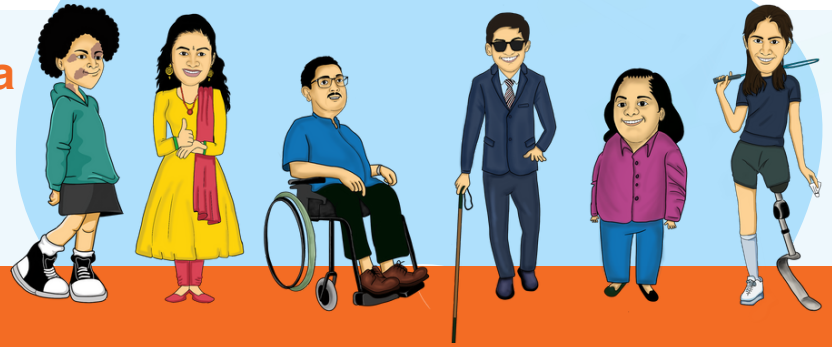


“Framing Universal Design as a fundamental design principle.”



BLUEPRINT FOR INCLUSIVITY

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF ENABLEME ACCESS

Dear friends and supporters of Enable Me Access,

The past year has been truly transformative as we embarked on the journey of revitalizing our organization and preparing for a fresh, new start. We've encountered numerous challenges and exciting opportunities, fostering innovative ideas and establishing meaningful connections to propel us towards a more accessible and inclusive world. Now, it's time to share the highlights of these past few months with you through our inaugural Quarterly Newsletter 2024.

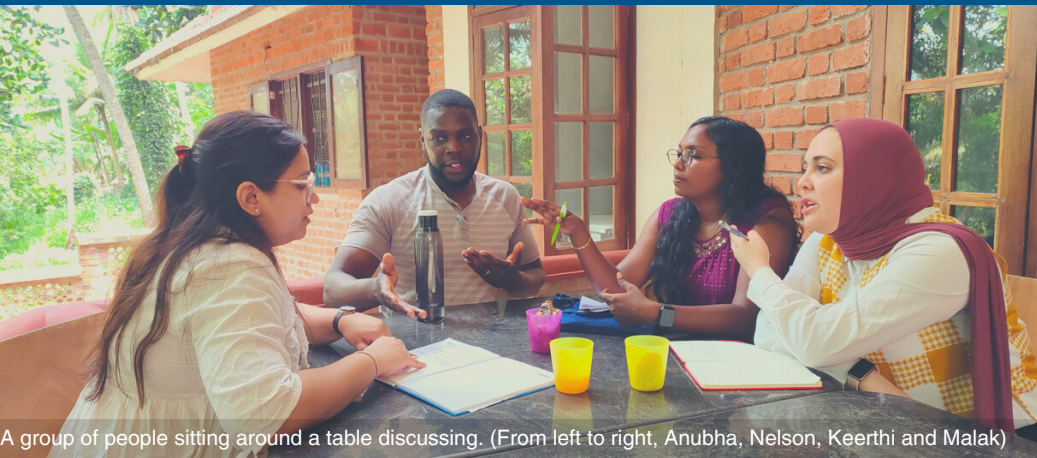
Enable Me Access, is a section 8 non-profit organization, dedicated to addressing the pervasive issue of inaccessible infrastructure, particularly concerning people with disabilities, in India. Our mission is to sensitize, inform, and facilitate the change for Accessible environments through building capacities in Universal Design, and fostering an environment that benefits all.

Joining kanthari

In April 2023, Anubha, our Director and co-founder, joined an international leadership training program at kanthari in Trivandrum, Kerala. This experience helped us get Enable Me Access back on track. We learned important things like building a team, connecting with others, and raising funds for projects. We also took a closer look at our solutions, making our activities more interesting and engaging.

kanthari is an international leadership training institution for social change makers located in Vellayani, Trivandrum, Kerala. It offers an immersive, hands-on, training program that equips change-makers who have overcome adversity with all the tools and skills required to start their own impactful social/environmental organization.

www.kanthari.org



A group of people sitting around a table discussing. (From left to right, Anubha, Nelson, Keerthi and Malak)



“India's Stairway to Heaven:
A Hilarious (and Slightly Exaggerated) Look at Accessibility Hurdles”



Photo of Jagu on wheelchair next to horrible steep ramp.

Why Accessibility fails?

BY PETER GIBSON

Imagine navigating the vibrant tapestry of India, from bustling government offices to ancient temples, from modern schools to charming heritage sites. Sounds enchanting, doesn't it? But for many people with disabilities, this enchanting landscape can morph into a Bollywood tragedy filled with impassable steps, narrow doorways, and missing handrails.

The Gatekeepers of Exclusion:

It's not just shopkeepers who guard the gates of accessibility. Blame it on a collective amnesia, but building owners across the board – be it schools, hospitals, even government offices – often view ramps and elevators with the same suspicion they reserve for unsolicited political speeches. "Disabled people in my building? Unthinkable!" they scoff, brandishing their ignorance like a peacock feather at a wedding.

The "Jugaad" of Accessibility:

Their attempts at accessibility, bless their cotton socks, are about as helpful as a chai in a power cut. Ramps steeper than a mountain goat's path, handrails doubling as monkey bars for toddlers, and toilets so low they require spelunking skills – these are the "gifts" bestowed by well-meaning but clueless architects who've mistaken accessibility for a particularly perilous game of kabaddi.

The Regulatory Jungle:

And then there's the regulatory maze, where building codes are about as clear as a Bollywood love triangle after intermission. Different ministries squabble over standards like langurs over a basket of mangoes, while inspectors, bless their bureaucratic brains, wouldn't recognize a tactile path if it tripped them flat on their faces in a bustling marketplace.

Continue reading [here](http://www.enableme-access.com/blog/). www.enableme-access.com/blog/



Spread the Spice 2023 Recap:

Spread the Spice 2023, a 3-day festival on October 13-15, brought together kantharis, social organizations, government officials, and YOU! Organized by kanathari 2023 participants, Enable Me Access showcased its work on accessible environments at Trivandrum, Kerala.

Event Highlights:

- **Diverse Activities:** Live bands, drummers, culture shows, and fashion displays enriched the festival.
- **Global Representation:** Our exhibition stall focused on Alternative Education, Peacebuilding, Disability-Ability, and Environment: Women Empowerment. Countries like Cameroon, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe showcased their art and culture in an inclusive fashion show.

Stall Activities:

- **Sip Wheel Cafe:** Our accessible juice cafe promoted entrepreneurship and accessibility, offering a taste of our inclusive environment.
- **Blind Wheelchair Race:** An engaging ice-breaking event raised awareness about disabilities, fostering understanding among participants. Collaborations with Kerala Social Justice Department and NGOs like Alive Foundation enriched our network for future projects.
- **T-Shirts with Disability role models:** We designed the tshirts with prints of caricatures representing different role models with disabilities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join the celebration at the International Purple Fest, Goa – 2024! - 8th to 13th JANUARY 2024 - A first-of-its-kind inclusive festival in India that embraces, expresses and celebrates persons with disabilities. The Purple Fest aims to showcase how we can come together to create a welcoming and inclusive world for everyone.

The Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Goa is proud to present the Purple Fest: Celebrating Diversity. Brought to you in association with the Directorate of Social Welfare and the Entertainment Society of Goa.

Join Enable Me Access at a stall exhibiting the accessibility initiatives. Listen to Anubha, representing as the purple ambassador for Muscular dystrophy. She will share her story and share the space for works at EMA. Join the panel discussion on Gender, Accessibility and mobility on 13th January 2023. To know more reach us at projects@enableme-access.com.

Register NOW for FREE at: <https://purplefest.goa.gov.in/>



Satya and Ifeoluwa wearing EMA tshirt



A couple participating in the blind wheelchair race.



YOUR DONATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Join us in our fresh start. With your donation, you support the training on Accessibility standards and laws for different stakeholders. This brings a change in the correct knowledge needed for bringing an accessible and inclusive world.

Keep an eye on our website for upcoming blogs and also social media-Instagram and LinkedIn for updates. [Donate here.](#)

[Thank you !](#)



Scan to donate

Kanthari TALKS Recap:

In a powerful comeback, Enable Me Access (EMA) participated in Kanthari TALKS on 15th Dec 2023. It was a culmination of a seven-month social leadership program. Kanthari equipped us to challenge the status quo and advance EMA's mission.

- In the talk Anubha, began by narrating the story of a navy officer whose life turned upside down when he met with a pool accident leaving his body paralyzed. She highlighted, **“What disables him the most is the built environment and not his body limitations.”**
- She mentions the root causes of the problem of inaccessibility along with the 3 solutions EMA brings to make this dream a reality. Our annual event, **“Enable Me Access” Race** was also launched.
- The talk was joined offline by a **100+ audience and was paneled by 3 experts.** More than 80 people watched it online.
- It was an eye-opening talk for many including professionals like doctors, architects, developers, and even people with disabilities.



Anubha presenting her talk at kanthari TALKS.

It was summarized in poetic verses of
“Where all hearts have room....

*Every infancy, childhood, and old age,
An accessibility battle we've all to wage.
And disability can hit us at any time,
For many, in our very prime.*

*For Enabling Access, join us in our call,
To create spaces that equally benefit all.
In unity's stride, let inclusion bloom,
A world accessible, where all hearts have room.*

*Where kids freely play, blind easily navigate,
Where to-be mothers move about, not at all afraid.
Where the elderly and disabled independently roam,
Where the world, for you and I, an accessible home.”*

-Anubha Singhal

Watch now at [▶ kanthariTalks 2023 at 3.23 hrs.](#)

