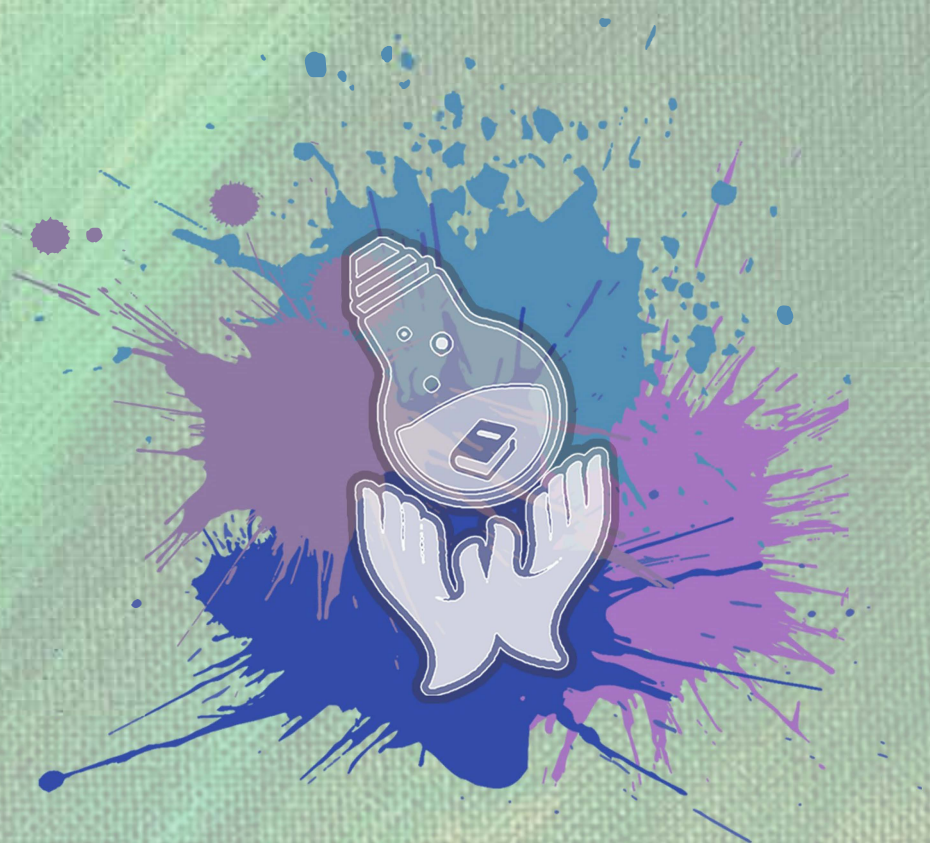




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ACCESSIBILITY FACILITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AT MOSQUES

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Abstract:

The mosque is an Islamic building that has religious and social activities as well as a place where Muslims join together in congregational prayers. In Malaysia there are thousands of mosques built with different designs and ways of construction. However, there are certain of mosques that lack of awareness on the importance of disable people in using it. This research needs to identify accessibility requirement for people with disabilities (PWD's) and to observe the facilities provided and accessibility requirement for PWD's at the mosque in Perak. Quantitative methods were used in this study through the access audit checklist at the selected mosques.

Keywords:

Person with disabilities (pwd's); Mosque; Accessibility; Facilities; Access audit

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This mosque is a place of "Rumah Allah" where everyone performs a prayer in one place either disabled people (Harry kurniawan, 2010). As mentioned by Asiah, Nur Amirah, Che Raikandar, and Aiman (2014), the mosque must also be designed to meet all types of users, including persons with disabilities as it is important to perform mosque prayers. Rohaiza (2017) had stated, more than 5,300 mosques in malaysia, but facilities for disabled people were problematic due to lack of availability. According to Malaysia (2014) act, PWD's have the right to access and use public facilities provided to public. The mosque is an open place for everyone not only stated for people who have no disabilities. Access to the disabled is very important to be provided to enable them to perform their prayer (Asiah, Azila, Izawati, & Nur Amirah, 2015). Disabled people have barriers to access due to their physical burden, hence this is a barrier for them to go to the mosque because they have no accessibility continuity particularly from places where vehicles, ablutions, entrances and toilets (Asiah et al., 2014).

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

People with disabilities refer to persons who have physical, auditory or involvement problems or any combination thereof affecting mobility to use the relevant facility building (Rohaiza, 2017). According to Malaysia (2014) act, persons with disabilities including those who experience long-term physical, mental, intellectual or long-term disabilities who want to interact with their various effective participation in society. A total of 305,640 persons with disabilities have been registered in Malaysia welfare department in 2012 (M.Rezaul, 2015). However, this data is still incomplete as the registration of persons with disabilities in Malaysia. Rohaiza (2017), stressed that the persons with disabilities face challenges in their ability to do and achieve daily activities such as moving around, communicating and social participation. In Malaysia, the right of persons with disability have been clearly stated in Person with Disabilities Malaysia (2014), which is stated people cannot prevent PWD's to interact in society.

2.1 The category of people with disabilities (PWD's)

People with disabilities can be classified under four categories which is non ambulant disabilities is a person on a wheelchair, semi ambulant is impairments that cause individuals to walk with difficulty with using braces or crutches, sight disabilities is are person totally blind and make use other sense and lastly is hearing disabilities is deafness of hearing handicap make an individual insecure in public areas (Asiah & Nur Amirah, 2010; Central Public Works Department, 1998).

2.2 The facilities of people with disabilities (PWD's)

The facilities for disabled persons are very important to be held in every building for their use and should be taken to facilitate them to move into the building. The facilities should be in accordance with the proper specifications to facilitate the disabled (Lacey, 2004). The type of facilities of people with disabilities (PWD's) can be categories into 6 type;

Table 1. The type of facilities

EE- External Environment	EE1- Parking space EE2- Ramps and kerbs EE3- Pedestrian walkways
EN- Entrance	EN1- Entrance / exit door EN2- Corridor
HC- Horizontal Circulation & VC- Vertical Circulation	HC1- Guide blocks HC2- Stairs
WC's- Toilet & ablution area	WC1- Accessible restroom WC2- Praying room and ablution area
SF- Specific Facilities	SF1- Information counter and service desks
S&WF- Sign &Way Finding	S&WF1- Wayfinding, information and sign

(Lacey, 2004; Siedle, 1996)

2.3 Legislation and standards

Various laws created for the rights of persons with disabilities in Malaysia. the establishment of such standards and regulations demonstrates strong ethical values and support and ensuring equal rights for everyone. in this study uses several acts related to disabled persons such as Disabled persons act 2008 (Act 685) and Malaysian standard (MS).

3.0 METHODOLOGY

In general, this study started with an audit checklist. the collection of this study data involves the observation of four district mosques in selected area around Perak. The audit checklist has been developed and there are 11 elements audited at the mosque. All the elements that were taken into consideration were the convenience of the disabled people for access inside the mosque. Facilities to be assessed in audit access were car parks, pedestrian walkways, guide blocks, ramps, entrance, stairs, praying room and ablution area, wayfinding signs and accessible restroom. The design requirements checklist derived from the MS code and the universal design principles are prepared based on measure of the researcher and observation of the facility.

4.0 ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

The data collected were analyzed and the findings from the data analysis are expected to assist in achieving the objective of this research. The data analysis and the findings were concluded in conclusion and recommendation. Four mosques have been chosen in Perak which are Masjid Toh Puan Besar Hatijah, Batu Gajah, Masjid Nurul Hidayah, Seri Manjung, Masjid Ridzwaniah, Kuala Kangsar and Masjid Sultan Idris Shah II, Teluk Intan. The table below shows the data to be used as a guideline to perceive the existence of such facilities:

Table 2: Facilities at the mosques

Description	Masjid BJ	Masjid SM	Masjid KK	Masjid TI
EE1 -Parking space	✗	✓	✓	✗
EE2 -Ramps and kerb	✓	✓	✓	✓
EE3 -Pedestrian walkway	✗	✓	✓	✓
EN1 -Entrance / exit door	✓	✓	✓	✓
EN2 -Corridor	✓	✓	✓	✓
HC1 -Guide blocks	✗	✗	✗	✗
HC2 -Stairs	✓	✓	✓	✓
WC1 -Accessible restroom	✗	✓	✓	✓

WC2 -Praying room and ablution area	✗	✓	✓	✓
SF1 -Information counter	✗	✗	✗	✗
SWF1 -Sign and way finding	✗	✓	✓	✓

All mosques have almost of the facilities for the disabled people, with certain lacks few elements such as guide block and information counters are not provided in every mosque. The guide blocks should be provided to ease a person with sight disabilities moving into the mosques. Other that, some of the mosques do not provided a parking space for disable people but they provide a ramp at the outside the road for wheelchair user to coming inside the mosques. The parking space for disabled people are very important because the size of the disabled people's parking is different with a common parking. The majority indicated that the Masjid Toh Puan Besar Hatijah in Batu Gajah Perak do not have many facilities for the disabled people such as parking space, guide blocks, toilet for disable people, praying room and ablution and sign way finding for disable sign.

5.0 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the findings from the research show that facilities for disabled people are still lacking in the mosque as an example, the absence of guide blocks on the mosque floor for the blind people to go to the mosque. Moreover, information counters are also not available in the mosque to make it easier to interact and move. Therefore, the mosques need to provide a more inclusive environment that caters the needs of wider users, especially people with disabilities.

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