



RESEARCH BRIEF

April 25, 2019

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Disability: Inclusion of People with Disability in Pakistan's Third Tier Organizations (TTOs)

The Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund, in collaboration with its partners, supports the mobilization and development of local organizations run by citizen volunteers to address local needs. These organizations are started at the neighborhood level, and then federated up to form representative volunteer bodies representing larger areas. Third Tier Organizations (TTOs), also known as Local Support Organizations (LSO), covers the Union Council (UC), an area with average population of 30,000. There are now over 1,000 TTOs active across Pakistan. These organizations are active in health, education, Microfinance, human rights, infrastructure, and other sectors.

PPAF is collaborating with a joint research team from Lahore School of Economics, Oxford University, and Duke University, to study the activities of these TTO and how they can be supported to represent their communities and expand and improve their activities. In Autumn 2014, the team conducted a survey of 850 TTO (including all except the most recently formed). The survey gathered data in a meeting with each TTO Executive Body on its governance, activities, and plans for the future, as well as characteristics of the EB members. Data on village characteristics and TTO activity in that village were also collected from one local contact in each village in every UC. In a randomly-selected subset of 150 UCs, a representative sample of households was also interviewed to gather data on perceptions of the TTO and household-level assistance from the TTO.

According to the report by British Council on people with disability in Pakistan, almost 3.3 million to 27 million people have disabilities and they are excluded as a productive members of the society due to higher difficulties in exercising their civil and political rights. In addition to that, people with disabilities face difficulties in attending quality schools and finding gainful employment resulting in 4.9 to 6.3 percent of Pakistan's GDP loss ("Moving from the Margins"). Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund encourages the inclusion of such marginalised community in to TTOs' Executive and General body. In this brief, the inclusion of people with disability in TTOs across Pakistan will be discussed. First section will talk about the overview of disability at union council level, then the inclusion and participation of people with disability in TTOs and finally the assistance from government and TTOs to people with disability and will be discussed.

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1. Situation of Disability at Household Level

Figure 1: Household with People with Disability

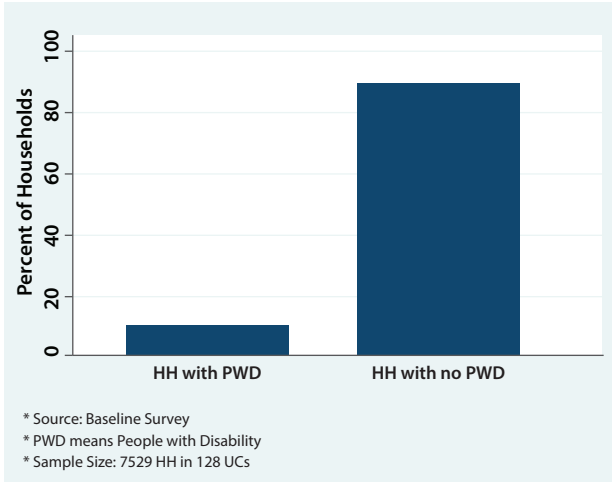
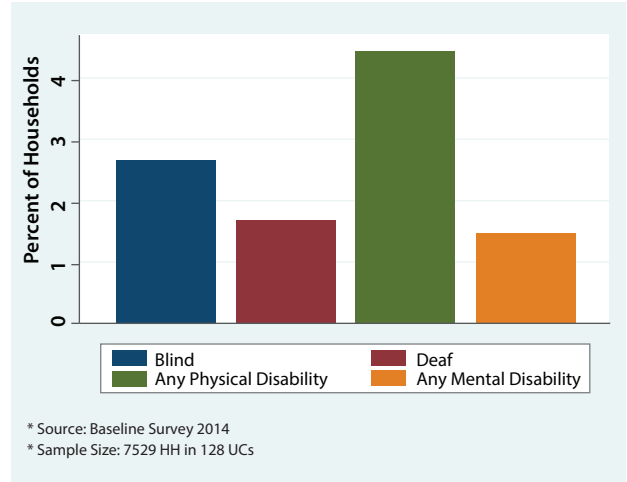


Figure 2: Types of Disabilities



According to the household survey conducted as a part of baseline survey, people with disability constitutes 1.61 percent of the total individuals in the households surveyed. Their disabilities have been categorised as deaf, blind, physical disability like amputated limbs and mental disability. As the household survey was conducted with the head of the household, we can only report our findings at household level. It is important to note here that disability status of people was not directly observed but reported by the head of the household, so it is subject to response bias and these percentages should be considered as the lower bounds of disability. The household survey is representative of the area in which the relevant TTOs serve. In our sample, 10 percent of the households reported to have at least one member with disability (figure 1). We see physical disability as a leading type of disability while households with members having any mental disabilities are the least. As mental disability is stigmatised the most among all the other types of disability, we see lowest percentage of households reporting to have people with any mental disability (figure 2).

2. Inclusion and participation of People with Disability in TTOs' Leadership

Figure 3: TTOs with People with Disabilities

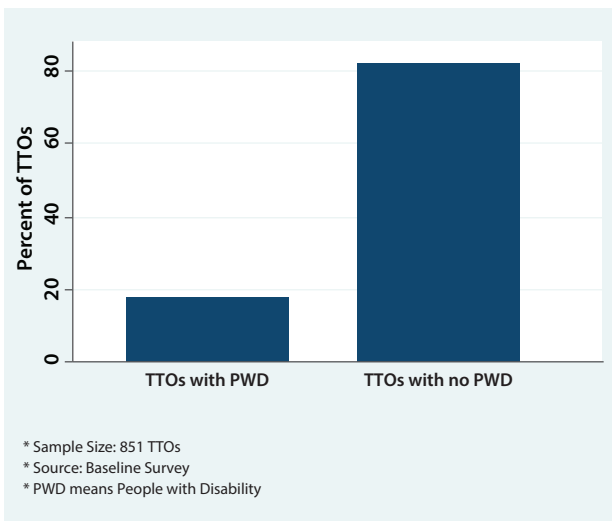
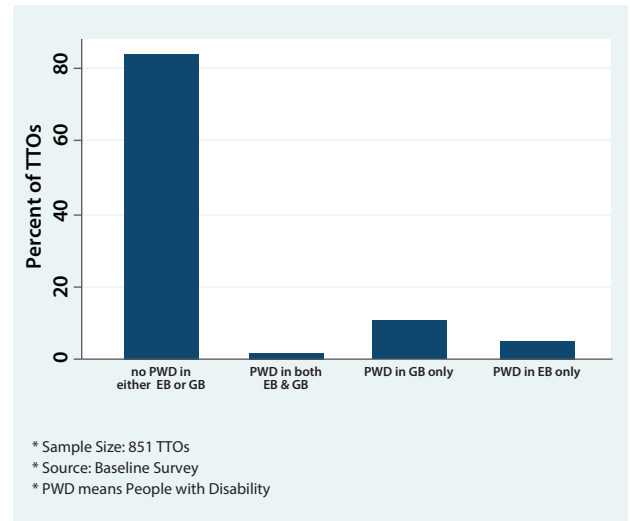


Figure 4: TTOs with People with Disabilities





Only a minority of TTOs seem to include people with disability in their Executive body (EB) and general body (GB). Only 17 percent of the TTOs across country have at least one member with disability as a part of EB or GB and only 7 percent of the TTO across the country have at least one member with disability in their EB (figure 3 and figure 4).

As EB members play an important role in decision making, lower percentage of TTOs with at least one EB member with disability suggests that TTOs seem to not include people with disability in decision making. Geographical variations of Households and TTOs with people with disability show similar trend with Baluchistan having least TTOs and HHs having people with disability while GB having the most. However, we can see the gap between TTOs and HHs with people with disability in all the region except Punjab (figure 5 and figure 6) . In addition to that, people with disability in the EB of TTOs must have more experience working with COs and VOs suggesting differential treatment with people with disability while including them in the EB. People with disability must have stronger profile, in this case with higher experience working in COs and VOs to become a part of EB as shown in figure 7. However, once they become part of the EB, no differential treatment in holding offices can be found as shown in figure 8. In addition to that we find no evidence of people with disability participating less in TTOs' activities.

Figure 5: TTOs with PWD across regions

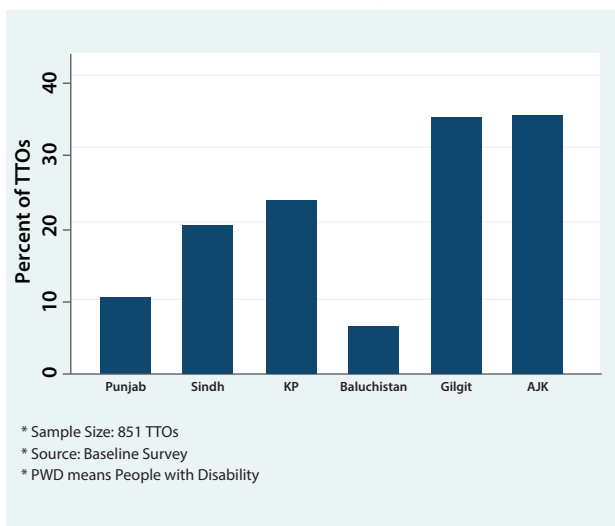
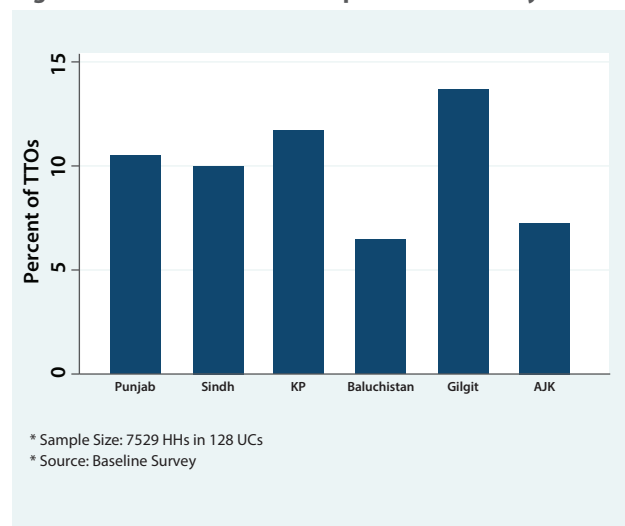


Figure 6: Households with People with Disability



70 percent of the people with disability reported that they face no difficulty in attending TTO meetings while only 55 percent of the people without any disability reported the same (figure 9). It is important to note here that these percentages are from the reported responses of the EB members and are subject to response bias due to stigma associated with disability and people with disability responding to counter such stigma. we find that the actual attendance rates at the baseline survey meeting are similar between members with and without disability (figure 11). Even, no difference through self-reported data can be found in the number of CO, VO and TTO EB meetings attended by EB members between people with and without disability (figure 10). Lastly, there is no significant difference in verbal participation of EB members in the baseline survey between members with and without disability as shown in figure 12.



Figure 7: Average Experience of Present EB Members in CO/VO

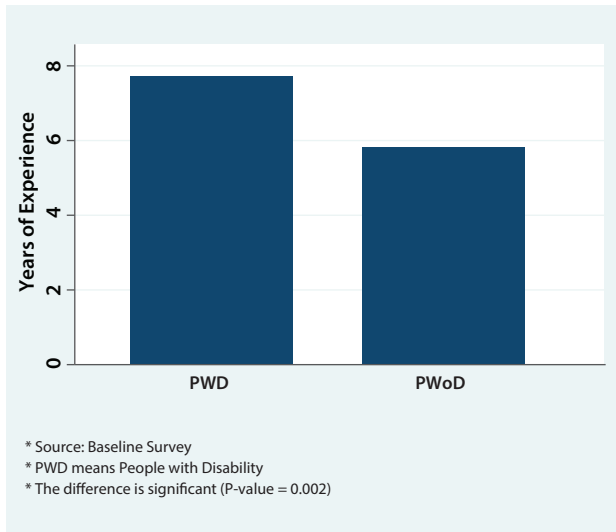


Figure 8: Position held by EB Members for TTOs with PWD

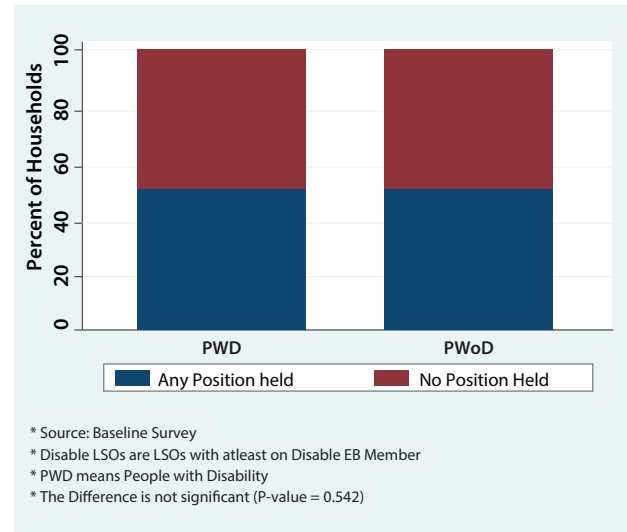


Figure 9: Claimed Difficulty in attending Meeting

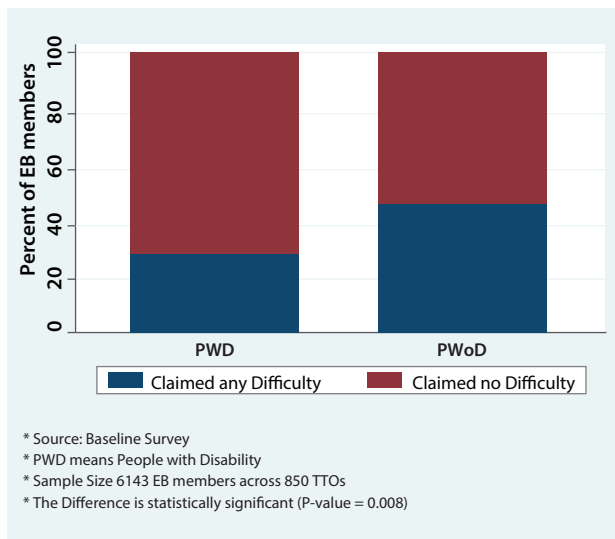


Figure 10: Meeting attended by EB members in a month

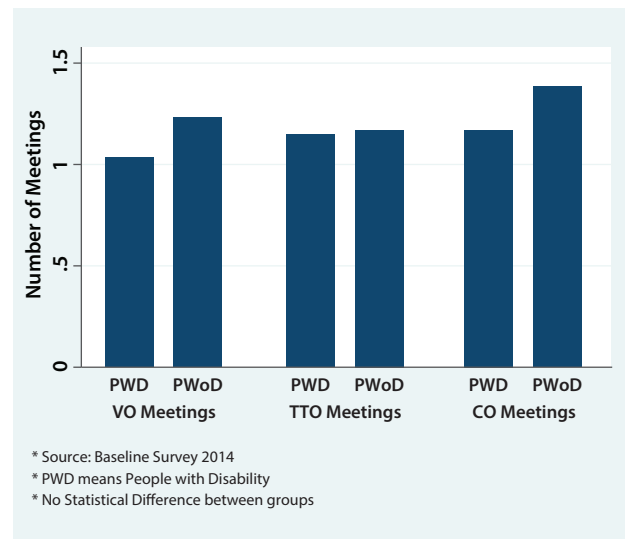


Figure 11: Presence in Baseline Survey Meeting

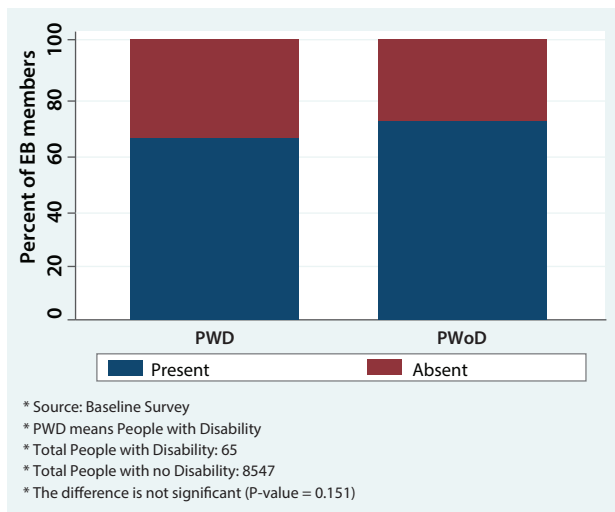
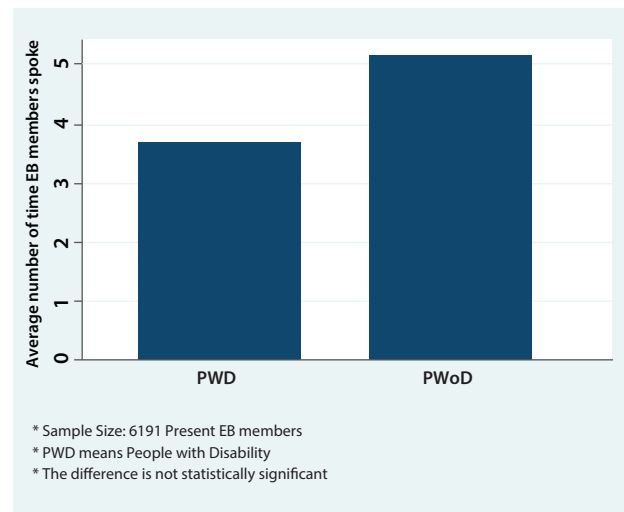


Figure 12: Average number of times EB members spoke in Baseline Survey Meeting





3. Assistance to households with members with disability

Despite limited inclusion of people with disability in TTOs, TTOs are targeting their assistance to people with disability. According to the household survey, both Government and TTOs are targeting their assistance more towards households with members with disability as compared to households without any member with disability. However, assistance through TTOs are shifted more towards households with people with disability more than the government assistance. As shown in figure 13, 33 percent of the households with any member with disability are getting some sort of assistance from the government while 30 percent of the households without any member with disability are receiving the same. There are three broader types of government assistance reported in the survey i.e. Zakat, Scholarships and BISP. Figure 14, shows that BISP focuses on household with people with disability while other programs do not have such focus. Similarly, TTOs are also aiding more to households with people with disability. As shown in the figure 15, 29 percent of households with members with disability are receiving some sort of assistance through TTOs while 21 percent of the households without any members with disability are receiving the same. This means that out of 100 households with people with disability, 29 households are receiving some assistance from TTOs while out of 100 households without people with disability 21 households are receiving the same. As TTOs have limited resources, assistance through TTOs are covering fewer households than assistance from the government.

In addition to that, if we categorise the assistance, households are getting through TTOs, we see all the types of assistance are focused more towards households with members with disability except trainings, as shown in figure 16. This suggests that TTOs target their assistance more towards households with members with disability than the government does.

Figure 13: Difference in Government Assistance to Households with PWD

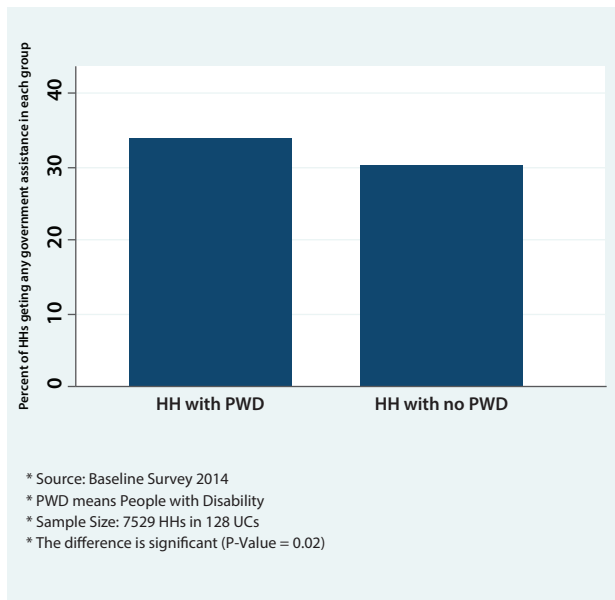


Figure 14: Type of Government Assistance to HHs with PWD

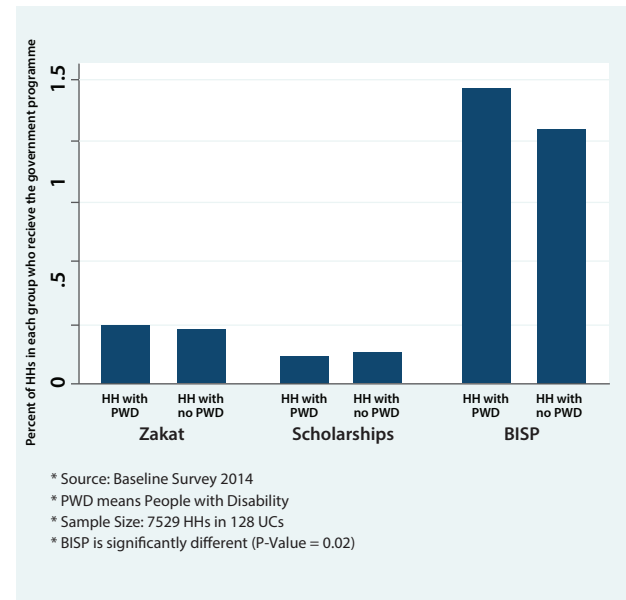




Figure 15: Difference in Assistance through TTOs to HHs with PWD

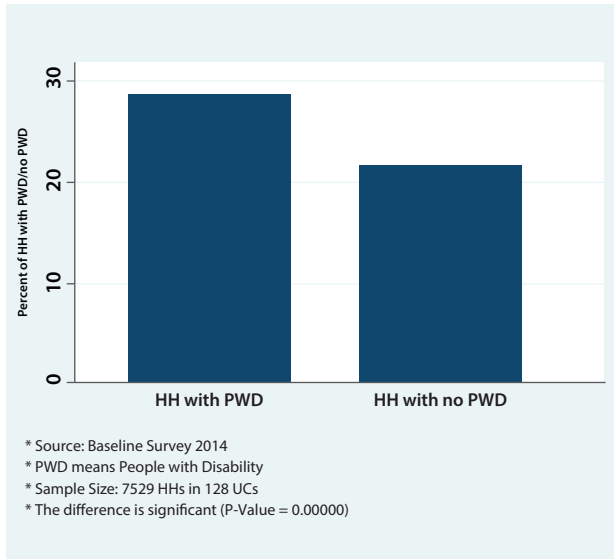


Figure 16: Type of Assistance through TTOs to HH with PWD



Conclusion

Though people with disability have limited inclusion in TTOs' EB and GB but TTOs are assisting more to households with people with disabilities. Similarly, people with disability have to work longer in COs and VO before they become the part of TTO EB but once they are in the EB, they are equally likely to hold the office. It can also be observed that people with disability are participating equally in TTOs meetings, though less of them report to face any difficulty in attending the meetings. It is important to note the implications of response bias and unobserved factors in this analysis and no casual relations can be deduced here. It will be interesting to see the trend of these relations over time and we expect to have more deeper understanding of the issue when the data from the end-line survey come through.