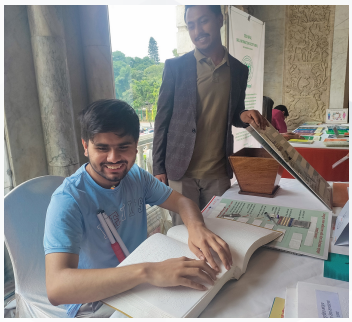
FACTSHEET

ON SRHR RIGHTS AMONG PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



The factsheet is produced based on the survey conducted by BYAN.

BACKGROUND

Blind Youth Association Nepal (BYAN) is an organization established in 2012 by the Blind and Partially Sighted Youth of Nepal. It is driven by the vision of realizing that youths with disabilities esp. Blind and Partially Sighted persons of Nepal enjoy dignified life in an inclusive society. Currently, it has expanded its network in 10 different districts covering all 7 provinces. More than 815 persons having a visual disability are members of this organization. Currently, BYAN is working in the areas of policy advocacy, education, employment, disaster risk reduction, political participation and civic engagement of persons with disabilities, and promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of persons with disabilities. BYAN is currently carrying out a Project named "Action for Change: An initiative for the promotion of inclusive SRH and FP services for persons with disabilities" in partnership with CBM Nepal, Global Disability Inclusion.

CONTEXT

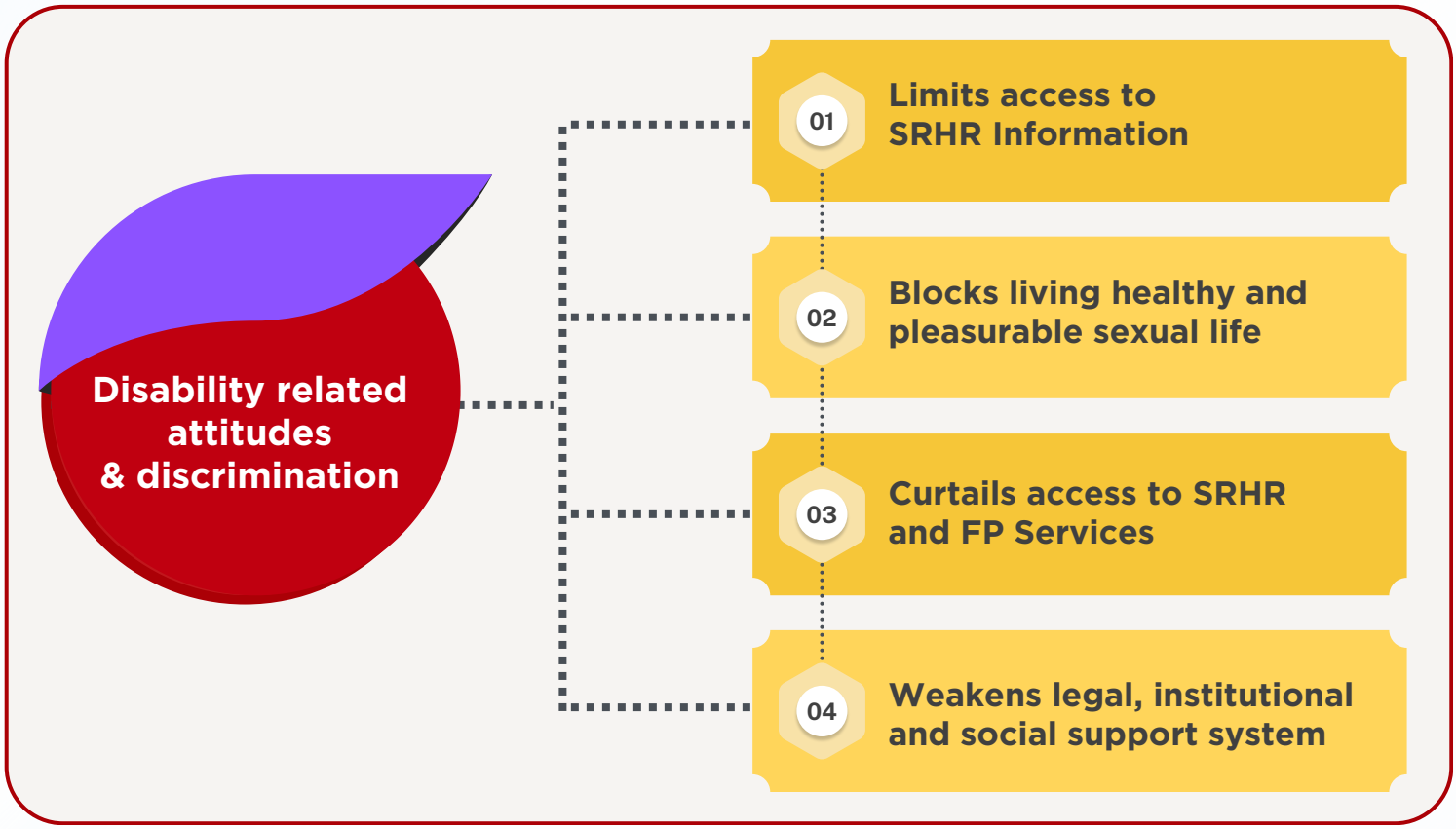
Disability-related attitudes and discrimination make it much harder for individuals to get information on sexual and reproductive health rights. Even family members cannot foresee persons with disabilities living a healthy sexual and family life. Existing SRH services fall short to address the needs of the persons with disabilities. The legal framework in Nepal largely recognizes and accept the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and other international conventions related to disability and have framed national legislations policies aimed at promoting the rights of persons with disabilities - "Rights of persons with disabilities Act 2017". Among these efforts, a lacunae exists which is related to addressing SRH and FP related rights of persons with a disability. BYAN has taken initiative to empower young persons with different disabilities to exercise their sexual and reproductive health & rights and make informed healthy choices in a support social, institutional and legal environment. Hence, this factsheet informs readers of the status of SRH and FP related rights of persons with disabilities in with representative cases from Kathmandu, Surkhet and Bara districts.

Contribution of the Project to the SDGs

Goal 3: Health lives and promotes well-being for all.

Goal 11: Make cities inclusive and resilient.

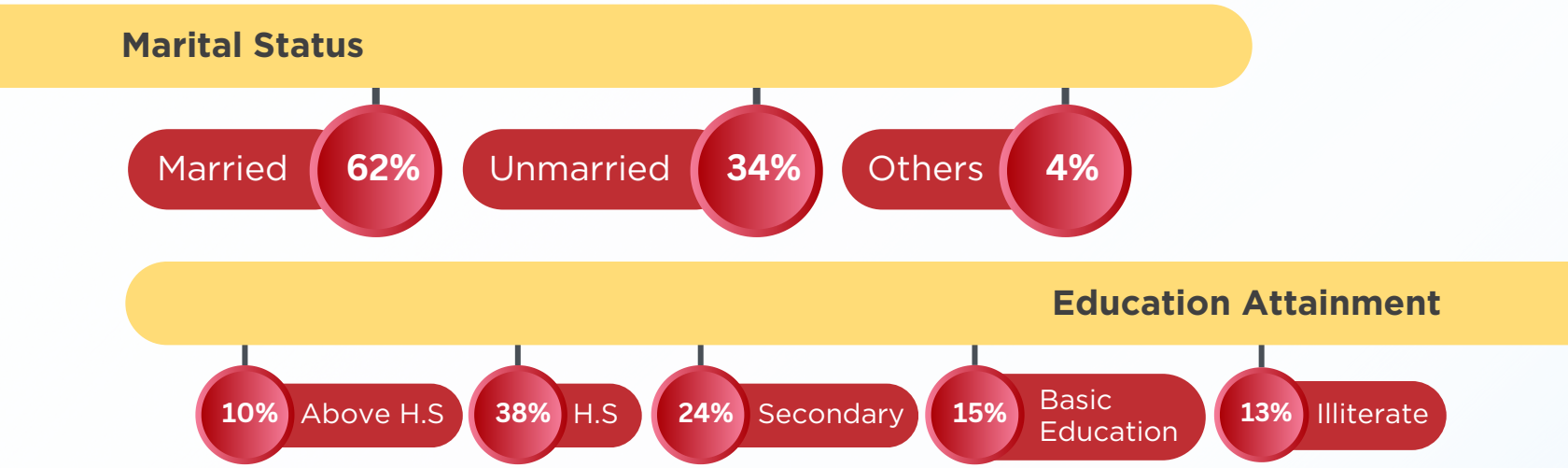
Goal 16: Inclusive societies and access to justice.



CONTEXT: SOCIO DEMOGRAPHICS

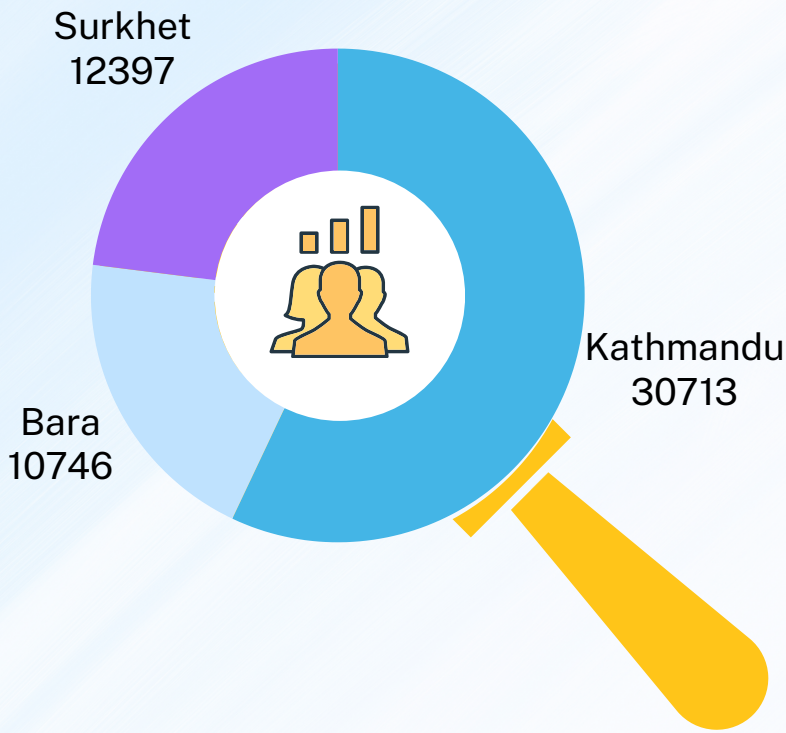
A recent Survey among person with disabilities in Kathmandu, Surkhet and Bara was conducted by BYAN. The demographic of the study is as follows:

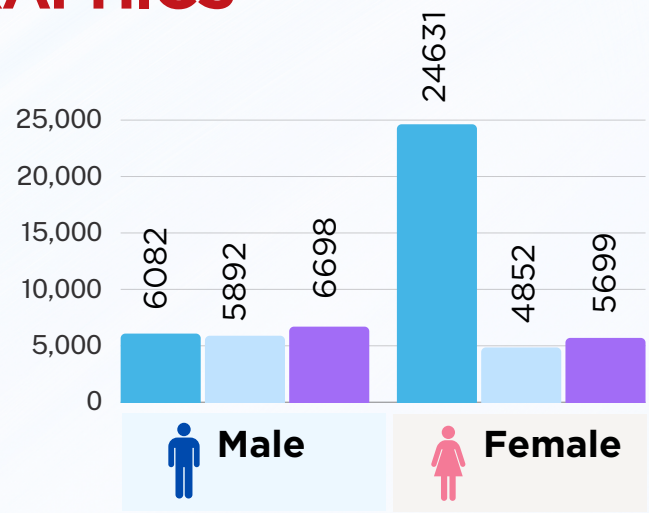
• **Persons with disabilities**	M - 61% ▌ F - 21%
• **Average Age of Persons with disabilities**	24.3 Years



Note: Data Visualization in Page 3.

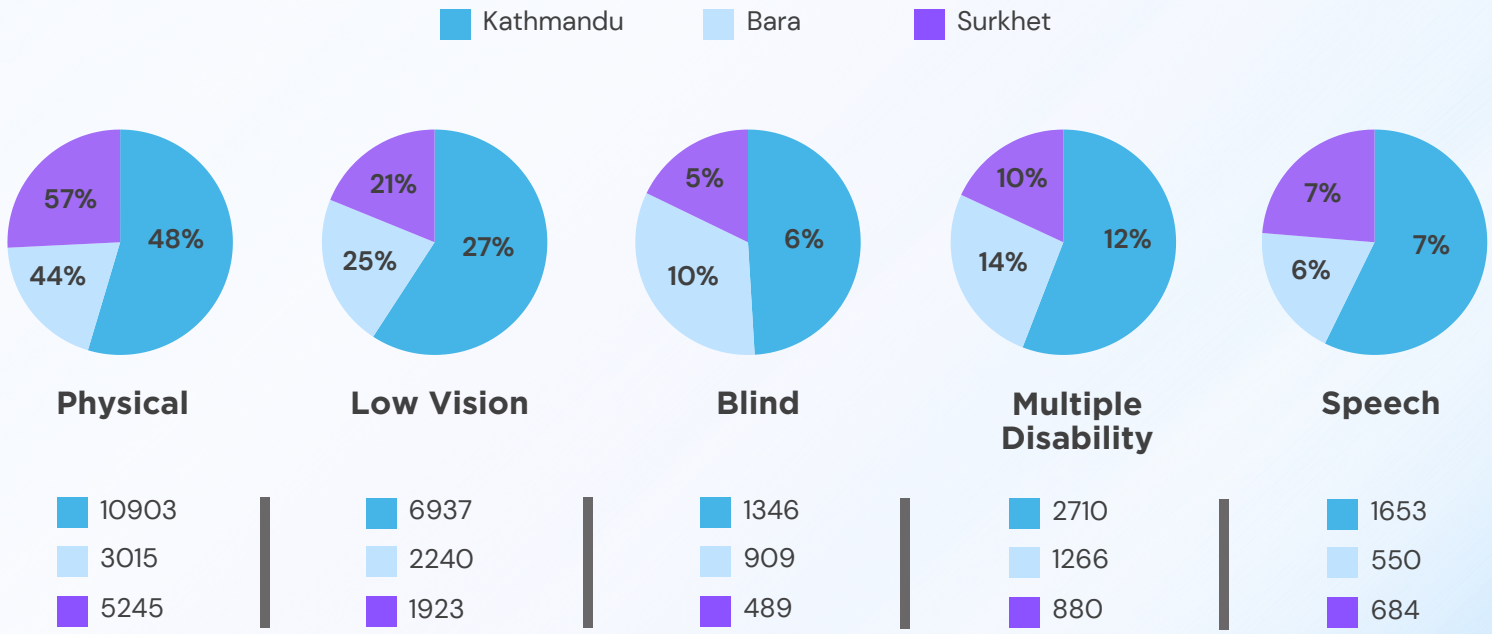
SOCIO DEMOGRAPHICS





Disability Percentage Kathmandu - 5% • Bara - 2% • Surkhet - 2%

DISABILITY STATUS



ACCESSIBILITY

Understanding of SRHR rights of persons with disabilities **78%**

51% Persons with disabilities who are not using SRH services from the formal health institutions

Persons with disabilities using the health services from formal health institutions **49%**

Most trusted sources of SRH Information (agency)

1. OPDs
2. Social Media
3. Radio/TV
4. FCHVs
5. Private/Public Providers

71% Persons with disabilities who don't know about ANC and PNC services

Usage of SRH services

49% Government Health Providers

23% Private Health Providers

Factors affecting choices of service providers

1. Nearness
2. Cost

SRH information in accessible format (BRAILE ETCS)

16% Yes

22% No

62% Somewhat

AVAILABILITY

69% Presence of Govt. SRHR health providers in the vicinity

Presence of Private SRHR health providers in the vicinity 30%

49% Knowledge about Disability focused SRH and FP services from fixed health providers

Supply side problems:

1. Lack of Specific Policy on SRHR and FP needs of persons with disabilities
2. Lack of sensitivity among Government on SRHR and FP related needs of persons with disabilities
3. Lack of disability friendly infrastructure

CONFIDENCE AND EASINESS OF SRH SERVICES

Level of Persons with disabilities	High	Average	Low
• Confidence in Health Services	6%	29%	65%
• Easiness to express with health service providers	8%	42%	50%
• Satisfaction with SRH services	6%	26%	68%

AWARENESS ABOUT POLICIES ON DISABILITY

UNDERSTANDING ABOUT POLICIES ON DISABILITY

There is very poor level of understanding among Person with disabilities on UNCRPD, Disabled Protection and Welfare Act (1982), and the Convention on Child Rights (1982), Constitutional Rights and Disability Rights (2017).

• **Person with disabilities aware about local OPDs**	**36%**
• **Person with disabilities affiliated with local OPDs**	**31%**
• **OPDs having defined strategy on cross disability/SRH rights**	**27%**
• **OPDs adopting cross disability issue**	**26%**
• **OPDs Not adopting cross disability issue**	**53%**
• **Do not know if their OPDs are adopting cross disability issue**	**32%**

Barriers (Structural or policy) local government level:

- **Lack of effective monitoring of services utilization**
- **Understanding Diversity in the SRH needs of persons with disabilities**
- **Code of conduct/protocol among service providers**

WHAT DO WE EXPECT ?

Call to Action

- Recognition of sexual and reproductive health rights of persons with disabilities as the fundamental human rights
- Investment in capacity enhancement of persons with disabilities
- Development of accessible IEC materials and access them with the persons with disabilities
- Conduct research/study on disability and SRHR and evidence generation
- Development/upgrade accessibility/reasonable accommodations in health institutions
- Capacitate service providers on disability inclusive SRH services
- Ensure accessible and inclusive SRH services across all the health institutions
- Pilot/scale up on accessible SRH materials/equipment
- Inclusive and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in all the SRH related plannings and decision making processes
- Capacitate organizations of persons with disabilities for united and joint movement on disability and SRHR

For more information:

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