

1) Discuss the various initiatives of the Government of India to address the problems of people with disabilities.

Ans: The person which have physical / mental impairment. The impairment has substantial & long-term adverse effect on person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. According to 2011 census, in India around 2.6 crore peoples are disabled. i.e. 2.21% of total population. In that 69% are from rural areas while the remaining 31% resided in urban areas.

Some of the problems faced by people with disabilities are:

- 1) Inaccessibility: Most of government buildings @ private offices & other infrastructure are inaccessible for them.
- 2) Low Representation: Disabled person has very low representation in fields like government jobs, politics, economy etc.
- 3) Barriers to Healthcare: Lack of appropriate services for people with disabilities is significant barrier. And they can't afford a good health service due to their poor condition.
- 4) Education system is still not inclusive: School buildings are not accessible. Teachers are not well trained & even the curriculum doesn't take care of disabled person.
- 5) Attitudinal Barriers: This acts as a stigma for discrimination which, deny people with disabilities their dignity & potential are one of greatest obstacles to achieve equal opportunity & social integration.
- 6) Inaccessible communication system prevent access to information and knowledge & opportunities to participate.
- 7) Institutional Barriers: It includes many laws, policies, strategies & practices that discriminate against people with disabilities.
- 8) Inadequate data & Statistics: Lack of rigorous & comparable data & statistics, combined with lack of evidence on a programme

that works, lack of planning, often delay in understanding and actions on disability inclusion.

Government initiatives taken are:

"Article 41" of directive principles of state policy states that state shall make effective provision for securing right to work, to Education & to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness & disablement, within the limits of its economic capacity and development.

- * Accessible India campaign: creation of Accessible Environment for disabled people. It is a nation wide flagship campaign to access for equal opportunity & live independently & participate fully in all aspects of life in a inclusive society.
- * Deen Dayal Disabled Rehabilitation scheme: under this financial assistance provided to NGOs providing services to person with disabilities like special school, training centres, rehabilitation etc.
- * Assistance to disabled persons for purchase / fitting of Aids & Appliances: It aims at help disabled people by bringing suitable, durable, scientifically manufactured, modern, standard aids & appliance.
- * National Fellowship for students with disabilities: under this 200 fellowships per year are granted to students with disability.
- * scheme of National trust for welfare of persons with Autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation & multiple disabilities.
- * Reservations for disabled in higher educational institutes & Employment / Job sectors.
- * Kerala has already started an early prevention programme i.e. comprehensive newborn screening (CNS) programme seeks early identification of defects in infants and reduce the state's burden of disability.
- * Success stories of people with disabilities were showcased to inculcate positive attitude among people.