



UK Government



National Institute of Urban Affairs

Insights of Three day Workshop on **Disability Inclusion**

To commemorate
“International Day of
Persons with Disability”

DAY 1

Lecture Series on
**Advocating a
Policy Based Approach to
Fortify Disability
Inclusion
in Cities**

1st December 2020
11:00 -13:00 hrs. (IST)

DAY 2

Webinar on
**Disability
Inclusion
From an Approach
to Practice
Rebuilding Cities
for all**

2nd December 2020
14:30 -16:00 hrs. (IST)

DAY 3

Concluding Session
**Empower through
Inclusivity:
Building an
Inclusive, Safe
and Accessible
Urban India**

3rd December 2020

The Context

World Health Organisation estimates more than one billion people i.e., about 15% of the world's population, experience some form of disability. For this reason, in various ways, Sustainable Development Goals talk explicitly about in parts related to education, growth and employment, inequality, accessibility of human settlements, and data collection and monitoring of the SDGs to empower those who are vulnerable in society. In this context, National Institute of Urban Affairs, through BASIIC program, is taking the initiative of addressing these inequalities and mainstreaming inclusion into the urban agenda.

Building Accessible Safe Inclusive Indian Cities' (BASIIC) program at the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) has been developed with the support from the FCDO of the UK government. The program was founded on the recommendations highlighted in the consultation convened under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister Sh. Hardeep Singh Puri. Held in September 2018, the consultation invited expert insights on framing measures and policy recommendations for Persons with Disability (PwDs). The principal goal of BASIIC to build the capacities of Indian cities and practitioners to be sensitive and responsive to the needs of Persons with Disabilities. BASIIC endeavours to promulgate aspects of "Accessibility, Safety, and Inclusivity" into the fabric of urban development.

International Disability Day

For the past two decades, the United Nations(UN) is working in various capacities to mitigate the barriers faced by persons with disabilities. The "International Day of Person with Disability" is an annual observance on the 3rd of December, proclaimed in 1992, by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/3. The Day's observance aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights, and well-being of persons with disabilities. It also seeks to increase the gains through awareness derived from integrating persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic, and cultural life.

The CoVID-19 pandemic has fortified the connections between public health, environment, economy, challenges faced by persons with disabilities, and has retracted how the buildings and cities have been planned. It is resonated in this year's theme of "Building Back Better: toward a disability-inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-COVID-19 World" as adopted by the United Nations.

The Day is celebrated across India by relevant government departments, Disable people organizations, and other stakeholders. More than the mere observance, celebrations of this Day is a sign of solidarity towards the international community and India's commitment towards the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). On this important occasion, BASIIC program has planned to conduct a three-day workshop on "Disability Inclusion" The workshop is constituting Expert Lectures and webinar with experts on exploring practical ways of bringing in inclusion in urban space and design, engaging with youth and citizenry through an open call for competitions, and spreading awareness through the launch of knowledge products developed by NIUA on related topics.

What do we want to accomplish?

International Disability Day celebration aims to increase public awareness, understanding, and acceptance of people with disabilities and celebrate their achievements and contributions. The workshop intends to engage with the public and promote awareness among young professionals, students, ULB officials, urban practitioners, and other stakeholders and sensitize them about the concerns of persons with disabilities. It also intends to bring in an action-oriented approach and discuss innovative yet practical methods of mainstreaming disability inclusion into the urban agenda.

DAY 1

LECTURE SERIES



Dr. Victor Santiago Pineda

Founder & Chairman, World Enabled

Dr. Victor Santiago Pineda is a disability rights advocate, an international speaker and urban innovation consultant on accessibility related issues. Dr. Pineda is the President of World Enabled and President of the Global Alliance on Accessible Technologies and Environments (GAATES). He is a recognized leader in international disability rights and was appointed by US President Barack Obama to the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board. Dr. Pineda is the recipient of many prestigious awards and has been honoured for numerous achievements/milestones in the sector.



Dr. Anjee Agarwal

Founder & Executive Director, Samarthyam

Dr. Anjee Agarwal is the co-founder of Samarthyam and National Centre for Accessible Environments. She is a disability rights advocate, accessibility and WASH specialist with focus on girls and women with disabilities. She is also a member of CSO-Standing Committee at NITI Aayog, Government of India. She has been nominated by many Indian/UN agencies for leveraging her expertise on gender friendly & inclusive design interventions, programs and policies. She has co-authored numerous books on disability-inclusion and is a certified auditor to conduct accessibility audits of built environment.



Mr. Nilesh P. Rajadhyaksha

Project Coordinator for Master Plan Delhi - 2041, NIUA

Mr. Nilesh Prakash Rajadhyaksha is an urban development specialist. He is currently working as Project Coordinator for Master Plan Delhi - 2041 at NIUA. He brings his perspective of working with Government bodies at national/regional level from the lens of urban policy, financing and development.

Moderated by:

Mr. Harpreet Singh Arora

Urban Advisor, FCDO-UK Government,

Mr. Harpreet Singh Arora has more than 15 years' of experience as Urban & Regional Economist and has worked extensively with various stakeholders at central/state/city level for infrastructure development related assignments.

Key Insights and Learnings:

NIUA in collaboration with its programme partners hosted a three-day workshop (on 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Dec, 2020) to commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities and embark on the journey of creating an inclusive urban environment.

Day 1 of the event was an inaugural session with Lecture Series planned under the Building Accessible Safe Inclusive Indian Cities (BASIIC) Programme. The first lecture session focused on understating the role of urban planning, related policies, and practices to ensure cities' acceptance and adherence to the objectives of Sustainable Development Goals/New Urban Agenda. It brought together subject matter experts, partners in change, relevant stakeholders from cities, regional and national level, working across the realm of disability inclusion. The eminent speakers of the session; Dr. Victor Pineda, Dr. Anjee Agarwal, and Mr. Nilesh P. Rajadhyaksha, discussed about the global and Indian perspective on the importance of non-discriminative and inclusive policies, role of accessible services and infrastructure, and its adaptation at grass root level.


The speakers shared the experiences and learnings on working with global counterparts (UAE, USA, Germany, etc.), national perspective on equitable, sustainable and an Inclusive Urban Future with citing contextual reference to Master Plan Delhi-2041. The focal theme from the lectures centred around policy framework related to **disability-inclusion and its adaption across diverse urban sectors and scales of urban planning and development.**

Globally, policy framework had a paradigm shift in approach from medical/charity model to right-based model and cities have started to realise its potential in ensuring equitable provision for services and infrastructure for all. **Dr. Victor Pineda highlighted the need to adopt a holistic approach to create inclusive and barrier free cities.** The major pillars in achieving that goal were identified as - empathy towards the barriers/challenges faced by Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), strengthening the laws and legislations for strict compliance and enforcement, leadership training about the technical aspects of disability and inclusion, strengthening of institutional capacities and lastly ensuring the participation and engagement of diverse stakeholders, civil societies, communities, and citizens in the process.

Multi-sectoral governance framework would play a major role in ensuring strict enforcement and compliance of necessary standards/guidelines. Countries' like USA have established Independent agencies (US Federal Access Board) which can hold various governmental and private actors accountable for non- adherence and negligence of accessibility related issues in the planning and development process. Building the Inclusive City: Governance, Access, and the Urban Transformation of Dubai acts as the first global assessment and framework for an accessible inclusive urban development strategy.

Dr. Anjee Agarwal stressed upon the need of conducting sensitization and awareness building campaigns at national, state, and local levels. These would play a pivotal role to bring policy and institutional level changes in India. Mapping the knowledge need and gaps, training key personnel at various levels, establishing partnerships and alliances with national and international experts, would play a major role in institutional strengthening and building capacities of the stakeholders.

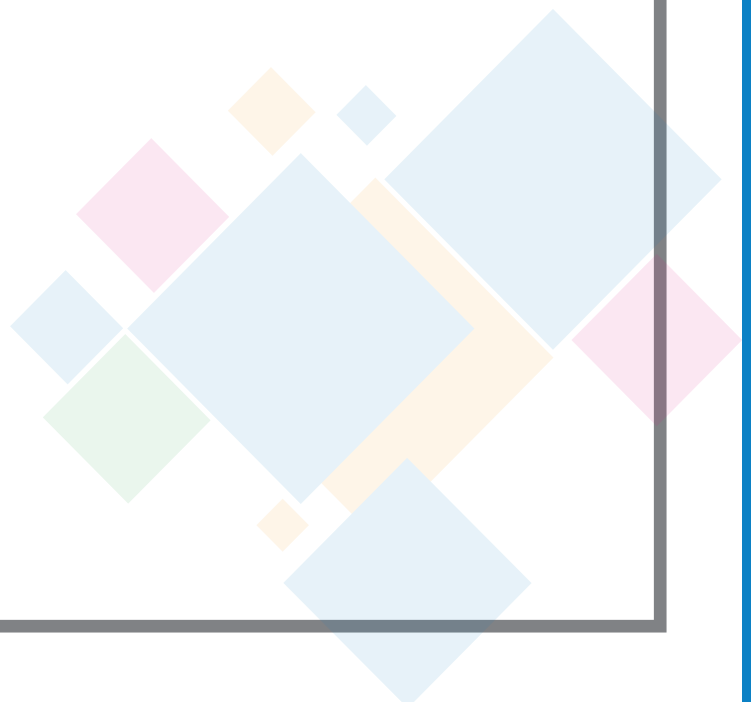
Identifying champions accessibility compliance officer at institutional level would be the foremost step for promoting disability-inclusive approach within the institutional, policy and legislation framework. Strengthening the social services and support systems for Persons with Disabilities at a local level would assist in empowering capacities of civil societies as well as the communities. Accessibility and inclusion need to be integrated in the entire process of development to utilise the potential contribution associated with PwDs population towards cities' economy and growth.



The Government of India has established multiple agencies to create a better understanding of the challenges/barriers faced by Persons with Disabilities, develop disability-inclusive strategy and **enforce its integration within the planning, designing, procurement, implementation, monitoring and enforcement stage**. Citing the contextual reference from Delhi, Mr. Nilesh Rajadhyaksha highlighted the significance of **creating a strong data and evidence-driven integrated planning approach with involvement of multistakeholders for the preparation of Master Plan Delhi - 2041**. There is a need to focus on creating mandatory provisions and enabling strategies e.g. auditing exercise, use of apps/tools and technologies to make the Master Plan for Delhi as accessible, safe and inclusive for all.

While COVID-19 pandemic has further aggravated the challenges associated with inaccessibility in urban areas especially for Persons with Disabilities, it has also made us realise the importance of creating accessible infrastructure and services for all. There is a dire need to tap the potential role of technology, data driven services, universally designed infrastructure and creating provisions for social services and support system in order to respond to the challenges and barriers faced by Persons with Disabilities and create a user friendly, efficiently designed and equitable environment for all.

“The future is accessible but it’s only accessible when we choose it to be accessible”.
Dr. Victor Santiago Pineda



DAY 2

WEBINAR SERIES



Ms. Shivani Gupta

Founder, AccessAbility

Ms. Shivani Gupta is the chief consultant and founder of AccessAbility, a renowned cross-disability consultancy working for the inclusion of persons with disabilities for over 20 years with a focus on creating accessible and inclusive environments. With lived experiences of disability Shivani's consultancy has enabled her to collaborate with multiple stakeholders including UN agencies, corporate houses and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities on various aspects of inclusion and accessibility initiative such as accessibility audits for public buildings and spaces, creating disability inclusive disaster management plan for an Indian state, creating accessible tourism routes, addressing policy interventions for inclusion and so on.



Ar. Kavita Murugkar

Disability Inclusion Expert, Associate Professor, BNCA

Prof. Kavita Murugkar, is an architect, Universal Design evangelist and a senior faculty at the B. N. College of Architecture (BNCA) in Pune and has helped to introduce Universal Design in the syllabus framework of many universities across the country. Her work has been recognized with the internationally acclaimed ZERO PROJECT AWARD, at the United Nations Headquarters, Vienna, as an innovative practice for empowering people with disabilities. She has been empanelled by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Disability Affairs Department Archaeological Survey of India, Ministry of Tourism, as an Accessibility auditor, consultant and trainer. Her efforts in this direction started 10 years back when her own son was diagnosed with borderline autism.



Prof. Gaurav Raheja

Professor, IIT- Roorkee

Dr. Gaurav Raheja is a Professor of architecture, a design thinker and a well-known expert on universal design, accessibility and inclusion from IIT Roorkee. He's also a Professor Incharge for Inclusion and Accessibility Services at IIT Roorkee. Prof. Raheja is a strong advocate of human centric and social design approaches with a focus on invisible populations including children, persons with disabilities, elderly and other diverse population groups. He has been a key advisor and a consultant for various accessibility projects and initiatives under Accessible India Campaign including audit of Prime Minister's Office, New Delhi Railway Station, IGI Airport (T-3), among several others. He is a DAAD Research Ambassador and has been a visiting researcher /professor to various German universities like T U Darmstadt, T U Berlin, T U Dresden and University of Duisburg. Dr. Raheja was awarded the Mphasis Universal Design Award in 2010 by the National Centre for Employment of Disabled People.



Mr. Iain McKinnon

*Director, Global Disability Innovation Hub
Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, GoI*

Iain is co-founder and Director of Operations & Inclusive Design for Global Disability Innovation Hub (GDI Hub), an organisation born out of the 2012 Paralympic legacy programme on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, east London, UK. Iain originally trained as a Product Design Engineer and has always worked to develop creative and innovative solutions that address people's needs. His experience is predominantly in the inclusive/universal design of the built environment, ensuring the world around us is genuinely inclusive, creating equally positive experiences for all end users.



Ms. Mikaela Patrick

Global Disability Innovation Hub, London

Mikaela is the lead researcher on the Global Disability Innovation Hub's FCDO-funded AT2030 Inclusive Infrastructure sub-programme, a project investigating the state of inclusive and accessible environments in low-resource settings, a three-year study taking place in 6 lower-and-middle-income countries including Mongolia and India. Mikaela has a background as a researcher and designer, using participatory, spatial and design research in projects related to health, wellbeing and inclusion with a focus on people-centred approaches to develop equitable design solutions.

Moderated by:

Mr. Harpreet Singh Arora

Urban Advisor, FCDO-UK Government,

Mr. Harpreet Singh Arora has more than 15 years' of experience as Urban & Regional Economist and has worked extensively with various stakeholders at central/state/city level for infrastructure development related assignments.

Key Insights and Learnings:

The Webinar on “Disability Inclusion: From Approach to Practice” was the second webinar of the series “Building Accessible, Safe and Inclusive Indian Cities” planned under the BASIIC Programme. The series prioritizes peer-to-peer learning experience among experts, stakeholders, and citizens alike on defining inclusion in the Indian context and discussing about related good practices.


This webinar highlighted innovative yet practical approaches to “disability inclusion” to design and develop cities, spaces, and buildings. The discussion brought to light existing challenges and barriers for persons with disabilities in our urban areas and identified innovative strategies for transforming them into inclusive cities for all types of disabilities. The session included national and international subject matter experts and relevant stakeholders working actively across the various realm of disability inclusion and inculcating “Inclusive thinking” into the design of cities, space, and buildings.

The discussions highlighted the shortcomings in the provisions of access to work, livelihood, and community services, and, most importantly, accessible housing, creating an infrastructural barrier for PWDs to live independently. Lack of support systems for persons with Disability impacts the rural-urban continuum inevitable for socio-economic progression. **The entire spectrum of disability is vast and diverse; the needs and challenges vary with the type of disability.** For instance, persons with Intellectual disabilities often experience isolation, the stigmas attached, and denial for acceptance. Lack of services like early intervention services and inclusive schoolings contribute to these stigmas and lead to social and economic marginalisation and deprivations. Barrier-free infrastructure and Digital accessibility becomes critical for people with intellectual disabilities.

It was realised that unless efforts are taken to include Persons with Disability in all circumstances intentionally; it would result in PWDs being unintentionally excluded. **There exists a severe lack of useful quality data, such as measuring people’s quality of life essential to understand real issues.** Disability should not be clubbed with other vulnerable groups to specifically address the specific needs/ requirements are ignored and are left unattended. Disasters like Covid-19 pandemic have shown the drastic inadequacy not only of a robust health system but also in the manner at which the cities responded towards the needs of PWDs. The gaps need to be addressed in the response and recovery plans of the government to build back more inclusive communities. Persons with disabilities aspire to be included on an equal basis and their city to have universal design and provisions for support services. The smart cities through technology should focus on eliminating barriers and not increase them.

Persons with Disabilities should not be considered vulnerable but “EQUAL”
- Ms Shivani Gupta.


Investments in infrastructure without incorporating accessibility and universal design is a major gap that needs to be addressed. Engagement of multiple stakeholders, difficulties in procurement, construction&consistencyofinclusiveprovisionsaddstothechallenges.Despiteactsandlegislation, existing lacunas in the popularly used terminologies. For instance: Use of Discrimination and reasonable accommodation, swapping among terms Disability and disadvantages, tolerance for error (ref. point 5 of PoUD) in Principle of universal design, translation of Equity vs Equality often results in improper execution of the approach of Disability Inclusion into practice. **Also, wholistic sustainable development will include interconnecting all 17 sustainable development goals with inclusion and equality.** Right professional knowledge is crucial and should be supported by authenticated data and evidence, community support and legal sustenance. **Demand for inclusion, support from local network and dedicated funds encourages Inclusive planning of projects and policies.** Therefore, engagement with Civic societies and accurate participation of different groups of persons with disabilities play a critical role. Further, accountability and compliance should be built into the system.



Technology as a means of emancipation, sensitive and responsive design of spaces, and application of universal design, are few of the critical strategies for creating cities of all. Also, consultations and strengthening of support systems are essential to ensure that perspectives from the PWDs are taken for inclusive planning. **Constant engagement and feedback information could be used to generate better design and solution.** AT2030 programme of Global Disability Hub showcased the use of data, evidence, and engagement with end-users to make innovation and support new products and enable country-level implementation. **Technology can be used as an enabler to collect data and evidence, that leads to implementing change.** ARCCS (Accessible Routes from Crowd-sourced Cloud Services), voice activated control, IOT (how devices are connected), virtual reality (better visualise planning, access to historic sites) are some example of technologies that could record and provided rich data for urban designers and planners. Assistive tech is another innovation to be incorporated in smart city infrastructure. Learning from successful case studies like Queen Elizabeth Olympic park would be useful to implement an inclusive design in practice in other projects across the globe.

Accessibility is not a day's task but every day's work –Prof. Gaurav Raheja.

The discussion stressed on bringing attitudinal change in the society, seamless translation of Disability inclusion from an approach to practice through need assessment, collection of disaggregated data & evidence, retrofitting the current design thinking, and consequently leading to an inclusive design i.e., “Cities for all.” The discussion pointed at the adoption of a four-point approach of “empathise-establish-formulate-engage” to achieve the goal of “Cities for all.” The tenets of four points approach are imbibed into the design of the BASIIC programme at NIUA, which will be work with cities and other stakeholder to integrate and propagate similar philosophies into policy and implementation.



DAY 3

CONCLUDING SESSION

Empower through Inclusivity: Building an Inclusive, Safe and Accessible Urban India

3rd December 2020



If you LOVE taking pictures & have
“An Eye for Inclusion”
we invite you to participate in the
BASIIC Global Photo Contest

A 100 day photography challenge to mainstream disability inclusion in cities 3rd Dec 2020 to 13th Mar 2021

In collaboration with



To know more about the programme
<https://www.niua.org/projectdetails?pid=26>

Follow us on
<https://bit.ly/2FJQNEd>

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<https://www.niua.org>
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design it accessible

Let's make our cities inclusive

NIUA in collaboration with NOSPlan Organisation of Student of Planning presents to you an endeavour to promote research and awareness on the field of inclusive planning on The International Day of Disabled Persons 2020.

For further updates stay tuned to
www.niua.org & nosplan.com #Dignity_in_togetherness
#Dignity_in_Development #Dignity_in_NOSPlan



The theme of the brochure and the collaterals has been derived from relevant SDGs & internationally accepted colours and patterns associated with different aspects of disability inclusion. The colour scheme includes: **Blue** is international colour for accessibility; **Green** is the colour for mental health; **Pink** represents- Equity (SDG 10) in development and **Orange** represents Inclusive development (SDG11).



UK Government

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office pursues the national interests of the UK and projects the UK as a force for good in the world. FCDO promotes the interests of British citizens, safeguards the UK's security, defends the UK's values, works to reduce poverty and tackle global challenges with international partners.



National Institute of Urban Affairs

Established in 1976, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) was tasked to bridge the gap between research and practice on issues related to urbanization, and suggest ways and mechanisms to address these urban challenges of the country. For more than 40 years now, NIUA has been the vanguard for contributing to, and at times, building the urban narrative for a fast-evolving urban India. The Institution has been actively working towards bringing forth key areas of concern for urban India in order to build the urban discourse at various scales.

It has utilized its competencies in research, knowledge management, policy advocacy and capacity building to address the urban challenges, and continuously strive to develop sustainable, inclusive, and productive urban ecosystems in India. It has emerged as a thought leader and knowledge hub for urban development in India, and is sought out by both Indian and International organizations for collaborations and partnerships for India's urban transforming journey. NIUA is committed towards aligning its efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through all its initiatives and programs.

Empower through inclusivity

#BASIIC_NIUA
#AccessibleCities
#InclusiveCities
#SafeCities
#EmpowerthroughInclusivity

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