

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT- MPD 2041
MPD-2041-ONLINE PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON PERSPECTIVE OF PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES FOR MPD-2041
Wednesday, 21st October 2020

Agenda of the meeting

Time slot	Theme of Discussion	Moderated by
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Introduction to the event by DDA/ NIUA Welcoming the present organizations, DDA officials and participants.	NIUA
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Session begins. Interactive discussion with participants (<i>Break – out rooms if needed</i>)	Svayam, Ayushkama, Chronic Pain India, MBD campaign and NIUA
4:30 pm to 4:45 pm	Presentation of major emerging ideas to all	CSOs and NIUA
4:45 pm – 5:00 pm	Conclusion	All

Delhi Development Authority (DDA) in association with National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), is preparing the next Master Plan of Delhi 2041 (MPD-2041). Stakeholder and Citizen engagement is a vital component of the planning process envisaged under the preparation of MPD 2041. As part of the planning process, a series of discussions and consultations are being carried out with various stakeholders and civil society groups to seek their inputs towards driving the agenda of the Master Plan. So far, a series of meetings have been held with residents and RWAs from various housing typologies of Delhi such as plotted, group housing, unauthorized colonies and urban/ rural villages, the walled city, Youth, Markets and Traders Associations et.al.

Persons with disabilities face widespread lack of physical access to the built environment, from public spaces to mobility networks like roads and public transport, from housing to basic urban conveniences such as toilets, in education and workspaces. They also face barriers in recreational spaces, health and wellbeing spaces, and in accessing emergency response services.

This engagement looks at gaining insights from the experiences of Persons with disabilities into the complexities and challenges they face in accessing urban environments, infrastructures, facilities and services. It also aims to understand their ideas on how Delhi as a city can enable in fostering their overall development and ensuring quality of life.

Keeping these factors, a public consultation meeting was held with the persons with Disabilities on Wednesday, 21st October 2020, 3:00 pm onwards. Around 120 persons with disabilities, their support group organizations, including persons with experience in the field of Neurological medicine and former State Law and Enforcement officials attended the meeting. CSOs working in the field of uplifting lives for Persons with disabilities like Ayushkama Foundation, Chronic Pain India, Astha Foundation, Svayam Global Centre for Inclusive Environments, Main Bhi Dilli campaign and others facilitated this engagement initiative.

The format of the meeting was designed as to first inform the participants about the Master Planning process and then to capture maximum inputs and suggestions on issues faced by them navigating through and generally living in the city of Delhi.

Following key suggestions were made during the consultation meeting:

1. Identifying different physical and invisible disabilities and understanding the diverse needs of different disabilities

It is important to identify and understand the diverse needs of different disabilities. Accordingly, these must be addressed through different built environment design measures and planning provisions. A number of invisible disabilities, cognitive and learning and physical disabilities need to be brought into the ambit of all the policies and plans. This will include integrating the needs of people with disabilities into infrastructure development, education, design of public spaces to public transport to livelihood opportunities and creating accessible recreational spaces in the city. It is important to understand the changing needs with the intersectionality of gender, age groups and socio economic conditions etc.

The data so collected by agencies must include disaggregated data on all disabilities which then needs to be reflected in the city plans and local interventions.

2. Recognizing Persons with Disabilities as an important stakeholder and ensuring participation in the planning of cities:

It is important to establish Persons with Disabilities as an important stakeholder and end user group of the city spaces and services. Their participation in the decision-making processes can give them a chance to voice their opinions and share their challenges, empowering them to be an equal contributor to their community/ city's development.

3. Ensuring their Right to dignity by providing Persons with Disabilities equitable access to all the infrastructure and services in the city

Every city plan/ program must include Persons with disabilities as priority beneficiaries/ stakeholders. From the lens of city planning it is important to provide universal access to city spaces and services by ensuring planning provisions such as decentralized services, first and last mile connectivity, all-abilities city infrastructure for education, work, recreation, sports and health and wellbeing.

It is also important to mainstream their needs in the existing infrastructure by introducing design elements and technology to facilitate their mobility. The first step towards this is doing Built environment/ social audits and defining the accessibility rating for the existing city infrastructure.

4. Leveraging technology and built environment design to facilitate barrier free access

Technological aids like charging points for battery operated wheelchairs, pelican crossings, hydraulic lifts, audio/visual aids must be installed in public places.

Public spaces and buildings must include appropriate enabling measures like ramps with railings, lifts, tactile paths, colour coded paths and signage to direct towards these etc. for ensuring ease of access. People with autism require rooms in public spaces to calm down in case they are triggered in public spaces. Provision for calm room or rest room should be made in public spaces for the same

5. Sensitizing Persons with Disabilities towards various policies and plans of the city and their rights

While the participation from Person with disabilities is a key towards ensuring inclusion and accessibility, it is also important to sensitize and educate them about different city policies and plans having direct impact on their day to day lives, city departments that work for them and their rights and duties.

For this it is important to facilitate their reach to plans and policies by making audio/ braille and simplified and succinct versions of these documents available easily on an online one stop platform.