What is disability?

"Disability is a physical or mental impairment that significantly restricts one or more major life activities."

As an enumerator, it is you who would be going to every house in the country. You will be witness to the fact that differently abled people exist and report this data to the Government. It is this data that will be used for the next ten years for policy making, resource allocation and for providing facilities. It is in your hands to make this 'invisible population' visible.

Because you can make a difference!

What the enumerator should not do:

- Do not change your expression or sympathize or laugh when the person says that he/she has a disability or their family member has a disability. Listen carefully and take the information as a fact and make a note of it.
- Do not try to diagnose or ask how the disability was acquired or cross question about the disability. The person may not ‘look’ disabled but may have difficulty in seeing, hearing or any other disability. The person’s response should be taken as is.
- Do not ask for any certificate or documents.
- Do not conduct any assessment to show or prove the disability.
- Do not start counselling.
- Do not make any promises.
- Do not avoid or rush through the question. It is important that you not only ask the question, but also give time for people to share this information.
- Do not be in a hurry to write the code of disability. Ask if the person has more than one disability (multiple disabilities).

How to ask the disability question:

"The Government wants to know how many people are disabled in the country. The information will be used to ensure that there are required facilities, education, employment, transport, assistive devices, health services etc. which will help them become more independent, participative and contribute equally to the society. So, please share if any of your family members has difficulty in seeing, hearing, remembering, walking, using hands, learning or a mental health condition."

This is one of the ways the question can be asked.

How to gain confidence of the respondent:

- Build a rapport with the respondent(s). Your friendly and respectful mannerism and language will help you gain their confidence and respect.
- Share the reason for asking a question on disability.
- Make it simple: Use simple and non derogatory language. Explain disability in terms of difficulty in doing any functions of daily living (taking care of oneself, gaining education, taking up a job) or participating in some/all spheres of life.
- Assure confidentiality: Re-assure the respondents that individual information will not be shared with anyone in the community.

About whom should you ask the question:

- The question should be asked about everyone in the family. Do not assume that just because someone looks alright or normal she/he will not have a disability.
- Many disabilities are not visible. For example, a person with hearing impairment, low vision or mental impairment.
- Do not leave out elderly/old people, infants, girls/women who may be disabled.

Recognise and record all differently abled people.