PONDICHERRY UNIVERSITY

ACCESSIBILITY AUDIT REPORT – 2024

(An initiative of IQAC)

July 2024

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PONDICHERRY UNIVERSITY
ACCESSIBILITY AUDIT REPORT - 2024

PREAMBLE

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a comprehensive framework for addressing global challenges. SDG-4 strives to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. Providing accessibility to the physical constructed environment, digital infrastructure and campus services go a long way in ensuring such inclusion and equity of differently-abled students in a Higher Education Institution (HEI).

As per the Census 2011, the differently-abled population in India is 26.8 million. In terms of percentage, this stands at 2.21%. Government of India is committed to develop an inclusive society in which equal opportunities and access is provided for the growth and development of Persons with Disabilities.

- In India, the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights & Full Participation) Act of 1995 amended 2016 as The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016 asserts the rights of individuals with disabilities (PWDs).

- Accessibility and universal design are also emphasised in Article 9 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD). India has ratified and signed the UNCPRD in 2007.

- The "Accessible India Campaign" (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan), a nationwide flagship initiative to achieve universal accessibility for people with disabilities, was launched by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment's Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in 2015.

- The UGC has issued a letter to all universities regarding full implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 in universities and colleges and approved 3% reservation for persons with disabilities in admission and 3% reservation in jobs.

- The UGC had also issued Accessibility guidelines and standards for HEIs and Universities in 2022. Further, in a recent communication, UGC has stressed upon the imperative need to ensure full compliance with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016, across all educational institutions.

- The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 also envisages that education is the foremost primary measure to achieve economic and social mobility, inclusion, and equality. It highlights the inclusive practices to ensure quality education.

In this background, the first-ever Accessibility Audit in Pondicherry University was carried out during 10th – 11th July, 2024.

ACCESSIBILITY IN PONDICHERRY UNIVERSITY

In 2011, Pondicherry University won the national award for being the *Best Training Institution for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities* from the Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. Pondicherry University provides free education to differently-abled students in all the programmes. The Central Library houses the state-of-the-art Louis Braille Centre for the Visually-impaired students and scholars to access content using assistive technologies and gadgets. However, with significant addition to campus infrastructure, amenities and services over the years, and increasing student enrollment, an Accessibility Audit will bring to light the status quo in terms of barriers faced by the differently-abled stakeholders in the university.

ACCESSIBILITY AUDIT COMMITTEE AND ITS WORKING

A committee comprising of the following committee was constituted by IQAC to develop the accessibility checkpoints and chalk out the plan to carry out the Audit:
1. Prof. S. Victor Anandkumar (Chairman)
2. Dr. A. Chidambaram (Member)
3. Dr. K. S. Kuppusamy (Member)
4. Dr. Sukhvinder Singh (Member)
5. Shri. A. Selvaraj (Section Officer) (Member)

Further, in order to carry out the accessibility audit physically across all the campuses of Pondicherry University, four teams were formed in the main campus and the Principal or Centre Heads were assigned the responsibility in the Community College (a constituent college) and the other campuses in Karaikal, Port Blair and Mahe. The teams included persons with disability stakeholders from faculty, officers, non-teaching staff, research scholars and students who represented different categories of disability. Such an ethnographic approach to this audit lends authenticity to the findings and recommendations. The audit was carried out

over two days (July 10-11, 2024) in about 70 locations in the main campus besides all the buildings in the satellite campuses. The audit included a physical inspection of every building (academic units and administrative offices) and, common facilities and amenities (such as the Canteens, Bank, Post Office, Gyms, Convention Centre and Guest houses). The audit teams also met with differently-abled faculty, staff, scholars and students to listen to their first-hand experiences and perceptions of accessibility and inclusivity in Pondicherry University. The audit concluded with a team-wise and campus-wise reporting and debriefing session on 13.07.2024.

PURPOSE OF ACCESSIBILITY AUDIT

An accessibility audit for a university campus is a comprehensive evaluation of the physical environment, digital resources, and services to ensure they are inclusive and accessible to all individuals, including those with disabilities. This accessibility audit focused on the physical environment (space, buildings and amenities) only.

The goal of Accessibility Audit is

- To identify barriers that may hinder the participation and engagement of differently-abled stakeholders and
- To implement measures that promote equal access and opportunity.

By conducting an Accessibility Audit, we can:

- Identify areas for improvement,
- Implement necessary changes, and
- Foster a campus environment that prioritizes inclusivity and equal access for all students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

This not only ensures compliance with the Persons with Disabilities Act of 1995 and adherence to UGC guidelines and standards, but also creates a more welcoming and supportive educational environment in Pondicherry University campus.

BEST ACCESSIBILITY PRACTICES OBSERVED IN PONDICHERRY UNIVERSITY

1. These lifts are operated throughout the working hours. The lifts in the new multi-storey hostels are operational round the clock.
2. There is a dedicated battery-operated vehicle to meet the transport needs of differently-abled students (especially those with locomotor disability and visual impairment). It makes regular, scheduled trips around the university covering all the departments,

hostels and administrative building and live tracking of its location in the university campus is possible through a dedicated App.

3. The departments with consistently more visually impaired students and research scholars (such as the Subramania Bharathi School of Tamil Language and Literature, and Management Studies) have a streamlined system of engaging scribes for writing exams.

4. The HEPSN (Higher Education for Persons with Special Needs) Cell of Pondicherry University is active and spearheads the cause of students/scholars. Through weekly online meetings with differently-abled students and by serving as a service point to various requests (such as locating a scribe to write an exam for a visually-impaired students). HEPSN ensures a smooth transition of these students/scholars to the campus and successful completion of their education. HEPSN is led by Dr. A. Chidambaram (Associate Professor, Center for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy). Dr. K. S. Kuppusamy (Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science) serves as Counsellor.

5. The University has appointed a Liaison and Grievance Redressal Officer for persons with benchmark disabilities. Prof. Binu Zachariah (Department of English) currently holds this responsibility and receives the grievances from differently-abled stakeholders and liaisons with the respective administrative sections to redress those grievances.

6. The reservation for Persons with disabilities (PWDs) – both in admission and recruitments meticulously followed.

7. Request from differently-abled students for hostel rooms are considered on a priority basis and they are assigned ground floor rooms that are bath/toilet attached.

8. To make their services truly accessible, the University Library delivers books to the respective hostel/department based on email requests of differently-abled students staying on campus.

9. Most of the buildings in the university have ramps and wheelchair-accessible restrooms.

10. The free education for differently-abled students which was introduced more than a decade ago in Pondicherry University, is still continued, albeit with minor changes.

AUDIT OBSERVATIONS

(1) With specific reference to Locomotor disability

- About 23 checkpoints were used in the audit of the accessibility features with special reference to Locomotor disability. The majority among the persons with disabilities have a locomotor disability and it includes wheelchair and crutch users.

- It was noted that while all the buildings have ramps with side handrails, most of them are not constructed as per universal design recommendations (see Figure-1). Hence there is a need to re-construct or alter the existing ramps.
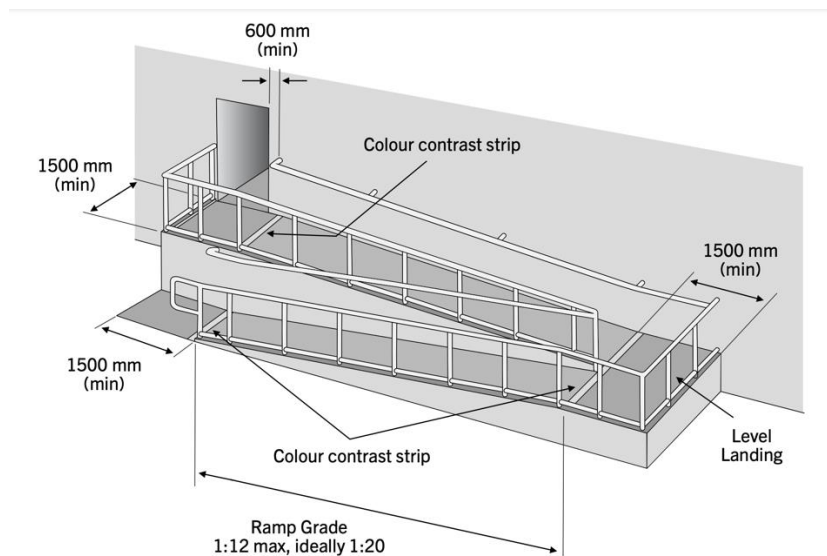
(Source: Rick Hansen Foundation)

Figure-1 Standard ramp features

- There is a need to sensitize stakeholders to provide clear and easy access to the ramps in the buildings. During the audit, it was noticed that the path leading to the ramps had several barriers for wheelchair users. The barriers include vehicles parked, construction materials dumped and a 90-degree turn from the road.

- Restrooms (with sliding doors) for wheelchair access were available in most of the buildings. However, they were noticed to be in a dilapidated condition as their use is minimal. The western-style sitting toilets (WC) require furnishing such as hand shower (health faucet) and handrails for wheelchair users. These accessible restrooms do not have emergency call buttons.

- The sinks (washbasins with mirrors) and the urinals (in men's restrooms) require thoughtful construction and installation at various height levels to provide easy and convenient access to persons with mobility impairments and dwarfism.

- During the audit, it was noticed that there are no designated/reserved parking spaces for the vehicles (be it three-wheeled modified scooters or cars).
- The bus stop shelters were noticed to have barriers for persons with mobility impairments. None of the on-campus transport utilities (buses, vans and battery-operated buggy) cater to wheelchair users.

(2) With specific reference to visual impairment

- About 17 checkpoints were used in the audit of the accessibility features with special reference to different visual impairments (from partial to full blindness). This segment of stakeholders include the white cane (assistive device) users.
- Signboards in Braille (tactile writing system) were not available except inside the elevators (lifts). Tactile pathways (to guide white cane users) were not available.
- For persons with low vision, colour contrast on signboards and steps in the stairs, and visual markers are required. The colour contrast stickers on steps offer anti-skid protection as well.
- While most of the buildings are well-lit through naturally light, some corridors were found to be poorly lit. Some of the elevators (lifts) were found to have nil or non-functional audible floor indicators.
- While there is an excellent facility for visually-impaired students at the Central Library that provides many assistive devices (such as screen readers, magnifying tools and so on), the same is not available in the department-level computer centres.
- Scribe use for students with visual impairment is widespread. However, there is a need to standardize/streamline the process for scribe use across the departments by bringing in appropriate systems and checks.

(3) With specific reference to hearing impairment

- About 8 checkpoints were used in the audit of the accessibility features with special reference to hearing impairments. This segment of stakeholders includes the assistive device/technology users.

- During the audit, visual alert systems (for example, flashing fire alarms) were not found.

- While many classrooms were large and were said to accommodate 60-75 students, most of them were not fitted with audio systems. Even those that had audio systems

(mic+speakers) did not offer uniform accessibility across the classroom space. This may constrain a hearing impaired student to occupy the front rows in the classroom or seminar hall.

- There was an observable absence of universal visual signs for different amenities in a typical academic/administrative building.

- Visual representations (displays), say of the workflow for fees payment or applying for an extension period, will help students and scholars with hearing impairment. Moreover, if there are enquiry forms with multiple options, then they can choose the option (for example, to apply for a duplicate certificate) instead of having to struggle and explain their requirements orally to the concerned staff in a section/department.

FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS BASED ON INTERACTION WITH PWDs

The Accessibility audit team had an interactive session at the end of Day-1 with differently-abled faculty, staff, scholars and students. It was an open forum wherein they were invited to share their specific, first-hand experiences as PWDs in Pondicherry University. Looking through the eyes of these stakeholders gave a unique insight into the accessibility barriers experienced by them and also their perceptions about the how accessibility provisions and inclusive measures are perceived by them. The following table summarizes the accessibility barriers experienced and suggestions/remedies to remove those barriers.

No.	ACCESSIBILITY BARRIERS EXPERIENCED	SUGGESTIONS/ PROPOSED REMEDIES
1.	Accessibility barriers in Central Instrumentation Facilities (CIF)	Accessibility features to be provided and support services staff to be sensitized and oriented
2.	(a). Hostel rooms with attached bathroom/toilet (b). Common bathrooms/toilets in the hostel	(a). Need to seek Indian or WC option while allotting (b). WC option to be provided
3.	Non-availability of Classical Tamil texts in Braille	Contact an NGO providing these texts for free
4.	Difficulty in obtaining suitable scribe at right time	SOP needs to be developed and followed for Scribe usage (including payment) Scribe/Reader volunteer database at HEPSN to be created
5.	Current system of free education wherein the student pays the fee and subsequently gets it reimbursed	Considerate policy decision to be taken by administration as upfront payment is unaffordable
6.	Dog menace in public spaces and even inside hostels	Considerate policy decision to be taken by administration as PWDs are vulnerable to this risk

7.	Commute inside the campus (including gate to hostel)	Contact details for EV to be shared with PWDs Create awareness about facility among PWDs
8.	Common Reading room in the hostel (Quiet ambience)	Suitable space to be earmarked for this purpose as having a PWD as roommate can lead to device/gadget noises in the room
9.	Need for single room for hearing-impaired students who use loud assistive devices	Hostel office to be sensitized and SOP for room allotment to be in place for compliance
10.	Poor road condition – high risk for PWDs' tri-wheelers	Laying/Repairing of roads
11.	Poorly lit roads and dark spots without street lights	Provision/Repair of street lights
12.	Aggressive wild life in residential areas (wild boars/pigs and dogs)	Considerate policy decision to be taken to address this risk as PWDs are vulnerable
13.	Ramp – non-suitability and blocked access (parking)	Ear-marking and supervision of parking spaces
14.	Buildings without lifts (Dept. of Management Studies, Dept. of Biotechnology and Cultural- cum – Convention Centre)	Installation of lifts after assessing for technical feasibility
15.	Temple not accessible for PWDs' tri-wheelers	Provision of barrier-free pathway
16.	Poor integration and interaction	Sports and events to be organized
17.	Accessibility barriers in the admin. building – long, inconvenient ramp and no wheelchair-accessible restroom	Installation of a wheelchair lift near the entrance; Every floor to have a wheelchair-accessible restroom.
18.	SOM auditorium is not wheelchair-accessible – be the sitting area or the stage	Suitable ramps to be provided to access both the stage and the sitting area (for audience).
19.	Absence of sign-language interpreters on campus creates barrier for stakeholders with hearing impairment	Stakeholders maybe incentivized to learn sign language and be available as interpreters; Important events to have live sign language interpretation

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has provided a list of Empanelled Access Auditors. After acting upon the high priority actions recommended by the Internal Accessibility Audit, it is recommended to engage an external Empanelled Access Auditor for a more comprehensive and professional audit.

2. In order to provide a more inclusive space, the wheelchair-accessible restrooms maybe integrated with other restrooms in the same space. Besides offering an inclusive space, they may also cater to persons without disabilities where they are unoccupied or unused.

3. All western-style sitting toilets (WC) need to be provided to hand shower (health faucet) and supporting handrails for wheelchair users.

4. At least one sink (washbasin) with mirror needs to be installed at an appropriate height for access by wheelchair users. Similarly, at least one urinal in men's restroom needs to be installed at an appropriate height for access by persons of short stature.

5. Reserved parking spaces need to be provided for the vehicles of persons with disabilities. They maybe indicated through signboards and markings on the ground, and provided near the ramps at the entrance to the buildings.

6. A curb cut (depressed ramp) at the drop-off areas in the buildings is necessary to provide access to wheelchair users.

7. Signboards in Braille need to be put up at suitable height for access by visually-impaired stakeholders.

8. At least in buildings with high foot falls (for example, the Library and its annex building), tactile flooring is required to guide white cane users for independent access to the building and facilities housed therein. Steps/staircases in all the buildings need to have visual markers (colour contrast, anti-skid stickers).

9. In the computer centres of those departments/schools (such as the School of Management and Subramania Bharathi School of Tamil Language and Literature) that consistently have had more visually-impaired students, assistive devices maybe provided (instead of providing a centralized access).

10. A standard operating procedure (SOP) maybe evolved to standardize scribe use across the departments – to address all concerns from provision of scribe to payment to scribe for the service rendered. Such an SOP ought to be derived from UGC guidelines for conducting written examination for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities.

11. Visual alert systems (for example, flashing fire alarms) need to be installed in all the buildings.

12. All large classrooms and seminar halls need to have Audio systems (mic+speakers) that offer uniform, seamless accessibility across the room.

13. Universal visual signs for different amenities in a typical academic/administrative buildings need to be in place for use/access by the hearing impaired stakeholders. Development and display of process flows (for example, hostel admission or scholarship application) in the offices is required to minimize conversation

requirements for the hearing-impaired students. Such displays will be self-explanatory and accessible for them.

14. None of the events in the University were known to have sign-language interpreters. Key events (such as convocation) which have a high likelihood of the presence of hearing-impaired students must provide on- or off- stage sign-language interpreters. Online meetings must use real-time captioning feature for the benefit of the hearing-impaired.

15. At the institution level, a representative from among Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) maybe included in bodies such as the Building Committee in order to address their concerns and interests.

CONCLUSION

The first-ever Accessibility Audit of Pondicherry University concluded with a debrief and reporting by the different audit teams, including those from the satellite campuses afar. It brought to light some of the best practices and inclusive measures taken up in the university. It also noted several areas to improve upon – be it in terms of the building infrastructure, campus amenities and services provided.

While there are statutory and regulatory requirements to be met, over and above is the imperative to create a culture of inclusion among the stakeholders and to provide an inclusive learning and working environment in the campus. Stakeholders with different types of disabilities are present and it is essential to create a level playing field for all of them and without leaving anyone disadvantaged. This audit did not look into cognitive and learning disabilities since it requires a rigorous and professional assessment. Also, parameters such as safety and emergency plans were not considered as they would more appropriately fit into an audit involving all the stakeholders.

Every stage in the student's lifecycle (from admissions to exit after graduation) is required to be inclusive. Hence, inclusion of PWDs ought to be ingrained in every activity of the university in a holistic manner. Inclusive education provides several benefits such as creating a sense of belonging, reduced prejudice and bias, respect for diversity and building of life skills. This accessibility audit was undertaken with a vision to reap those benefits in Pondicherry University.

Annexure-A

1. Committee to conduct Accessibility Audit

PONDICHERRY UNIVERSITY
(A Central University)

Dr. R. Vishnu Vardhan, MSc, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Dept. of Statistics
Deputy Coordinator & Ranking Coordinator (IQAC)
Pondicherry University

R. Venkataraman Nagar
Kalapet, Puducherry – 605 014
Off : 0413-2654597
Mobile No. +91-9487609603
Email : iqacac@pondiuni.ac.in

PU/Deputy Coo.,/IQAC(Accessibility Audit) /2024-25/77   Date: 24ʳᵈ April, 2024

Sir,

Sub: PU – IQAC– Constitution of Committee to conduct the accessibility audit for Differently – abled stakeholders of Pondicherry University– Reg.
****

I am to inform that the Vice – Chancellor is pleased to constitute a committee with the following composition to foster an inclusive environment, the University to undertake accessibility audit to assess all its physical and digital (e.g. the University website) infrastructure for seamless accessibility to differently – abled stakeholders and related activities.
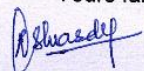
Sl. No.	Name and Designation	Status
1).	**Prof. S. Victor Anandkumar** Dept. of Management Studies & Liaison & Grievance Redressal Officer Persons with Benchmark Disabilities	Chairman
2).	**Dr. A. Chidambaram** Associate Professor & Head (i/c) Centre for Social Exclusion & Inclusive Policy	Member
3).	**Dr. K.S. Kuppusamy** Associate Professor Dept. of Computer Science	Member
4).	**Dr. Sukhvinder Singh** Assistant Professor & System Manager (i/c) Computer Centre	Member
5).	**Shri. A. Selvaraj** Section Officer Controller of Examinations	Member

The Chairman is requested to coordinate with the members and carryout this activity at the earliest possible time. The minutes of the meetings and related documents can be submitted to IQAC, Pondicherry University.

Your cooperation in this endeavor is highly solicited.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(R. VISHNU VARDHAN)
Deputy Coordinator (IQAC)

Copy to:
1. The A.R., O/o the V.C. – for kind information to the Vice-Chancellor.
2. The P.A., to Director (C&CR) – for kind information to the (C&CR).
3. The A.R., (OC), O/o the Registrar – for kind information to the Registrar.

2. Accessibility Audit – Constitution of team

PONDICHERRY UNIVERSITY
(A Central University)

Dr. R. Vishnu Vardhan, MSc, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Dept. of Statistics
Deputy Coordinator (IQAC), Pondicherry University

II-Floor, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Administrative Building
R. V. Nagar, Kalapet
Puducherry – 605 014
Off : 0413-2654597
Mobile: +91-9487609603
E-mail: iqac@pondiuni.ac.in

PU/IQAC/IAA/2024/108   03rd July, 2024

Sub: PU-IQAC- Conduct of the Internal Accessibility Audit for Differently - abled stakeholders of Pondicherry University-Reg.
***

I am pleased to announce that the Vice-Chancellor has nominated the following members to conduct the Internal Accessibility Audit. The audit is about evaluating all physical and digital infrastructure of Pondicherry University and its offshore campuses to ensure seamless accessibility for differently-abled stakeholders and related activities.

S.N.	Name & Designation	Role	Location
1.	Prof. S. Victor Anandkumar, Dept. of Management	Chairman	Pondicherry University
2.	Dr. A. Chidambaram, Coordinator, HEPSN Cell, Associate Professor & Head, Centre for Social Exclusion & Inclusive	Member	
3.	Dr. K.S. Kuppusamy, Associate Professor, Dept. of Computer	Member	
4.	Dr. Sukhvinder Singh, Assistant Professor & Systems Manager (i/c), Computer Centre	Member	
5.	Shri. A. Selvaraj, Section Officer, Controller of Examinations	Member	
6.	Dr. R. Vishnu Vardhan, Deputy Coordinator (IQAC)	Member	
7.	Dr. N. Vijaykumar, Assistant Coordinator (IQAC)	Member	
8.	Dr. G Subhalakshmi, Assistant Coordinator (IQAC)	Member	
9.	Prof. Kiruthika, Head, Women's Cell	Special Invitee	
10.	Mr. M. Sundaramohan, Information Officer, Computer	Special Invitee	
11.	Ms. Uma Swarna Manjari A, Central Library	Special Invitee	
12.	Girl representative from Student/Scholar	Special Invitee	
13.	Boy representative from Student/Scholar	Special Invitee	
14.	Prof. Yedla Venkata Rao, Dean, Students Welfare	Special Invitee	
15.	Prof. Binu Zachariah, Liaison Officer, Persons with Benchmark Disabilities, Pondicherry University	Special Invitee	
16.	Prof. R. Nalini, Dept. of Social Work	Special Invitee	
17.	Prof. C. Aruna, Dept. of Sociology	Special Invitee	
18.	Prof. Suraj Kumar Sinha, Chief Warden, Boys and Girls Hostels	Special Invitee	
19.	Prof. S. Bhuvaneswari , Centre Head, Karaikal Campus	Special Invitee	PU Karaikal Campus
20.	Prof. P. M. Mohan, Centre Head, Port Blair Campus, Andaman & Nicobar, Pondicherry University	Special Invitee	PU Port Blair Campus
21.	Prof. Lalitha Ramakrishan, Principal, Community College, Lawspet, Pondicherry University	Special Invitee	PUCC, Lawspet
22.	Dr. M. P. Rajan, Centre Head, Community College, Mahe	Special Invitee	PUCC, Mahe

The aforementioned members are requested to carry out the Internal Accessibility Audit (IAA) from **July 10, 2024, to July 11, 2024**, in the University's academic departments, administrative sections, hostels (boys and girls), canteens, mess, cafeterias, off-campus locations, and community colleges. The report and presentation is planned on July 12, 2024 in hybrid mode.

Your kind cooperation in this regard is highly solicited.

Yours faithfully

· DEPUTY COORDINATOR (IQAC)

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Annexure-B

Internal Accessibility Audit schedule

PONDICHERRY UNIVERSITY
INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE CELL (IQAC)
INTERNAL ACESSIBILITY AUDIT SCHEDULE (10.07.2024 to 11.07.2024)

TEAM I		TEAM II		TEAM III	
Prof. Binu Zachariah, Prof. C. Aruna, Dr. G. Subhalakshmi, Shri. M. Sundaramohan, Ms. Uma Swarna Manjari A, R. Lalnunthari, Pranav T.V, Ayush Anand		Prof. Kiruthika, Dr. Manisha Kumari, Dr. N. Vijayakumar, Dr. A. Chidambaram, Dr. Sukhvinder Singh, Shri. A. Selvaraj, Adelbert Majan, KM Anjali		Prof. S. Victor Anandkumar, Dr. R. Nalini, Prof. Suraj Kumar Sinha, Dr. K.S. Kuppusamy, Dr. R. Vishnu Vardhan, Er. A. Mourougavelou, K. Shiva Kumar, Sreedevi P.N.	
Day 1 : 10.07.2024 (Wednesday)					
10 AM to 10.30 AM	Management Studies	10 AM to 10.30 AM	Chemistry	10 AM to 10.30 AM	Sanskrit
10.35 AM to 11.05 AM	Commerce	10.35 AM to 11.05AM	Lecture Hall Complex II	10.35 AM to 11.05 AM	Hindi
11.15 AM to 11.45 PM	Banking Technology	11.15 AM to 11.45 PM	Biochemistry & Molecular Biology	11.15 AM to 11.45 PM	French
11.55 AM to 12.25PM	International Business	11.55 AM to 12.25 PM	Microbiology	11.55 AM to 12.25PM	English
12.35 PM to 1.05 PM	Economics	12.35 PM to 1.05 PM	Ecology & Environmental Sciences	12.35 PM to 1.05 PM	Philosophy
2.00 PM to 2.30 PM	Tourism Studies	2.00 PM to 2.30 PM	Central Instrumentation Facilities	2.00 PM to 2.30 PM	School of Education
2.35 PM to 2.45 PM	SOM Auditorium	2.35 PM to 2.45 PM	Animal House	2.35 PM to 2.45 PM	Applied Psychology
2.50 PM to 3.20 PM	LH- Complex SOM-I	2.50 PM to 3.20 PM	Electronics Engineering	2.50 PM to 3.20 PM	MMTTC
3.25 PM to 3.40 PM	Library & Information Sciences	3.25 PM to 3.40 PM	Computer Science	3.25 PM to 3.40 PM	South Asian Studies
3.45 PM to 4.10 PM	Performing Arts	3.45 PM to 4.10 PM	Canteen	3.45 PM to 4.10 PM	Lecture Hall Complex III

| TEAM I		TEAM II		TEAM III		TEAM IV	
Prof. Binu Zachariah, Prof. C. Aruna, Dr. G. Subhalakshmi, Shri. M. Sundaramohan, Ms. Uma Swarna Manjari A, R. Lalnunthari, Pranav T.V, Ayush Anand		Prof. Kiruthika, Dr. Manisha Kumari, Dr. N. Vijayakumar, Dr. A. Chidambaram, Shri. A. Selvaraj, Adelbert Majan, KM Anjali		Prof. S. Victor Anandkumar, Dr. R. Nalini, Prof. Suraj Kumar Sinha, Er. A. Mourougavelou, Sreedevi P.N.		Dr. K.S. Kuppusamy, Dr. R. Vishnu Vardhan, Dr. Sukhvinder Singh, K. Shiva Kumar	
Day 2: 11.07.2024 (Thursday)							
10AM to 10.30AM	Day Care & Preprimary	10 AM to 10.30AM	Shopping Complex	10 AM to 10.30 AM	Administrative Building	10 AM to 10.30 AM	History
10.35AM to 11.05AM	Earth Sciences	10.35 AM to 11.05AM	DDE & School of Law	10.35 AM to 11.05 AM	Controller of Examinations	10.35 AM to 11.05 AM	Social Work
11.15AM to 1.45PM	Biotechnology	11.15 AM to 11.45PM	Health Centre	11.15 AM to 11.45 PM	Students Welfare & Grievances Cell	11.15 AM to 11.45 PM	Politics and International Studies
11.55AM to 2.25PM	Bioinformatics	11.55 AM to 12.25PM	Staff Quarters	11.55AM to 12.25 PM	Bank & Post Office	11.55 AM to 12.25 PM	Sociology
12.35PM to1.05PM	Physics	12.35 PM to 1.05 PM	Chief Warden Office (Girls Hostel)	12.35PM to1.05PM	Canteen	12.35 PM to 1.05 PM	Social Exclusion & Inclusive Policy
2.00 PM to 2.30 PM	Mathematics & Statistics	2.00 PM to 2.30PM	Mother Theresa Mess	2.00 PM to 2.30 PM	Central Library	2.00 PM to 2.30 PM	Women Studies
2.35 PM to 2.45PM	Lecture Hall Complex	2.35 PM to 2.45PM	Women's Gym	2.35 PM to 2.45 PM	Guest House (1 & 2, Transit Hostel &)	2.35 PM to 2.45 PM	Anthropology
2.50 PM to 3.20PM	Pollution Control & Environmental Engineering	2.50 PM to 3.20PM	Directorate of Sports	2.50 PM to 3.20 PM	Community Radio	2.50 PM to 3.20 PM	School of Tamil
3.25 PM to 3.40PM	Green Energy Technology	3.25 PM to 3.40PM	Tiruvalluvar & Indoor Stadium and Rajiv Gandhi Stadium	3.25 PM to 3.40 PM	Chief Warden Office (Boys Hostel)	3.25 PM to 3.40 PM	Electronic Media & Mass Communication and EMRC
3.45 PM to 4.10PM	Nano Science & Technology	3.45 PM to 4.10PM	Physical Education & Sports	3.45 PM to 4.10 PM	Gents Gym	3.45 PM to 4.10 PM	Food Science & Technology
4.25 P.M. to 5.00 P.M Meeting with Students / Staffs of PWD at EC Hall							

TEAM V	
Pondicherry University Karaikal Campus	
10 AM to 10.45 AM	Management (KKL)
11 AM to 11.45 AM	Commerce (KKL)
12 AM to 12.45 AM	Computer Science (KKL)

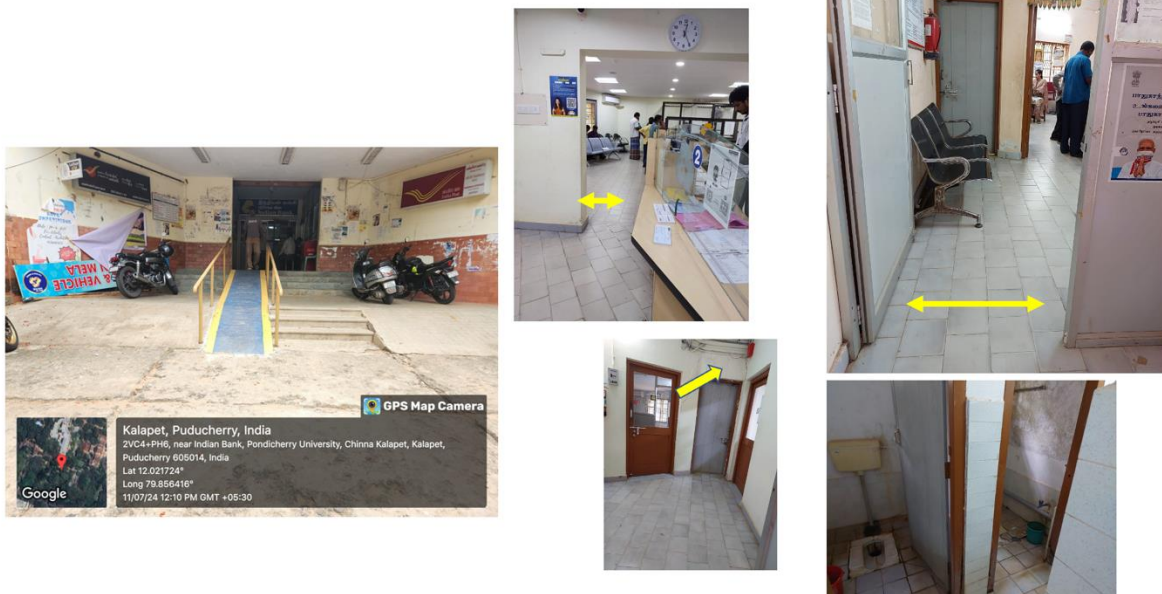| TEAM VI	
Pondicherry University Port Blair Campus	
10 AM to 10.45 AM	Coastal Disaster Management (A&N)
11 AM to 11.45 AM	Maritime Studies
12 AM to 12.45 AM	Ocean Studies and Marine Biology (A&N)

15

Annexure-C
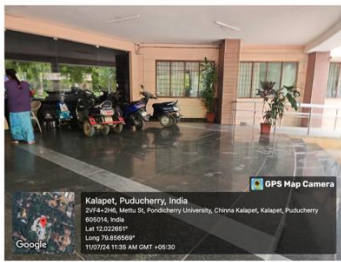Illustrative photographs

Cultural-cum-Convention Centre
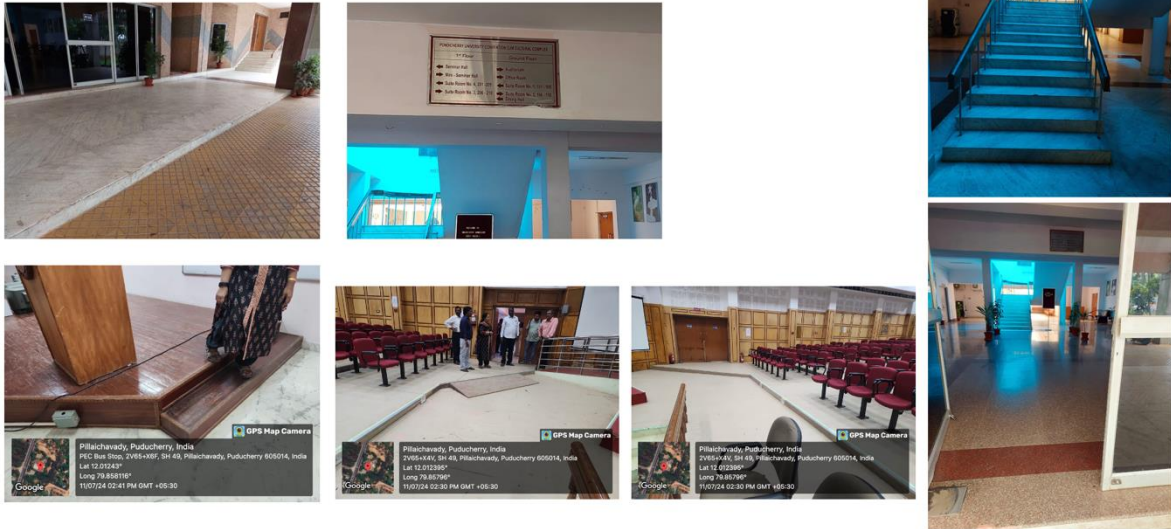
Indian Bank & Post Office

Examination section

Administrative building

Observations: Steps without colour-contrast indicators and anti-skid stickers pose a risk to the visually-impaired and the elderly while climbing

Recommendations: Location identified to install a wheel chair lift (between the ground and building levels). The existing ramp has a high elevation and a sharp turn.

Services building

Observations: This is one of the very few buildings without a ramp for wheelchair access. The restrooms are not accessible for wheelchair users and users with dwarfism

Recommendations: Ramp needs to constructed to provide wheelchair access. At least one urinal must be at a lower level for users with dwarfism and similarly one washbasin and mirror at an accessible height for wheelchair users

Canteen-1
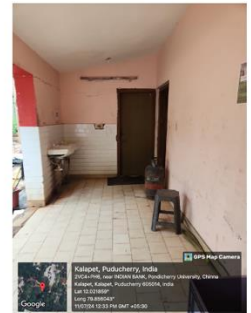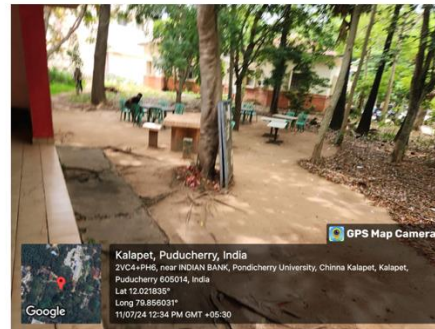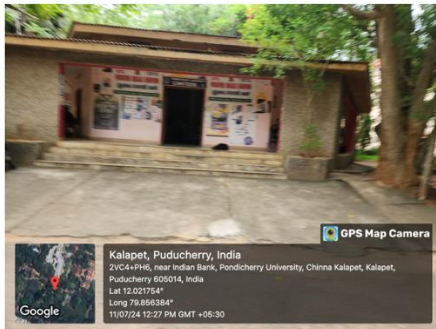
Central Library (incl. Annex)
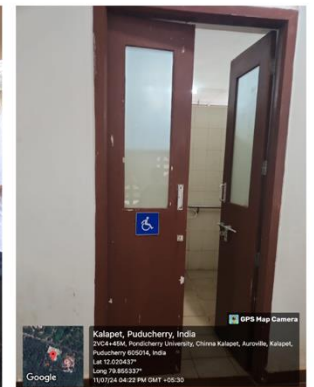
CLASSROOMS
(in Silver Jubilee campus)

Suggestion:

Needs improvement in accessibility for mobility, visibility, audio and seating
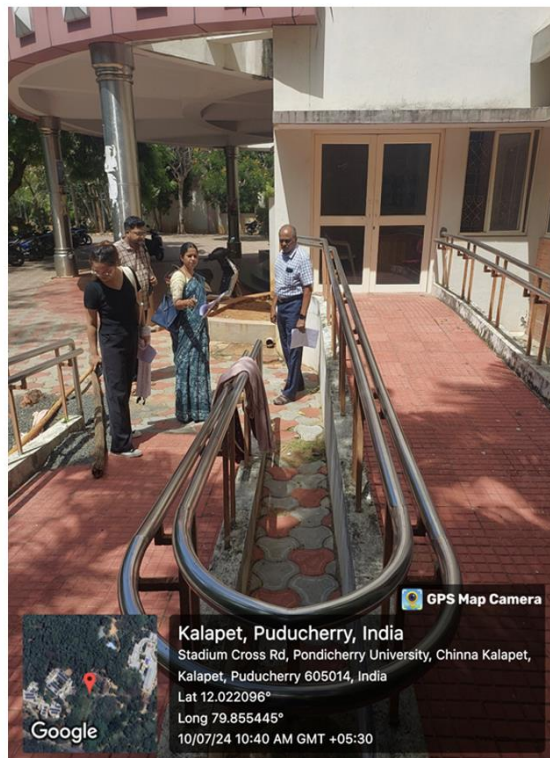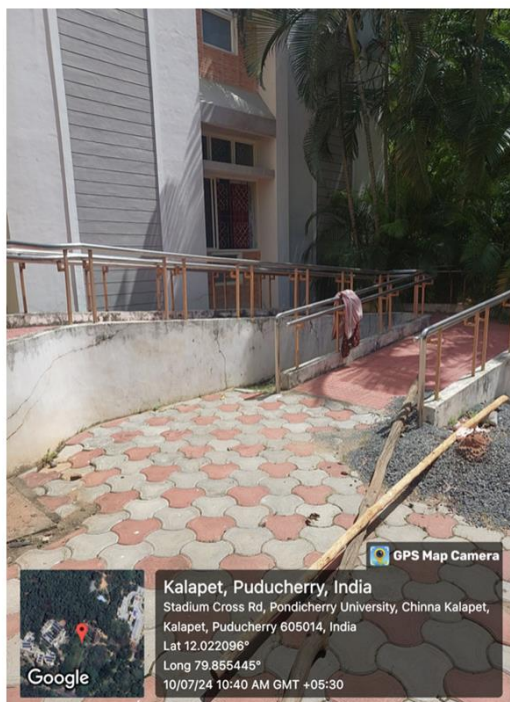
Department of Management Studies
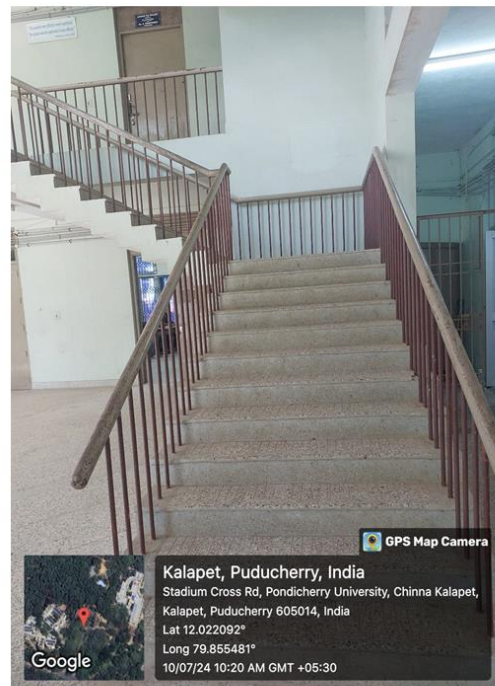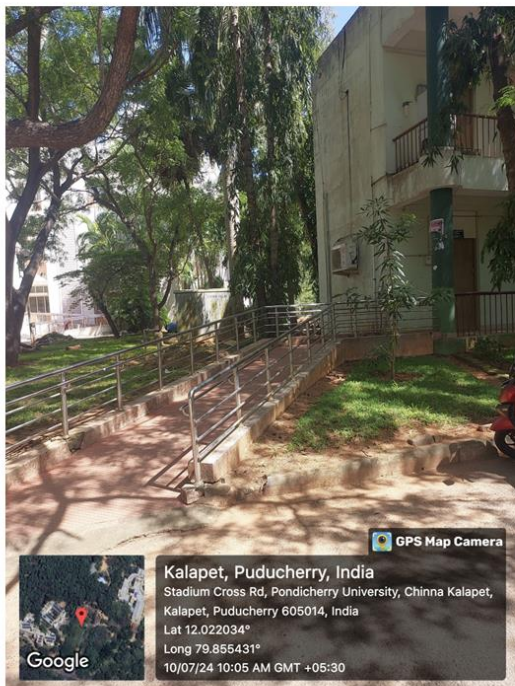
Observation: One of the few buildings without elevator (lift) and hence the first floor is not accessible for wheelchair users.

# Audit team's interactions with HODs, faculty members and Office Managers during their visit to the departments

Lecture hall complex

Observations: The pathway to the ramp is littered with left-over construction materials and blocked by improper parking of 2-wheelers; the ramp has a sharp-turn without a level landing. The door was found to be locked and hence the building remains inaccessible for wheelchair users.
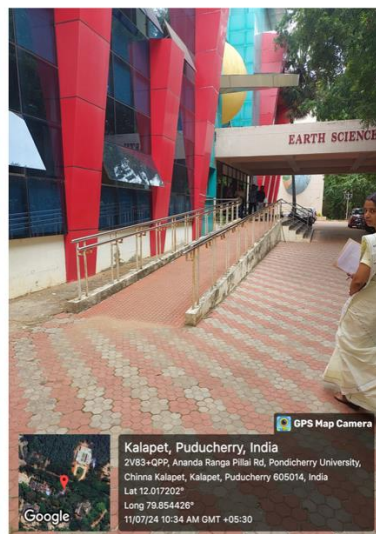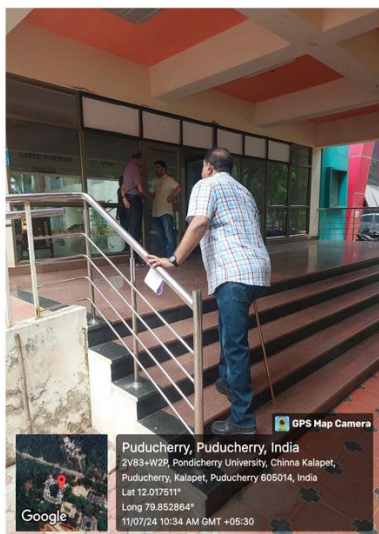
SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT - AUDITORIUM
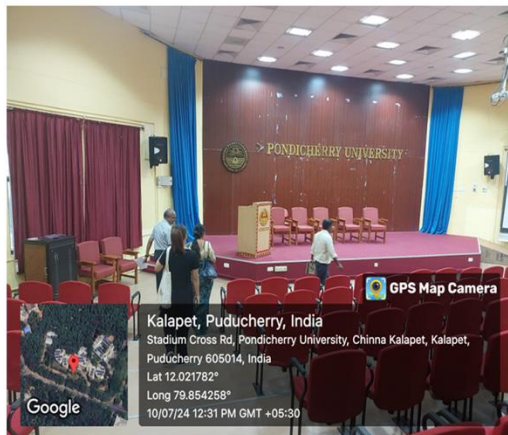
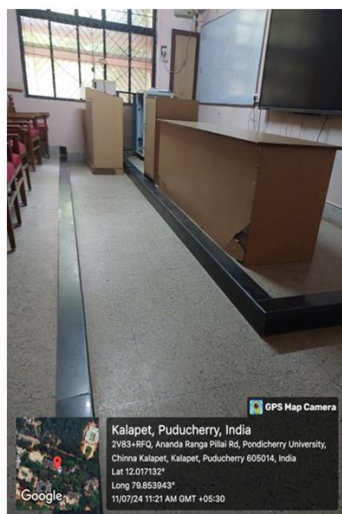## DAY CARE & PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL

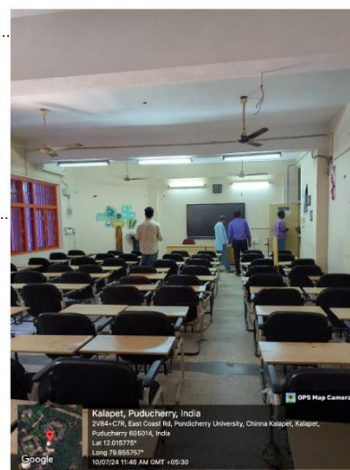## Department of Earth Sciences

Department of Biotechnology

OBSERVATIONS:

1. No ramps in Classrooms
2. Toilets not PWD-usable
3. No lift facility – Lab in 1st floor

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. New Building to ensure Lift Facility
2. Designated Parking facility to be maintained
3. Emergency call buttons in the toilets

A typical classroom in the Science Block

Annexure-D

List of Empanelled Access Auditors provided by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

<div align="right">Speed Post/By email</div>

File No. B-16007/3/2023-SIPDA
Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
*****

<div align="right">5th Floor, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan,
CGO Complex, New Delhi- 110003
Date: 28.02.2024</div>

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: List of Empanelled Access Auditors with Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India.

The following applicants who fulfill the eligibility criteria have been selected as Access Auditors by the screening committee in its meeting held on 12.02.2024, for the period of **05 years w.e.f from 28.02.2024.**

i.   Arushi Society, Bhopal
ii.   Ekansh Trust, Pune
iii. Samarthayam, New Delhi
iv.   Handicare, Indian Association of Persons with Disabilities
v.   College of Engineering, Barrier Free Consultancy Cell, Thiruvanthapuram
vi.   Centre for Accessibility in Built Environment Foundation (CABE)
vii. Svadhin Solution Pvt Ltd, Bangalore
viii. Svayam, New Delhi
ix.   DEOC Accessibility Services Private Limited
x.   Association of Disabled People, Delhi
xi.   Shishu Sarothi Centre for Rehabilitation & Training for Multiple Disability, Guwahati
xii. Viklang Sahara Samiti, Delhi
xiii. Asha ka Jharna, Rajasthan
xiv. Swabhiman State Disability Information and Resource Centre, Odisha
xv.   Nature Nurture Architects and Planners, Mumbai
xvi. CBM trust India, Bangalore
xvii. V-shesh learning Services Private Limited, Tamil Nadu

2.   The empanelment is subject to the following terms and conditions:-

I.   **Scope of Work:**

The empanelled access auditors in the built-up environment with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) shall have the responsibility to assess

राम चरण मीना/Ram Charan Meena
अवर सचिव/Under Secretary
दिव्यांगजन सशक्तिकरण विभाग
D/o Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
नई दिल्ली/New Delhi