



From The Desk of the Director Academic & Chief Editor

India is a signatory to the United Nation Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2008. Also to realize SDGs 2030, it's necessary to work to realize human rights and development for persons with disabilities by removing barriers to their equal access. India's future demographic projections show an increasing trend towards ageing, disabilities, health limitations and new demands of societal transformations. The question is how to prepare our built environments for the diverse needs of people with disabilities, children, elderly, women and humans with other limitations amidst fast changing times? An obvious answer would be through being sensitive, being professionally aware and through implementing the idea of accessibility for all in every facet of the nation's development including urban infrastructures. Citizen behaviour and attitudes driven by social model approach instead of a medical or charity model approach to persons with disabilities, would play a critical role in shaping inclusive environments for future.

The present journal edition focuses on inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities and it is anticipated that every individual irrespective of age, gender, ability, health condition or socio cultural diversity enjoys equal opportunity to independently move, function, participate and perform the chosen activities of daily living and other life pursuits with dignity and independence. The role of a built environment can't be overemphasized in playing an enabling and empowering role to provide access to living with safety, convenience and with a sense of inclusion. The idea of universality, non-discrimination, equity and inclusion of diversity both in symbolic and real terms is well reflected in the Indian context. The progressive reality of twenty first century India needs to extend these thoughts into practice of urban futures and built environments, which at times play a crucial role in disabling or enabling a human experience. Universal accessibility in a broader sense forms one of the key means to include all, ranging from persons with disabilities to other diverse user groups in the urban Indian context. Creating human centric, safe and inclusive environments for all, will perhaps be the surest ways to prepare for the demographic transformations and challenges of age, ability, gender and cultures in Indian future.

Author: Prof (Dr) Renu Malaviya Dept. of Education, Lady Irwin College University of Delhi

Email: malaviyapersonal@gmail.com

International E-Journal: Disabilities Studies, Special Education & Rehabilitation.

Vol 7, No.1, 2024. ISSN: 2455-8001 (Online)



Having this understanding, this edition is an effort to consolidate research papers focused on creating inclusive and accessible communities in Indian cities. It is pertinent to mention that persons with disabilities, elderly, women and children along with other vulnerable population groups like ones with terminal health conditions, expectant mothers, persons with obesity or other invisible disorders, etc. need to be considered at all levels of design and planning decisions in built environment and services alongwith procurement and implementation processes. Equitable access would translate into access to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications. Universal accessibility leads to increased opportunities for people with disabilities to access employment and to fully participate in the social, cultural, recreational, economic life of India.

Prof (Dr) Renu Malaviya
Director Academic & Chief Editor
International E-Journal:
Disabilities Studies, Special Education & Rehabilitation.
ISSN: 2455-8001 (Online)
www.voice4ability.com