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Poster Book

IIIDBEE X 2023
20 JANUARY 2023
*International Invention, Innovation & Design Exposition
for Built Environment and Engineering 2023*

**College of Built Environment
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20 January 2023 | Friday

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Unleashing Potentials
Shaping the Future

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GOAL

Method:

Identifying Physical Inaccessibility Impacts

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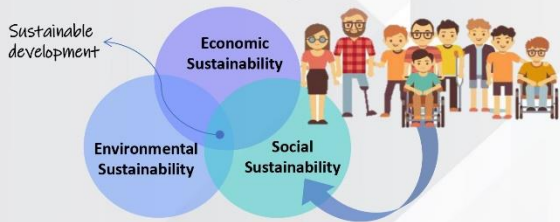
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College of Built Environment (CBE)

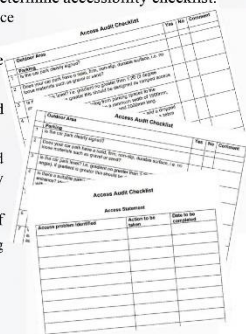
INTRODUCTION

Accessibility enables disabled people to have full participation in society that supposed to lead to social justice and equity, thus promote social sustainability. Public places and public buildings should be planned and designed based on the accessible manner to ensure that everyone could have access to the physical environment. However, literature show that physical barriers in the built environment hindered disabled people full participation in the society that resulted to marginalisation.



ISSUES/ PROBLEM STATEMENT

- Identifying barriers using access audit – predetermine accessibility checklist.
- Little consideration of disabled people's lived experience (psychological and emotional views).
- Dynamic interaction between disability and the built environment.
- Disability encompasses structural and psycho-emotional dimensions.
- Hence, go-along (GOAL) interview method adopted (a type of walking interview typically employed in ethnography research).
- To gain in-depth understanding of accessibility and inclusion issues among disabled people.

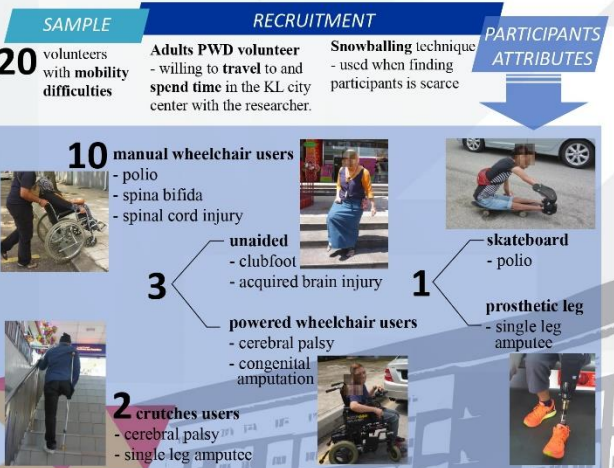


OBJECTIVES

To identify physical inaccessibility impacts towards disabled people from the psycho-emotional dimension while experiencing physical barriers in KL city centre by using GOAL interview method.

METHODOLOGY

The researcher walked alongside disabled participant (or OKU, commonly used in Malaysia) in pedestrian walkways, buildings and public spaces, and ride-along with each participant using the participants' preferred mode of transportation.



FINDINGS

Psycho-emotional effects of disability include frustration and insecurity about continuing the journey. Both structural and psycho-emotional disability indicate injustice through inadequate environment that causes social exclusion. When wheelchair users need help climbing stairs, they compromising safety. OKU's emotions and body were affected by fear of built environment barriers. Being lifted by others to get to another floor makes OKU uncomfortable (for safety and being watched) and inferior for not being able to do things independently. These feelings could hinder OKU's social life. This issue caused some OKU to consider giving up and prevented them from living their full potential.

NOVELTY

- GOAL interview permits observation of the participants' spoken responses, faces, body language, and voice tones as they communicate their experiences while accessing or attempting to access building and public space.
- Collect data with empathy - facing built environment challenges together.
- The researcher was the first to adopt GOAL interview in understanding the disability-environment context in Malaysia.

CONCLUSION

Generally, OKU still struggles for inclusion due to many impediments, as evidenced in GOAL interviews. Disabling barriers are both structural (e.g., inappropriate ramp gradient) and psycho-emotional (personal experience). The way OKU perceived structural and psycho-emotional barriers varied from person to person, despite using the same walking aid and having the same impairment. Learning 'with' disabled participants is more effective in understanding the disability-environment context compared to learning through research that is 'about' disabled people's experiences or by only conducting traditional interviews with them. There were so many precious experiences that the researcher would not be able to achieve through reading or listening, but gathered through the GOAL interview journey. The researcher not only observed the participant but was involved with empathy in what the participant experienced in the journey as the researcher directly faced the challenges with them. Understanding disabled people's psycho-emotions within human-environment interactions helps promote an inclusive environment.

COMMERCIALIZATION

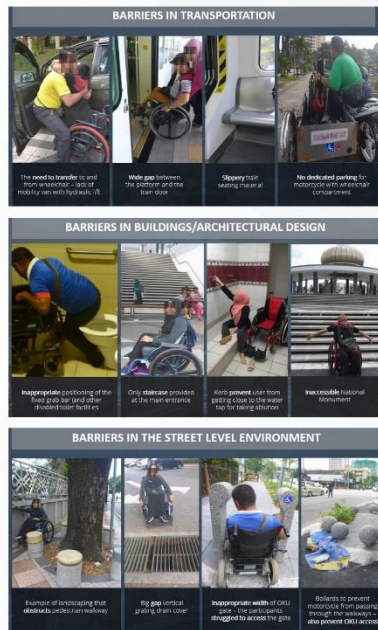
The outcomes of using GOAL method in identifying and understanding structural and psycho-emotional dimensions of disability faced by OKU promote inclusive environment for social sustainability, which is more valuable than monetary value.

RECOGNITIONS

- Three Minutes Thesis Finalist (Top 10), University of Birmingham, United Kingdom, 2017
- Best Presenter - The 2nd International Conference on Contemporary Muslim World (ICCMW2021) Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan Perak, Malaysia, 13-14 October 2021

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