

Review of: "The Universal Accessibility Provisions in Educational Institutes of New Delhi, India"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Universal accessibility in public buildings related to educational buildings is rarely audited and seldom a part of the research agenda. Unfortunately, very less published work towards developing or formulating such a measurement framework for educational institutes are available in the Indian context. Assessment of universal accessibility provisions in educational institutes is an important issue in the built-environment development, particularly considering the context of persons with disabilities with the aim of inclusion and equity. Considering the scarcity of knowledge, in the literature, this paper is a timely piece. But I think this scientific communication is at a very early stage.

1. In the present literature, the 'accessibility' term is widely used in diverse domains and disciplines, but there is no universal definition of 'accessibility', firstly, I would recommend defining (may be taken from the previous definitions existing in the literature) "universal accessibility" it would comprise of **conceptual definition** followed by an **operational definition**.
2. Universal accessibility would be a complex measure for the educational building when considering the types of disabilities and respective accessibility remedies and provisions in the buildings. Building/ Campus Accessibility Index measure for the certification under the similar dimensions of **Equipment and infrastructures, Services, and Management**. Next issue would be to provide weightage to the dimensions while formulating the index. The index would help in ranking and comparing the institutes on the universal accessibility parameters. Dimensions and parameters need to be specified in present research inquiry.

I recommend that a major revision is warranted. I further point out the section wise comments below.

Major Comments

Introduction

- Although the introduction is well-cited and informative but doesn't fulfill its role and need to connect with the aim of the research, the aim to be enunciated in the last line of the introduction section followed by the structure of the paper.
- What is the relevance of listing so many laws and acts when RPwDs assessment is the aim of the research? How they are related to these bye-laws and acts what specific laws and acts infer what and how they corroborate in the research (this need to be mentioned)?
- The introduction doesn't infer the previous literature in the context, or status of previous or recent research (cited or uncited) to be referred to, the literature review is the extension and expansion of these points to be framed.

- No need to cite the obvious statements, almost every sentence is cited seems the lack assurance by the authors, and the paragraphs should reflect the author's own statement conclusions and be argumentative.
- The structure of the paper should be mentioned at the end of the introduction.

Literature Review:

- The majority of the literature is grey literature (government reports, rules & regulations). The policy documents and the grey literature can be reviewed separately and concluded in different sections.
- The 'literature review' on the research conducted in a similar field 'universal accessibility in public buildings like healthcare/ educational buildings/ office buildings and/or may be reviewed also.
- This section needs to explicate the status in terms of the existing literature on universal accessibility and its audit system.

Need for the study

- Need to re-frame the section 'need for the study'.
- Research needs to be very precise It should be specific to the research-specific need and policy-specific needs.
- The research gap is to be addressed well and clearly stated with previous and recent literature.

Materials and Methods

- The questionnaire framed should be in the line of research gap, research question, aim, and objectives of the research, it should reflect the research question and abridge the gap.
- Please present the overall methods of research in the flow diagram what objectives are fulfilled which answered the question?
- How research questions lead to the questions framed in the questionnaire and the succeeding analysis will fill the research gap, aim and objectives?
- The instrument of analysis seems feeble.

Discussion

How your research is in contrast or similar to the previous similar research?

Minor revisions Comments:

1. In Figure 1 the second box diagram states 'List of Hospitals in Delhi Identified'. It should be schools rather than Hospitals.
2. Table 1 in S.No. 2 "station 45" need to be corrected.

