



Health and Built Environment: Promoting Accessibility to the Persons with Disability

R Harihara Prakash

Sardar Patel University, India

Abstract:

India is a country with different caste and religions. People have different views and opinion about their beliefs according to their religion. In addition, more than 70% of population lives in rural part of India where education level is very poor.

Disability is considered as burden, useless and having nothing to contribute to the welfare of society. However, both government and non-government organizations have taken steps towards awareness of disability in India and condition of disabled people is getting improved slowly. The attitude of society towards persons with disabilities plays a major role in improving the condition of this special population. Since more than two percent of total population of India is disabled, it is important to know the attitude. Persons with disabilities face problems in day to day life, in education, job and rehabilitation services due to negative attitude of society which is to be corrected. The impact of awareness campaign done by Gos and NGOs changes the people's mind set towards persons with disability and brings in inclusion in the society which is the primary need. The built environment includes all of the physical parts of where we live and work (e.g., homes, buildings, streets, open spaces, and infrastructure). Even for normal persons

without any disability the built environment influences his or her level of physical activity. For example, inaccessible or nonexistent sidewalks and bicycle or walking paths contribute to sedentary habits. These habits lead to poor health outcomes such as obesity, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and some types of cancer.

It is also known that public places and transportation are not accessible for persons with disabilities. Government spend huge amount of money for infrastructure but if a person with disability can not use them, it is a big issue. It is the society which makes a person, who is handicapped, a disabled by not providing such infrastructure according to their needs. So, here arises the collaborations across multiple disciplines such as health care professionals, transportation, urban planning, architecture, and public health law to create a barrier free environment to promote accessibility to all.

Biography:

R Harihara Prakash is the Principal and Professor at K M Patel Institute of Physiotherapy, Karamsad. He has 18 years of professional experience in clinical as well as academics. He is a Doctorate in Physical Therapy from National University of Medical Sciences, Spain. He was awarded with Rashtriya Vidhya Saraswathi Puraskar Award for his excellent contribution in academics. He was former Dean, Faculty of Physiotherapy, Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Punjab. He is in the Editorial Board and peer reviewer for some international journals. He is also in the panel of NAAC. He has obtained various skills by certification in the field of neurology, osteopathy, manual therapy from various countries. He has published and presented research papers in various national and international conferences. He is an eminent speaker and an academician.