

Introduction

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China has carried out National Censuses in the year 1953, 1964, 1982, 1990 and 2000 after the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949. The State Council also issued a decision in 1986 stating that China will carry out a national census every 10 year and that a one percent population sample survey will take place in its middle year (Hayase [1992: 310]). So far, one percent population sample surveys have taken place in the year 1995 and 2005. However, neither the census nor the population sample survey list any question items relating to disability¹.

Statistical data regarding persons with disabilities was carried out separately from the general census. The first nation wide sample survey on persons with disabilities took place in 1987, and the second sample survey was just carried out in 2006 which is now in the process of utilization².

A brief outline of the first survey was issued in 1987 in the "Communiqué on Major Statistics of the China National Sample Survey on Disability Conducted in 1987."³⁴ And then in

¹ Actually when designing the 5th National Census of 2000, the questionnaire draft included an item proposed by the China Disabled People's Federation asking whether or not they have disability. However, through the preliminary survey they found that it was difficult to receive accurate responses and so they deleted the item. The reason was that in the general population census the response to whether they had disability or not owe completely to the free will of the said person. Therefore, there was doubt that unless they can be visually noticed from the appearance many people who do not want their disability known to others or people who do not acknowledge their impairment as disability as their degree is light will be omitted from the survey. Hence it will not be reliable ("Questions from the reporter and answers from the leader and specialist at the press release conference" at <http://temp.cdpj.cn/doc/2006-02-14-c.doc>, visited July 11, 2007).

² As for other national surveys, there was a sample survey of disabled children age 0 to 6 supported by UNICEF carried out in 2001. The report was published in 2003. In the survey, 60,000 samples were taken from 6 provinces which were selected considering its economical development stage, and the report analyzed the causes and degree of the children with disabilities, occupation, education and income of their parent, situation of early education etc. to grasp the rate, causes, rehabilitation circumstances and needs of the children with disabilities (Zhonghua renmin gongheguo weishengbu et.al. [2003]). There is also a book published with the support of UNICEF using the data of the second national survey separate from the „Disabled Population & Development Studies Series“(Chen & Chen [2008]).

³ Quanguo canjiren chouyang diaocha lingdao xiaozu et.al. [1987]. Also, Guojia tongjiju renkou tongjisi [1988: 138-143] compiles figures of each provinces as „Hand calculated main data of the national sample survey on disability“in addition to the official communiqué.

1993, a nine volume material book was published as „China National Sample Survey Series“⁴. There have been two official reports regarding the second survey so far (Di’erci quanguo canjiren chouyang diaocha lingdao xiaozu et.al. [2006];[2007]). In 2007, detailed data of each provinces was compiled and released as „Documentation of the Second China National Sample Survey on Disability“ series⁶ and also a booklet titled the *Handbook on the Main Data of the Second China National Sample Survey on Disability* was published (Di’erci quanguo canjiren chouyang diaocha bangongshi [2007a]). Furthermore, China Disabled Person’s Federation established the “National Observation Index of the Situation of Disabled Persons”⁷ based on the results of the second survey to carry out the national policy on “Overall Construction of Well-off Society”⁸ in 2006 and began a panel survey on livelihood, development and environment situation of persons with disabilities in China. So far, reports of the main data of the year 2007 and 2008 have been issued (Zhongguo canren bangongting [2008], Zhongguo canlian yanjiushi et. al. [2008]).

For preceding studies using the data of the first survey, Li Xiwen et.al. [1996] gives estimate of future population of persons with disabilities using mathematical models. As for studies using the data of the second survey, universities and local Disabled Person’s Federations have received contract research from the state or local governments and are now intensively analyzing

⁴ The result of the survey seems to be internally issued (*neibu faxing*) as *China 1987 Disability Sample Survey Material (Zhongguo 1987 nian canjiren chouyang diaocha ziliao)* in September 1989. The compilation consists 30 volumes.

⁵ „China National Sample Survey Series“ (*Zhongguo canjiren chouyang diaocha xilie ziliao*) was edited by the Ministry of Civil Administration and was published from China Social Press (*Zhongguo shehui chubanshe*) in 1993. Volume title includes, *Outline of China 1987 Disability Sample Survey Material (Zhongguo 1987 nian canjiren chouyang diaocha ziliao tiyao)*, *Material of Children with Disabilities (Canji ertong ziliao)*, *Material of Aged Persons with Disabilities (Laonian canjiren ziliao)*, *Material of Persons with Visual Disability (Shili canjiren ziliao)*, *Material of Persons with Hearing and Speech Disability (Tingli yuyan canjiren ziliao)*, *Material of Persons with Intellectual Disability (Zhili canjiren ziliao)*, *Material of Persons with Physical Disability (Zhiti canjiren ziliao)*, *Material of Persons with Mental Disability (Jingshenbin canjiren ziliao)*, *Material of Persons with Multiple Disability (Zonghe canjiren ziliao)*.

⁶ Documentation of the Second China National Sample Survey on Disability (*Di’erci quanguo canjiren chouyang diaocha ziliao*) series was each edited by the China Disabled People’s Federation and each provincial Disabled people’s Federation and published by China Statistics press (*Zhongguo tongji chubanshe*) in 2007. The series consists of 2 national volumes and 31 provincial volumes.

⁷ The formal name is the “National Index System Observing the Progress of the Well-off Situation of the Disabled Persons” (*Quanguo canjiren xiaokang jincheng jiance zhibiao tixi*).

⁸ Jiang Zemin, “Build a Well-off Society in an All-Round Way and Create a New Situation in Building Socialism with Chinese Characteristics” (*Quanmian jianshe xiaokang shehui, kaichuang zhongguo tese shehui zhuyi shiye xin jumian*) (Adopted at the 16th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, November 8, 2002) .

the data. Some of the outcomes have begun to be published from 2008 as Cheng Kai & Zheng Xiaoying eds. „Disabled Population & Development Studies“ series⁹. Most of the reports take method of classifying and sorting out the data such as disabilities, provinces, and ages from the second survey on policy issues such as prevention of disability, social security, rehabilitation, etc. However, there are no studies based on the data of the National Observation Index of the Situation of Disabled Persons.

Before the First China National Sample Survey on Disability was carried out in 1987, there were no national statistical surveys regarding persons with disabilities in China. Therefore, the objective of the first survey was to grasp the disability population by category, regional distribution, age structure and cause, and also to collect information regarding participation of persons with disabilities in areas such as health, rehabilitation, labor, marriage, family and social activities to hold a reliable set of data for making policies and legislations (Zhonghua renmin gongheguo minzhengbu [1993: 287]). After the first survey, Chinese government internalized the disability work in the „National Economic and Social Development Plan“ which states the national development strategy. Accordingly, „China Five Year Disability Work Plan (1988-1992)“ was enacted which actual work was ran by the newly established China Disabled People’s Federation¹⁰.

The objective of the Second China National Sample Survey on Disability is basically the same. It was set to promote the harmonious development of disability work and national economy and society¹¹. At the same time, the second survey contributed to prepare conditions for amending the 15 year old Law on the Protection of Disabled Persons which was in process by the China

⁹ Titles published from Huaxia Publishing (*Huaxia chubanshe*) under the series „Disabled Population & Development Studies“ (*Canji renkou yu fazhan yanjiu congshu*) are: *Data Analysis of the Second China National Sample Survey on Disability (Di’erci quanguo canjiren chouyang diaocha shuju fenxi baogao)*; *Study on Theory and Practice of Social Security for People with Disabilities (Canjiren shehui baozhang lilun yu shijian yanjiu)*; *Persons with Disabilities in China’s Rural Areas and their Social Security (Zhongguo nongcun canjiren ji qi shehui baozhang yanjiu)*; *Study on Disability Prevention countermeasures in China (Zhongguo canji yufang duice yanjiu)*; *Studies on Living Status and Development of Persons with Disabilities in Western, Central and Easter Regions in China (Zhongguo xi zhong dongbu canjiren shengcun yu fazhan yanjiu)*; *A Study on the Status of Adults and Children with Disabilities and the Martial Situation of Persons with Disabilities in China (Zhongguo lao you canjiren yu canjiren hunyin yanjiu)*; *Rehabilitation Needs of Persons with Disabilities in China: Analysis and Strategies for Development (Zhongguo canjiren kangfu xuqiu fenxi yu fazhan yanjiu)*.

¹⁰ “Li Liguó’s Important Speech at the First Meeting of the Leading Group of the Second National Sample Survey on Disability” at http://temp.cdpj.cn/dlzt/2005-01/19/content_3243.htm, visited July 11, 2007.

¹¹ “Scheme of the Second China National Sample Survey on Disability” (*Di’erci quanguo canjiren chouyang diaocha fang’an*) (*Di’erci quanguo canjiren chouyang diaocha bangongshi* [2007a: 108-117]).

Disabled People's Federation parallel with the drafting of the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The National Observation Index of the Situation of Disabled Persons which began in 2007 is in line with the two surveys. Its objective is to timely grasp the changes of basic situation of the persons with disabilities by doing a continuous follow-up survey every year to offer focused information to adjust and evaluate existing policies, plans and work (Zhongguo canlian bangongting [2007]). In the „Statistical Observation Index System for China's Overall Construction of Well-off Society“ which was designed in 2002 to achieve the policy goal to construct a well-off society, there were fears that the actual situations of persons with disabilities would be buried under the figures and would not reflect the reality. Therefore, China Disabled People's Federation created the „National Observation Index of the Situation of Disabled Persons“ which puts in consideration the needs of persons with disabilities and provided supplementation to the said general index. The „National Observation Index of the Situation of Disabled Persons“ focuses on existing problems and disparity in order to create development plans, laws and policies that can make person with disabilities achieve the goal of well-off society simultaneously with the non-disabled citizens (Zhongguo canlian bangongting [2008]).

In the first chapter, members of the China Research Center for Disability and Development, Peking University (CRCDD) will give the outline of the livelihood situation of the persons with disabilities in China analyzing the statistical data from the Second National Sampling Survey on Disability and the Disability Situation Observation. CRCDD is a research institute jointly established by the China Disabled Person's Federation (CDPF) and the Peking University in 2007 which has access to the above data. The analysis will cover the situation of education, work & labor, marriage & family, economic situation & source of income, and social security.

In the second chapter, members of the Institute of the Developing Economies, JETRO (IDE) will show some basic statistical analysis using data from the published material of the Second National Sampling Survey on Disability. Further analysis using applied econometrics is expected to be done with collaboration with CRCDD using individual datasets not published in the published material. This will enable us to find empirically, for example, whether education to persons with disabilities as an input really result as higher income of persons with disabilities as an output. If the relation is significant, then the education policy as a whole is directed correctly. If not, there might be alternatives other than education to improve income, or may need changes in the current education policy, or else. What is important is that econometric analysis based on empirical data will show us relations between various variables which are needed to make efficient disability policies.

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