

**SRUTHY GEORGE | Dr. Shailaja Nair**

**A city for all :*Making disabled friendly smart cities* :Case of Thiruvananthapuram**

DISABILITIES refer to any difficulties encountered to an individual using body functions, doing any activities or participation in it. (World report on disability 2011).

According to the WHO, 15% of the world's population lives with disability. In India, 2.68 Cr persons are disabled which is 2.21% of the total population. However, the needs of people with disability are seldom catered. Unplanned urbanization has put stress on equitable provision, of public services, inaccessible, and insufficient infrastructure, 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, including, persons with disabilities is crucial for sustainable urban development and to preserve human rights.

The Smart Cities Mission India is the greatest opportunity to ensure the inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities in All new developments that will take place in India. This project aims to make Thiruvananthapuram a model disabled friendly Smart City by mainly focusing on improving access and mobility of persons with disability.

***Key Words: Disability, Accessibility, Barrier, Smart City***