

9 Disability Categories in Census 2027 Form

Prelims - Current events of national and international relations | Governance

Why in news?

Disability rights groups have raised concerns that Census 2027 proposes only 9 broad disability categories, instead of all 21 disabilities recognised under RPwD Act, 2016.

- The groups argue that broad categories may result in under-reporting and lack of disaggregated data.
- **Disability Enumeration in Census 2027** - 9 proposed broad categories
 - Seeing
 - Hearing
 - Speech
 - Mobility
 - Intellectual disabilities
 - Mental illness
 - Disability due to acid attack
 - Disability due to chronic neurological disease
 - Disability due to blood disorder
- The questionnaire reportedly allows respondents to record up to 3 disabilities, in order of severity.
- **Census 2011 vs Census 2027**

Census	Disability Categories	Key Point
2011	7	Recorded 2.68 crore PwDs (2.21%)
2027	9	broad categories Includes acid attack, chronic neurological disease and blood disorder as new broad categories

RPwD Act, 2016

- ***Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016*** replaced the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995.
 - Expanded recognised disabilities from 7 to 21.
- Reflects a more dynamic and evolving understanding of disability.
- Added categories such as:

- Speech and language disability
- Specific learning disability
- Autism spectrum disorder
- Dwarfism
- Multiple disabilities
- Acid attack victims
- Blood disorders, etc.

Major Concern Raised by Rights Groups

- Specific disabilities may get clubbed under broad categories.
- Examples -
 - Thalassemia, haemophilia and sickle-cell disease as “blood disorder”
 - Conditions such as autism, specific learning disabilities, dwarfism and deaf blindness may not be distinctly captured.
- **Implications** -
 - Evidence-based policymaking
 - Targeted welfare programmes
 - Budgetary allocation
 - Programme design
 - Accountability

Reference

[The Indian Express| 9 disability categories in Census 2027 form](#)