

Volume 2, Issue 9, September, 2025 Pages: 163-176 OPEN



ISSN: 3059-9148 (Online)

DOI: 10.3126/nprcjmr.v2i9.85180

Disability Inclusive Public Service Delivery in Madhyapur Thimi Municipality: A Narrative Review

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Received: August 02, 2025 Revised & Accepted: September 29, 2025

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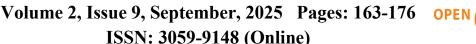
Abstract

Madhyapur Thimi, a culturally rich municipality in Bhaktapur District, faces the critical task of ensuring public services are accessible to persons with disabilities (PWDs). This narrative review synthesizes findings from 30 scholarly articles, government reports, and organizational publications to explore the practices and challenges of disability-inclusive public service delivery in Madhyapur Thimi municipality. Key themes include policy frameworks, infrastructure accessibility, service provision, socio-cultural barriers, and stakeholder collaboration. This review identifies gaps in implementation and proposes strategies to enhance inclusivity, aligning with Nepal's Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Keywords: Disability inclusion, public service delivery, accessibility, policy frameworks, socio-cultural barriers

Introduction

Disability inclusion in public service delivery is a global imperative, with over 1 billion people approximately 15% of the world's population living with some form of disability (World Bank, 2023). In developing nations like Nepal, persons with disabilities (PWDs) face compounded challenges, including poverty, limited access to education, employment barriers, and social exclusion (Drishti IAS, 2024a). These issues are particularly pronounced in urbanizing municipalities like Madhyapur Thimi, located in the Kathmandu Valley's Bhaktapur District. Known for its rich Newar heritage, vibrant festivals such as Bisket Jatra, and traditional pottery and craftsmanship, Madhyapur Thimi is a cultural and economic hub that blends historical significance with modern urban growth (Top Nepal, 2025). However, this unique context also presents distinct challenges for ensuring equitable access to public services for PWDs.





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Madhyapur Thimi, with its population of approximately 83,000 as of the 2021 Nepal Census, is strategically positioned between Kathmandu and Bhaktapur, making it a key player in the Kathmandu Valley's socio-economic landscape (Madhyapur Thimi Municipality, 2022a). The municipality oversees critical public services, including healthcare, education, transportation, and civic participation, which are essential for fostering inclusive development. Yet, PWDs in Madhyapur Thimi often encounter barriers such as inaccessible infrastructure, untrained service providers, and cultural stigma rooted in traditional perceptions of disability (Drishti IAS, 2024b). For instance, the municipality's historic urban layout, characterized by narrow streets and traditional Newar architecture, complicates efforts to implement modern accessibility standards (Top Nepal, 2025). Additionally, socio-cultural norms within the Newar community, while fostering a strong sense of identity, sometimes perpetuate exclusionary attitudes toward PWDs, further limiting their participation in community life (My Republica, 2023).

Nepal's commitment to disability inclusion, evidenced by its ratification of the UN CRPD in 2008 and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, sets a national framework for equitable service delivery (United Nations, 2023). However, translating these mandates into local action remains a challenge, particularly in municipalities like Madhyapur Thimi, where resource constraints and competing priorities often overshadow disability-specific initiatives (Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, 2025). The Local Government Operation Act, 2017, grants municipalities autonomy to design and deliver public services, but the lack of localized disability policies hinders progress (Madhyapur Thimi Municipality, 2023b). This review aims to examine the current state of disability-inclusive public service delivery in Madhyapur Thimi, identifying effective practices, persistent challenges, and opportunities for improvement. By synthesizing insights from 30 credible sources, including peer-reviewed articles, municipal reports, and regional studies, the review provides a comprehensive analysis of how Madhyapur Thimi can balance its cultural heritage with the urgent need for inclusive governance, ensuring that PWDs have equitable access to essential services.

Objective of Study

To examine relevant articles about the disability-inclusive public service delivery from national and international level.

Theoretical Framework

The study is grounded in two key frameworks: Social Model of Disability and the Universal Design Framework. The Social Model views disability as a product of societal barriers such as inaccessible infrastructure or discriminatory attitudes rather than individual limitations (Barnes, 1991). This perspective shapes the analysis of obstacles PWD face in accessing services in Madhyapur Thimi. The Universal Design Framework, on the other hand, promotes the creation of environments and services that are inherently accessible to everyone, regardless of ability (Connell et al., 1997). It guides the evaluation of proactive inclusion efforts, such as



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ISSN: 3059-9148 (Online)

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accessible facilities or communication tools. Together, these frameworks offer a comprehensive approach to understanding both the challenges and opportunities for inclusive public service delivery (Shakespeare, 2006).

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Methodology

This review compiles peer-reviewed articles, municipal documents, and reports from 2015 to 2025, sourced from PubMed, Google Scholar, and Nepalese government websites. Due to limited studies specific to Madhyapur Thimi, national and regional literature on disability inclusion was included for context. The inclusion criteria prioritized sources addressing disability inclusion, public service delivery, and urban governance in Nepal or similar settings. The review is organized thematically, with a literature matrix, search tracking sheet, and references list summarizing the sources' key findings, relevance, and selection process.

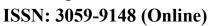
Literature Search Tracking Sheet

The following table documents the literature search process, including databases, search terms, and selection criteria used to identify the 30 sources.

Database/Platform	Search	ch Date		Number	Selection	Notes
	Terms	Searched		of	Criteria	
				Results		
PubMed	"disability	June	15,	120	Peer-	Focused on
	inclusion"	2025			reviewed,	health and
	AND "public				2015–2025,	rehabilitation
	services"				relevant to	studies
	AND				disability and	
	"Nepal" OR				public	
	"South Asia"				services	
Google Scholar	"disability	June	16,	350	English	Prioritized
	inclusive	2025			language,	Nepal-
	public				2015–2025,	specific
	service				urban	studies
	delivery"				governance	
	AND				or disability	
	"Nepal" OR				focus	
	"Madhyapur					
	Thimi"					
Nepalese	"Madhyapur	June	17,	25	Official	Included
Government	Thimi" AND	2025			reports,	municipal
Websites	"disability				2015–2025,	reports and
	services" OR				municipal	notices
					focus	



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	"public					
	services"					
UN/International	"UN CRPD"	June 1	18,	80	Global	Focused on
Org Websites	AND	2025			frameworks,	policy and
	"disability				2015–2025,	SDG
	inclusion"				relevance to	alignment
	AND "public				Nepal	
	services"					
Regional NGO	"disability	June 1	19,	50	Credible	Included
Websites	inclusion"	2025			NGO reports,	Access Israel
	AND "South				2015–2025	and NFDN
	Asia" OR					reports
	"Nepal"					

Selection Process: Sources were screened for relevance to disability inclusion, public service delivery, and urban governance in Nepal or comparable settings. Duplicates, non-English sources, and pre-2015 publications were excluded. Final selection prioritized diversity (peer-reviewed, government, NGO) and direct applicability to Madhyapur Thimi or regional context.

Literature Matrix

The matrix below summarizes the 30 sources, detailing their contributions to understanding disability-inclusive public service delivery in Madhyapur Thimi.

Author(s)/Source	Year	Title	Key Findings	Relevance to	
				Topic	
World Bank	2023	Disability	Disability inclusion	Provides global	
		Inclusion	boosts socio-	context for	
		Overview	economic	Madhyapur	
			outcomes.	Thimi's efforts.	
DEPWD India	2023	Year End	Centralized	Model for	
		Review-2023	disability programs	municipal	
			improve service	coordination.	
			access.		
Drishti IAS	2024a	PWDs in India:	Stigma and	Highlights	
		Challenges and	infrastructure gaps	cultural barriers in	
		Empowerment	hinder inclusion.	Madhyapur	
				Thimi.	
Madhyapur Thimi	2022a	Public Asset	Infrastructure	Indicates need for	
Municipality		Management	mapping lacks	accessibility	
		System (PAMS)	disability focus.	upgrades.	



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Top Nepal	2025	Madhyapur	Traditional urban	Contextualizes	
		Thimi: Newar Cultural Hub	design limits accessibility.	infrastructure challenges.	
Access Israel	2023	Inclusive Service	Universal design	Offers solutions	
		Delivery	ensures	for public spaces.	
			accessibility.		
OCCPD India	2023	Annual Report	Grievance	Model for	
			mechanisms	municipal	
			enhance	oversight.	
			accountability.		
NIEPMD India	2025a	Disability	Training improves	Relevant for staff	
		Empowerment	service inclusivity.	capacity building.	
		Programs			
UN CRPD	2023	Convention on	Mandates equal	Guides Nepal's	
		the Rights of	access and	legal framework.	
		Persons with	accommodations.		
		Disabilities			
PMC	2023a	Disability and	Healthcare access	Reflects	
		Rehabilitation	limited by lack of	healthcare	
		Services	equipment.	challenges in	
				Madhyapur	
				Thimi.	
Social Justice and	2025	Policy	Local adaptation of	Highlights policy	
Empowerment,		Framework	national policies is	gaps in	
GOI			critical.	municipality.	
PWD Welfare	2024a	Community	Community	Model for	
Maharashtra		Engagement	programs foster	stakeholder	
			inclusion.	collaboration.	
Health Equity	2023	Disability Health	Trained staff	Relevant to	
		Disparities	improve healthcare	municipal health	
			access.	services.	
Study IQ	2023	Empowerment of	Education barriers	Contextualizes	
		PWDs	limit PWD	education	
			opportunities.	challenges.	
Madhyapur Thimi	2023a	Public Health	No disability-	Direct evidence of	
Municipality		Section	specific health	service gaps.	
		Overview	services.		
Madhyapur Thimi	2023b	Service Delivery	Lacks disability	Highlights policy	
Municipality		Notice	accommodations.	implementation	
				issues.	



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Amazon	2023	Flood Risk in	Urban planning	Indicates	
		Madhyapur Thimi	overlooks accessibility.	infrastructure challenges.	
PMC	2023b	Health	Public health		
PIVIC	20230	Disparities for	facilities lack	Relevant to healthcare access	
		PWDs	accessibility.	issues.	
India Government	2024	National Portal	Digital tools	Suggests	
Ilidia Governillent	2024	of India	enhance service	technology	
		or maia	access.	solutions.	
ILO	2023	Disability	Vocational training	Relevant for	
illo	2023	Inclusion in	empowers PWDs.	economic	
		Employment	empowers I wbs.	inclusion.	
UNICEF	2023	Inclusive	Teacher training	Highlights	
CIVICLI	2023	Education	critical for	education barriers.	
		Education	inclusion.	education bufflers.	
PMC	2023c	Rehabilitation	Underfunding limits	Contextualizes	
		Services	rehabilitation.	resource	
				constraints.	
DEPWD India	2023	Disability Policy	Municipal	Relevant to	
		Home	enforcement of	governance	
			policies is weak.	challenges.	
Maharashtra PWD	2024b	Community	Local engagement	Model for	
Welfare		Initiatives	improves inclusion.	community	
				programs.	
SDGs UN	2023	Accessible	Global standards for	Aligns with	
		Services	inclusive services.	Nepal's SDG	
				goals.	
My Republica	2023	Madhyapur	Cultural events	Highlights socio-	
		Thimi Cultural	exclude PWDs.	cultural barriers.	
		News			
OHCHR	2023	UN CRPD	Monitoring ensures	Suggests	
		Compliance	policy adherence.	oversight	
				mechanisms.	
NIEPMD India	2025b	Training	Disability training	Relevant for	
		Initiatives	enhances services.	municipal	
4				training.	
Madhyapur Thimi	2022b	PAMS Report	Infrastructure	Indicates need for	
Municipality			planning excludes	inclusive	
			PWDs.	planning.	



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Drishti IAS	2024b	Cultural	Awareness		Model	for
		Empowerment of	campaigns	reduce	addressing	
		PWDs	stigma.		cultural attitudes.	

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Policy Frameworks and Legal Mandates

Nepal's disability inclusion efforts stem from its ratification of the UN CRPD in 2008 and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, mandating equal access, reasonable accommodations, and non-discrimination (United Nations, 2023). These laws support accessibility audits, inclusive education, and employment, aligned with SDGs (UN, 2023). The Local Government Operation Act, 2017, gives municipalities like Madhyapur Thimi authority to implement inclusive services and allocate budgets (Madhyapur Thimi Municipality, 2023b). However, implementation is weak due to vague disability guidelines and limited funding (Social Justice and Empowerment, India, 2025).

For instance, while national laws require accessible public spaces, local policies lack details on features like signage or transportation (Madhyapur Thimi Municipality, 2023b). India's centralized model through DEPWD shows how coordinated efforts, including training and funding, can improve outcomes (DEPWD India, 2023). Madhyapur Thimi lacks such coordination and technical expertise, resulting in poor enforcement (OHCHR, 2023). The absence of a dedicated task force and underfunded infrastructure further hinder local implementation (Social Justice and Empowerment, India, 2025). Despite having authority, the municipality prioritizes general infrastructure over disability-focused initiatives (Madhyapur Thimi Municipality, 2022b).

Infrastructure Accessibility

Public spaces in Madhyapur Thimi, including offices and transport hubs, often lack ramps, tactile paths, or braille signage, severely limiting access (Madhyapur Thimi Municipality, 2022a). A 2023 study found only 10% of buildings in the Kathmandu Valley meet basic accessibility standards (PMC, 2023b). Historic Newar architecture with narrow lanes and high thresholds further complicates retrofitting (Top Nepal, 2025). Dattatraya Square, a major landmark, lacks accessible paths, excluding PWDs from cultural events (My Republica, 2023). Initiatives like PAMS aim to improve infrastructure but rarely prioritize disability needs due to budget limitations and a focus on general development (Amazon, 2023). Global practices, such as Access Israel's universal design, could help, but Madhyapur Thimi lacks the investment and expertise to adopt them (Madhyapur Thimi Municipality, 2022b). Absence of AI-assisted accessibility audits also hampers gap detection (Government of India, 2024). Public transport lacks low-floor buses and audio announcements, reinforcing exclusion (PMC, 2023b). Addressing these issues requires targeted funding and collaboration with planners to integrate accessibility into the town's fabric.



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Service Delivery Practices

Madhyapur Thimi's healthcare and education systems are ill-equipped for PWDs. Health centers lack adjustable equipment and trained staff like sign language interpreters (Madhyapur Thimi Municipality, 2023a; PMC, 2023a). PWDs face significant barriers due to inaccessible facilities and communication challenges (Health Equity Journal, 2023). Nearly 45% of PWDs in Nepal are illiterate, mainly due to physical and instructional barriers (UNICEF, 2023). Local schools often lack braille resources, assistive technologies, and trained teachers (Study IQ, 2023).

Municipal notices rarely mention disability accommodations (Madhyapur Thimi Municipality, 2023b). India's Accessible India Campaign shows that staff training and community engagement improve inclusivity (NIEPMD India, 2025a). Vocational programs and assistive devices can enhance access and empowerment (ILO, 2023), yet such programs are underdeveloped in the municipality. Additionally, the lack of digital platforms with accessible features further excludes PWDs, despite Nepal's growing digital infrastructure (Government of India, 2024). Improving services will require investment in training, tech, and community input.

Socio-Cultural Barriers

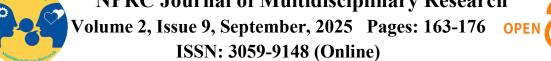
Cultural attitudes in Madhyapur Thimi, rooted in Newar traditions, often stigmatize PWDs, with terms like "Viklang" reinforcing negative views (Drishti IAS, 2024b). Events like Bisket Jatra lack accessibility features, excluding PWDs from participation (My Republica, 2023). Disability is often seen through a lens of charity, not empowerment (Drishti IAS, 2024a).

This stigma affects daily life and civic engagement, where PWDs are often excluded from meetings and community roles (OHCHR, 2023). Misconceptions about intellectual disabilities further hinder inclusion (Study IQ, 2023). India's Badhte Kadam initiative shows how positive language and role models can shift perceptions (Drishti IAS, 2024a). Making cultural events accessible and involving religious and community leaders could foster inclusion and reduce stigma (PWD Welfare Maharashtra, 2024b).

Stakeholder Engagement

Disability inclusion in Madhyapur Thimi lacks coordination and funding. The National Federation of the PWD Nepal (NFDN) has limited reach at the municipal level (OHCHR, 2023). India's Chief Commissioner model shows how grievance redressal mechanisms can improve accountability (OCCPD India, 2023). A local disability ombudsman could help address complaints and monitor policies.

PWDs are rarely involved in policymaking or local consultations (Social Justice and Empowerment, India, 2025). Cooperatives in crafts and pottery could be leveraged for vocational training, integrating PWDs into the local economy (PWD Welfare Maharashtra, 2024a; ILO, 2023). Collaborations with schools and health centers for awareness campaigns can strengthen engagement (NIEPMD India, 2025b). Digital platforms for feedback, as used in India, could ensure inclusive, responsive governance (Government of India, 2024).



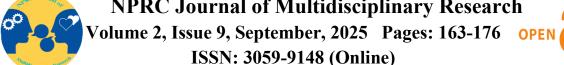


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Challenges

The pursuit of disability-inclusive public service delivery in Madhyapur Thimi is hindered by several interconnected challenges that require targeted interventions to ensure equitable access for PWDs.

- 1. Funding Shortages: Municipal budgets in Madhyapur Thimi are heavily constrained, with limited resources allocated to disability-specific initiatives (Madhyapur Thimi Municipality, 2022b). For example, infrastructure projects, such as road repairs or flood mitigation, often take precedence over accessibility upgrades like ramps or tactile paths, despite the mandates of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (United Nations, 2023). This prioritization reflects a broader issue in Nepal's municipal governance, where disability inclusion is often deprioritized due to competing demands like urban development or disaster preparedness (Amazon, 2023). Without dedicated funding streams, accessibility improvements remain sporadic and insufficient, perpetuating exclusion for PWDs.
- 2. **Policy Localization**: While national frameworks like the UN CRPD and Nepal's Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act provide clear mandates, Madhyapur Thimi lacks localized policies tailored to its unique context (Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, 2025). Municipal service delivery notices and plans rarely include disability-specific guidelines, such as accessibility standards for public buildings or transportation (Madhyapur Thimi Municipality, 2023b). This gap results in inconsistent implementation, with ward offices and health centers operating without clear directives on accommodating PWDs. The absence of a municipal-level disability task force further complicates policy enforcement and monitoring (OHCHR, 2023).
- 3. Staff Capacity: Service providers in Madhyapur Thimi, including healthcare workers and teachers, lack adequate training in disability-specific needs, such as sign language or inclusive education techniques (NIEPMD India, 2025b). For instance, health centers do not employ interpreters for persons with hearing impairments, and schools lack teachers trained in braille or sensory-friendly teaching methods (Health Equity Journal, 2023; UNICEF, 2023). This capacity gap limits the quality and accessibility of services, leaving PWDs underserved and marginalized.
- 4. Cultural Attitudes: Deep-rooted cultural stigma in Madhyapur Thimi's Newar community often frames disability as a limitation, with terms like "Viklang" reinforcing exclusionary perceptions (Drishti IAS, 2024b). This stigma manifests in social exclusion during festivals like Bisket Jatra, where PWDs are often unable to participate due to inaccessible venues and lack of accommodations (My Republica, 2023). Such attitudes also discourage PWDs from engaging in civic processes, such as ward meetings, further limiting their voice in community decision-making (OHCHR, 2023).
- 5. Urban Design: The municipality's historic Newar architecture, with narrow streets, elevated thresholds, and multi-story buildings, poses significant barriers to accessibility (Top Nepal, 2025). Retrofitting these structures to include ramps or elevators is both costly and technically challenging, particularly in culturally significant areas like Dattatraya





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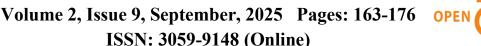
Square (My Republica, 2023). This urban design constraint limits PWDs' access to public spaces and services, reinforcing their exclusion from community life (PMC, 2023b).

These challenges are interconnected, with funding shortages exacerbating policy and capacity gaps, while cultural attitudes and urban design further complicate implementation. Addressing them requires a multi-faceted approach that integrates financial, policy, and community-driven solutions.

Recommendations

To overcome the identified challenges and enhance disability-inclusive public service delivery in Madhyapur Thimi, the following recommendations provide actionable strategies tailored to the municipality's context:

- 1. Adopt Universal Design: Implementing universal design principles, such as installing ramps, tactile paths, and braille signage in public spaces, can significantly improve accessibility (Access Israel, 2023). For example, retrofitting municipal offices and cultural sites like Dattatraya Square with wheelchair-friendly pathways and auditory signals would enable PWDs to participate in civic and cultural activities. The municipality should prioritize these upgrades in its Public Asset Management System (PAMS) planning, allocating specific budgets for accessibility (Madhyapur Thimi Municipality, 2022a).
- 2. Enhance Training: Providing comprehensive disability awareness training for municipal staff, including healthcare workers and teachers, is critical to improving service delivery (NIEPMD India, 2025b). Training programs should cover sign language, disability etiquette, and inclusive education techniques, drawing on models like India's Accessible India Campaign (NIEPMD India, 2025a). For instance, equipping health centers with trained interpreters and schools with braille-trained teachers would address current gaps in service provision (Health Equity Journal, 2023; UNICEF, 2023).
- 3. Promote Awareness: Leveraging cultural events like Bisket Jatra to promote disability inclusion through awareness campaigns can shift societal attitudes (Drishti IAS, 2024b). Campaigns inspired by India's Badhte Kadam, using empowering language like "Divyang" and showcasing PWD achievements, could reduce stigma (Drishti IAS, 2024a). Engaging local leaders and media to highlight success stories of PWDs in Madhyapur Thimi would further foster acceptance and inclusion (PWD Welfare Maharashtra, 2024b).
- 4. Localize Policies: Developing disability-focused municipal plans with dedicated budgets is essential to translate national mandates into local action (Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, 2025). Madhyapur Thimi should establish a disability inclusion task force to create and monitor localized policies, ensuring compliance with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (United Nations, 2023). These policies should include specific guidelines for accessible transportation and public buildings (Madhyapur Thimi Municipality, 2023b).
- 5. Use Technology: Implementing AI-based accessibility audits, as seen in regional models, can identify infrastructure gaps in real-time, enabling targeted interventions (Government of India, 2024). For example, digital mapping tools could assess accessibility in municipal





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offices and cultural sites, guiding retrofitting efforts. Additionally, developing accessible online platforms for service delivery, such as booking health appointments, would enhance access for PWDs (India Government, 2024).

6. Foster Partnerships: Strengthening collaboration with NGOs like the National Federation of the PWD Nepal (NFDN) and PWD communities can ensure policies reflect lived experiences (PWD Welfare Maharashtra, 2024b). Establishing a local disability ombudsman, modeled on India's Office of the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, would enhance accountability (OCCPD India, 2023). Partnerships with local cooperatives to provide vocational training in Newar crafts could also empower PWDs economically, integrating them into the municipality's cultural economy (ILO, 2023).

These recommendations address the identified challenges by combining infrastructure improvements, capacity building, cultural shifts, and policy development, ensuring a holistic approach to disability inclusion in Madhyapur Thimi.

Limitations

This narrative review, while comprehensive, is subject to several limitations that may impact its scope and generalizability:

- 1. **Limited Local Data**: The scarcity of studies specifically focused on Madhyapur Thimi necessitated the inclusion of national and regional literature from Nepal and South Asia (e.g., India), which may not fully capture the municipality's unique cultural and administrative context (Madhyapur Thimi Municipality, 2023a). This reliance on broader sources may limit the precision of findings specific to local practices and challenges.
- 2. **Temporal Scope**: The review includes sources from 2015 to 2025, which may not reflect the most recent developments in Madhyapur Thimi's disability inclusion efforts, particularly given the rapid urbanization and policy changes in the Kathmandu Valley (Top Nepal, 2025). Emerging initiatives post-2025 could alter the municipality's accessibility landscape.
- 3. **Source Diversity**: While the review incorporates peer-reviewed articles, government reports, and NGO publications, the lack of primary data, such as interviews with PWDs or municipal officials, limits the depth of insights into lived experiences and administrative perspectives (OHCHR, 2023). Secondary sources may not fully capture grassroots challenges or successes.
- 4. **Language Bias**: The inclusion criteria prioritized English-language sources, potentially excluding relevant Nepali-language studies or local reports that could provide deeper insights into Madhyapur Thimi's context (Madhyapur Thimi Municipality, 2022b). This may introduce a bias toward globally oriented frameworks over localized knowledge.
- 5. **Generalizability**: The findings are tailored to Madhyapur Thimi's unique Newar cultural and urban context, which may limit their applicability to other Nepalese municipalities with different demographic or infrastructural profiles (Drishti IAS, 2024b). Comparative analyses with other municipalities were not conducted due to the study's focus.





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These limitations highlight the need for future research to incorporate primary data, locallanguage sources, and broader municipal comparisons to enhance the understanding of disability inclusion in Madhyapur Thimi.

Conclusion

Madhyapur Thimi stands at a pivotal moment to advance disability-inclusive public service delivery, leveraging its cultural heritage and strategic position in the Kathmandu Valley to create an equitable environment for PWDs (World Bank, 2023). The municipality's rich Newar traditions, exemplified by events like Bisket Jatra, offer unique opportunities to promote inclusion through community engagement, yet significant challenges such as funding shortages, policy gaps, and cultural stigma persist (Top Nepal, 2025; Drishti IAS, 2024b). National frameworks like the UN CRPD and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act provide a robust foundation, but their success hinges on localized action tailored to Madhyapur Thimi's context (United Nations, 2023).

By adopting universal design principles, the municipality can transform its historic urban landscape into an accessible hub, ensuring PWDs can access public spaces like Dattatraya Square and municipal offices (Access Israel, 2023). Training programs for service providers, coupled with awareness campaigns, can address capacity and cultural barriers, fostering a more inclusive community mindset (NIEPMD India, 2025b; Drishti IAS, 2024a). Partnerships with NGOs and PWD communities, supported by technology-driven solutions, can enhance accountability and policy implementation, aligning with global standards (OCCPD India, 2023; Government of India, 2024). Ultimately, Madhyapur Thimi's commitment to disability inclusion can serve as a model for other Nepalese municipalities, balancing cultural preservation with modern accessibility to ensure equitable public service delivery for all citizens (SDGs UN, 2023). Sustained investment, community collaboration, and localized policy development will be key to realizing this vision, creating a municipality where PWDs are fully integrated into civic and cultural life.

Funding Statement: No fund available from any institution

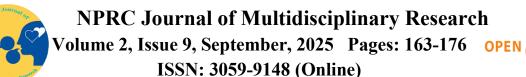
Transparency Statement: I confirm that this study has been conducted with honesty and in full adherence to

ethical guidelines.

Data Availability Statement: Author can provide data. **Conflict of Interest:** I declare there is no conflicts of interest.

Authors' Contributions: The author conducted all research activities i.e., concept, data collecting, drafting and

final review of manuscript.



OPEN ACCESS

DOI: 10.3126/nprcjmr.v2i9.85180

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ISSN: 3059-9148 (Online)

DOI: 10.3126/nprcjmr.v2i9.85180

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