Access Audit Report of Town Hall

Observations and Recommendations to make it Inclusive for ‘All’
Acknowledgements

- Samarthyam’s Access Resource Group access audited Town Hall, Auroville in October 2009.
- We extend our gratitude and heartfelt thanks to the following people:
  - Sauro
  - Prashant
  - Lalit
  - Pino
  - Susmita, Barbara, Norma, Sebastian, Rosalva & others of New Abilities Link
Accessible entrance

- Directional signage for the ramp location to be provided near the steps.
Ramp

- Handrails to be provided on both sides of the ramp, which extends 300mm before and after the slope.
Reception

- Difficult to judge the location of the receptionist.
- Extremely difficult to converse with the receptionist by visitors using wheelchairs and other mobility aids.
Patchy lighting and unfriendly design could be hazardous to any visitors especially to children, persons with low vision and vision impairment and people can fall into the sunken area.
Recommendation

- Sunken area can be covered with glass or
- Edge protection can be provided on the sides of the sunken area to prevent people falling into it or
- Alternatively, potted plants (low height shrubs/flowering plants) can fill the area to make it easily identifiable by all visitors
Ramp to the first floor

To have handrails on both the sides to provide support to people moving up/down and also prevents persons with low vision, vision impairment and children to fall in open area.
Steps for Cafeteria

• Handrail in contrast colour should be provided on both sides of the stairs at two levels- 700mm & 850mm.
• It should extend beyond the first and last step also.
• Round handrails with diameter – 30mm for lower handrail and 45mm for upper
• Step edges to have colour contrasted band of 50mm, which benefits persons with low vision to make out the depth and height of each step
Service counter

A part of the counter to be lowered down to 800mm, so that wheelchair users/children and short stature persons can access it easily.
Accessible toilet

Ladies and Gents toilet has accessible cubicle each. A steep ramp without landing marks the entrance gate.
Recommendations

- Signage for accessible toilet should be provided on the wall.
- Ramp with landing to be provided as the door open outwards and it is difficult for wheelchair user to open the door and move the wheelchair simultaneously.
- Internally, cubicle to have garb bars which assists in transfer from wheelchair to WC and vice versa.
Existing

Proposed
Accessible toilet

- 2000mm
- 1750mm
- 700-750
- 450 mm
- 900mm
Existing

Proposed
Access Audit Team

Samarthyam’s Access Resource Group

1. Anjlee Agarwal
2. Ashwani Kumar
3. Debabrata Chakravarti
National Centre for Accessible Environments
B-181, Mansarover Garden, New Delhi, India
Email: samarthyaindia@yahoo.com
Web site: www.samarthyam.org