

TRAINING TO TRAIN ACCESS AUDITORS

Accessibility benefits all users and not just persons with disabilities. However, for persons with disabilities it is a pre-requisite for participation. Considering the importance of accessibility, the Government has launched a national flagship 'Accessible India Campaign' to improve accessibility. More details of the campaign can be viewed on [http://www.disabilityaffairs.gov.in/content/accessible_india.php]. The government believes that the campaign is just a beginning and by the end of the campaign tenure provision of accessibility would get engrained into the system where all services and facilities will be mandated to comply with accessibility norms.

2. In future the Campaign is going to create awareness about need for accessibility in private infrastructure also. Many private organizations and Public Sector Enterprises have already working for creating accessibility in their infrastructure. All these developments indicate need for significant number of access auditors in the country. With the updation of National Building Code, State Govts. would be mandated to verify accessibility standards before approving the plan for a new building. So, it will be important to train officials of Public Works Departments and Municipal Corporations from various State Govts. on need for accessibility and accessibility standards.

3. The Department plans to create a pool of about 1000 access auditors, who may be available in all the States for conducting access audit.

4. Expression of interest from educational institutions/non-governmental organization/individuals/registered societies/Trusts from all over the country is being invited to be training providers to provide training to 100 candidates to conduct access audit, each in two modules of 15 days i.e. 50 trainees per module.

5. The curriculum is geared to address gaps in knowledge of accessibility for professional already working in the construction field. The mode of the workshop will encourage self and group learning through group activities and interaction with persons with disabilities.

Curriculum Details

6. The curriculum is especially geared to support professional already working in the construction field. The training would address accessibility needs of all disability constituencies and focus aspects of physical accessibility. However, since the aim of the accessibility audit is to recommend ways to make the service accessible rather than focus on only physical building, the training would additionally provide an overview of additional accessibility requirements needed to make particular service accessible. The participants

would get a holistic and deeper understanding of accessibility to undertake good quality audits.

Considering this the training would aim to:

- 1. Sensitize participants towards all disability types and
- 2. Understand barriers and accessibility requirements for persons with disabilities.
- 3. Undertaking accessibility audit of built environments

The mode of the training will encourage self and group learning through group activities and interaction with persons with disabilities.

The curriculum is divided in five modules. Brief outline of each module is given below

Module 1: Importance of Accessibility – Accessibility is a pre-requisite for the participation of persons with disabilities. It not only enables persons with disabilities but benefits all users of the environment including the elderly, children, women, people who may be unwell etc. Accessibility is a development issue and not something specific to disability therefore address accordingly.

Learning outcomes will include

- Appreciating the importance and universal benefit of accessibility
- Accessibility needs to be looked at beyond a disability issue and considered a development issue.

Module 2: Legal and implementation aspects relating to accessibility – Awareness of International, regional and national frameworks regulating accessibility of public places. Exploring the implementation mechanism in the country.

Learning outcomes will include

- The legislative and implementation framework for accessibility in India
- CRPD and accessibility – unbundle non-discrimination, reasonable accommodation, progressive realization and universal design in light of accessibility

Module 3: Understanding barriers and accessibility requirements for persons with disabilities – Persons with disabilities are a heterogeneous group with different accessibility requirements. An inclusive environment is one that addresses needs of all disability constituencies. Identifying barriers faced by persons with disabilities is first step of undertaking an accessibility audit. Accessibility solutions

would be based on the barriers identified and these may include recommendation for the physical environment, information or communication or building management policies.

Learning outcomes will include

- Accessibility for different disability constituencies
 - What are the different needs of different disability constituencies?
 - Accessibility to built environment
 - Accessibility of communication and information
 - Building management and service accessibility policies

- Look at accessibility of public services and facilities such as public transport, education institutions, hospitals/health center, tourist places and hotels, workplaces etc. in a holistic manner beyond physical accessibility

Module 4: Accessibility space requirements and accessibility standards – The module will look at the anthropometric requirements of persons with disabilities and a review of the accessibility standards.

Learning outcome will include

- Exploring the anthropometrics for person with disabilities
- Reviewing the accessibility standards in India

Module 5: Accessibility Auditing, report preparation and presentation – participants will undertake an actual accessibility audit of a public place in groups. Each group will then prepare their report and present their report to everybody

Learning outcome will include

- Practical experience of doing an audit and report writing
