## Topic: Social Empowerment

## Access to Assistive Aids for Disabled

More than 2.5 billion people need one or more assistive products Yet a billion of them are denied access, particularly in lowand middle-income countries, according to report Lack of released by the World Health Organisation and UNICEF. assistive According to Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act. 2016. products This is not only an infringement of human rights, 'Person with disability" means a person with long term physical but it is also economically shortsighted. mental, intellectual or sensory impairment which hinders his/ her Barriers to Also, affordability is a major barrier to access. full and effective participation in society equally with others. Introduction assistive Poor The 2011 Census puts the national estimate of the number products Though various acts and schemes have been implementation of people with disabilities at 2.21% of the total population. laid down with an aim to empower the disabled. of policies and their enforcement face many challenges. It increased by 22.4% between 2001 and 2011 census periods. schemes Quality, affordability and supply of assistive products continue to be enormous challenges. Approximately one in every 10 children in the world has a disability. Quality and standards issues such as safety, performance and durability are key concerns. Besides poverty and prejudice, the lack of access to assistive Access to Services are not available across all geographies and populations. Assistive Aids technology, as well as inaccessible transport and school for Disabled environments restrict children with disabilities to access education. ADIP scheme is being implemented by the The number of people in need of one or more assistive products Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. Assistance to is likely to rise to 3.5 billion by 2050, due to populations aging Disabled persons and the prevalence of non-communicable diseases. It aims to assist the needy disabled persons in procuring durable, for purchasing/fitting Importance scientifically manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances. opens the door to education of aids/appliances Assistive and need of for children with impairments. (ADIP) scheme It promotes their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation, by technology Assistive Aids reducing the effects of disabilities and enhance their economic potential. is a life employment and social interaction for adults. changer, it an independent life of dignity for older persons. People with disabilities need to be better integrated into society by overcoming stigma. Assistive technology reduces the need for formal health and support services, long-term care and the work of caregivers. State-wise strategies on education for children with special needs need to be devised. Universal Health Coverage can be advanced There should be proper teacher training to address the needs of inclusively only if people are able to access quality differently-abled children and facilitate their inclusion in regular schools. assistive products when and where they need them. Way There should be more special schools and ensure Forward educational material for differently-abled children. More budgetary allocation for welfare of the disabled. There should be a disability budgeting on line of gender budget. Proper implementation of schemes and proper monitoring mechanisms and accountability of public funds.

