

SRUTHY GEORGE | Prof. Lakshmi A

Accessible and Inclusive Urban Planning

DISABILITIES refer to any difficulties encountered to an individual's using. Body functions, doing any activities or in participation in it. (World report on disability 2011) .According to the Census of India DISABILITIES is any difficulty in seeing, movement, speech, hearing, mental illness, mental retardation, mental illness, or multiple of it. According to the World Health Organisation 15% of the world's population lives with an impairment or disability. In India 70 million of the population have disability and their needs are seldom considered while planning the urban environment which includes public transport, roads, parks, recreational areas, footpaths, buildings etc (World report on disability 2011). Countries all over the world are facing rapid urbanization. By 2050 the proportion of the world's urban population is relied upon to increase to approximately 57 % of the world's population.

Urbanization will affect the lives of over, 15- 20% of the world's population who live with, disabilities (United Nation Habitat III 2013). Developing countries like, India faces many challenges in, urban planning, often due to poor resources allocation, capacity constraints, and competing priorities. Unplanned urbanization has put stress on equitable provision, of public services, inaccessible, and insufficient infrastructure, and inefficient design of public buildings, and housing, and limited, access to affordable and accessible, public transport. These barriers have contributed to growing exclusion, and, inequalities of persons with disabilities and other, marginalised groups. Making towns and cities, accessible and inclusive for all people, including, persons with disabilities is crucial for sustainable urban development and also to preserve human rights.