Title of the Paper:

**Assistive products scenario of Bangladesh in response to Priority Assistive Product List of World Health Organization**

Abstract:

In Bangladesh, 9.07% people out of total 160 million populations experience disability. This situation is almost similar to other countries. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has recently announced a Priority Assistive Product List (APL) to ensure development and distribution of assistive products for all. However, there is no official database and distribution system of assistive products in Bangladesh, which makes information on availability of assistive products from the APL unknown.

Aims:

The aim of this research was to reveal the available assistive products in Bangladesh from the APL of WHO. In Bangladesh, there is only one rehabilitation center, and that has been producing and distribution assistive products along with other 11 non-government organisations. To know the actual number of assistive products available in Bangladesh from the APL, this rehabilitation center along with others were visited and surveyed.

Findings:

Survey results revealed that of the 50 Priority Assistive Product List items, 22 assistive products are available in Bangladesh. Eighteen out of 50 APL items were found in the center - primarily consisting of Mobility (81%), Environment (80%) and Communication (25%) products. No Vision, Hearing and Cognition items were noted there. In developed countries like USA, UK and Japan, all 50 assistive products of the APL are available. The current survey results indicate that the availability of assistive products in Bangladesh is in the primitive stages. The reasons behind this and ways forward will be further explored in our next research stage.

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