



# DEBABRATA CHAKRAVARTI

Universal Design Specialist

## ABOUT ME

**Catalyst Inclusive Environments | Spearheading Accessibility & Mobility Solutions | Passionate about Inclusive Tourism | Driven by the pledge of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to "leave no-one behind"**

21 years of experience as Access Auditor and Walkability Gap Analyst. Global recognition as Universal Design Expert. Master Trainer and Specialist-inclusive mobility, built and transport ecosystem, pedestrian environment, tourism sites, and heritage monuments. Championing DEI, he transform organizations, cultivating spaces rich in diversity, equity, and inclusive excellence.

Creating a barrier-free, universally-accessible environment is his passion and making the World Accessible his goal.

## EDUCATION

Research Scholar, University of Delhi  
Graphic Designer, NIIT  
Post Graduate, University of Jadavpur  
B. Com. Graduate, University of Delhi

## SKILLS

- Built Environment Accessibility
- Universal Design
- Diversity Inclusion
- Policy & Standards Formulation
- Capacity Building & Awareness Raising
- Gap Analysis and Design Appraisals to enhance Inclusivity
- Impact Evaluation of Development Projects with accessibility lens
- Accessible & Inclusive WASH
- Policy Advocacy

## EXPERIENCE



### Director

2009 - ongoing

[Samarthyam](http://www.samarthyam.com) ([www.samarthyam.com](http://www.samarthyam.com))

- Disseminates and implements 'Accessibility Awareness and Inclusion Strategies' through a novel model, which primarily focuses on promoting an enabling environment.
- Undertake an action oriented approach to mainstream persons with disabilities and to live quality life with dignity.
- Empaneled Access Auditor, Govt. of India

### Access Auditor

2004 - ongoing

[Built Environment](#) | [Transport Ecosystems](#)

- Cross-disability focused, -disability, -age and -gender friendly elements are emphasized to implement universal accessibility and user-friendly environment.
- Making public transport system and pedestrian infrastructure accessible and promote 'first and last mile' connectivity to persons with disabilities and reduced mobility.

### Walkability Auditor

2007 - ongoing

[Streetscape](#) | [Development Corridors](#)

### Lead Campaign Organizer

2010 - ongoing

[Make The Right Real, India](#)

- Integration and promotion of disability rights and disability inclusion into institutional and community structures, processes and mechanisms.
- Actively involved in building partnerships on SDGs - Empowering Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) in India.
- Leave behind legacy of Disability Inclusive 2030 Agenda and Disability Inclusive Decade 2032.
- Right2Pee, Right of Way and One Billion Rising

## MEMBERSHIP

- NITI-CSO, NITI Aayog, Government of India
- Committee on Functional Requirements in Buildings, Bureau of Indian Standards, Government of India
- Indian Roads Congress
- Steering Committee, Accessible India Campaign
- Clean Air Initiative, Manila, Philippines

## STANDARDS AND CODES FORMULATION

- Non-negotiable Accessibility Standards for Built Environment, Rule 15 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016, Government of India, 2025
- Functional Requirements in Buildings, Part 3, The National Building Code, Bureau of Indian Standards, Govt. of India, 2010- ongoing
- Parameters for Assessment of Accessibility in Higher Education Institutes, UGC, Government of India, 2024
- Standards for Accessible Schools, UNICEF, 2015-23
- Formulation of Harmonized Guidelines for Ministry of Urban Development, 2010 and authored the Harmonized Guidelines and Space Standards for persons with disabilities and elderly, 2016. Notified by Gol as national accessibility standards under the RPwD Act 2016
- Framing of Universal Design Guidelines for Refugee Camps and villages, Bangladesh, 2009
- Indian Roads Congress, co-authored Codes on Pedestrian Facilities and Urban Roads, 2007- ongoing
- Design Guidelines for Safer Commute to Schools, Indian Roads Congress, 2022
- Guidelines Home Based Education For Children With Disabilities: Parents, Teachers, Special Educators; UNICEF, 2021 (published on Diksha Portal, Gol)
- Accessibility Code for Educational Institutions, Ministry of Education, Government of India, 2021
- Accessibility Guidelines for Sports Complex and Residential Facilities for Sports Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Sports & Youth Affairs, Government of India, 2021
- Access for All, Concise Version of National Building Code, American Indian Foundation, 2019
- Technical Leaflet “Right of Way” & “Traffic Police & Hum Tum” for Professionals, Administrators and Planners published by National Trust, MSJE, Government of India, 1998-2019
- Guide Book on Making Schools Accessible for Children with Disabilities, UNICEF, 2018
- IRC: SP:117-2018, Manual on Universal Accessibility for Urban Roads & Streets, Indian Roads Congress, 2018
- Urban Roads Manual, Indian Roads Congress, 2018
- Guidelines on Health Services and Facilities for Women with Disabilities, USAID, 2016
- “Training Manual to promote Universal Design- Training of Trainers on Access Audits”, Third Edition, Rehabilitation Council of India, 2015
- Handbook Air Travel: Sensitization and Training, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, 2015
- Practitioner’s Manual on Inclusive WASH: Schools and Public Spaces, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, 2015
- Technical Brochures on “Access for All” and “Internal & External Design Considerations” for Professionals, Administrators and Planners, published by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India and Samarthyam, 2014-15
- School Audit Toolkit, UNICEF India, 2014
- Universal Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian, Non-motorised Vehicles and Public Transportation, 2014
- Guidelines on Barrier free Environment for Children with Disabilities in Schools, DFID and VSO, UK, 2014
- Guidelines on Universal Design in Hospitals & Residential Facilities, 2014
- Universal Design Toolkit on Public Transit Systems: Facilities & Services, 2013

## STANDARDS AND CODES FORMULATION

- Universal Signage & Way Finding Design Guidelines, 2012
- IRC: 103 Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities for Indian Roads Congress, 2012
- UTTIPEC Street Design Guidelines for Government of NCT Delhi, India, 2012
- Access Advocacy Toolkit for VSO India, DFID and CBM, 2012
- “Training Manual to promote Universal Design- Training of Trainers on Access Audits”, Second Edition, published by Rehabilitation Council of India, Government of India, 2009
- “Handbook on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction”, Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) for inclusion of persons with disabilities in disasters, 2009
- Access ABCD- Booklet on Barrier Free Environment in Internal Design Considerations for persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities published by for National Trust, Government of India, 2007

## CO-RESEARCHER

- Building Partnerships and empowering the Organizations of People with Disabilities (OPDs) women with disabilities leaders on SDGs in India, Sightsavers and European Union, 2018-2021
- Schools for All, UNICEF and National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Government of India, 2018-23
- A Rapid Desk Based Study on Disability Considerations for Infrastructure in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, DFID, 2016
- Accessibility & Safety Audit Report, Bandra Station, Mumbai; UNESCO, 2015
- Universal Accessibility in Walkability, Non Motorised Vehicles and Public Transport Infrastructure, MoUD, 2014
- WASH Facilities for Persons with Disabilities, Jharkhand, India, 2013
- Anthropometrics of persons with disabilities: Users of Mobility & Other Aids. New Delhi, DFID, VSO and Government of India, 2012-13
- Accessibility Research and Comparative Analysis of Building Standards & Regulations, DFID, VSO and Government of India, 2011
- Building Bye-Laws in various states of India, Government of India, 2010
- Action Oriented Research Project on Community Accessibility & Inclusion Audit, World Vision, 2010
- Research on Right of Way in Road & Street Infrastructure for Persons with Severe Disabilities, National Trust, Government of India, 2008
- Road Safety Aspects and Street Infrastructure for Persons with Disabilities and Elderly with implementation strategies for 1 km area in Central Delhi, Government of NCT Delhi, 2006-07
- Braille Registration plates and Audio Meters in Auto Rickshaws, Government of NCT Delhi, 2006-07

## **ACCOMPLISHED FOSTERING ‘ENABLING ENVIRONMENT’ PROJECTS**

- Access audited 1750+ buildings/ sites and transportation hubs
- Team Lead and Advisor on Strategic Planning of Flagship “Accessible India Campaign” Government of India, 2015- ongoing
- Champion of “Right to Education (R2E) project” on inclusive education for children with disabilities in schools, 2012- ongoing
- Team Lead, “Empowering Persons with Disabilities”, UNESCAP, 2019-2023
- Team Lead, “Making schools and anganwadis accessible”, UNICEF India, 2019-2022
- Authored Global Monitoring Report on Education: “Schools Accessibility for Children with Disabilities”, UNESCO, 2019
- Team Lead, “Leave No One Behind”, Project on empowering people with disabilities and organizations on Sustainable Development Goals, 2016- ongoing
- Authored Guidebook on Making Schools Accessible for Children with Disabilities, UNICEF India, 2018 and Accessibility and Inclusive Education, UNICEF HQ, New York, 2014

## **GLOBAL OUTREACH**

- Working Group on Asia Pacific Decade Review by UN ESCAP, Thailand, 2023
- Workshop Co-organizer “Universal Accessibility”, 4th World Conference on Shelters of Survivors of Violence, Taiwan, 2020
- Co-speaker, Accountability, Advancing rights of women with disabilities, AWID Forum, Brazil, 2016
- Lead Speaker, United Nations, Zero Project Conference on Schools for All, Vienna, Austria, 2016
- Workshop Co-organizer “Universal Accessibility in Shelters”, 3rd World Conference on Shelters of Survivors of Violence, United Nations, The Hague, Netherlands, 2015
- Observer, South Asian Feminist Regional Forum, Economic, Social & Cultural Rights, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 2015
- Observer, 2nd Working Group, Make the Right Real, Incheon Strategy, UNESCAP, India , 2015
- Representative Women with Disabilities, India, 58th Session of CEDAW, HQ United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, 2014
- Leader, India Delegation on Right to Sanitation Campaign in South Asia, Kathmandu, Nepal, 2013
- 13th International Conference on Transport & Mobility for Elderly & the Disabled, New Delhi, India, 2012
- Co-organizer, Access for All Workshop, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 2012
- Speaker, 12th International Conference on Transport & Mobility for Elderly & the Disabled, Hong Kong, 2010
- Access Consultant for framing of Universal Design Guidelines for Refugee Camps and villages, Bangladesh, 2009
- Resource Person, “Access for All” Workshop, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 2008
- Participant, 11th International Conference on Transport & Mobility for Elderly & the Disabled, June, Montreal, Canada, 2007
- Resource Person, International Workshop on Implementing Accessibility Regulations, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 2007

## POLICY DEVELOPMENT

- Accessibility and Inclusive Workplace for Persons with Disabilities, 2023
- Policy for Women with Disabilities, Govt. of Rajasthan, 2022.
- Accountability, Advancing rights of women with disabilities, United Nations, 2016
- POCSO amendment on children with disabilities for NCPCR and National Trust, 2013
- Rural Habitat Policy on Universal Accessibility, 2009

## INCLUSIVE WASH

Pioneering effort in developing standards for accessible WASH (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene) facilities and services including detailed designs of accessible “All Gender” toilets for persons with disabilities, which are age and disable friendly.

## MASTER TRAINER ACCESS AUDIT WORKSHOPS

- *2016-24* Making Air Travel Accessible and Inclusive for Ministry of Civil Aviation and Airport Authority of India, Government of India
- *2016-24* Master Trainer, Accessible India Campaign, CPWD Training Academy, Ghaziabad
- *2016* Government of Odisha, Jharkhand, Goa, West Bengal, Delhi, and Chhattisgarh
- *2010-24* CPWD, Architects and Engineers, Gol
- *2021-22* Training of Master Trainer for 26 states with UNICEF, UNESCAP and INGOs (ongoing)
- *2023* OPDs and Government Officers of Madhya Pradesh
- *2019* Disabled Persons Organisations in 5 states of India – Gender Inclusion, and Advocacy Tools and Planning Strategies, Sightsavers India
- *2018* Engineers, architects, and planners- Raipur Development Authority, Naya Raipur Development Authority, Public Works Department, Delhi, Odisha, Kerala and Chhattisgarh
- *2016-18* UNICEF India, Training of Architects, Engineers and Planners for Inclusive and Accessible Schools in India
- *2016* Sightsavers- civil engineers, architects, corporate and collector
- *2014-15* CBM
- *2012-14* Universal Design Training Workshops- 10 states of India for civil engineers, architects
- *2013* Sanitation for All, Delhi NCR, Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar and Chennai
- *2010-12* Access for All workshops in 9 states of India covering 23 cities
- *2012* Unnati, Ahmadabad for 45 architects, interior designers and persons with disabilities
- *2011* Access for All workshop for IIT Bhubaneswar and BIT Mesra
- *2010* Unnati at Ahmadabad for 27 architects and interior designers
- *2009* National Trust, M/o SJE and BITS Mesra

## AWARDS

- Connect Karo Awards, WRI Ross for Sustainable Cities, 2018
- Best Innovative Policy Award, Zero Project, United Nations, Vienna, Austria, 2016
- India Sustainable Leadership Award, Most Influential Sustainability Leaders, 2015

## CONTACT



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