Presentation on Disability in Bangladesh

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)
Statistics and Informatics Division (SID)
Ministry of Planning
Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) is the National Statistical Organization entrusted with collecting, compiling, analysing data and disseminating official statistics.

- **Statistical Act 2013** - As per the act, BBS deserves the mandate to produce Official Statistics. BBS has Authority to standardize and harmonize official statistics.

- **NSDS** - It is stated in the section 2.2.3. that BBS should conduct survey on ‘prevalence of disability- Socio economic status of disable population’

- **UN Convention** - UN Convention on the ‘Rights of Persons with Disabilities’ demands the improvement of disability data and statistics to formulate disability-inclusive policies.
Levels and Prevalence of Disability

- BBS has no standalone survey on disability
- BBS collects data on disability from different surveys / census like Population Census 2011, MSVSB, Education Household Survey (EHS) and HIES using different definition depending on objective of the surveys. The levels and prevalence of disability regarding above mentioned surveys / census are -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Disability Rate (%)</th>
<th>Reference Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population Census</td>
<td>1.41</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSVSB</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EHS</td>
<td>1.33</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIES</td>
<td>0.91</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Levels and Prevalence of Disability

Definition of disability:

Population and Housing Census 2011: Problem in
(a) Speaking
(b) Vision
(c) Hearing
(d) Physical
(e) Mental
(f) Autistic

Data were collected irrespective of intensity of the problem.
Levels and Prevalence of Disability

**MSVSB:**

(a) Problem to view even with spectacles
(b) Problem of hearing even with hearing aids
(c) Problem to wake up
(d) Problem to remember something due to sickness
(e) Problem of self care such as eating, bathing, using toilet etc.
(f) Problem to understand another person
(g) Problem of communicating to others and the like

Data were collected irrespective of intensity of the problem.
Levels and Prevalence of Disability

**Education Household Survey (EHS) : Disability types**

(a) Autism  
(b) Physical disability  
(c) Mental  
(d) Vision  
(e) Speech  
(f) Intellectual  
(g) Hearing  
(h) Hearing – vision  
(i) Cerebral palsy  
(j) Down Syndrome  
(k) Multi disability

Data were collected irrespective of intensity of the problem.
Levels and Prevalence of Disability

HIES : Difficulty in

(a) Eye sight
(b) Hearing
(c) Walking and Climbing
(d) Remembering and Concentrating
(e) Self care
(f) Speaking and Communicating

Washington Group definition was followed. Intensity of difficulty was taken care of.
Challenges to Collect Reliable Data

- Lack of uniform definition and understanding of disability
- Low engagement of respondents to give data
- Difficult to differentiate the characteristics of disabled persons with screening questions
- Lack of support of physical diagnosis to identify persons with disability
Way forward

- Initiating dedicated / standalone survey on disability following standard definition
- Strengthen capacity of relevant officials by giving training in disability measurement and diagnosis
- Strengthen field organization
- Developing innovative data collection techniques to improve coverage and data quality
- Involving the stakeholders
Thank You