



## Summary

Rehabilitation is the utilization of the existing capabilities of the handicapped person, by the combined and coordinated use of medical, social, educational and vocational measures to the optimum level of functional ability. According to various estimates, about 5 to 10 percent of the world's population is affected by one or more disabilities. Since over 70 of our population are in rural areas, the number of those with less severe disability could be much larger. The incidence of disability is reported to be just over 2 percent in rural area and 1.6 percent in urban area. Prevalence was marginally more among males. About one in four in rural area and one in five in the urban area are reported to be severely disabled. In modern society, acting independently is of supreme importance and it is the areas that matter more than anything. It is in this area that a disabled person suffers most, socially, economically, psychologically and emotionally. Due to physical or mental handicap a disabled person cannot act independently in many spheres of life and hence faces many problems in the social adjustment. His/her incapability generates emotional problem like apathy, self-pity and resentment and tends to isolate from society. Rehabilitation must be started at the earliest possible time in order to ensure the best results. It is administered in conjunction with the specific medical or surgical treatment of the precipitating disease. It is the collective responsibility of the able bodied to rehabilitate the handicapped individual. The role of rehabilitation is to minimize disability and handicap and help a handicapped person leads a useful life within the limitation, in other words make a disabled person into a differently abled person. And goal of rehabilitation is not to produce an immortal being but to maintain in optimum health as long as possible ideally until death. Add life to years not life to years.