



Global
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AT DIGEST ISSUE 4

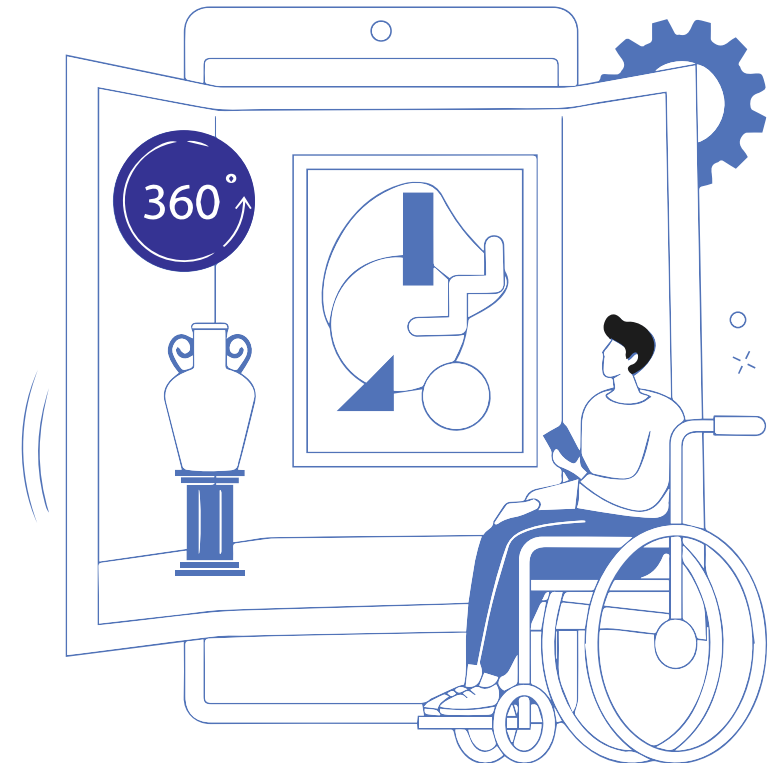
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The role of AT in the inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities in public life.

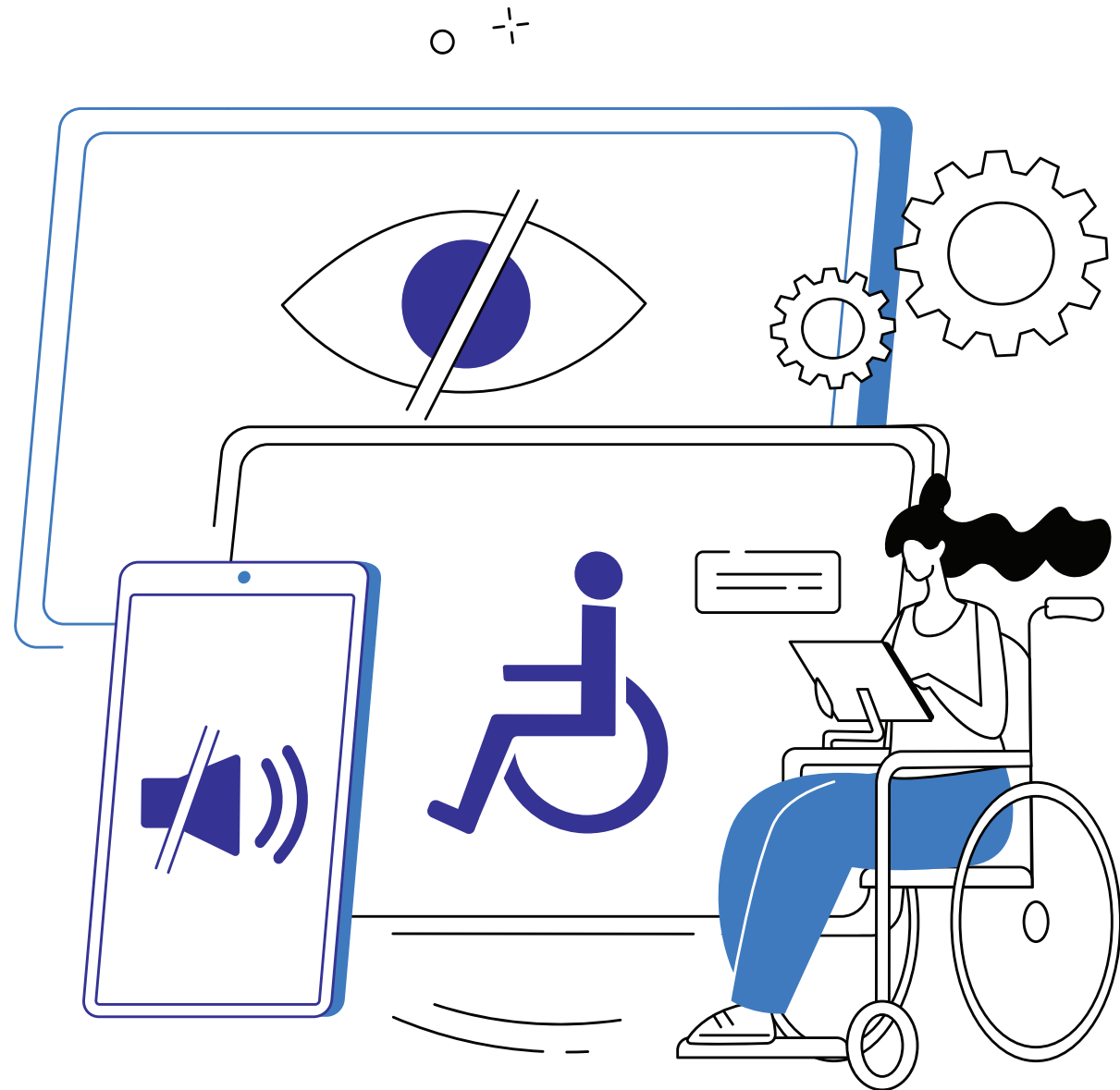
[IDA-GDI Hub Assistive Technology User Fellows co-authored this article on the role of assistive technology in the inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities in public life. They penned this piece based on their personal experiences as well as data gathered from AT user interviews conducted in their respective countries namely: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Peru, Sudan, and Uganda. Five fellows interacted in pairs to design interview questions and interviewed 20 AT users representing different disability constituencies including persons with albinism, persons with intellectual disabilities and Deaf persons. IDA provided the Fellows with technical support and guidance notes.]

Randa Munir, a 30-year-old Sudanese woman who is hard of hearing was born into a family of three deaf sisters and one deaf brother. Her family's economic situation, coupled with the high cost of assistive technologies, prevented regular use of hearing aids. In the early stages of secondary school, Randa had to leave inclusive education and transfer to a special school due to the inadequacy of her hearing aid. The poor quality of the device significantly impacted her academic performance. Consequently, she opted to study fine arts instead of aviation, her preferred choice, upon completing secondary school. Randa struggled to find decent work, focusing instead on silent theatre, drawing, and painting, which did not provide sufficient income. Having been failed to manage a work supported with reasonable accommodation including assistive technology, Randa got frustrated leading to her isolation from public life. [Read more.](#)



AT Fellows` reflection corner:

The AT Fellows' Reflection Corner is a space for fellows to share their thoughts and insights as they work on varied projects through their fellowship. In this fourth and final issue of AT Digest, Yusra Gilani from Pakistan reflects on her contribution to the wide distribution of the AT User Survey across her country that resulted in a huge number of responses from Pakistan. This digest also includes reflections of Nayem Molla (Bangladesh) from the in-depth workshop on assistive technology in Bangladesh. [Read more.](#)



Yusra Gilani, AT User Fellow, Pakistan

“IDA launched the AT User online survey in November 2023. I was entrusted with the task of cultivating responses from AT Users, respondents throughout Pakistan. As the survey was in English, I explained the survey in Urdu to overcome the linguistic barriers, I shared voice notes on WhatsApp for guidance for some respondents. I was very particular so as to not influence the responses to the survey and limiting my support to translation and technical support, where required. It is important to note that approximately 11% of total response of the survey has been received from Pakistan.”



Nayem Molla, AT User Fellow, Bangladesh

“Facilitating the workshop on assistive technology in Bangladesh was an extremely valuable learning experience for me. As a member of the co-facilitation team, I gained first-hand exposure to training and engaging diverse participants from across the disability movement. My co-facilitators demonstrated inclusive facilitation techniques by using simple language, examples, and activities that resonated with all participants. By observing their methods of making sessions interactive, accessible, and engaging, I was able to enhance my own facilitation skills. For example, I learned how to effectively use plain language, analogies, and activities to convey concepts clearly. Additionally, I acquired skills for facilitating a diverse range of participants, including those with visual impairments, hearing impairments, intellectual disabilities, and others.”

