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MAINTAINABILITY OF DESIGN AND FACILITIES FOR  
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWD) IN EDUCATION  
BUILDING (LIBRARY PTAR UITM PERAK)

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## **ABSTRACT**

In modern culture, people with disabilities are not uncommon. They are, in reality, a part of us. Our surroundings used to be a barrier for this group because there were no basic facilities for them in public spaces like inside the buildings. However, many facilities have been constructed and given for this group in recent years, as people have become more aware of the importance of this group's rights. This includes the need of allowing disabled students to move around within the education institution. However, because the facilities are available, they must be maintained. There are a number of issues with the upkeep of these facilities, with disabled users frequently discovering that they are unable to use them owing to breakdown or damage. This occurs when the administration decides to overlook the importance of maintaining these types of facilities. Therefore, the aim of this study is to study and investigate the maintainability of design and facilities for PWD in education building. Library PTAR (Perpustakaan Tun Abdul Razak) UITM Perak was taken as a case study to conduct this research. The condition and compliance of facilities such as ramps, elevators/lifts, toilets, signage, doors, stairwells, and parking have been observed and inspected in accordance with Malaysian Standard 1184. An interview was also conducted to determine the facilities' maintainability, as well as a survey to determine the level of safety and comfort. As a result of the findings, it is advised that facilities be improved for the better. It is hoped that this research would shed light on the need of maintaining the accessibility of disabled facilities.

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# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 RESEARCH BACKGROUND

According to the World Bank (2020), one billion people, or 15% of the global population, suffer from some form of disability, with the prevalence of impairment being higher in developing countries. Significant disabilities affect one-fifth of the world's population, or between 110 and 190 million individuals. People with disabilities are more likely to have negative socioeconomic results, such as a lack of education, poor health, low employment and higher poverty rates (Disability Inclusion, 2020).

**Disabled people** have been seen all across the world throughout human history. This was due to incorrect genetic copies of DNA (congenital impairment), accidents or diseased throughout growth and adulthood, and numerous clashes and wars that mankind have experienced over the millennia (WS & Erdmann, 2018). In 2017, the department of social welfare in Malaysia registered 453,258 persons as Person with Disabilities (PWD). PWD in the physical category had the greatest number (35.2%), followed by PWD in the learning disability category (34.8%), and PWD in the visually impaired category (8.9%). The lowest registration rate 0.5 % in the speech category (Mahidin, 2018)

The environment has a significant impact on a person's disabilities experience and severity. By putting up barriers to participation and inclusion, inaccessible environments contribute to disabilities. A deaf person without a sign language interpreter, a wheelchair user in a building without an accessible bathroom or elevator, and a blind person using a computer without screen-reading software are all examples of probable negative environmental effects (WHO, 2011).

Accessibility to buildings, rooms, restrooms, and leisure areas should be a minimum need for disabled people's facilities. This can be accomplished by providing