

RESUME

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SHIKHA AGARWAL

EDUCATIONAL PROFILE

High-school	St. Mary's Convent High School, Kanpur	78%	2001-2002
Intermediate	St. Mary's Convent High School, Kanpur	84%	2002-2003
Graduation	Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting from Indore Public College, Kheragarh University	84%	2003-2007
Post Graduation	Ceramics and Glass Design from National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad	8.1 C.P.I	2007-2009
PHD	Industrial Design Centre Indian Institute of Technology- Bombay, Mumbai	-	2011

Doctoral Work (2011)

Accessibility, Usability, Inclusive design: Describing Person- Environment- Behaviour Relationship in Mumbai Local Trains'

Environment focus in the disability studies, offers opportunity to look at approaches for designing environments around people that facilitate independent function. Environment adaptation to human needs reduces stress on humans especially for people with disabilities. Inclusive environments are an added benefit as they not only offer personal assistance but also improve self image and provide social inclusion. In the light of these concepts, Mumbai local train and station environments fail to ensure safety, security, comfort and access to people with disabilities. The doctoral work investigates how physical environment impacts physical and social mobility of people with disabilities. The research work looks for design opportunities that most local train commuter including people with disabilities.

Work Experience (2010-2011)

Worked as an Associate Design Researcher in National Institute of Design, under Prof. Abir Mullick, a Full Bright Scholar, 2010, on a project **'Universal Access in Public Toilets by Slum dwellers including People with Disabilities'**. The project aimed to address health and hygiene problems in Indian slums, the public bathroom project seeks environmental appropriateness; good fit in social, familial, and migratory practices of slum dwellers; usability by all users including those with disabilities; consideration for independent and dependent individuals and caregivers as well; to address behavioral issues of users; to

respond to economic and poverty issues; assistance to individual, community, and public use. The Public Bathroom project questions the nature of universal design in India, employs research tools to investigate complex problems rooted in history, culture, and practice to develop a universal public bathroom for Indian slums.

Post Graduate Work (2007-2010)

• Complex Designed Project

Modified an Indian squat latrine inclusive for Vision Impaired population of India. The new design aims to offer a safe and comfortable sitting to the able-bodied as well as vision loss people. The footrest of the pan is designed to give direction for sitting and correct positioning of the foot on the pan with comfort.

(Case study at Blind Person's Association, Ahmedabad)

• Craft Documentation

In the midst of leather industries of Kanpur, a small community of Muslim women is struggling for survival by braiding whips. Isolated from the local market, these whips are an item of export, where lately the hand skills are invaded by the machine. The documentation, "**Katran**" throw light on the socio-cultural and environmental and design aspects that encircle this traditional craft of whip making. The documentation is considered for publication by NID.

• System Design

Studied the potter community of Sabarkantha region of Gujarat, who are skilled in making traditional terracotta horses. This dying craft has been addressed by introducing newer product range keeping the identity of the traditional work. The new product range comprise of candle stands, mouth-freshner holders, table ware range. These products are sold in the nearby city handicraft stores, resorts and ethnic restaurants.

• Internship

Internship was done with the renowned social activist and alumni of NID, **Mr. K.B. Jinan**. One month terracotta workshop was taken with the potters of Kerala at Integrated Rural Technology Center, Mundur, Kerala. The training program aimed to help the potters coming from different parts of Kerala regain their wisdom and confidence to design products independently.

• Diploma Project

A six month **Diploma Project** "Enable Artisans" done with **Kumbham Murals**, run by Mr. K.B Jinan. The organization works with artisans of Kerala and makes terracotta handcrafted products. I developed products with the artisans which were exhibited in two exhibitions by the organization at Bangalore. The project aimed at designer's role as a catalyst to enable and equip and empower young artisans to evolve their craft for meaningful livelihood.

SOFTWARE PROFICIENCY

Microsoft word & excel, Photoshop, In Design, Coral Draw, Illustrator

HOBBIES / INTERESTS

- : Reading
- : Sketching and Painting in various mediums
- : Listening music
- : Analytical writing