

DAIDA FOUNDATION GLOBAL URBAN THESIS AWARD Competition Edition 2023



Chairman's note on the foundation's vision of designing

Cities For All : Addressing Minorities

By their very definition, cities are places for a diversity of people : women and men, old and young, poor and rich, healthy and physically and/or mentally challenged, religious and non-religious, the majority as well as the many minorities.

In any country where there is freedom of movement, and particularly in this phase of rapid global urbanisation, there is no need to curb the diversity of the urban population. Infact we must find ways to celebrate this diversity of minorities !

A happy city is one in which the minorities feel welcome and safe and have the possibility to enhance their prospects for their future in the city of their choice.

Not only is it morally right to let each minority participate and contribute in its own way to the progress of their city, but a case can be made that the more the city allows and encourages its minorities to participate in its life, the more the city will prosper economically. The participation of a larger and diverser group in the development of the city will make it more resilient and culturally more engaging.

In order to welcome the diverse minority groups, cities have tasks to fulfill. Through the public transportation they offer, the employment they create, the public spaces which are accessible to all and the creation of affordable housing, cities can welcome minorities.

DAIDA Awards this year welcomes entries from students of Master's programs on topics which address the issue of specific minorities and suggests ways, either through research or design, to improve their conditions in cities.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shyam Khandekar", is positioned below the text "Sincerely yours,".

Shyam Khandekar
Chairman, DAIDA Foundation