- E = enter the building or service area you wish to use. Barriers include steps, steep ramps, lack of handrails, high concrete platforms protecting against flood or cyclone, narrow doorways, door handles which are difficult to grip, raised threshold at entrance, lack of tactile floor marker to indicate entrance for a person with a visual impairment.

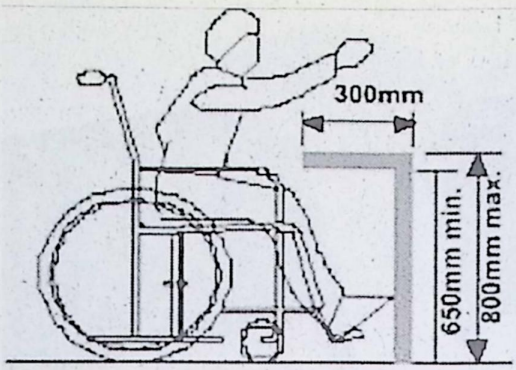
Entering services: a ramp with a maximum gradient of 1:12 should be provided as well as a set of steps at the entrance of all public service centres. Ramps and steps should have handrails at 850-900mm and 700mm (for children) from ground level.

- C = circulate and move about inside the building or area. Barriers include narrow corridors, raised thresholds at entrance to rooms, narrow door widths, lack of resting places, obstacles including furniture or work equipment, signs that people are not able to understand.
- U = use the services and facilities. Barriers include dimensions and design of internal furniture, equipment and communication, eg lack of hand rails in toilets, no seating platforms at tube wells, workbenches that a person is not able to sit on when using a wheelchair because they are too high or do not leave space underneath for legs, a sewing machine that can only be operated by foot rather than hand, instructions and communication not available in a variety of mediums, e.g., written, pictorial, audio, visual for access by people with different communication requirements.

Using services: workbenches 650-800 mm high with a depth of 300mm enable a person who uses a wheelchair to work.

An accessible physical environment makes movement and use easier for all members of the community when following principles of 'universal design'. "Universal design" means the design of products, environments, programmes and services to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialised design (UNCRPD). People with disabilities, people who are elderly, women who are pregnant, people who carry heavy loads, children: all benefit from implementation of the principles of universal design.

2. Social and cultural barriers:
   a. Negative behaviour from family members, the community, local authorities including prejudice, pity, over protection, and stigma (which may be experienced by persons with disability and their family) leading to exclusion, discrimination and lack of opportunity to realise potential.
   b. Social exclusion is often the hardest barrier to overcome and is usually associated with feelings of shame, fear and rejection.
3. Institutional barriers:
   a. Policies and acts that do not address the rights of everyone in the community or discriminate against groups, including people with disabilities
   b. Poor implementation of international and national legislation promoting the rights of people with disabilities
   c. Disability seen as welfare or "specialist" issue
   d. Lack of consultation with people with disabilities and their representative groups.[2]



International facts and figures

The United Nations (UN) estimates 10-12 percent of the world's population, an estimated 600 million people, are living with disability. The figure is more prominent among the poorest in the world, 15-20 percent.[3] Approximately 500 million (82 percent) of people with disabilities throughout the world are living in developing countries,[4] and 70 to 80 percent of adults with disabilities are without employment and live in great poverty.[5] Only 1 to 2 percent of children with disabilities go to school in developing countries (UNESCO); only 1 percent of girls with disabilities are taught reading and writing (UNICEF).

National facts and figures

A disability prevalence survey conducted by Handicap International (HI) and National Forum of Organizations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) in 2005 found 5.6 percent of the population is living with disability in Bangladesh, 7.9 million individuals in a population of 141.9 million.[6] This figure may be lower than UN estimates due to issues including the hidden nature of disability in Bangladesh and subsequent difficulty in identifying individuals. Having a family member with a disability increases the vulnerability of their family; the Asian Development Bank estimates 25 percent of the population in the Asia