

Concept Note | E-Dialogue |

Building Cities for All - A perspective on disability inclusion in Urban Development"

Date- 31st January, 2022

11:30 AM (IST)

Event type: E-Dialogue

Duration: 2 hours

Organiser: AIILSG in collaboration with NIUA, supported by FCDO

Certificate: Certificate of participation to be issued to all the participants

Context setting

Urbanisation is one of the most important global trends of the 21st century. It has the potential to contribute to the “redesign” of our world supporting the creation of sustainable and inclusive cities for all. Out of About 6.25 billion people, 15% of them with disabilities are predicted to be living in urban centers by 2050. Urban environments, infrastructures, facilities, and services, depending on how they are planned and built, can impede or enable access, participation, and inclusion in society.

As of today, persons with disabilities living in urban areas all around the world continue to face dramatic challenges to participate in their communities due to a widespread lack of accessibility to the built environment. Barriers to the physical environment and to accessible information and communication impede their enjoyment of basic urban services; from housing to roads and public spaces, from public buildings to basic urban services such as sanitation and water, health, education, transportation, emergency and disaster response and resilience. These barriers directly impact on the disproportionate rates of poverty, deprivation and exclusion faced by persons with disabilities, but also affect the development of their communities as a whole.

Therefore, **it is imperative that we build cities for diversity, inclusion and equality so that all people are included socially and have equal access to services and employment.** By developing and enforcing accessibility standards, new transportation systems, pedestrian pathways, and information systems for PwDs, cities could open unprecedented opportunities to realize social inclusion of persons who have difficulty seeing, hearing, remembering, or moving around without assistance.

It is evident that in order to make our cities universally accessible and inclusive, it is important to consider the PwDs and their requirements while formulating the policies and designing and upgrading the public infrastructure within the cities. It is the collective social and governmental responsibility to make cities, infrastructure and services, both online and offline, accessible to every section of the society. This can be achieved through creating a knowledge-based ecosystem by building the capacities of government officials, municipal engineers, and other urban stakeholders within the government development agencies to help them understand the basic tenets of Disability Inclusion.

Urban think tanks, collectives, sector experts and institutions working actively towards knowledge management and capacity building are key agents in creating an enabling environment through timely and effective knowledge exchange to deal with everyday growing urban challenges through an engaging and collaborative effort with a wide range of decision makers, ULB officials and DPOs.

About the E-Dialogue on Envisioning Inclusive cities

To discuss more on the issues of making cities universally accessible and inclusive, and to further address the learnings from the Training programs conducted for the administrators and implementers within the urban ecosystem across selective Indian cities (Varanasi, Bhillai, Pune and Bhopal), the **All India Institute of Local Self-Government**, in association with the Building Accessible Safe Inclusive Indian Cities Program (BASiIC) implemented by the **National Institute of Urban Affairs** and supported by **Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office**, is organising an E-Dialogue titled-”**Building Cities for All - A perspective on disability inclusion in urban development**” on 31st January, 2022.

Purpose & Expected Outcome

Through this e-dialogue, the aim is to exchange ideas and set up discourses to develop universally accessible, and inclusive Indian cities.

The e-dialogue will be a multifaceted expert panel reinterpreting cities through the ongoing discourse, their experiences and expertise. It will also present project impacts and outcomes from the training on Disability Inclusion for the city officials through a multifaceted expert panel.

Intended Target Audience

This E-dialogue on envisioning inclusive cities is open to government officials and personnel including focal points for:

1. Smart city officials

2. Officials from Urban development departments & Development Authorities, Urban local Bodies,
3. Officials from Social welfare department,
4. Officials from Civil engineering vertical and other departments working towards developing programs, policies, technologies and service delivery for promoting Universal design at state/central level.
5. The webinar is also open to representatives from the **Academia, Architects, Planners, Designers, Urban transport and Mobility consultants, Interdisciplinary consultants, development agencies and think tanks** actively engaged in coordinating and implementing policies in the context of universal access and inclusiveness

Draft Agenda (11:30 AM - 13:30 PM IST Total Duration-2 Hours)

S No	Time (IST)	Activity	Speakers
1	11:30- 11:40	Welcome Address	Mr Abhishek Pandey, Editor, Urban Update (AIIILSG)
2	11:40-11:50	Inaugural address – Highlights on Indian Government initiatives towards Inclusive urban development and opportunities for PwDs	Mr Kunal Kumar (IAS), MoHUA
3	11:50-12:00	Context setting – Building cities for all- An imperative aspect of our commitment towards SDGs	Mr Hitesh Vaidya, Director, NIUA
4	12:00-12:10	Special Address – Improving diversity and Inclusion in Indian cities and role of FCDO	Mr Harpreet Arora, FCDO
5	12:10-12:20	Special Address – Inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities through social development schemes	Ms Anjali Bhawra, Secretary, MSJE

S No	Time (IST)	Activity	Speakers
6	12:20-13:00	Panel Discussion – Strategies for Building Universally Accessible and Inclusive Cities & Q & A session	⇒ BASIIC team member (Utsav/Kanika) ⇒ Dr Vasudevan (Varanasi) or any other official ⇒ CEO, SPV-Bhopal or Official from Nagar Nigam, Bhilai ⇒ Mr Subhash Vashist, Secretary, DDRC Nodal officer, Haryana (Red Coors) ⇒ Mr Prateek Khandelwal, Founder, RampMyCity
7	13:00 -13:15	Summary session – Augmenting stakeholders’ capacities to mainstream disability inclusion in urban development- Key takeaways from BASIIC Training & Capacity building programme	Mr Ravi Ranjan Guru, Deputy Director General, AILSG
8	13:15 -13:25	Closing Remarks and Way Forward	Mr Pashim Tewari
9	13:25-13:30	Vote of Thanks	Mr Abhishek Pandey