Early stage of Provision of assistive products for persons with physical disabilities in Japan

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Major legislations relevant to provision of assistive products

- 1949: Prosthetic appliances in Law for the Welfare of Physically Disabled Persons
- 1969: Daily Living Appliances for severely disabled persons, and elderly persons
- 2000: Assistive products in Long Term Care Insurance
- 2005: Services and Supports for Persons with Disabilities Act
- 2013: Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities Act
Changes in real GDP of Japan
logarithmic scale, 1885=0

- End of WWII
- Prosthetic appliances
- Daily Living Appliances
- Long Term Care Insurance

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Law for the Welfare of Physically Disabled Persons, 1959

• Only "handbook holder" who is recognized and registered by medical examination can benefit by the law.

• Only itemized assistive products are provided with prescription by medical doctors.

• Finance expenditure was supported by the central government.
  • Half of the amount is shifted to local government.
  • 90% reimbursement of the cost since 2006.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Prosthetic Appliances in 1959, when launched</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• White cane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Artificial eye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Eye glasses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Braille writing board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Prostheses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Orthoses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Wheelchair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Urine collector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Walking stick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Crutch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cloth for protecting amputated stump</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assistive Products in 1950’s

Lower Limb Prosthesis

Wheelchair
Modernization of technology of assistive products

- 1952: invite Dr Tosberg from US
- Since 1953 P&O training course for prosthetists and orthotists
- 1988- government launched qualification system for P&O adaptation
Example of Items of provided products

- **Prostheses**
  - Upper limb prostheses
    - Cosmetic upper limb prostheses
    - Functional upper limb prostheses
  - Lower limb prostheses
    - Cosmetic upper limb prostheses
    - Functional upper limb prostheses

- **Orthoses**
  - Fore-arm orthoses
  - Upper-arm orthoses
Significance of Prosthetic Appliances in 1950’s


Fig. 3 Excerpts from The Social Welfare Statistics Annual Report of Japan, 1957, MOW

Provision of Assistive Products
Excerpts from the Manual

● "Provision of prosthetic appliances is the most important measure of *Law for the Welfare of Physically Disabled Persons.*"

● "Provision of prosthetic appliances covers major part of our expenditure for disabled persons."

# Provisions in the early stage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Newly Registered Persons</th>
<th>Rehabilitation Counseling</th>
<th>Provided Prosthetic Appliances</th>
<th>Total Registered Persons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1952</td>
<td>93,307</td>
<td>354,085</td>
<td>22,420</td>
<td>294,307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>73,204</td>
<td>351,693</td>
<td>23,662</td>
<td>357,997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>74,019</td>
<td>366,284</td>
<td>18,699</td>
<td>452,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>79,983</td>
<td>408,400</td>
<td>17,975</td>
<td>511,492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td>70,280</td>
<td>573,105</td>
<td>21,009</td>
<td>580,915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>68,969</td>
<td>642,322</td>
<td>22,875</td>
<td>645,473</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2018/5/10  Provision of Assistive Products
Expenditure for Physically Disabled Persons

- 1994
- 1990
- 1985
- 1981
- 1977
- 1971
- 1966
- 1963

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

- prosthetic appliances
- construction of institutions
- running cost of institutions
- medical expense
- others

2018/5/10 Provision of Assistive Products
Conclusion

• Measures for disabled persons in Japan was launched to support the causalities of WWII.
• Provision of assistive products covered major part of the expenditure for persons with disability.
• Provision of assistive products in the early stage is most necessary for independence of disabled persons.
• Relative expenditure for assistive products decreased as the institutional services were improved.
Thank you for your attention