FAQs on Accessibility

How does one know a web page is accessible?
To know whether a page is accessible, the page has to have Alt text on all images, have color contrasts, have captions on videos, well arranged heading levels, have resizable text and keyboard friendly. Also, the page has to follow guidelines given under the WCAG guidelines.

Is there a standard regulation for web page accessibility?
Yes there is. The most used standards and guidelines can be found at WCAG 2.0 and WCAG 2.1.

What is an example of an accessible tool?
Examples of accessible tools include wheelchairs, white canes, screen readers, screen or text magnifiers, voice recognition software etc.

Can accessible websites also be used by people with no disabilities? Yes, they can.

How can one make a website accessible?
A website can be made accessible by use of Alt text on images, Captions on videos, Well arranged heading levels, enabling resizable text, using tables where necessary, choosing colors carefully, ensuring the website is keyboard friendly.

What is the meaning of a screen reader?
A screen reader is a software used by persons with visual impairment to access content in a computer, e.g. NVDA and JAWS

Are there different accessibility tools for different disabilities?
Yes, there are. Different persons with disabilities have different accessibility tools: the blind have screen readers, The low vision have screen enlargement software, the deaf require cochlea devices and closed captioning to watch movies, television programs and any other digital media, while those with mobility issues have wheelchairs.

What is a screen reader?

A screen reader is a software application that enables people with visual impairments to use and access contents in a computerized device. Screen readers work closely with the computer's Operating System (OS) to provide information about icons, menus, dialogue boxes, files and folders. The device provides access to the entire OS that it works with, including many common applications.

What are the screen readers available for android devices?
1. Talk Back

2. Shine plus – most used by Huawei devices

Can a blind person use computer independently without help of a sighted person?

Absolutely yes. With the help of a screen reader a visually impaired person can comfortably use a computer device without need of help from anybody.

What is the cost of screen readers?

There are various screen readers with most of them being free with exception of the ones being used for commercial purposes like JAWS.

How many screen readers are available to persons with visual impairment?

There are a variety of screen readers available which include; JAWS, NVDA, Apple voice-over, Cobra, Dolphin, BRLTTY, Web anywhere, ZoomText, Orca etc. Some are commercial like JAWS, while others are free like NVDA.

Are screen readers available for both mobile phone and computers?
Yes they are. There are different screen readers which are compatible with different types of devices.

Do people with visual impairment use computers specially made for them?
No, persons with visual impairment use the same computers used by abled people but with the help of a screen reader.

Does web accessibility negatively impact a great web design?
Absolutely not. Accessible web designs will make your website look cleaner, which makes it easier for every user to navigate, especially people with disabilities. Ease of use is central to good design, so in that sense web accessibility actually *improves* web design.

Is accessible web design all I need to make my website accessible?
No. Accessible web design is a major component of web accessibility, but it's only part of the story. Often, web developers build additional functionality into accessible web design features, helping different groups of users overcome various conditions and challenges.

Which colors are best to use in accessible design?
The contrast between colors or backgrounds is more important than which colors your design uses. Also, color alone should not be used to convey information. Avoid flashing elements with saturated reds.

What are some functional benefits of accessible web design?

Accessible design goes beyond helping people who are blind and visually impaired. For example, including user controls in image carousels helps ensure the carousel animation doesn't negatively impact concentration for users with cognitive or neurological impairments. Another example is maintaining a logical hierarchy of headlines and font sizes down the page, which also supports users with cognitive impairments.

What are some other benefits of accessible web design, beyond accessibility for the blind or visually impaired?
There are many, but an example might be **including user controls in image carousels**, which helps ensure the carousel animation doesn't negatively impact concentration for users with cognitive or neurological impairments. Another example is **maintaining a logical hierarchy of headlines and font sizes** down the page, which also supports users with cognitive impairments.

Does "accessible design" apply to more than the look of a website?
Yes. Accessible design involves more than simply considering the visual elements of your website. Designers consider the functional needs of users with a range of disabilities, then implement methods and digital tools that work to meet those needs.

What is "Universal Design"?
Universal Design involves creating products or environments that are usable for everyone to the greatest level possible without a layer of adaptation.