



Dilisha Patel

Profile:

Dilisha is a Senior Social Researcher focusing on Gender and Disability Inclusion at GDI Hub. She aspires for an equitable world for all. She drives this by working with marginalised populations to provide them with useful, usable and reliable tools to support themselves and their communities. She brings her expertise in women's health and reproductive and sexual health research to the team.

She works on delivering integrated country capacity assessments and leads policy-level research to improve access to AT for those who need it.

Dilisha has over 10 years of research experience in health, social care and digital health and mainly uses qualitative methods.

Transcript:

[00:00:00] My name is Dr. Dilisha Patel. I'm a senior researcher at the GDI Hub. And my area of research mostly focus on gender and disability inclusion.

(Voiceover) Can you share why you think it is important for your research to have diverse inputs?

[00:00:12] Yes, I think having diverse inputs into your work is always a benefit. It can help you get ideas from a diverse range of people, which means your solutions and the things that you're co-creating can be more applicable for diverse people. And having those diverse inputs from the start really helps towards universal design. And open you up to new experiences, things that you may not think about because when we're working just with people like us, we tend to design things just for people like us and that's not always relevant or helpful.

(Voiceover) What advice would you recommend to early career researchers to create inclusive settings when co-creating or conducting research?

[00:00:49] Yeah, there's so many things that we can think about. I think when you're starting and planning, it's really good to think about accessibility. And that can be from anything from the environment in which you're working.

[00:00:57] And I would definitely say, never assume, always check and validate. So that can be from the environment you're working in, do a site visit to make sure it's accessible, ask people what requirements they may need, and then test that out. Also having flexible formats of things. So that can be the materials you're using.

[00:01:16] Can things be audio or do they have to be visual? Looking at different materials. And especially when you're doing research, you might have to look at things like consent mechanisms. Sometimes written is not always favourable. Explore verbal consent practices, other things like that.

(Voiceover) Can you share any common mistakes that researchers should avoid?

[00:01:40] Common mistakes I think is not planning appropriately as well. When you're planning, always things can cost more than you realise, especially if we're looking at accessibility. So always have some funding aside for that. Don't ignore the input of intersectionality. People's identities from a range of things can impact their, like their contributions and their influences.

[00:02:06] So we're not only looking potentially where people live, it can also be their gender, their race. their disability status, things like that. So it's about combining all of those things together. And again, don't assume or generalise. So there's a really good practice in research where you can do things like member checking.

[00:02:24] So when you collect data or you develop designs, go back to your participants and check that your inferences are okay. But and also related to funding, like always compensate people for their time that they're giving you, they're giving you their time, their energy, their ideas. And some of these things can cost a bit more than you realise.

(Voiceover) Is there anything else researchers should be mindful of when working with diverse audiences?

Don't overestimate or underestimate people's influences and impacts and always start early. So even when you're developing ideas and research spaces or designs, like always speak to the community or the people that you're, that you want to work with.

[00:02:59] Early and I think that's always a great benefit. And have people on your, have diverse teams. It's not only about diverse inputs, like the people around you and working with you as well, make sure there's diversity there.