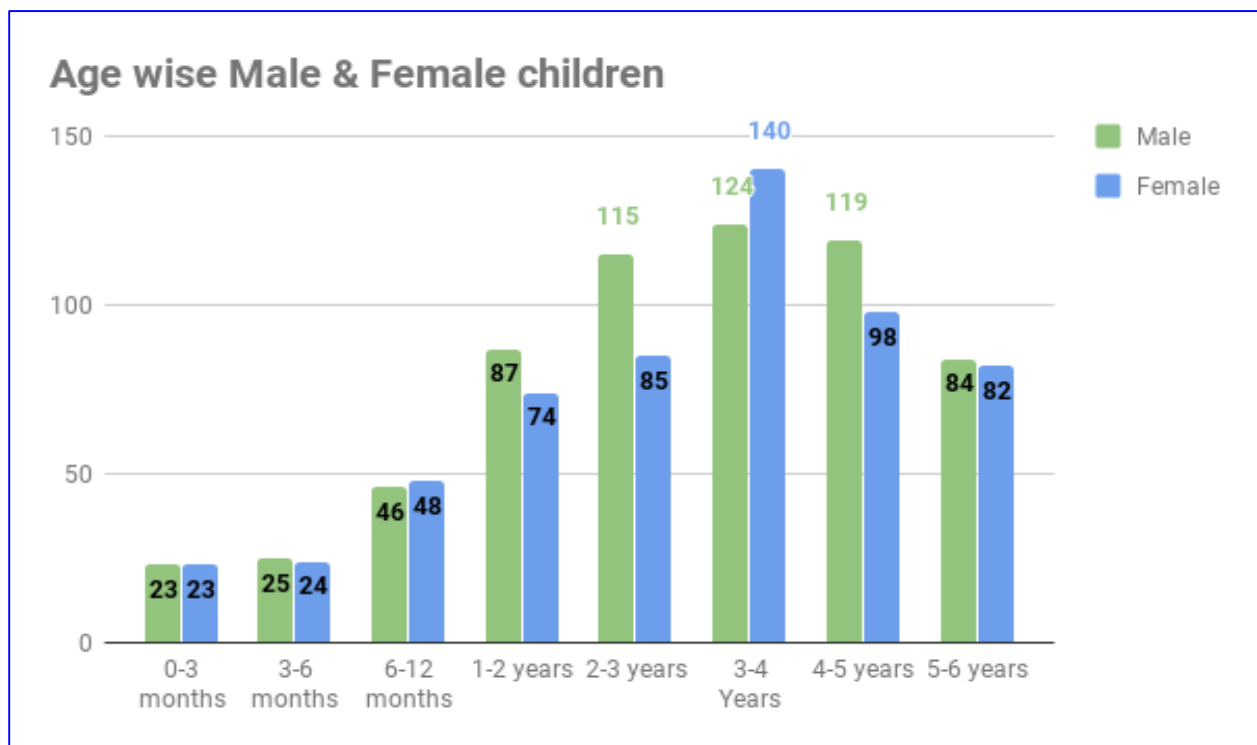
IDENTIFICATION OF CHILDREN

After the two day training a survey was conducted, using the questionnaire provided by Dr. Chopra, in five zones of Delhi- North Shahdara, South Shahdara, Rohini, Karol Bagh and Civil Lines. 19 trainer monitors were divided in 9 teams (8 of 2 people and 1 of 3

people) and as decided in the training each team had to cover 100 children from the same areas where Pratham works- Nandnagri, Sultanpuri, Kardampuri, Khichripur, Prem Nagar, Zakhira, Trilok Puri, Harijan Basti and Kishan Ganj. This was decided to look into the existing condition of children in these areas where the ECE programmes of Pratham function. The idea was to intervene and provide a learning platform for children with disability through the Anganwadi and Balwadi programmes that exist in the nearby areas. Since the requirement was to include 0 to 6 year old children, data was collected by visiting every household of the areas and included the families that had children between this age group in the survey.

FINDINGS

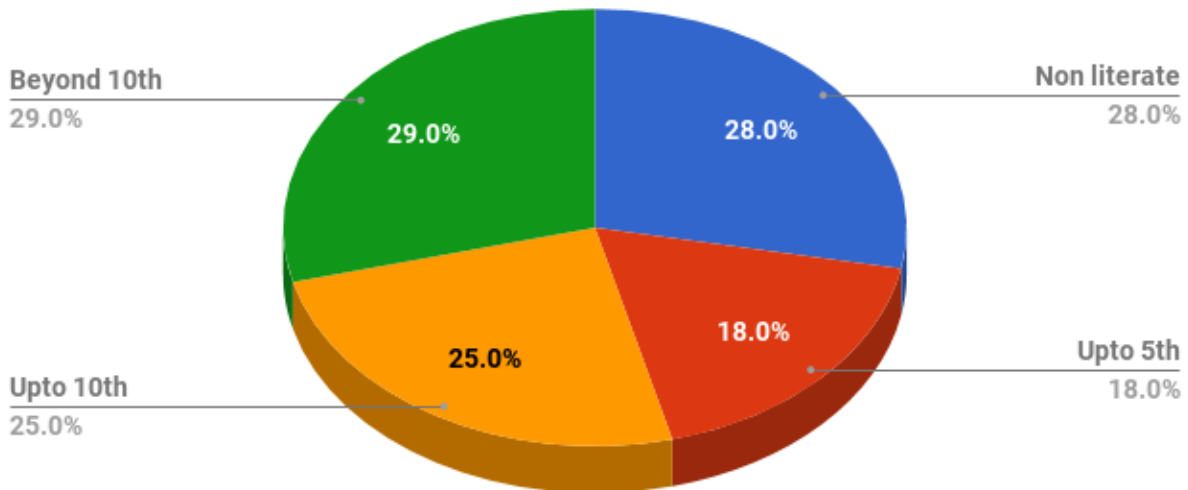
The survey recorded a total of 1197 children across the age group of 0 to 6 years with 945 families spread across the 5 zones. Below is a graph showing the number of girls and boys in the zones that were a part of the survey.



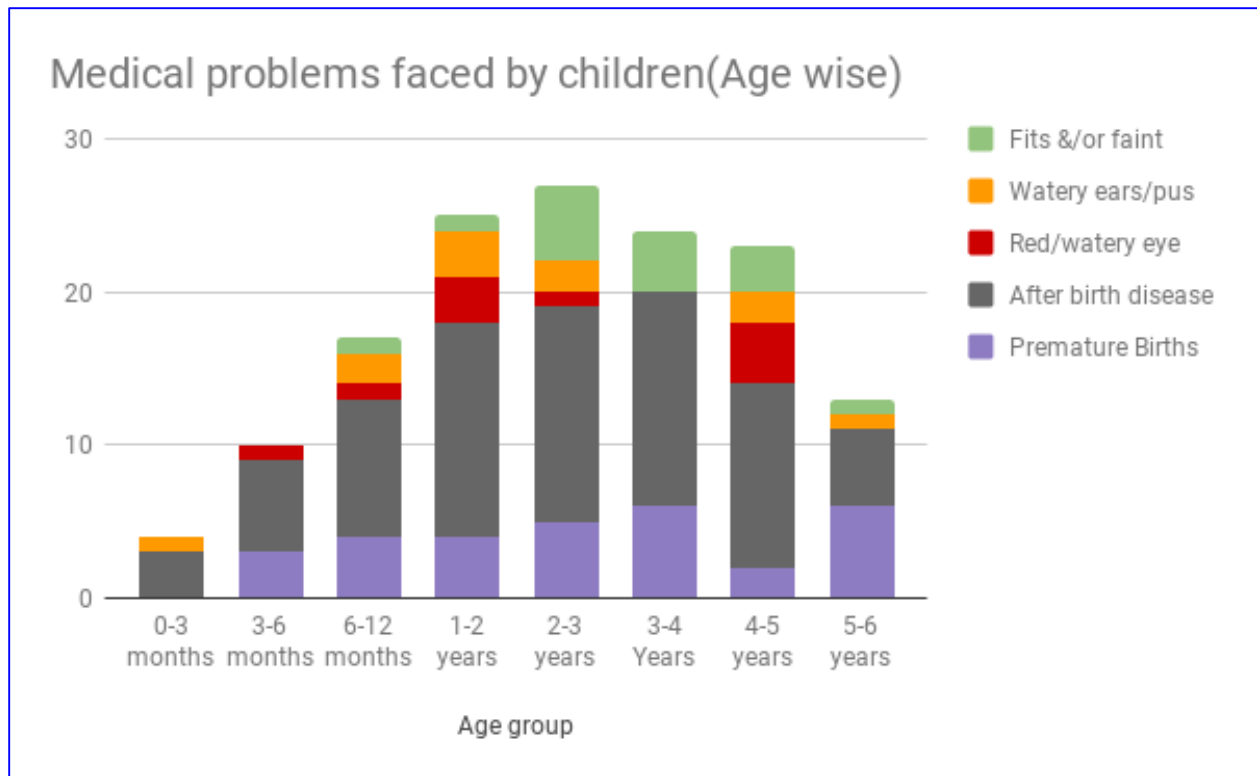
The total boys recorded in the survey were 623 and girls were 574 which are spread across the 8 age groups. The survey showed the education level of mothers along with

other details like number of children parents had noting the order of their birth as well. It was found that 25% had one child, 46% had two, 20% had three and 9% had more than 4 children.

Education level of Mothers



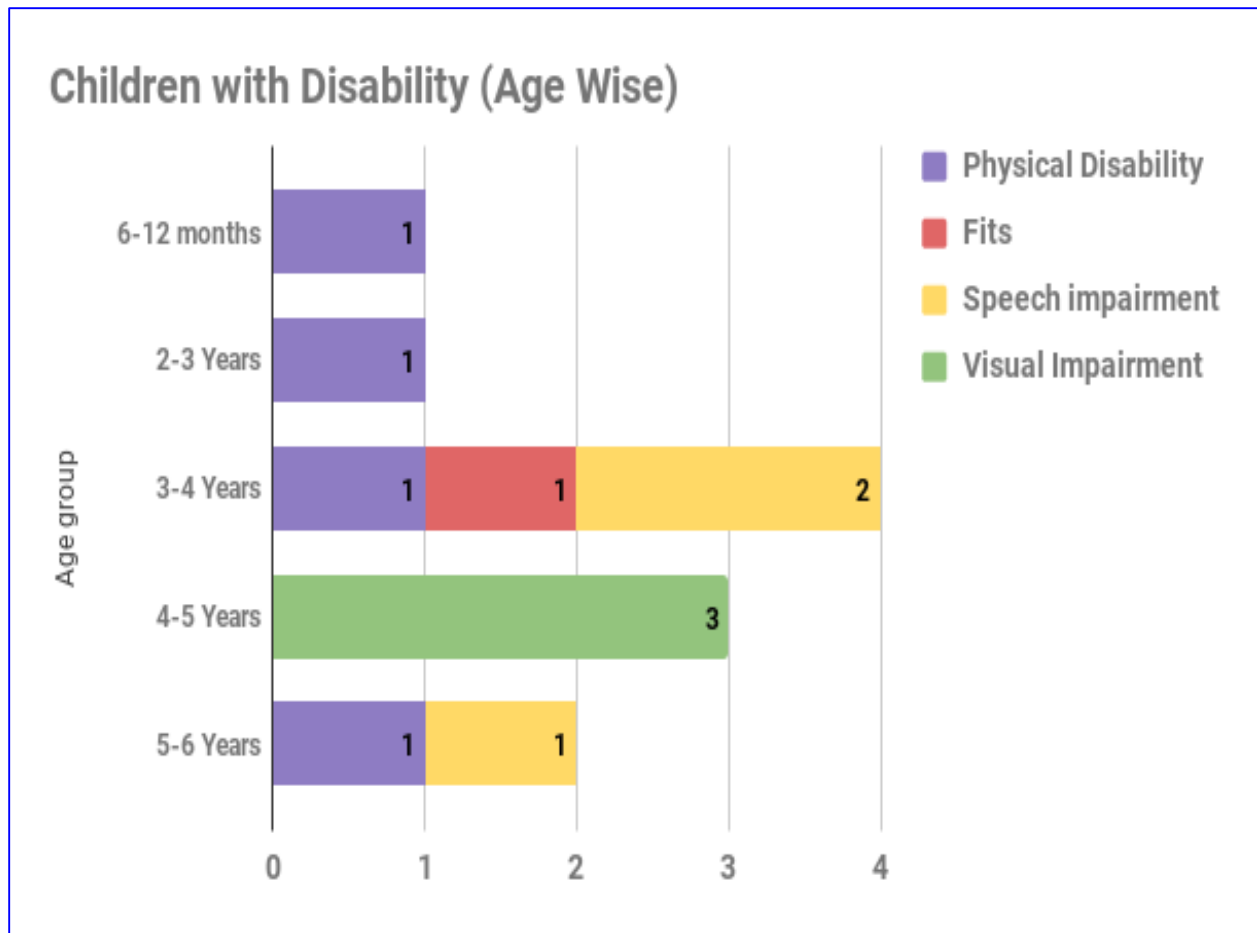
One question in the survey asked the age of the mother when she gave birth to her child. It was realised that about 13 % mothers were below the age of 21. Three children with disability (one got seizures, another having speech impairment and third with a visual impairment) have mothers who are a part of this 13%. It was also found that 30 children had been born prematurely; this is represented in the graph which displays the number of children in an age wise split of their medical problems. These health related details of children were included to gather information which would help recognize any indicators of the children's health and any symptoms. Indicators such as premature birth, newborn diseases like jaundice, heavy fever were included in the questions. Other medical details represented in the graph consist of number of children who frequently have watery eyes, redness in the eyes, pain in ears and seizures and/or fainting.



The early years of a child are the most crucial years for his/her development and one of the reasons for this survey was to record the existing situation in the pockets of Delhi where Pratham functions. In almost all age groups the children got ill after birth, the most common issue faced, with a total of 77 children. 10 children have problem of red and watery eyes and another 11 having watery ears, sometimes leading to pus. 15 more children in total had seizures and frequent fainting as well.

Kindly note that these medical problems are not yet a cause of any disability in the children as determined from the other questions in the survey.

11 children with disability were found amongst the 1197 children recorded in the survey. Apart from these 11 children, 3 children more were found who had multiple disabilities (their details are mentioned later). Below is the graph showing the age wise detail of the kinds of disabilities found from the survey.



4 out of 11 children, as seen in the graph, have physical disabilities. 1 boy, in the age group 3-4 years, has seizures. The recorded details show that he constantly complains of earache and headache though can hear and see just fine. Such connections between the medical problems faced by the child and his/her disability showed up in the detailed questions of the survey.

The details recorded from the survey found **three children with multiple disabilities** as shown in the table below.

Age group	Birth	Mother's age at the time of child birth	Mother's education status	Disability
2-3 years (Female)	Premature	30	Non-literate	Physical, Intellectual, Speech, Hearing, Visual Impairment
4-5 years (Female)	Timely	25	10th +	Seizures and Speech Impairment
5-6 years (Male)	Timely	22	10th +	Physical, Intellectual, Speech and visual impairment

A total of 14 children with disability are recorded from the survey of 1197, out of which 6 are boys and 8 are girls.