The built environment is the complex outcome of a society’s geo-political and socio-economic development. An important consideration is the status of existence of facilitation systems for population with disabilities in a developing context such as Pakistan. It is found from several global and regional studies that about one-tenth of the global population can be categorized in this human slab. Multiple predicaments such as climate change induced disasters, violence, conflict, terror strikes and urban and regional hazards are constantly adding more people in this category.

A review and basic observation of the built environment in Pakistan, including larger cities such as Karachi, reveal that the existing profile of buildings of various types is grossly unsuitable to accommodate the users with disabilities. Common facilitation elements such as ramps, support balustrades, guiding rails, exclusive toilets, appropriate aisles and corridors, ventilation and daylight assistance mechanisms and other necessary ingredients are scantily found in buildings. This shortcoming also exists in many of the designed buildings and spaces as well as the spaces and structures for healthcare, education and social welfare facilities. Whereas the net outcome is gross inconvenience to the affected target group, it also poses a problem for the future buildings and spaces, which are expected to be designed and developed in a similar manner.

This paper explores the current status of response, preparedness and interventions in the domain of built environment of Karachi. Drawing from the existing literature, the paper adopts a case based approach to identify the various dimensions of built environment to establish their suitability for accommodating the specific requirements of population with handicaps and disabilities. The role of professionals such as architects and urban planners is also appraised across this scenario. After analysis and synthesis the paper concludes with recommendations derived on the basis of this research.

**Key words:** Physically Challenged, Facilitation, Barrier free Environment, Design Assessment, Interventions.