

Assessing the Current State of Wheelchair Accessibility in Shopping Centers and Stores in Saudi Arabia

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Abstract : In recent years, ensuring accessibility for all individuals, particularly those with mobility impairments, has gained significant attention in Saudi Arabia. This research aims to evaluate wheelchair accessibility in shopping centers, malls, and stores across the kingdom, highlighting its critical role in promoting inclusivity and equal access. The study will focus on the availability and quality of ramps, automatic doors, lifts, accessible restrooms, and overall ease of navigation for wheelchair users. Utilizing a mixed-methods approach, the research will employ site assessments, user surveys, and interviews with facility managers to gather comprehensive data. Preliminary findings indicate that while some facilities have made strides in accessibility, there are still numerous areas requiring improvement. The study will provide targeted recommendations to enhance accessibility, ensuring that all users can navigate shopping environments with ease and dignity. Conclusively, this research underscores the need for continuous efforts and policy enhancements to achieve universal design standards in public spaces within Saudi Arabia.

Keywords : automatic doors, equal access, ramp quality, wheelchair accessibility

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