BASIIC

Building Accessible Safe Inclusive Indian Cities
Countries around the world, for the first time in human history, will have more than half of their population residing in urban areas. The rapid pace of urbanization is and has been for the longest time a global secular trend in urban centres. Such a trend presents itself with a bouquet of opportunities as well as challenges that urban local bodies need to be wary of. As we prioritize on equitable distribution of benefits that a city life promises, it should be our endeavour to make efforts to include the vulnerable groups - the urban poor, women, children, youth, senior citizens and persons with disabilities into this discourse of city making and urban development.

The global average of people with some form of disability is around 15%. As per National Census 2011, India has around 3 crore persons ‘disabled’, which amounts to 2.21% of the total population. In India, it is estimated that nearly 25% of the population need universal accessibility in order to live independently and with dignity. More than the numbers it is important to ensure that our society is built for everyone, including the most vulnerable and often the most marginalized. Hence, universal access and inclusive approach should be adopted as ‘THE’ path to achieving sustainable and inclusive development.

More recently, Government of India has been taking positive steps to mainstream the dialogue on the inclusion of the vulnerable groups, especially persons with disabilities. However, as cities attract more and more people to fulfill their dreams with the promise of a better quality of life, it is pertinent to ensure that cities are also cognisant to the needs and aspirations of the marginalised groups.

It is in this context that the Building Accessible, Safe & Inclusive Indian Cities (BASIIC) programme has been implemented by the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) to support Indian cities towards ensuring universal accessibility. Moreover, BASIIC aims to augment and strengthen the institutional capacities of cities to be sensitive to the needs of persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups. Since 2019, the programme has been actively working with key stakeholders to mainstream the dialogue on accessibility and inclusion to build “cities for all”.

Census 2011 estimates 2.21% of the total population as persons with disabilities. With the threefold increase in the number of disabilities in the Rights of Persons with disability Act, 2016, the percentage will increase exponentially. About 25% of India’s population need universal accessibility in order to live independently and with dignity.
There is a need to emphasize on ‘accessibility and inclusion’ as the right path for achieving sustainable development.

National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and support from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) of the UK Government is implementing the programme “Building Accessible, Safe & Inclusive Indian Cities (BASIIIC)” through a Technical Assistance Support Unit (TASU) established at NIUA. It endeavors to promulgate the tenets of accessibility, inclusion, and safety in the ethos of urban planning and design. This will be achieved through focused policy level interventions, pilot demonstration of innovative solutions, capacity development, and active research and knowledge creation on disability inclusion in urban planning and design.

Technical Assistance Support Unit

Technical Assistance Support Unit at NIUA focuses on the following four key areas under the BASIIIC programme. The programme actively engages with key stakeholders working on disability on a common platform, and supports national and sub-national governments to adopt and implement the principles of universal accessibility, safety and inclusive urban development.

- **Policy Advisory**
  - Development of Policy Briefs
  - Preparation of Toolkits
  - Revision of National Guidelines and Standards

- **Knowledge Training & Capacity Development**
  - Develop modules on tenets of BASIIIC
  - Train and certify city officials on the fundamental of disability inclusion
  - Scale the training modules to all 100 Smart Cities through the National Urban Learning Platform (NULP)

- **Technical Assistance to cities**
  - City Audit Report
  - Development of case studies
  - Support City Level Pilot Interventions
  - Establish an Ecosystem of City Stakeholders
  - Adoption of Participatory Planning Approach

- **Research & Knowledge**
  - Status of Persons with Disabilities in Urban India
  - Compendium of Best Practices & innovative solutions
  - City Level Insights Report
Knowledge Network

BASIIC has successfully created an urban Knowledge Network of experts, organisations, institutions, civil societies and academia working on disability inclusion to collaborate, promote cross learning opportunities and interaction among ecosystem of stakeholders. The network will not only initiate creation of a readily available expert linkage to connect for end-to-end assistance, but also be enriched further to grow as an enabling platform to facilitate interactions and possible collaborations in future.

#BASIIC_NIUA
#inclusionmatters
#AccessibleCities
#InclusiveCities
#CitiesforAll
#EmpowerthroughInclusivity

Our Partners in Change

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

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