
Abstract


Enhancing Urban Barrier-Free Mobility in Developing cities

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As an indicator of development and to facilitates many aspects of life urban transport been a target for improvement in developing countries lately, therefore this study discuss the different frameworks and actions to achieve a barrier-free mobility in low income cities and on the way to that a country with accessible systems as well as organized institutions is needed to represent a reference in this matter, thence this study was conducted in Germany it aim to describe the practices and measures that been taken to achieve the goal of unrestricted mobility. As a part of this the regulations and laws that related to the rights of disabled people in Germany were recalled on the international, national or state level to eventually to reach the top goal of fully describe the used and considered measures and action plans in Germany and further examine their integrability within the developing countries represented in Sudan in this study as its where the author of this study from.

Following a short brief about the history of barrier-free mobility the importance of the barrier-free transport systems is described as an indicator of the quality of life of disabled people showing how the lack of it is directly related to the rates of employment and education with a clear differences between high and low income countries. On the other hand after deciding the scopes and limits of the study the next step explain the concept of accessibility within transport systems while giving examples for it in Germany and developed countries that included the rights persons of disability for mobility, not far from that the significances of the universal design were mentioned as the essential idea of barrier-free mobility linking all that directly to the requirements of people with disability which were identified according to the type of disability first and to the transport mode. For each group the assistive devices and aids that used for mobility and communication are clarified to guarantee the agreement with the transport mode facilities. Moreover to have a full picture about the situation in Germany all the laws that related to the disability rights were counted to see how it can be implemented with a description of the organizational frameworks as well identifying the different responsibilities for the authorities under the German regulations and improvement plans.

While seeking answers it appear that in Germany the federal equalizing law of people with disabilities in 2002 represent the foundation for the legal aspect as a detailed comprehensive law besides being a part of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as an international commitment, this two obligations are the main supporters for the Action Plan for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (2011-2021) which can be considered as the tool to



translate the convention, interpose the characterization of the action plan other than the distribution of duties the measures are carefully described. However there is a still a need for a guideline for design the guideline that used in Hessen state for unrestricted mobility exemplify the criteria and standards that been followed by the German authorities, in addition the reflection of all that on land in forms of measures were observed in a way of creating two different trips from specific origin to a destination for people with different disabilities using different modes of transport, during that the measures are classified for the sake of clarity for instance physical measures can be operational or structural to make a clear structure of the used measures in a form of catalogue. Furthermore for the purpose of evaluation a questionnaire and interviews were conducted asking the people with disability questions to identify their degree of satisfaction about the urban transport system, while the results of the questionnaire are used as a comparison with the participant's requirements an evaluation created to conclude the conditions. Likewise interviews with Sudanese disabled people gave an idea and explained the poor circumstances they live.

As a part of the team who created the master plan for transport and mobility in Khartoum state in Sudan the author has a privilege to draw a full picture about the organizational frameworks and regulations to promote barrier-free systems, find there is no absolute consideration for any accessibility measures due to two economic and political limitations as well as the incapable infrastructure to fulfil the users requirements. Subsequently in comparison the weakness and strengths in Sudan described in order to achieve a guideline to promote unrestricted mobility practices as a conclusion goal of the study, therefore the guideline contain urgent suggested measures for a short term plan and additionally funding proposals with a list of collaborations chances between Sudan and Germany. As conclusion the research shows fairly good conditions in Germany with clear ongoing efforts as a part of the country improvement plan for transport and equalization while the situation in Sudan interfere with the many influences that lead to poor conditions for the disabled mobility with further studies and efforts in organizational, legal and approaches level needed for the inclusion of people with disability.

Key words: Accessibility, Barrier-free mobility, Measures, Organizational frameworks, People with disability.
