BRIDGING THE GAP OF ACCESSIBILITY FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN PANJAB UNIVERSITY, CHANDIGARH CAMPUS: A PILOT STUDY

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INTRODUCTION:

The responsibility for achieving an accessible community does not just rest with people with disabilities- it rests with all of us.

On 16 December 1992, the General Assembly of the United Nations appealed to Governments around the world to observe 3 December of each year as International Day of people with disabilities. This is a day to celebrate abilities of people with a disability all over the world. The aim of observing this day each year is to increase awareness, and understanding, of disability issues, and the gains to be derived from the integration of people with a disability in every aspect of life. The nomination and celebration of this day is an important tool in promoting the rights of people with a disability.

Whilst things have improved a lot during the last few decades we still swim in a sea of discrimination So, the international day should not only be a celebration, but an opportunity for us to pause and look both at what has been achieved, and what is still left to do.

At the smaller and ground level scale, The department of Community Education and Disability Studies in collaboration with The Equal Opportunity Cell of Panjab University decided unanimously to do a pilot study concerning the issues currently being faced by the students with disabilities of Panjab University, Chandigarh in order to come to a common conclusion as to what has already been done, and what other improvements are still needed in the Panjab University to make it fully accessible to students with disabilities.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PRESENT STUDY:

1. To sensitize the identified students with disabilities of Panjab University about the various provisions for disabled students.

2. To gather information regarding the accessibility of entrance pathway for students with disabilities to their respective departmental buildings.

3. To collect data regarding the accessibility of parking area for students with disabilities in their respective departmental buildings.

4. To gather information regarding the accessibility of stairs, ramp, lift, in their respective departmental buildings.

5. To collect data regarding the accessibility of toilets for students with disabilities in their respective departmental buildings.

6. To gather information regarding the accessibility of cafeteria and drinking water facility for students with disabilities in their respective departmental buildings.

7. To give a platform to the students with disabilities of Panjab University so that they can make suggestions and contribute to the move towards accessible India campaign.

METHODOLOGY:

The procurement of the list of identified students with disabilities of the Panjab University was the first step of the pilot study .The List was provided by the officials of the Equal Opportunity Cell of Panjab University which consists of a total number of 66 identified students with disabilities presently enrolled in the Panjab University.

Each and every student in the list was personally contacted either on phone or visiting their respective departments by our team of dedicated professional and interviews were fixed according to their schedule and availability.

The schedule was discussed vigorously before data collection to make it more comprehensive and adapted to include personal suggestions and remarks/feelings of the students with disabilities so as to quote the grass root level problems being faced by them on a daily basis.

DATA COLLECTION:

Our team visited various departments of the University and collected data as well as testimonies in the form of photographs and videos so as to understand the present status of students with disabilities. Some of the students were not available because of semester exams.

DATA ANALYSIS&INTERPRETATION:

62 Students with Disabilities are enrolled at present in the Panjab University, Chandigarh. Out of which, 39 Students were available and filled the questionnaire. All the questions of the questionnaire were coded as 1 for Yes, 2 for No and 0 for No Response. After that the data

was entered into the Microsoft-Excel. The data was computed and tables and chart were formed on the basis of Different Variables.

A) Information & Communication:

Information and communication here refers to the information provided on the website and the details of the infrastructure of the university. Information is sought whether the content in the brochures of advertisements is as per their needs or not, also about the availability of trained staff such as interpreters, assistive technology and sign languages. Data is collected about any assistance provided, while filling the form, whether they are able to avail the benefits of reservation, financial assistance such as fee concessions, scholarships and other stipends received by them.

Information & Communication								
S.No	**Question**	**Yes**	**Percentage**	**No**	**Percentage**	**N.A.**	**Percentage**	**Total no of responses**
1.	The website complies with web accessibility standards	20	51.28	14	35.89	5	12.82	39
2	Alternate mode of publication /brochures	3	7.69	21	53.84	15	38.46	39
3	Training of staff in ISL/ availability of interpreter	7	17.94	14	35.89	18	46.15	39
4	AT/ caption/ sign language	3	7.69	18	46.15	18	46.15	39
5	No glare/ adequate lighting	4	10.25	18	46.15	17	43.58	39
6	Help for from filling	21	51.84	10	25.64	8	20.51	39
7	Benefit of reservation according to RPWD act	28	71.79	9	23.07	2	5.12	39
8	Fee concession	11	28.20	25	64.10	3	7.69	39
9	Scholarship/ fellowship or other stipend	8	20.51	29	74.35	2	5.12	39
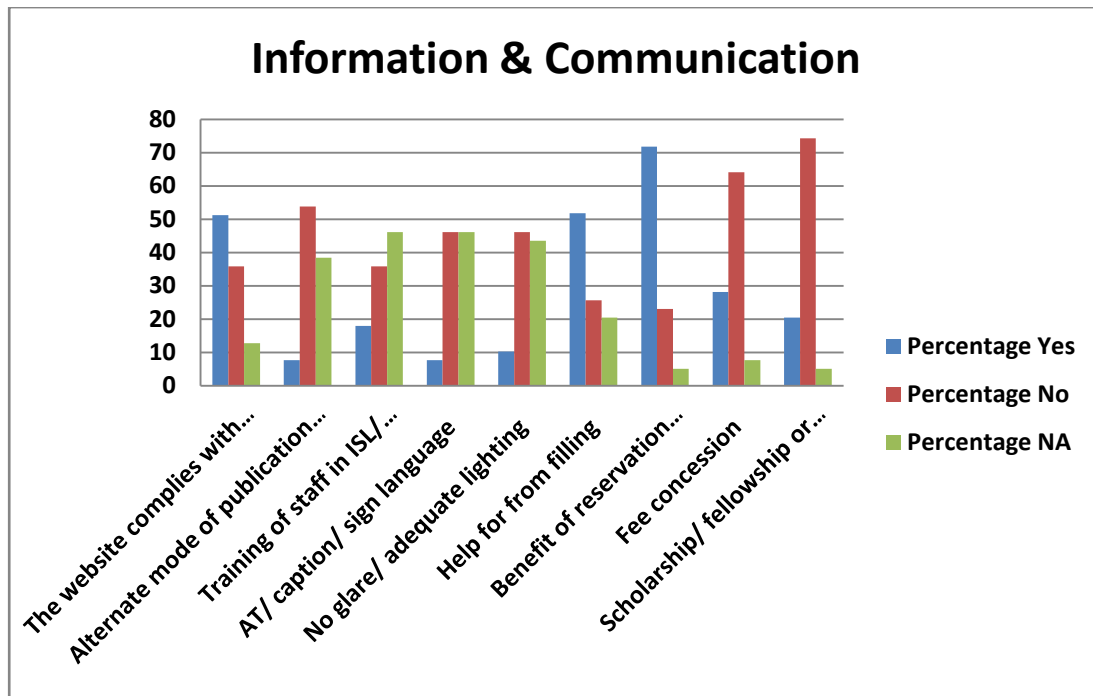
The above table and figure deals with availability of information and communication facilities for children with special needs, under which nine questions were framed. On the basis of their responses following are the findings:

Here, 51.28% (20 respondents) were found satisfied with the information and communication facilities available on the website 35.89% (14 respondents) were found dissatisfied with information and communication services provided on the website. Only 12.82% (5 respondents) were not aware of the web facilities. Hence, it can be said that the website is providing satisfactory information about the services as per accessibility standards.

When enquired about the availability of alternate mode of publication/broachers which provides information in alternate formats such as braille, large prints, audio, pictorial, easy-to –read, plain language, available in Hindi/English, and accessible formats that can be shared over email or mobile platforms, 53.84% (21 respondents) disagree that no such alternate mode were provided to them; 38.46% (15 respondents) were not aware of such facilities, because they do not fall in this category. Only 7.69% (3 respondents) said that they were provided such facilities. Hence, we can say that there is a need of providing alternate accessible formats for person with special need.

When asked about the training of the staff in Indian sign language/interpreters; 35.89 % (14 respondents) replied that the staff is not trained in ISL (Indian Sign Language/Interpreter); 46.15% (18 respondents) do not required this services. Only 17.94% (7 respondents) replied that staff trained in sign language.

On the basis of availability of assistive technology such as loop hearing system, audio orientation tools, interpretive video's or audio tour with captioning or sign language, wheelchair etc. here the results reveals that 46.15% (18 respondents) replied that there is no availability of such facilities and 46.15% (18 respondents) replied that they do not need these services. Only 7.69% (3 respondents) replied that they are able to access such facilities.

When enquired about the availability of adequate lighting and no glare for deaf persons and person with low vision,46.15% (18 respondents) said 'no' for adequate lighting and no glare for deaf persons and person with low vision;43.58% (17 respondents) are those for whom this question is not applicable. Only 10.25% (4 respondents) said 'yes' for adequate lighting and no glare for deaf persons and person with low vision.

When enquired about the help received by them during filling up of forms, 51.84% (21 respondents) replied that they received help from the staff while filling up of forms and 25.64% (10 respondents) replied that they did not receive any help. Only 10.25% (8 respondents) replied that they were able to manage by themselves and did not require any help in filling up of forms.

On the basis of availing the benefits of reservation according to Right to Person with Disability Act, the responses are as follows: 71.79% (28 respondents) were able to take benefit of reservation as per the act; 23.07% (9 respondents) did not receive the benefits and the rest of 5.12% (2 respondents) did not have the awareness of reservation provision.

On the basis of availing of fee concession during admission, 64.10% (25 respondents) said that they did not receive any fee concession; only 28.20% (11 respondents) availed this benefit. Here 7.69% (3 respondents) were not aware of availability this provision.

When asked about getting any scholarships /fellowships or other stipends it has been found that 74.35% (29 respondents) did not receive any fellowships and 20.51% (8 respondents) are those who received fellowships. 5.12% (2 respondents) are those who were not aware of these fellowships/scholarships facilities.

B) Evaluation of the services

Here it refers to services which were received by the students with special needs and also what they feel about staff. Whether the staff is aware of accessible facilities that are available for these students or not, whether the equipment is checked and maintained well, whether students with disability can lodge complaints or make suggestions and whether there is equal

opportunity policy within the organization to promote the employment of staff with disability.

Evaluation of the services							
S.No	**Question**	**Yes**	**Percentage Yes**	**No**	**Percentage No**	**N.A.**	**Percentage NA**	**Total no of responses**
10	Staff disability sanitization	8	20.51	23	58.97	8	20.51	39
11	Staff awareness	11	28.20	18	46.15	10	25.64	39
12	Regular check /maintained of quit	2	5.15	19	48.71	18	46.15	39
13	Provision of complaint lodging	13	33.33	15	38.46	11	28.20	39
14	Equal opportunities policy for employment of staff with disabilities.	13	33.33	12	30.76	14	35.89	39
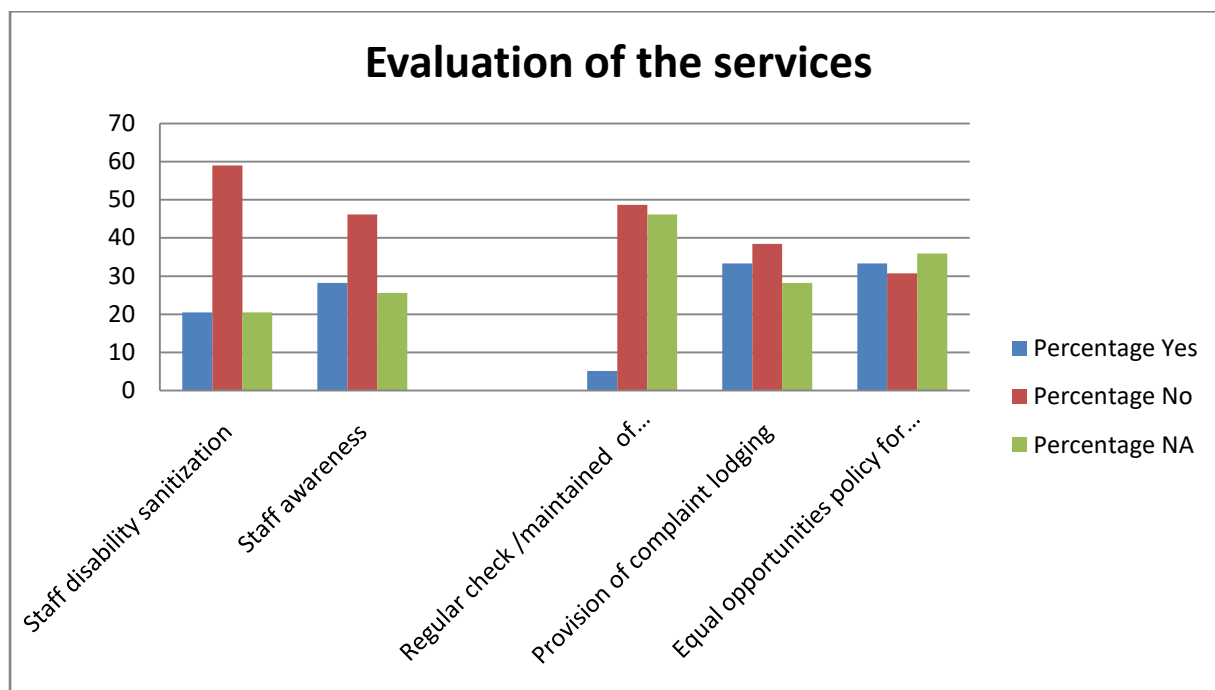
When enquired about the sensitization of staff 20.51% (8 respondents) agree that the staff is sensitized towards their needs and 58.97% (23 respondents) disagree that the staff is

sensitized in accordance with their needs. Rest 20.51% (8 respondents) chose not to reply to this question.

On being asked about the awareness of staff about the accessible facilities that are available 28.20% (11 respondents) agree that the staff is aware and 46.15% (18 respondents) disagree that the staff has any awareness. Rest 25.64% (10 respondents) did not respond to this question.

When enquired about the regular check-up and maintenance of the equipment available to them; 48.71% (19 respondents) replied that there are no such services, 46.15% (18 respondents) replied that this question is not relevant to them. Rest 5.15% (2 respondents) agree that they their equipment were maintained and regularly checked-up.

About the procedure for a client with disability of lodging complaint or to make suggestion, here it has been found that 38.46% (15 respondents) disagree that there are such services in the University; 28.20% (11 respondents) were not aware of this facility. Only 33.33% (13 respondents) agree that they have access to this facility.

Respondents were asked about the equal opportunity policy within the organization to promote the employment of staff with disabilities. The results show that 33.33% (13 respondents) agree with this statement and 30.76% (12 respondents) did not agree with this statement. Rest 35.89% (14 respondents) were not aware of any such policy.

C) Parking

There is ample space for cars and scooters parking. But there is no parking for students with disabilities in any department, hostel and office building.

Parking								
S.No	Question	Yes	Percentage Yes	No	Percentage No	N.A.	Percentage NA	Percentage NA
15	On site car parking reserved	30	76.92	7	17.95	2	5.12	39
16	Accessible parking bays reserved	1	2.56	35	89.74	3	7.69	39
17	Designated parking for disabled parking badge holders	0	0	36	92.31	3	7.69	39
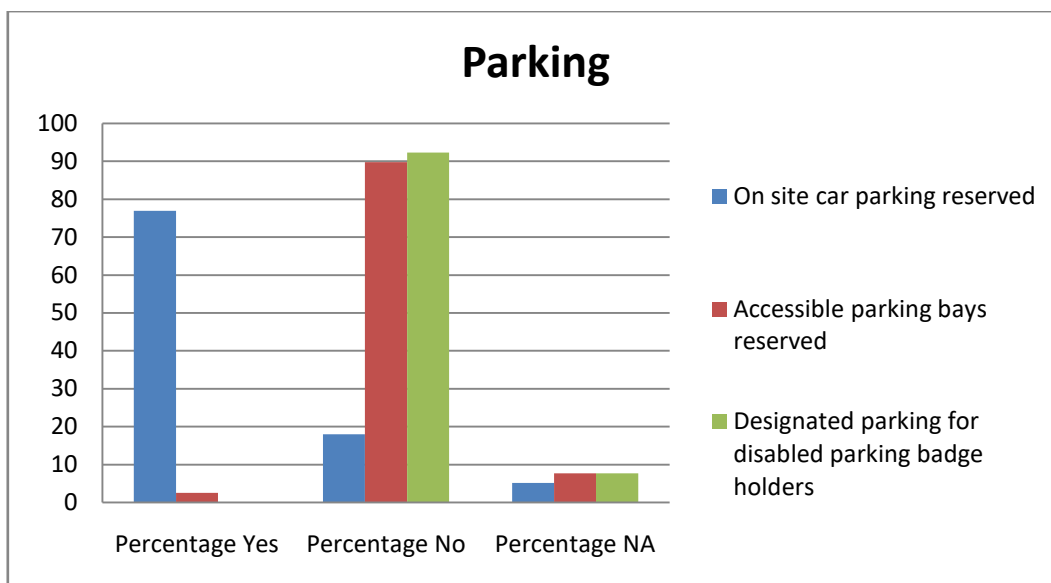
On the basis of data collected, it shows in above table that 30 respondents (76.92%) of the campus said 'yes' on car parking site availability for students with disabilities and the 7 respondents (17.95%) said ' no' , beside it 3 respondents(7.69%) were not aware about car parking site availability for students with disabilities.

Only1 respondent (2.56%) said 'yes' on the accessible parking bays reserved for PWD and 35 respondents (89.74%) said 'no'. 3 respondents(7.69%) did not attempt this question.

No respondent said 'yes' for holding any disabled parking badge , 36 respondents (92.31%) said 'no' and 3 respondents(7.69%) were not aware about it.
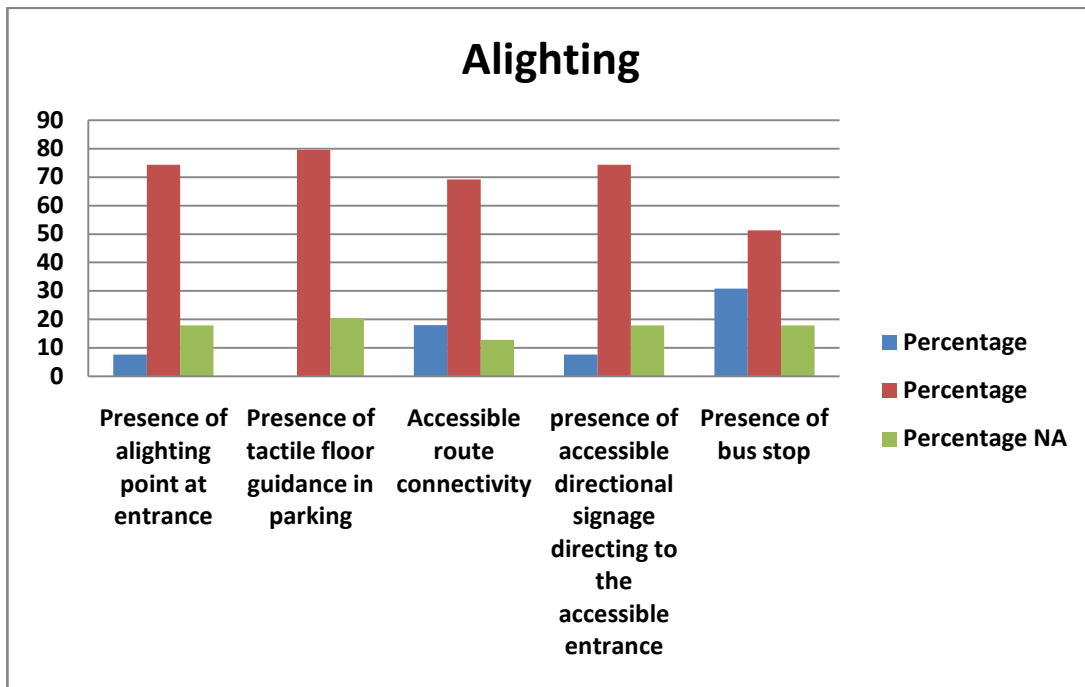
D) ALIGHTING

There is no alighting point for persons with disabilities next to the entrance. There is no provision of tactile floor guidance in the parking area for independent mobility for persons with blindness and low vision. There are no guiding routes from parking area to entry points of buildings, emergency exits. No directional signage provides to reach the entrance.

Alighting								
S.No	Question	Yes	Percentage	No	Percentage	N.A.	Percentage NA	Total no of responses
18	Presence of alighting point at entrance	3	7.67	29	74.36	7	17.94	39

19	Presence of tactile floor guidance in parking	0	0	31	79.49	8	20.51	39
20	Accessible route connectivity	7	17.95	27	69.23	5	12.82	39
21	presence of accessible directional signage directing to the accessible entrance	3	7.69	29	74.36	7	17.94	39
22	Presence of bus stop	12	30.77	20	51.28	7	17.94	39

The above data shows that 3 respondents (7.67%) said 'yes' for Presence of alighting point at entranceand 29 respondents (74.36%) said 'no'. 7 respondents(17.94%) were not aware about it.

Also no respondent said yes about the tactile floor guidance in the parking area for independent mobility for persons with blindness and low vision. Specifically, routes guiding from parking area to entry points of buildings, emergency exits. 31 respondents (79.49%) said 'no' on it and 7 respondents (17.94%) were not aware about it.

7 respondents (17.94%) said 'yes' for the presence of accessible route connecting the entrance gate, parking, alighting point and all other external facilities with the accessible entrance and 27 respondents (69.23%) said 'no' on it, 5 respondents(5.82%)were not aware about it.

3 respondents (7.69%) said 'yes' for accessible directional signage directing to the accessible entrance and 29 respondents (74.36%) said 'no' on it, 7 respondents(17.94%) were not aware about it.

12 respondents (30.77%) said 'yes' for Presence of bus stop and 20 respondents (51.28%) said 'no' on it, 7 respondents(17.94%) were not aware about it.

E) STAIRS/RAMPS/HANDRAIL/ ELEVATOR/ LIFT/ ESCALATOR AND PASSENGER CONVEYERS

There is no provision of tactile warning tiles in the whole campus anywhere. The main entrance of the departments mostly is ramped. But students have to use staircase to go to the upper floors. There is no lift facility in the departments. There is only one department in the campus who has the lift facility.

S.No	Question	Yes	Percentage	No	Percentage	N.A.	Percentage NA	Total no of responses
	Stair/Ramps/Handrail/Elevator/Lift/Escalator and Passenger Conveyers							
23	Is there presence of warning tiles provided at the beginning and end of each flight	3	7.69	26	66.66	9	23.07	39
24	Ramped/stepped entrance	27	69.23	7	17.95	5	12.82	39
25	Provision of alternative route to the stairs	16	41.02	16	41.02	7	17.94	39
26	Tactile warning tiles on the ramp	3	7.69	26	66.66	10	25.64	39
27	Handrails	16	41.02	19	48.72	4	10.25	39
28	Elevator	4	10.25	28	71.79	7	17.94	39
29	Is there a lift in the building	5	12.82	29	74.36	5	12.82	39
30	Visual and an audio floor announcement system in the lift	5	12.82	27	69.23	7	17.94	39
31	There is signage directing to the lift	2	5.13	27	69.23	10	25.64	39
32	Emergency information inside the lift mounted at eye level in accessible format	1	2.56	25	64.10	13	33.33	39
33	Live attendant in lift	2	5.13	25	64.10	12	30.76	39
34	Tactile warning strips in lift	1	2.56	25	64.10	13	33.33	39
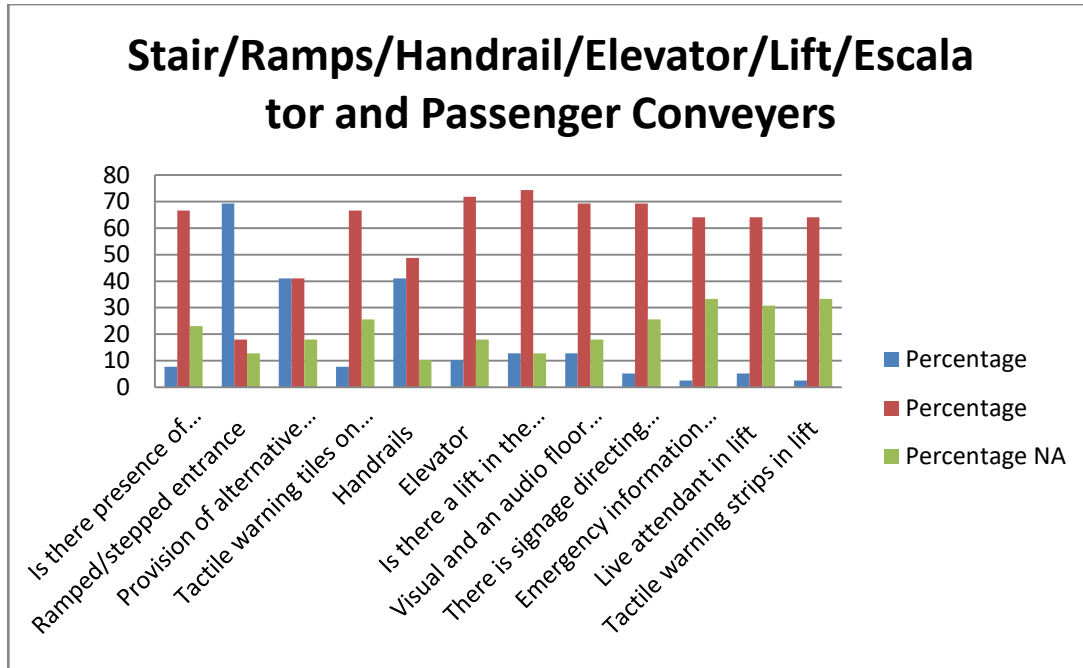
3 respondents (7.69%) said 'yes' for the presence of warning tiles provided at the beginning and end of each flight and 26 respondents (66.66%) said 'no'. 9 respondents(23.07%)were not aware about it.

27 respondents (69.23%) said 'yes' to ramped/stepped entrance and 7 respondents (17.95%) said 'no'. 9 respondents (23.07%) were not aware about it.

16 respondents (41.02%) said 'yes' about the provision of alternative route to the stairs and 16 respondents (41.02%) said 'no'. 7 respondents (17.95%) were not aware about it.

3 respondents (7.69%) said 'yes' about the information of tactile warning tiles on the ramp and 26 respondents (66.66%) said 'no'. 10 respondents(25.64%) were not aware about it.

16 respondents (41.02%) said 'yes' for the handrails services in the departments and 19 respondents (48.72%) said 'no'. 4 respondents(10.25%) were not aware about it.

4 respondents (10.25%) said 'yes' for the elevator services in the departments and 28 respondents (71.79%) said 'no'. 7 respondents (17.95%) were not aware about it.

5 respondents (12.82%) said 'yes' for the lift service in the departments and 29 respondents (74.36%) said 'no'. 5 respondents(12.82%) were not aware about it.

5 respondents (12.82%) said 'yes' for the visual and audio announcement system in the lift service and 27 respondents (69.23%) said 'no'. 7 respondents (17.95%) were not aware about it.

2 respondents (5.13%) said 'yes' for the signage direction to the lift and 27 respondents (69.23%) said 'no'. 10 respondents(25.64%) were not aware about it.

Only 1 respondent (2.56%) said 'yes' about the emergency information inside the lift mounted at eye level in accessible format and 25 respondents (64.10%) said 'no'. 13 respondents (33.33%) were not aware about it.

2 respondents (5.13%) said 'yes' for the live attendant in lift at all times and 25 respondents (64.10%) said 'no'. 12 respondents (30.76%) were not aware about it.
Only 1 respondent (2.56%) said 'yes' about the Tactile warning strips in lift and 25 respondents (64.10%) said 'no'. 13 respondents (33.33%) were not aware about it.

F) Corridors/Doors & Doorways

Corridors Doors and Doorways are the first Barrier faced by disabled Students when they enter any building if they are not adapted according to their needs. It is a concern of utmost importance to the Panjab University that all the entrances and corridors of all the buildings are accessible for the differently abled students so that they can actually enjoy "equal opportunity" in its real meaning.

Corridors/Doors & Doorways

S.No	Question	Yes	Percentage Yes	No	Percentage No	N. A.	Percentage NA	Total no of responses
35	Barrier free corridors	32	82.05	6	15.38	1	2.56	39
36	For wheel chair	30	76.92	4	10.25	5	12.82	39

Corridors/Doors & Doorways

(Legend: Barrier free corridors, For wheel chair)
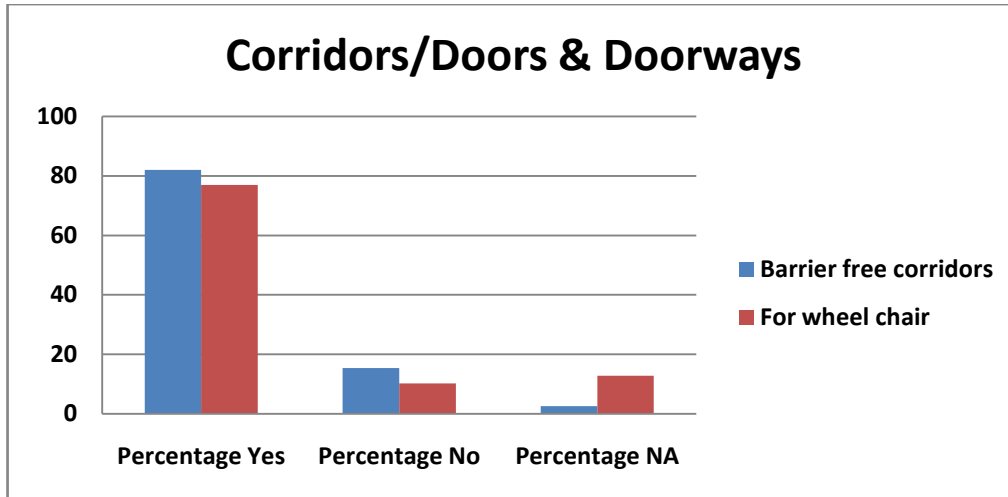
The above table shows that out of the total 39 respondents, 32 (82.05 %) agree that the corridors are maintained and kept free of unwanted barriers such as furniture, plants etc. Only 6 out of 39 (15. 38 %) disagree with the fact that the corridors are maintained and kept free of unwanted barriers such as furniture, plants etc. Only 1 out of 39 (2.56%) respondents has chosen not to reply this question.

Regarding the availability of adequate space for a wheelchair user to open a door, 30 out of a total of 39 (76.92%) agree that there is adequate space for a wheelchair user to open a door, only 4 out of 39 (10.25%) disagree that there is adequate space for a wheelchair user to open a door and 5 out of 39 (12.82%) chose not to answer to this question.

Hence we found that majority of the students with disability of Panjab University, Chandigarh agree that the corridors are maintained and kept free of unwanted barriers such as furniture, plants etc. and there is adequate space for a wheelchair user to open a door.

G) Accessible Toilets

Provision of clean and accessible toilets is one of the primary facilities which must be provided to all the Differently abled students of Panjab University, Chandigarh and must be catered to with immediate attention.

Accessible Toilets

S.No	Question	Yes	Percentage Yes	No	Percentage No	N.A.	Percentage NA	Total no of responses
37	Unisex accessible toilet	28	71.79	7	0.17	4	10.25	39
38	Presence on all floors	25	64.10	5	12.82	9	23.07	39
39	Alarm system in emergency case	1	2.56	32	82.05	6	15.38	39
40	Both sided lock system in the emergency	2	5.12	30	76.92	7	17.94	39
41	Cleanliness	22	56.41	14	35.89	3	7.69	39
42	All toilet accessories	13	33.33	23	58.97	3	7.69	39
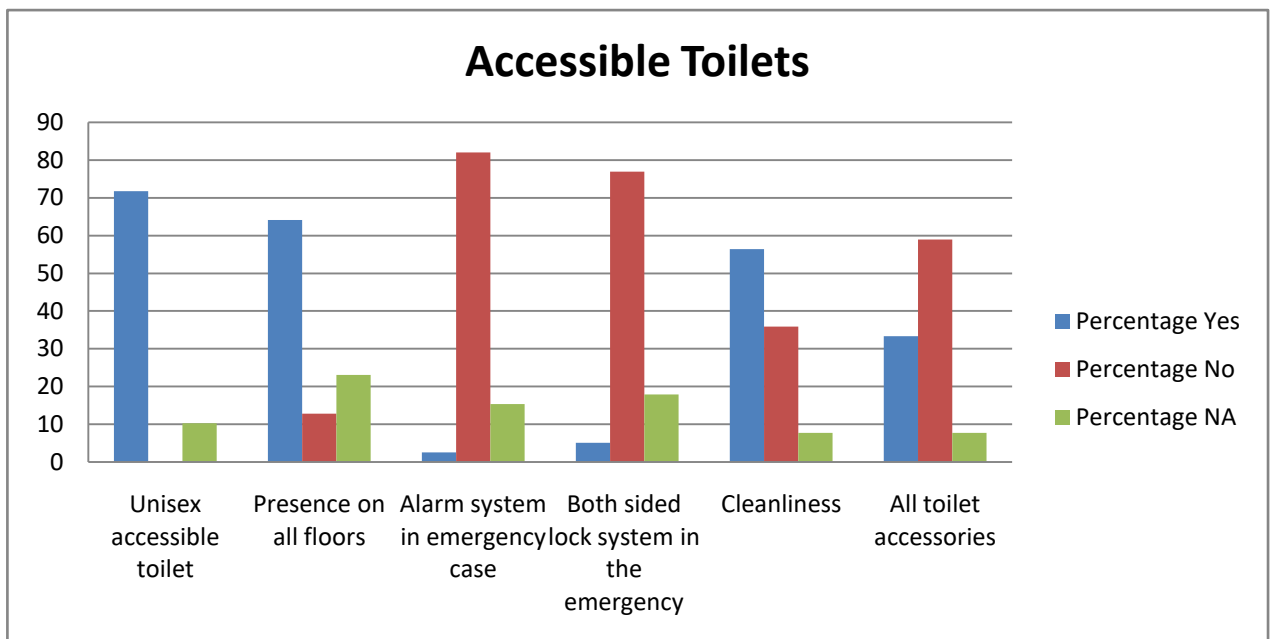
The above table and figure shows that out of the total 39 respondents, 28 (71.79 %) agree that there is availability of Unisex Accessible toilet in their building. Only 7 out of 39 (17.94 %) disagree with the fact that there is availability of Unisex Accessible toilet in their building. Only 4 out of 39 (10.25%) respondents have chosen not to reply this question.

Regarding the availability of the same on all the floors of the building, 25 out of a total of 39 (64.10%) agree that the Unisex Accessible toilet is present on all the floors of their respective departmental building, only 5 out of 39 (12.82%) disagree that the Unisex Accessible toilet is present on all the floors of their respective departmental building and 9 out of 39 (23.07%) chose not to answer to this question.

When asked about the presence of alarm system in emergency case, only 1out of a total of 39 (2.56%) agree that there is an alarm system in emergency case inside the toilet, 32 out of 39 (82.05%) disagree that there is an alarm system in emergency case inside the toilet of their respective departmental building and 6 out of 39 (15.38%) chose not to answer to this question.

Regarding the availability of both sided lock system in the toilet in case of emergency, only 2 out of a total of 39 (5.12%) agree that the both sided lock system is available in the toilet in case of emergency, 30 out of 39 (76.92%) disagree that the both sided lock system is available in the toilet in case of emergency and 7 out of 39 (17.94%) chose not to answer to this question.

For the cleanliness aspect of the toilet, 22 out of a total of 39 (56.41%) agree that the toilets are kept clean, 14 out of 39 (35.89%) disagree that the toilets are kept clean and 3 out of 39 (7.69%) chose not to answer to this question.

When asked about the availability of toilet accessories in the toilets, 13 out of a total of 39 (33.33%) agree that the toilet accessories are available, 23 out of 39 (58.97%) disagree that the toilet accessories are available and 3 out of 39 (7.69%) chose not to answer to this question

H) Cafeteria/Drinking Water Facility

Cafeteria/Drinking Water Facility

S.No	Question	Yes	Percentage Yes	No	Percentage No	N.A.	Percentage NA	Total no of responses
43	Step free access	20	51.28	18	46.15	1	2.56	39
44	Circulation space	22	56.41	14	35.89	3	7.69	39
45	Accessibility of wash area	29	74.35	7	17.94	3	7.69	39
46	Trained staff for PWD	12	30.76	22	56.41	5	12.82	39
47	Drinking Water Accessibility for PWD	26	66.66	10	25.64	3	7.69	39
48	Cleanliness of water cooler area	30	76.92	7	17.94	2	5.12	39
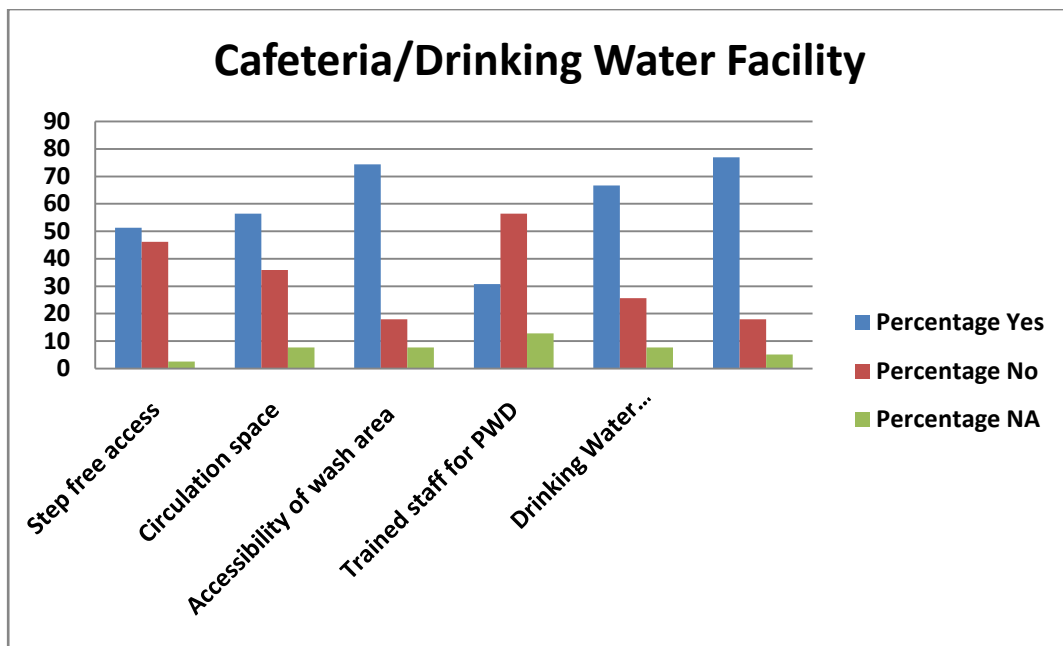
Regarding the Cafeteria/Drinking Water Facility, The respondents were asked about the accessibility of the same. 20 out of a total of 39 respondents (51.28%) agree that the entry to the cafeteria is step free; 18 out of total of 39 (46.15%) disagree that that the entry to the cafeteria is step free, and only 1 out of 39 respondents (2.56%) chose not to respond to this question.

When asked about the availability of adequate circulation space in the cafeteria, 22 out of 39 (56.41%) respondents agree that there is adequate circulation space in the cafeteria; 14 out of 39 (35.89%) disagree that there is adequate circulation space in the cafeteria and 3 out of 39 (7.69%) chose not to answer to this particular question.

In context of wash area in the cafeteria, 29 out of 39 respondents (74.35%) agree that the wash area in the cafeteria is accessible by the Disabled students; 7 out of 39 (17.94%) does not agree that the wash area in the cafeteria is accessible by the Disabled students and 3 out of 39 (7.69 %) chose not to answer to this question.

The respondents were asked whether the staff present in the cafeteria is trained to assist Persons with disabilities.12 out of a total of 39 respondents (30.76%) agree that the staff present in the cafeteria is trained to assist Persons with disabilities; 22 out of total of 39 (56.41%) disagree that the staff present in the cafeteria is trained to assist Persons with disabilities, and only 5 out of 39 respondents (12.82%) chose not to respond to this question.

When the respondents were asked about the accessibility of the drinking water facility by the disables students, 26 out of 39 respondents (66.66%) agree that the drinking water supply is accessible to the disabled students; 10 out of 39 (25.64%) disagree that the drinking water supply is accessible to the disabled students, and only 3 out 39 (7.69%) chose not to respond to this particular question.

Inquiry about the area around the water cooler reveals that 30 out of 39 respondents (76.92%) agree that the area around the water cooler is mopped frequently and kept dry; 7 out of 39 (17.94%) disagree that the area around the water cooler is mopped frequently and kept dry and only 2 out of 39 (5.12 %) chose not to answer to this question.

I) Controls and Operating Mechanisms

There is accessible control and little pressure required to operate the switches or controls in the campus. There is no alternate visible signage and LED display board information in the buildings.
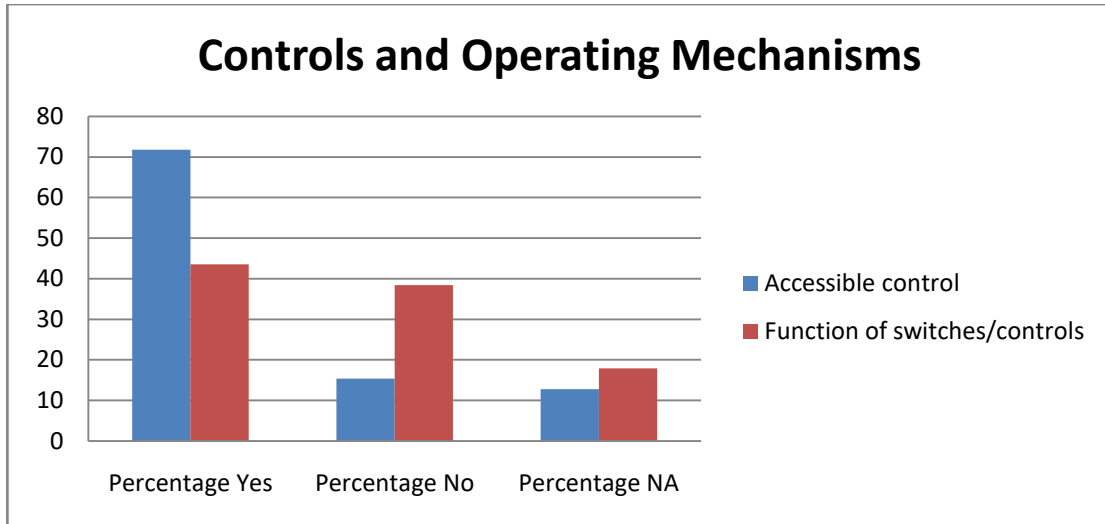
Controls and Operating Mechanisms

| S.No	Question	Yes	Percentage Yes	No	Percentage No	N.A.	Percentage NA	Total no of responses
49	Accessible control	28	71.79	6	15.38	5	12.82	39
50	Function of switches/ controls	17	43.58	15	38.46	7	17.94	39

Controls and Operating Mechanisms

On the basis of data collection it shows in above table and figure that 28 respondents (71.79%) of the campus said 'yes' on Accessible control and the 6 respondents (15.38%) said ' no' , beside it 5 respondents(12.82%) were not aware about it.

17 respondents (43.58%) said 'yes' for little pressure required to operate the switches or controls and 15 respondents (38.46%) said 'no'. 7 respondents (17.94%) were not aware about it.

J) Signage

There is no availability of prominent visible signage in the whole campus in anywhere. There is no alternate visible signage and LED display board information in the buildings.

S.No	Question	Yes	Percentage	No	Percentage	N.A	Percentage	Total no. of responses
				Signage				
51	Availability of prominent visible signage	1	2.56	29	74.35	9	23.07	39
52	Alternate visible signage	1	2.56	27	69.23	11	28.20	39
53	LED display board information in the building	3	7.69	26	66.67	10	25.64	39
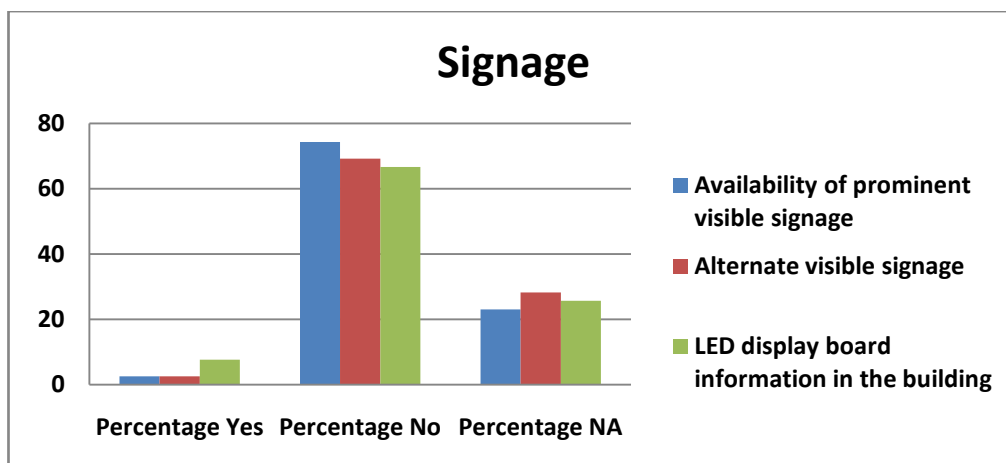
Signage

On the basis of data collection it shows in above table and figure that only 1 respondent (2.56%) of the campus said 'yes' on availability of prominent visible signage and the 29 respondents (74.35%) said 'no', beside it 9 respondents (23.07%) were not aware about it.

Only 1 respondent (2.56%) said 'yes' to alternate visible signage and 27 respondents (69.23%) said 'no'. 11 respondents (28.20%) were are not aware about it.

3 respondents (7.69%) said 'yes' to LED display board information in the building and 26 respondents (66.67%) said 'no'. 10 respondents (25.64%) were not aware about it.

K) Emergency Evacuation

Emergency evacuation is the most important part of the building planning. When we plan the emergency evacuation we must ensure that it is friendly with the differently able persons. Because person with disability face more problem as compared to person without disability. In the building there should be proper signage for person with special need. The above table deals with provision of emergency evacuation for the person with disability.

S.No	Question	Yes	Percentage Yes	No	Percentage No	N.A.	Percentage NA	Total no of responses
				Emergency Evacuation				
54	Emergency evacuation provision	6	15.38	28	71.79	5	12.82	39
55	Priority of PWD during emergency evacuation	2	5.12	31	79.48	6	15.38	39
56	Step free exit in emergency	3	7.69	30	76.92	6	15.38	39
57	Visual/audible alert system	1	2.56	32	82.05	6	15.38	39
58	Display of evacuation plan	3	7.69	31	79.48	5	12.82	39
59	Training of staff for emergency	2	5.12	28	71.79	9	23.07	39

Emergency Evacuation
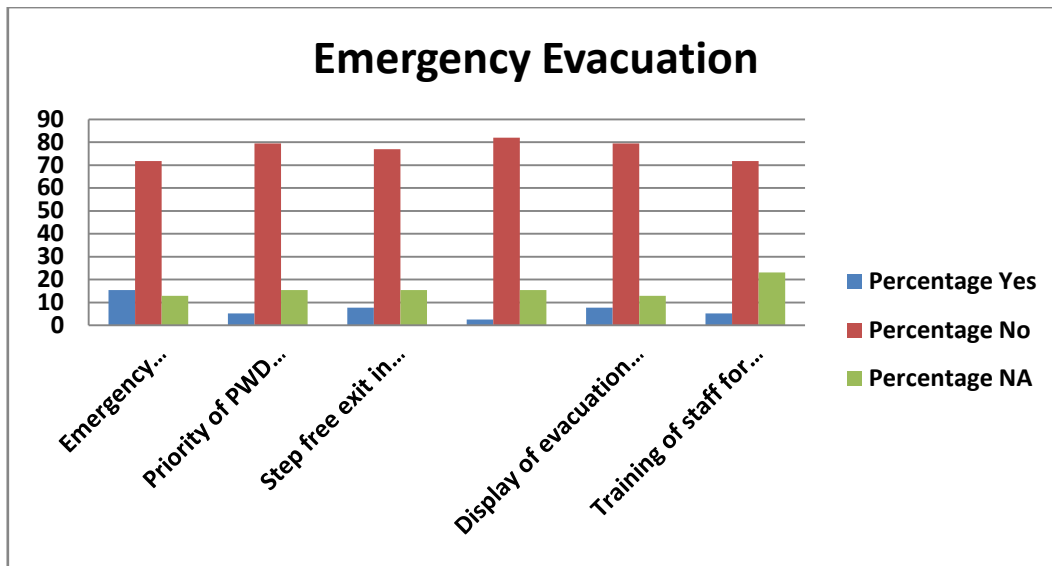
From the above table and figure it can be said that from the responses of the person with special needs, 71.79% (28 respondents) disagrees that there is provision for emergency evacuation in their department which is high and only 15.38% (6 respondents) agree that there is provision for emergency evacuation in the department and 12.8% (5 respondents) person with special needs have no knowledge about the provision of emergency evacuation in the department building.

5.12% (2 respondents) persons with special needs said that they are given priority during emergency evacuation whereas 79.48% (31 respondents) disagree that there is priority given to them during the emergency evacuation. 15.38% (6 respondents) have no idea about the emergency evacuation.

For the accessibility of step free exit in emergency evacuation majority of person with special needs, 76.92% (30 respondents) agree with the statement whereas 7.9% (3 respondents) disagrees with the statement. And 15.38% (6 respondents) persons with disability had no relevance of this question.

82.05% (32 respondents) persons agree with the statement that there is visual/audible alert system in the department building, whereas only 2.5% (1 respondent) disagrees with the statement. And 15.38% (6 respondents) persons with disability had no idea about the visual/audible alert system.

About 78.48% (21 respondents) persons with special needs agree that there is display of evacuation plan whereas 7.69% (3 respondents) disagree with the statement and 12.82% (5 respondents) have no knowledge about the display of evacuation plan.

In the institute 71.79% (28 respondents) persons with special needs agree that there is training provided to the staff for emergency evacuation and only 5.12% (2 respondents)

persons with special needs disagree with this statement, whereas 23.07% (9 respondents) persons with special needs have no awareness about the training of the staff for the emergency.

Form the above table we found that majority of person with disability are aware about the facility being provided for the emergency evacuation in the Panjab University.

RECOMMENDATIONSFOR FUTURE STUDY

1. An Access **Audit** (also known as a DDA **audit**, **Disability** Discrimination Act **Audit** or Disabled Access **Audit**) to be carried out on an annual basis to ensure barrier free and accessible environment for the students with disabilities of PanjabUniversity.

2. Proper team of Audit may include Architects, Civil engineer, Special educator, and other professionals also for carrying out an extensive study.

3. The list of the disabled students of Panjab University must be updated and maintained annually and each one of them must be involved in the survey.

4. All the enlisted disabled students should be enrolled in some kind of awareness programme organised by the trained officials in order to sensitize them about the on-going facilities available from the Govt. as well as non Govt. agencies/organisations for the disabled students.

SOME OF THE SUGGESTIONS FROM THE STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES OF PANJAB UNIVERSITY, CHANDIGARH:

1. All the print materials including brochures, hand outs, publications should be available in braille or at least in large print.

2. Text to speech software in all the departmental libraries should be available

3. Ramps must be provided as an alternative route to stairs and entrance to all the buildings should be made barrier free.

4. The Assistive technologies and devices must be made available in the respective departments only/

5. All the Academic as well as non-academic staff must attend Disability sensitization sessions as a part of staff induction programme

6. Accessible parking bays reserved for PWD shall be made mandatory in every building inside the PU Campus

7. For Visually impaired Students tactile floor guidance is a must

8. Elevators should be installed in every building and must be made accessible for PWD with handrails, tactile strips, visual and auditory floor announcement system, live attendant etc.

9. Barrier free and disabled friendly toilets are a must in every building and must be catered to with immediate attention.

10. Cafeteria and drinking water facility should be made accessible for PWD students.

11. Proper Emergency Evacuation plan must be displayed in every building with special provisions for PWD as well as training of staff to deal with emergency evacuation.

12. Visually and Hearing Impaired students must get access to functional assistive devices and instructional aids as per their needs.

13. Transportation within the University must be made accessible and free of cost for PWD students

14. Special cell must be introduced in the University which would cater to the needs and problems of the PWD students of PU.