



# Social Empowerment among Persons with Disabilities: A Study in Andhra Pradesh

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## Abstract

This study examines the socio-demographic profile and the role of education in enhancing social empowerment among persons with disabilities. It analyzes variables such as type of disability, gender, age, and educational status. The findings indicate that higher education levels are associated with improved social acceptance, participation, and reduced discrimination. However, education has limited influence on deeper aspects such as belongingness and perceived equality. The study highlights the importance of inclusive policies and education in promoting social empowerment.

## Introduction

Education plays a vital role in shaping the socio-economic and social empowerment of persons with disabilities. It enhances awareness, improves opportunities, and promotes inclusion in society. The socio-demographic profile, including factors such as age, gender, and education, significantly influences empowerment outcomes. In India, despite progressive policies like the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, persons with disabilities continue to face challenges in achieving equal social status. This study focuses on understanding how education impacts social empowerment and inclusion among persons with disabilities in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh.

Table – 1:

**Type of Disability of the Respondents**

| Type of Disability  | Place of Residence |       | Total  |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------|--------|
|                     | Urban              | Rural |        |
| Locomotor           | 112                | 70    | 182    |
|                     | 32.0%              | 20.0% | 52.0%  |
| Visual              | 44                 | 29    | 73     |
|                     | 12.6%              | 8.3%  | 20.9%  |
| Hearing             | 38                 | 8     | 46     |
|                     | 10.9%              | 2.3%  | 13.1%  |
| Speech              | 15                 | 15    | 30     |
|                     | 4.3%               | 4.3%  | 8.6%   |
| Multiple Disability | 19                 | 0     | 19     |
|                     | 5.4%               | .0%   | 5.4%   |
| Total               | 228                | 122   | 350    |
|                     | 65.1%              | 34.9% | 100.0% |

The table shows the distribution of respondents by type of disability across urban and rural areas. In the urban area, out of 228 respondents, 112 respondents (32.0%) have locomotor disability, which is the highest. This is followed by 44 respondents (12.6%) with visual disability and 38 respondents (10.9%) with hearing disability. A smaller number of respondents have multiple disabilities, 19 (5.4%), and speech disability, 15 (4.3%).

In the rural area, out of 122 respondents, 70 respondents (20.0%) have locomotor disability, which is again the highest. This is followed by 29 respondents (8.3%) with visual disability and 15 respondents (4.3%) with speech disability. Only 8 respondents (2.3%) have hearing disability, and there are no respondents (0.0%) with multiple disabilities.

Overall, locomotor disability is the most common type, with 182 respondents (52.0%) in total. This is followed by visual disability with 73 respondents (20.9%), hearing disability with 46 respondents (13.1%), and speech disability with 30 respondents (8.6%). Multiple disabilities account for 19 respondents (5.4%). The findings clearly show that disabilities are more concentrated in urban areas, and locomotor disability is the most prevalent type in both urban and rural populations.

**Table – 2:****Gender of the Respondents**

| Gender | Place of Residence |       | Total  |
|--------|--------------------|-------|--------|
|        | Urban              | Rural |        |
| Male   | 145                | 71    | 216    |
|        | 41.4%              | 20.3% | 61.7%  |
| Female | 83                 | 51    | 134    |
|        | 23.7%              | 14.6% | 38.3%  |
| Total  | 228                | 122   | 350    |
|        | 65.1%              | 34.9% | 100.0% |

The table reveals the distribution of respondents by gender across urban and rural areas. In the urban area, out of 228 respondents, 145 respondents (41.4%) are male and 83 respondents (23.7%) are female. This indicates that male respondents are higher in number compared to female respondents in urban areas.

In the rural area, out of 122 respondents, 71 respondents (20.3%) are male and 51 respondents (14.6%) are female. Similar to urban areas, males outnumber females, though the difference is comparatively smaller.

Overall, male respondents constitute 216 (61.7%) of the total sample, while female respondents account for 134 (38.3%). This shows that males form the majority of respondents in both urban and rural areas.

The findings highlight a gender disparity in the sample, with male respondents being more represented than female respondents across both places of residence.

**Table – 3:****Age of the Respondents**

| Age     | Place of Residence |       | Total  |
|---------|--------------------|-------|--------|
|         | Urban              | Rural |        |
| < - 35  | 53                 | 26    | 79     |
|         | 15.1%              | 7.4%  | 22.6%  |
| 36 - 45 | 83                 | 49    | 132    |
|         | 23.7%              | 14.0% | 37.7%  |
| 46 - 55 | 76                 | 31    | 107    |
|         | 21.7%              | 8.9%  | 30.6%  |
| 56 - >  | 16                 | 16    | 32     |
|         | 4.6%               | 4.6%  | 9.1%   |
| Total   | 228                | 122   | 350    |
|         | 65.1%              | 34.9% | 100.0% |

The table depicts the distribution of respondents by age across urban and rural areas. In the urban area, out of 228 respondents, 53 respondents (15.1%) are below 35 years, 83 respondents (23.7%) are in the age group of 36–45 years, and 76 respondents (21.7%) fall in the 46–55 years category. A smaller number, 16

respondents (4.6%), are aged 56 years and above. This indicates that most urban respondents belong to the middle age groups.

In the rural area, out of 122 respondents, 26 respondents (7.4%) are below 35 years, 49 respondents (14.0%) are in the 36–45 years group, and 31 respondents (8.9%) are in the 46–55 years category. The number of respondents aged 56 years and above is 16 (4.6%), which is equal to the urban proportion. This shows a similar age pattern in rural areas, though with fewer respondents in each category.

Overall, the largest proportion of respondents belongs to the 36–45 years age group with 132 respondents (37.7%), followed by 46–55 years with 107 respondents (30.6%) and below 35 years with 79 respondents (22.6%). The smallest group is 56 years and above with 32 respondents (9.1%). The mean age of the respondents is 44.61 years, indicating that the sample is largely composed of middle-aged individuals.

The findings highlight that both urban and rural respondents are predominantly in the economically active age groups (36–55 years), with relatively fewer respondents in the older age category.

**Table – 4:**  
**Education of the Respondents**

| Education          | Place of Residence |       | Total  |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------|--------|
|                    | Urban              | Rural |        |
| Primary            | 8                  | 31    | 39     |
|                    | 2.3%               | 8.9%  | 11.1%  |
| Secondary          | 39                 | 8     | 47     |
|                    | 11.1%              | 2.3%  | 13.4%  |
| Higher Secondary   | 117                | 47    | 164    |
|                    | 33.4%              | 13.4% | 46.9%  |
| Graduate and above | 64                 | 29    | 93     |
|                    | 18.3%              | 8.3%  | 26.6%  |
| Any other          | 0                  | 7     | 7      |
|                    | .0%                | 2.0%  | 2.0%   |
| Total              | 228                | 122   | 350    |
|                    | 65.1%              | 34.9% | 100.0% |

The table displays the distribution of respondents by educational status across urban and rural areas. In the urban area, out of 228 respondents, 117 respondents (33.4%) have completed higher secondary education, which is the highest, followed by 64 respondents (18.3%) who are graduates and above. A smaller number have secondary education (39 respondents; 11.1%) and very few have only primary education (8 respondents; 2.3%). There are no respondents in the “any other” category. This indicates a higher level of education among urban respondents.

In the rural area, out of 122 respondents, 47 respondents (13.4%) have higher secondary education, followed by 31 respondents (8.9%) with primary education and 29 respondents (8.3%) who are graduates

and above. Only 8 respondents (2.3%) have secondary education, while 7 respondents (2.0%) fall under the “any other” category. This suggests comparatively lower educational attainment in rural areas.

Overall, higher secondary education is the most common level with 164 respondents (46.9%), followed by graduates and above with 93 respondents (26.6%) and secondary education with 47 respondents (13.4%). Primary education accounts for 39 respondents (11.1%), while a small proportion (7 respondents; 2.0%) fall under other categories.

The findings highlight that educational attainment is higher in urban areas compared to rural areas, with urban respondents having a greater proportion of higher secondary and graduate-level education, whereas rural respondents show relatively higher representation in lower education categories.

## EMPOWERMENT IN SOCIAL STATUS

This section analyzes how education and employment influence the social status of persons with disabilities. It includes indicators such as social acceptance, participation in community activities, and experiences of discrimination. This section highlights the importance of inclusive social environments. Overall, social empowerment reflects gradual positive change.

**Table – 4.5:**  
**Impact of Employment on Social Inclusion and Acceptance**

| I feel more accepted<br>in society than<br>before unemployed | Place of Residence |       | Total  |
|--|--------------------|-------|--------|
|  | Urban              | Rural |        |
| Strongly Agree   | 154                | 62    | 216    |
|  | 44.0%              | 17.7% | 61.7%  |
| Agree  | 28                 | 14    | 42     |
|  | 8.0%               | 4.0%  | 12.0%  |
| Neutral  | 31                 | 38    | 69     |
|  | 8.9%               | 10.9% | 19.7%  |
| Disagree   | 15                 | 0     | 15     |
|  | 4.3%               | .0%   | 4.3%   |
| Strongly Disagree  | 0                  | 8     | 8      |
|  | .0%                | 2.3%  | 2.3%   |
| Total  | 228                | 122   | 350    |
|  | 65.1%              | 34.9% | 100.0% |

The table presents the distribution of respondents’ opinions on whether they feel more accepted in society than before being unemployed across urban and rural areas. In the urban area, out of 228 respondents, 154 respondents (44.0%) strongly agree that they feel more accepted, followed by 28 respondents (8.0%) who

agree. A notable number, 31 respondents (8.9%), remain neutral, while 15 respondents (4.3%) disagree and none strongly disagree. This indicates a strong positive perception among urban respondents.

In the rural area, out of 122 respondents, 62 respondents (17.7%) strongly agree and 14 respondents (4.0%) agree with the statement. However, 38 respondents (10.9%) remain neutral, while none disagree and 8 respondents (2.3%) strongly disagree. This shows comparatively lower levels of strong agreement and slightly higher neutrality among rural respondents.

Overall, 216 respondents (61.7%) strongly agree that they feel more accepted in society than before unemployment, followed by 42 respondents (12.0%) who agree and 69 respondents (19.7%) who remain neutral. A smaller proportion, 15 respondents (4.3%) disagree and 8 respondents (2.3%) strongly disagree. The findings highlight that employment contributes positively to social acceptance, particularly among urban respondents, though rural respondents show relatively higher neutrality and some level of dissatisfaction.

**Table – 4.6:**  
**Enhanced Involvement in Community Activities**

| My participation in community activities has increased | Place of Residence |       | Total  |
|--|--------------------|-------|--------|
|  | Urban              | Rural |        |
| Strongly Agree   | 146                | 69    | 215    |
|  | 41.7%              | 19.7% | 61.4%  |
| Agree  | 24                 | 16    | 40     |
|  | 6.9%               | 4.6%  | 11.4%  |
| Neutral  | 43                 | 29    | 72     |
|  | 12.3%              | 8.3%  | 20.6%  |
| Disagree   | 0                  | 8     | 8      |
|  | .0%                | 2.3%  | 2.3%   |
| Strongly Disagree                                      | 15                 | 0     | 15     |
|  | 4.3%               | .0%   | 4.3%   |
| Total  | 228                | 122   | 350    |
|  | 65.1%              | 34.9% | 100.0% |

The table shows the distribution of respondents' opinions on whether their participation in community activities has increased across urban and rural areas. In the urban area, out of 228 respondents, 146 respondents (41.7%) strongly agree that their participation has increased, followed by 24 respondents (6.9%) who agree. A notable number, 43 respondents (12.3%), remain neutral, while none disagree and 15 respondents (4.3%) strongly disagree. This indicates a generally positive perception among urban respondents.

In the rural area, out of 122 respondents, 69 respondents (19.7%) strongly agree and 16 respondents (4.6%) agree with the statement. Meanwhile, 29 respondents (8.3%) remain neutral, 8 respondents (2.3%) disagree, and none strongly disagree. This shows a positive outlook, though with slightly lower levels of strong agreement compared to urban respondents.

Overall, 215 respondents (61.4%) strongly agree that their participation in community activities has increased, followed by 40 respondents (11.4%) who agree and 72 respondents (20.6%) who remain neutral. A smaller proportion, 8 respondents (2.3%) disagree and 15 respondents (4.3%) strongly disagree. The findings highlight that increased participation in community activities is widely experienced, particularly among urban respondents, though some respondents across both areas remain neutral or express dissatisfaction.

**Table – 4.7:**

**Decreased Perception of Discrimination in Everyday Life**

| I experience less discrimination in my daily life | Place of Residence |       | Total  |
|---|--------------------|-------|--------|
|   | Urban              | Rural |        |
| Strongly Agree                                    | 154                | 69    | 223    |
|   | 44.0%              | 19.7% | 63.7%  |
| Agree   | 29                 | 14    | 43     |
|   | 8.3%               | 4.0%  | 12.3%  |
| Neutral   | 38                 | 29    | 67     |
|   | 10.9%              | 8.3%  | 19.1%  |
| Disagree  | 0                  | 2     | 2      |
|   | .0%                | .6%   | .6%    |
| Strongly Disagree                                 | 7                  | 8     | 15     |
|   | 2.0%               | 2.3%  | 4.3%   |
| Total   | 228                | 122   | 350    |
|   | 65.1%              | 34.9% | 100.0% |

The table portrays the distribution of respondents' opinions on whether they experience less discrimination in their daily life across urban and rural areas. In the urban area, out of 228 respondents, 154 respondents (44.0%) strongly agree that they experience less discrimination, followed by 29 respondents (8.3%) who agree. A notable number, 38 respondents (10.9%), remain neutral, while none disagree and 7 respondents (2.0%) strongly disagree. This indicates a strong positive perception among urban respondents.

In the rural area, out of 122 respondents, 69 respondents (19.7%) strongly agree and 14 respondents (4.0%) agree with the statement. Meanwhile, 29 respondents (8.3%) remain neutral, 2 respondents (0.6%)

disagree, and 8 respondents (2.3%) strongly disagree. This shows a generally positive outlook, though with slightly higher levels of disagreement compared to urban areas.

Overall, 223 respondents (63.7%) strongly agree that they experience less discrimination, followed by 43 respondents (12.3%) who agree and 67 respondents (19.1%) who remain neutral. A very small proportion, 2 respondents (0.6%) disagree and 15 respondents (4.3%) strongly disagree.

The findings highlight that most respondents perceive a reduction in discrimination in their daily life, particularly among urban respondents, though a small section still reports negative experiences.

**Table – 4.8:**

**Improvement in Social Relationships**

| My social relationships have improved | Place of Residence |       | Total  |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-------|--------|
|                                       | Urban              | Rural |        |
| Strongly Agree                        | 139                | 70    | 209    |
|                                       | 39.7%              | 20.0% | 59.7%  |
| Agree                                 | 28                 | 14    | 42     |
|                                       | 8.0%               | 4.0%  | 12.0%  |
| Neutral                               | 24                 | 23    | 47     |
|                                       | 6.9%               | 6.6%  | 13.4%  |
| Disagree                              | 29                 | 15    | 44     |
|                                       | 8.3%               | 4.3%  | 12.6%  |
| Strongly Disagree                     | 8                  | 0     | 8      |
|                                       | 2.3%               | .0%   | 2.3%   |
| Total                                 | 228                | 122   | 350    |
|                                       | 65.1%              | 34.9% | 100.0% |

The table shows the distribution of respondents' opinions on whether their social relationships have improved across urban and rural areas. In the urban area, out of 228 respondents, 139 respondents (39.7%) strongly agree that their social relationships have improved, followed by 28 respondents (8.0%) who agree. A smaller number, 24 respondents (6.9%), remain neutral, while 29 respondents (8.3%) disagree and 8 respondents (2.3%) strongly disagree. This indicates a generally positive perception among urban respondents, though a noticeable proportion expresses disagreement.

In the rural area, out of 122 respondents, 70 respondents (20.0%) strongly agree and 14 respondents (4.0%) agree with the statement. Meanwhile, 23 respondents (6.6%) remain neutral, 15 respondents (4.3%) disagree, and none strongly disagree. This shows a positive outlook overall, though with slightly lower levels of strong agreement compared to urban respondents.

Overall, 209 respondents (59.7%) strongly agree that their social relationships have improved, followed by 42 respondents (12.0%) who agree and 47 respondents (13.4%) who remain neutral. About 44 respondents (12.6%) disagree and 8 respondents (2.3%) strongly disagree.

The findings highlight that most respondents perceive improvements in their social relationships, particularly in urban areas, although a notable proportion still reports dissatisfaction.

**Table – 4.9:**  
**Increased Feeling of Social Belongingness**

| I feel a greater sense of belonging in society | Place of Residence |       | Total  |
|--|--------------------|-------|--------|
|  | Urban              | Rural |        |
| Strongly Agree                                 | 165                | 73    | 238    |
|  | 47.1%              | 20.9% | 68.0%  |
| Agree  | 34                 | 13    | 47     |
|  | 9.7%               | 3.7%  | 13.4%  |
| Neutral  | 26                 | 35    | 61     |
|  | 7.4%               | 10.0% | 17.4%  |
| Disagree                                       | 3                  | 0     | 3      |
|  | .9%                | .0%   | .9%    |
| Strongly Disagree                              | 0                  | 1     | 1      |
|  | .0%                | .3%   | .3%    |
| Total  | 228                | 122   | 350    |
|  | 65.1%              | 34.9% | 100.0% |

The table reveals the distribution of respondents' opinions on whether they feel a greater sense of belonging in society across urban and rural areas. In the urban area, out of 228 respondents, 165 respondents (47.1%) strongly agree that they feel a greater sense of belonging, followed by 34 respondents (9.7%) who agree. A smaller number, 26 respondents (7.4%), remain neutral, while 3 respondents (0.9%) disagree and none strongly disagree. This indicates a strong positive perception among urban respondents. In the rural area, out of 122 respondents, 73 respondents (20.9%) strongly agree and 13 respondents (3.7%) agree with the statement. However, 35 respondents (10.0%) remain neutral, while none disagree and 1 respondent (0.3%) strongly disagree. This shows a generally positive outlook, though with slightly higher neutrality compared to urban respondents.

Overall, 238 respondents (68.0%) strongly agree that they feel a greater sense of belonging in society, followed by 47 respondents (13.4%) who agree and 61 respondents (17.4%) who remain neutral. Only a very small proportion, 3 respondents (0.9%) disagree and 1 respondent (0.3%) strongly disagree.

The findings highlight that most respondents experience an increased sense of belonging in society, particularly among urban respondents, while rural respondents show comparatively higher neutrality.

**Table – 4.10:**

**Impact of Social Support on Overall Well-Being**

| Social support has improved my overall well being. | Place of Residence |       | Total  |
|--|--------------------|-------|--------|
|  | Urban              | Rural |        |
| Strongly Agree                                     | 149                | 68    | 217    |
|  | 42.6%              | 19.4% | 62.0%  |
| Agree  | 34                 | 15    | 49     |
|  | 9.7%               | 4.3%  | 14.0%  |
| Neutral  | 24                 | 35    | 59     |
|  | 6.9%               | 10.0% | 16.9%  |
| Disagree   | 19                 | 4     | 23     |
|  | 5.4%               | 1.1%  | 6.6%   |
| Strongly Disagree                                  | 2                  | 0     | 2      |
|  | .6%                | .0%   | .6%    |
| Total  | 228                | 122   | 350    |
|  | 65.1%              | 34.9% | 100.0% |

The table shows the distribution of respondents' opinions on whether social support has improved their overall well-being across urban and rural areas. In the urban area, out of 228 respondents, 149 respondents (42.6%) strongly agree that social support has improved their well-being, followed by 34 respondents (9.7%) who agree. A smaller number, 24 respondents (6.9%), remain neutral, while 19 respondents (5.4%) disagree and 2 respondents (0.6%) strongly disagree. This indicates a generally positive perception among urban respondents.

In the rural area, out of 122 respondents, 68 respondents (19.4%) strongly agree and 15 respondents (4.3%) agree with the statement. However, 35 respondents (10.0%) remain neutral, while 4 respondents (1.1%) disagree and none strongly disagree. This shows a positive outlook, though with higher neutrality compared to urban respondents.

Overall, 217 respondents (62.0%) strongly agree that social support has improved their overall well-being, followed by 49 respondents (14.0%) who agree and 59 respondents (16.9%) who remain neutral. A smaller proportion, 23 respondents (6.6%) disagree and 2 respondents (0.6%) strongly disagree.

The findings highlight that social support plays a significant role in improving the well-being of persons with disabilities, particularly among urban respondents, while rural respondents show comparatively higher neutrality.

Table – 4.11:

**Social Participation Equality for Persons with Disabilities**

| Persons with disabilities have equal opportunities for social participation | Place of Residence |       | Total  |
|---|--------------------|-------|--------|
|   | Urban              | Rural |        |
| Strongly Agree  | 171                | 84    | 255    |
|   | 48.9%              | 24.0% | 72.9%  |
| Agree   | 35                 | 14    | 49     |
|   | 10.0%              | 4.0%  | 14.0%  |
| Neutral   | 18                 | 23    | 41     |
|   | 5.1%               | 6.6%  | 11.7%  |
| Disagree  | 2                  | 1     | 3      |
|   | .6%                | .3%   | .9%    |
| Strongly Disagree   | 2                  | 0     | 2      |
|   | .6%                | .0%   | .6%    |
| Total   | 228                | 122   | 350    |
|   | 65.1%              | 34.9% | 100.0% |

The table depicts the distribution of respondents' opinions on whether persons with disabilities have equal opportunities for social participation across urban and rural areas. In the urban area, out of 228 respondents, 171 respondents (48.9%) strongly agree that equal opportunities exist, followed by 35 respondents (10.0%) who agree. A smaller number, 18 respondents (5.1%), remain neutral, while 2 respondents (0.6%) disagree and 2 respondents (0.6%) strongly disagree. This indicates a strong positive perception among urban respondents.

In the rural area, out of 122 respondents, 84 respondents (24.0%) strongly agree and 14 respondents (4.0%) agree with the statement. Meanwhile, 23 respondents (6.6%) remain neutral, 1 respondent (0.3%) disagrees, and none strongly disagree. This shows a generally positive outlook, though with slightly higher neutrality compared to urban respondents.

Overall, 255 respondents (72.9%) strongly agree that persons with disabilities have equal opportunities for social participation, followed by 49 respondents (14.0%) who agree and 41 respondents (11.7%) who remain neutral. Only a very small proportion, 3 respondents (0.9%) disagree and 2 respondents (0.6%) strongly disagree.

The findings highlight that most respondents perceive equal opportunities for social participation, particularly among urban respondents, while rural respondents show relatively higher neutrality.

## ANOVA's Table - 4.12:

**Empowerment in Social Status Vs. Place of Residence**

| ANOVA   |                |                |     |             |        |      |
|---|----------------|----------------|-----|-------------|--------|------|
|   |                | Sum of Squares | df  | Mean Square | F      | Sig. |
| I feel more accepted in society than before unemployed                      | Between Groups | 13.223         | 1   | 13.223      | 12.139 | .001 |
|   | Within Groups  | 379.066        | 348 | 1.089       |        |      |
|   | Total          | 392.289        | 349 |             |        |      |
| My participation in community activities has increased                      | Between Groups | .264           | 1   | .264        | .212   | .646 |
|   | Within Groups  | 434.524        | 348 | 1.249       |        |      |
|   | Total          | 434.789        | 349 |             |        |      |
| I experience less discrimination in my daily life                           | Between Groups | 8.052          | 1   | 8.052       | 7.144  | .008 |
|   | Within Groups  | 392.236        | 348 | 1.127       |        |      |
|   | Total          | 400.289        | 349 |             |        |      |
| My social relationships have improved                                       | Between Groups | .002           | 1   | .002        | .002   | .968 |
|   | Within Groups  | 496.855        | 348 | 1.428       |        |      |
|   | Total          | 496.857        | 349 |             |        |      |
| I feel a greater sense of belonging in society                              | Between Groups | 6.984          | 1   | 6.984       | 10.460 | .001 |
|   | Within Groups  | 232.376        | 348 | .668        |        |      |
|   | Total          | 239.360        | 349 |             |        |      |
| Social support has improved my overall well being                           | Between Groups | 1.796          | 1   | 1.796       | 1.775  | .184 |
|   | Within Groups  | 352.101        | 348 | 1.012       |        |      |
|   | Total          | 353.897        | 349 |             |        |      |
| Persons with disabilities have equal opportunities for social participation | Between Groups | 1.639          | 1   | 1.639       | 2.744  | .099 |
|   | Within Groups  | 207.779        | 348 | .597        |        |      |
|   | Total          | 209.417        | 349 |             |        |      |

Table – 4.39:

**Empowerment in Social Status Vs. Education**

**H<sub>0</sub>:** There is no statistically significant difference in empowerment in social status among persons with disabilities based on education.

| Sl.No  | Correlations  |         |         |                 |
|--|---|---------|---------|-----------------|
|  | Statement   | R Value | P Value | Decision        |
| 1  | I feel more accepted in society than before unemployed                      | -.241** | 0.000   | Significant     |
| 2  | My participation in community activities has increased                      | -.243** | 0.000   | Significant     |
| 3  | I experience less discrimination in my daily life                           | -.313** | 0.000   | Significant     |
| 4  | My social relationships have improved                                       | -.308** | 0.000   | Significant     |
| 5  | I feel a greater sense of belonging in society                              | -.089   | 0.098   | Not Significant |
| 6  | Social support has improved my overall well being                           | -.043   | 0.425   | Not Significant |
| 7  | Persons with disabilities have equal opportunities for social participation | -.075   | 0.164   | Not Significant |
| **. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed). |   |         |         |                 |

The correlation analysis between *empowerment in social status* and education reveals that education has a **partial and selective influence** on the social empowerment of persons with disabilities. Out of the seven variables analyzed, four variables show statistically significant relationships, while three variables are not significant.

All the correlation coefficients (R values) are negative, ranging from -0.043 to -0.313, indicating weak to moderate inverse relationships. This negative direction may be due to the coding pattern of the data; however, the significance levels indicate meaningful associations in selected areas.

The variables *feeling more accepted in society than before unemployment* (R = -0.241), *increased participation in community activities* (R = -0.243), *experiencing less discrimination in daily life* (R = -0.313), and *improved social relationships* (R = -0.308) show statistically significant relationships with p-values of 0.000. These results suggest that education contributes to improved social acceptance, greater

participation, reduced discrimination, and better interpersonal relationships. Hence, the null hypothesis was rejected and research hypothesis was accepted.

Among these, *reduced discrimination* and *improved social relationships* show relatively stronger correlations, indicating that education plays an important role in enhancing dignity and social interaction among persons with disabilities. Hence, the null hypothesis was rejected and research hypothesis was accepted.

However, the variables *greater sense of belonging in society* ( $R = -0.089$ ,  $p = 0.098$ ), *social support improving overall well-being* ( $R = -0.043$ ,  $p = 0.425$ ), and *equal opportunities for social participation* ( $R = -0.075$ ,  $p = 0.164$ ) are not statistically significant. This indicates that education alone may not be sufficient to influence deeper aspects of social empowerment such as belongingness, perceived equality, and social support. Hence, the null hypothesis was accepted and research hypothesis was rejected.

Overall, the analysis shows that while education significantly improves certain dimensions of social status, particularly social interaction and reduction of discrimination, it has limited impact on broader structural and emotional aspects of social empowerment.

## Conclusion

The study concludes that education plays a significant role in improving the social status of persons with disabilities. It positively influences social acceptance, participation in community activities, and reduction of discrimination. However, education alone is not sufficient to ensure complete social empowerment, particularly in areas like social belongingness and equality. Socio-demographic factors continue to shape empowerment outcomes. Therefore, a combination of education, policy support, and social awareness is essential for achieving inclusive development.