

DISABLED FRIENDLY AND BARRIER FREE ENVIRONMENT

We are all physically disabled at some time in our lives. A child, a person with a broken leg, a parent with a pram, an elderly person, etc. are all disabled in one way or another. Those who remain healthy and able-bodied all their lives are few. As far as the built-up environment is concerned, it is important that it should be barrier-free and adapted to fulfil the needs of all people equally. As a matter of fact, the needs of the disabled coincide with the needs of the majority, and all people are at ease with them. As such, planning for the majority implies planning for people with varying abilities and disabilities. This is known as inclusive design or universally accessible design.

1. **Barrier-free environment:** Barrier-free environment enables people with disabilities to move about safely and freely and use the facilities within the built environment. The goal of barrier free design is to provide an environment that supports the independent functioning of individuals so that they can participate without assistance, in everyday activities. Therefore, to the maximum extent possible, buildings / places / transportation systems for public use will be made barrier free.
Make institution (building, approaches, toilets, playgrounds, laboratories, libraries etc.) barrier free and accessible for all types of disability.
2. **Mechanized equipment's** for supporting the disabled should be made available in the institution.
3. **Collection of regular information on Persons with Disabilities:** There is a need for regular collection, compilation and analysis of data relating to socio-economic conditions of persons with disabilities.
4. **Communication needs** of the persons with disabilities will be met by making information service and human assistance in the institution. Appropriate technologies will be used to provide information for the persons with disability.
5. **Parent-Teacher counselling** and grievance redressal system will be set up in the institution.
6. **Make places for recreation**, cultural activities and sports, hotels, beaches, sports arenas, auditoriums, gym halls, etc. accessible.
7. **Formation of Sports organizations and Cultural societies** for persons with disabilities will be encouraged. Identification of talent amongst persons with disabilities in different sports should be encouraged.

Source: **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** (<http://socialjustice.nic.in/>)