ABSTRACT

The study was undertaken with an aim to investigate the awareness and attitude of local body secretaries on disability and implementation of laws and Utilization of Funds for the Differently abled in Kerala. In order to accomplish this aim, the specific objectives framed were: To identify the level of awareness of local body secretaries in Kerala on disability, to identify awareness level of local body secretaries on disability with respect to certain socio demographic variables, to find out attitude of local body secretaries towards persons with disabilities, to find out attitude of local body secretaries towards persons with disabilities with respect to certain socio demographic variables, to identify the extent of implementation of laws for persons with disabilities in local body levels, to identify the extent of implementation of funds for persons with disabilities in local body levels, to find out the relationship between awareness and attitude of local body secretaries on disability, to find out the relationship between awareness of local body secretaries and implementation of laws in the local bodies on disability, to find out the relationship between attitude and implementation of laws of local body secretaries on disability, to analyze the nature and extent of the utilization of funds for persons with disabilities in local bodies from 2007-08 to 2011-2012 financial years.

Descriptive survey method was adopted for the study. The sample of the study consisted of 300 local body secretaries from panchayath, municipality and corporations in Kerala state. Random sampling method was used to select the sample. The standardized tools used were: 1. Disability Awareness Inventory for Local body Secretaries 2. Scale of Attitude towards Disability for Local body Secretaries 3. Disability Laws Implementation Inventory 4. Disability funds utilization inventory. The data collected are analyzed using appropriate statistical techniques.

The awareness of local body secretaries on disability were very high. Type of local body was not a significant factor in the awareness of local body secretaries. Years of experience in job in local body and years of experience as secretary in local body were not a significant factor in the awareness of
local body secretaries. Education of local body secretaries emerged as a significant predictor in awareness of local body secretaries. Age of local body secretaries was not a significant variable in awareness of local body secretaries. Gender was not a significant predictor of awareness of local body secretaries about disability. Locality of residence was not a significant predictor of awareness of local body secretaries about disability. Religion of local body secretaries emerged as a significant factor influencing awareness of local body secretaries. Family members with disabilities were a significant factor that influences awareness of local body secretaries about disability.

The attitude of local body secretaries towards disability were high positive. Type of local body was not a significant factor in the attitude of local body secretaries. Years of experience in job in local body and years of experience as secretary in local body were not a significant factor in the attitude of local body secretaries. Education of local body secretaries emerged as a significant predictor in attitude of local body secretaries. Age of local body secretaries was not a significant variable in attitude of local body secretaries. Gender was not a significant predictor of attitude of local body secretaries towards disability. Locality of residence was not a significant predictor of attitude of local body secretaries towards disability. Religion of local body secretaries emerged as a significant factor influencing attitude of local body secretaries. Family members with disabilities were a significant factor that influences attitude of local body secretaries towards disability.

The implementations of laws for persons with disabilities in local bodies were found to be lower level. The fund utilization of local body for disability in 2007-08 financial years was found to be at a low level efficiency. The fund utilization of local body for disability in 2008-09 financial years was found to be at average level efficiency. The fund utilization of local body for disability in 2009-10 financial years was found to be at average level efficiency. The fund utilization of local body for disability in 2010-11 financial years was found to be at average level efficiency. The fund utilization of local body for disability in 2011-12 financial years was found to be at average level efficiency.