

UN 2030 agenda and accessibility in cities: A case study

Beatriz Citroni Bufon, Flávia Piva Almeida Leite.

ABSTRACT

On March 30, 2007, Brazil ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, promulgated by the United Nations (UN), through Legislative Decree 186/08 (BRASIL, 2008). This international treaty was the first to have constitutional equivalence, and its main objective is to guarantee that people with disabilities enjoy their rights on equal terms, without discrimination, and to eliminate any barriers to achieving this. Similarly, in line with the aforementioned convention, there is target 11.7 of the UN's 2030 Agenda, which also seeks to ensure the rights of people with disabilities, mainly around providing accessibility in all environments.

Keywords: Urban accessibility, Social inclusion, Agenda 2030, Universal design, Accessibility standards, Social exclusion, Constitutional rights, Public spaces, Civil engineering, NBR 9050, Octávio Pinheiro Brizolla Square, Bauru-SP, Sustainable development.

INTRODUCTION

On March 30, 2007, Brazil ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, promulgated by the United Nations (UN), through the issuance of Legislative Decree 186/08 (BRASIL, 2008). This international treaty was the first to have constitutional equivalence, having as its main objective to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy their rights with equal conditions, without discrimination, providing for the elimination of any barriers to achieve this. Likewise, in line with the aforementioned convention, there is goal 11.7 of the UN 2030 Agenda, which also seeks to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities, mainly linked around providing accessibility in all environments.

Thus, as well as the aforementioned decree and the Agenda, the enactment of Law No. 10,098 in 2000 was extremely important, in which it defined guidelines and criteria to ensure accessibility for individuals with disabilities or reduced mobility, aiming to eliminate obstacles on public roads, urban spaces, constructions, building renovations, means of transportation and communication. In the same way, four years after the enactment of the Law, Decree No. 5,296 was inserted, with the aim of reinforcing certain aspects, such as accessibility guidelines and the inclusion of these principles in architectural and urban projects, and regulating the effectiveness of priority service, among other issues of equal importance.

The NBR 9050 standard of the Brazilian Association of Technical Standards (ABNT, 2004) establishes that accessibility refers to the ability and condition to make elements, buildings, furniture,



urban equipment reachable, perceptible and understandable, enabling their use safely and autonomously by anyone. In addition, this same standard defines as accessible any space, usable by everyone, regardless of their physical abilities.

Thus, as well as the meanings of the concepts of accessibility and accessability, the theme of social inclusion is extremely relevant, and for this reason the 2030 Agenda, promulgated in 2015 by the member countries of the United Nations (UN), reserved specific reflections and possibilities for action in the list of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which must be finalized by the year 2030 in order to ensure the success of this global agenda. Each objective has a set of goals assigned to it, totaling 169. As a result, goal 11.7 of this research seeks universal access to safe, inclusive, accessible and green public spaces, especially prioritizing meeting the needs of women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities (UN, 2015).

According to the Brazilian Constitution of 1988 (Art. 5, paragraph XV), every Brazilian citizen has the inalienable right to move freely within the national territory in times of peace. However, this right to "come and go" is constantly infringed by the lack of accessibility in various places, such as health clinics, public roads, squares and public transport. This gap in accessibility makes life in cities a major challenge for people with disabilities, facing a number of obstacles when moving around and also interacting in urban spaces, these people are faced with issues ranging from economic and social problems to, specifically in the context of this research, physical barriers. Such obstacles are responsible for preventing them from enjoying their rights on an equal basis with other citizens, generating social exclusion.

For this reason, it was essential to verify whether the facilities and public spaces in the city of Bauru-SP comply with the legislation and accessibility standards, in order to implement the right enacted in the Constitution of 1988. In addition, the choice of Bauru for the study also relies on the fact that it is one of the headquarters of the São Paulo State University "Júlio de Mesquita Filho", where the main author is involved in the undergraduate program, and the proximity and easy access to the information available at the university provide the feasibility for conducting this study. In view of the points discussed above, the objectives of this work are to investigate urban accessibility in Bauru-SP, through the principles established in the UN 2030 Agenda, focusing on inclusion for people with disabilities, especially as stipulated in Goal 11 of the SDG, in goal 11.7. In addition, it seeks to evaluate the conformity of the facilities and public spaces of Bauru-SP with the accessibility legislation in force in Brazil, based on technical solutions and urban design innovations based on the principles of Universal Design.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

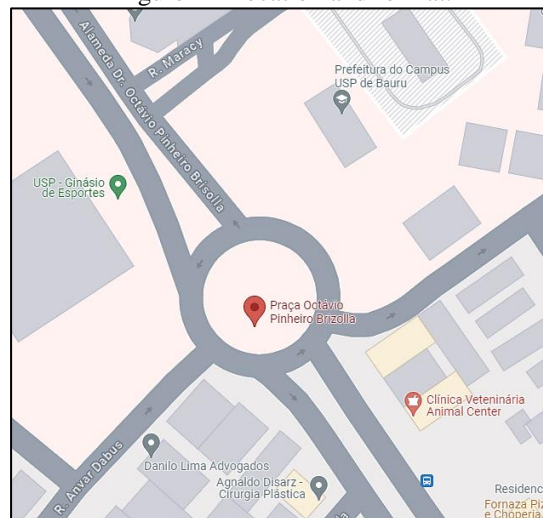
The methodology adopted in this study is mixed, with different approaches for a better urban analysis in Bauru-SP. This approach is divided into literature review, analysis of legislation and on-site

research. The literature review allows an in-depth understanding of the theories, concepts and regulations related to urban accessibility, while the analysis of the legislation, and standards such as NBR 9050, allow us to examine how the governing bodies are facing accessibility and inclusion. In addition, on-site research plays a key role in gathering information, involving the selection of a public space in the city, to assess its compliance with the accessibility standards established in theory. After its analysis, if necessary, recommendations will be made for possible future interventions.

RESULTS

For the case study and analysis "Theory versus Practice" the Octávio Pinheiro Brizolla square was selected, located in Alameda Dr. Octávio Pinheiro Brizolla, which can be described as a roundabout that has become a resting environment, with a diameter of approximately 35m.

Figure 1 - Location and format.



Source: Google Maps, 2024.

Initially, when analyzing the situation of the square, it becomes evident the absence of access ramps, contrary to Brazilian legislation, which makes it completely inaccessible, and consequently a source of social exclusion. And even though it is a relatively small space, when compared to large squares in Bauru-SP, it is essential that public spaces of any size can be used by all people, regardless of their physical abilities.

In addition, it is noted that the pavement of the internal region is in very poor condition, full of large unevenness, despite the spacing with adequate width, it is unable to be used comfortably. In the other topics of analysis, such as: parking, access to services, bathrooms, drinking fountains, public telephones, stairs and elevators, are not present in the space to analyze their agreement.

Thus, based on what has been analyzed, access ramps should be inserted in the square urgently, in order to remove barriers that prevent individuals from fully enjoying the public space, and to correct the leveling of the sidewalk. These measures also contribute to safety by providing a planned surface that reduces the risk of accidents.

Figures 2 to 4 - Situation of the square.



Source: Author, March 2024.

FINAL THOUGHTS

In view of the findings obtained in this study, it is stated that the established objectives were achieved by examining urban accessibility in Bauru-SP, following the foundations of the UN 2030 Agenda. In addition, it was possible to assess the compliance of the city's facilities and public spaces with Brazil's accessibility legislation.

With this, it became evident that urban accessibility, especially in small environments such as Octávio Pinheiro Brizolla square in Bauru-SP, reflects not only the absence of physical infrastructure, but also a lack of interest in the details that are essential for social inclusion in everyday life. The lack of access ramps and pavements in deplorable conditions perpetuates social exclusion, preventing all people from enjoying their rights equally. This research highlights the importance of ensuring that public environments, regardless of their size, are designed and built taking into account the principles of Universal Design and accessibility standards, such as NBR 9050. Social inclusion in cities cannot only be achieved in large projects, but also in the details of everyday spaces, such as neighborhood squares, which are often used more than large squares that require a greater commute to enjoy. Thus, investing in accessibility in these places is crucial for a more inclusive and sustainable society for all, in line with the 2030 Agenda.



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