

India has around 80 million people with disability, which may be age related, accident related or due to some medical conditions. According to the World Bank, one in every 12 households in India has a person living with disability. The Indian policy-makers are aware of the issue and Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, tried to address some of the concerns faced by differently-abled persons in India. The Act specifically refers to ease of access to public or private buildings, workplaces, commercial activities, public utilities, religious, cultural, leisure or recreational activities, medical or health services, law enforcement agencies, transport infrastructure, among others. In 2015, the Prime Minister rolled out the “Accessible India” (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) campaign, with a motive to make it convenient for persons with disabilities to access administrative buildings and transport, among other things. The campaign has been launched in seven States including Himachal Pradesh . The government is also committed towards socio-economic transformation (Swavlamban), of the persons with disability by year 2020 and in this context, India can learn from the global best practices and some of the initiatives taken within the country. At the Workplaces and Educational Institutions, Disabled people found it difficult to access the facilities. Some of the common problems faced by the disabled persons and students are to access the class room, laboratories, washrooms, upper floors of building, library, play grounds, hostel mess and cafeterias etc. Therefore at the institute level to build a disabled friendly environment, the following facilities can be helpful:

- Built environment with ramps/lifts for easy access to classrooms, laboratories, library etc.
 - Disabled-friendly washrooms
 - Signage including tactile path, lights, display boards and signposts
 - Differently Abled (Divyangjan) Friendliness, Barrier Free facilities in the campus
- COER aims to provide an inclusive education framework for all and so strives to create a barrier free and differently abled (divyangjan) friendly environment in our campus.

Lifts, ramps, special toilets/bathrooms as well as specific facilities are provided all over the campus wherever required. Divyangjan-friendly wheelchairs, vehicles and equipment are provided to employees/students as per their requirement.

Types of facilities

1. Ramps and Lift facility The Ramps are built through the campus where uneven floor levels or kerbs are present to provide convenience and prevent tripping accidents. Ramps are helpful to push a pallet truck, trolley, or wheel chair over a kerb or step by negotiating just a few inches of height difference. Utility ramps solve the problem and make wheeled movement between uneven levels very easy. The following ramps were built in college campuses for continence and safety of disabled persons (Divyangjan)





2. Disabled friendly washrooms: Separate disabled friendly washrooms are available in the campus with scheduled maintenance, cleanliness and hygiene.



