

THE EXPERIENCES OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REGARDING HOUSING CONDITIONS IN GUMBO PAYAM, SHIRIKAT, SOUTH SUDAN

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DECLARATION

I, Nyantiop Mach Kuol Garang, solemnly declare that the research report submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of bachelors' degree in social work and social administration is the result of my own original work. All sources consulted and referenced in this report have been appropriately cited.

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APPROVAL

The research report submitted by Nyantiop Mach Kuol Garang has been under my supervision with my approval. It is now ready to be submitted to the department of social sciences for an award consideration.

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Date.....

DEDICATION

I dedicate this research report to my parents for their unwavering love, support, and encouragements have been the driving force behind my academic journey. Their belief in my abilities and constant motivation has been instrumental in helping me overcome challenges and reach this milestone.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CRPD	:	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
DHUD	:	Department of Housing and Urban Development
MGLSD	:	Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
NPA	:	National Planning Authority
PDA	:	Persons with Disabilities Act
SMD	:	Social Model of Disability
UBS	:	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
UNECA	:	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
WHO	:	World Health Organization

ABSTRACT

This study investigated the experiences of people with disabilities regarding housing conditions in Gumbo Payam, Shirikat, South Sudan. The study was guided by three specific objectives: to examine the housing conditions experienced by people with disabilities, to identify the barriers to accessing adequate and accessible housing, and to explore possible solutions to improve housing conditions. A qualitative research design was adopted, and data was collected from a sample size of 63 respondents using interviews and thematic analysis. The findings revealed that people with disabilities live in poor and inadequate housing characterized by weak structures, overcrowding, lack of accessibility features such as ramps and wide doorways, and limited access to basic services like water, sanitation, and electricity. The study further established that financial constraints, lack of accessible infrastructure, land tenure insecurity, social discrimination, and weak implementation of government policies are the major barriers to adequate housing. The findings also indicated that possible solutions include provision of financial support, adoption of inclusive housing designs, community sensitization, and improvement of infrastructure. The study concluded that housing conditions for people with disabilities in Gumbo Payam are largely inadequate and are influenced by a combination of economic, social, and structural factors, which negatively affect their wellbeing and independence. The study recommends that the government should strengthen the implementation of inclusive housing policies and provide financial support to people with disabilities to improve their living conditions.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This study sought to investigate the experiences of people with disabilities regarding housing conditions in Gumbo Payam, Shirikat, South Sudan. Housing condition in this regard refers to the state and quality of residential environments in which individuals live, including the physical structure of houses, access to basic services, and suitability for human habitation. It encompasses aspects such as safety, space, ventilation, sanitation, and the availability of essential amenities that support healthy living. These conditions shape daily experiences by influencing comfort, mobility, and general wellbeing. Poor housing conditions often expose occupants to health risks, insecurity, and social exclusion.

To this end, condition is a key determinant of quality of life and social participation, as it directly affects physical health, psychological stability, and economic productivity. Adequate housing promotes dignity, independence, and protection from environmental hazards. Conversely, substandard housing limits access to opportunities and weakens the capacity of individuals to engage fully in community life. Therefore, understanding housing condition is essential for addressing broader issues of development, equity, and human welfare. This chapter introduces the study by outlining the background, problem statement, purpose, objectives, scope, justification, significance, conceptual framework and definition of key terms

1.1 Background to the Study

Globally, housing is recognized as a fundamental human right and a critical determinant of health and social inclusion, yet persons with disabilities continue to experience disproportionate housing disadvantages. The World Health Organization (2014) estimated that over 1 billion people worldwide live with some form of disability, many of whom reside in environments that do not meet accessibility or safety standards. The United Nations (2017) further reported that persons with disabilities are more likely to live in poor-quality housing characterized by overcrowding, unsafe construction, and limited access to water and sanitation. Scholarly literature indicates that inaccessible housing contributes directly to reduced independence, increased health risks, and social isolation (Imrie & Hall, 2016). Despite international commitments such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), progress in translating policy into inclusive housing practice has remained uneven across regions (UN-Habitat, 2020).

In North America, housing policies incorporate disability inclusion through legislation such as the Fair Housing Act and accessibility standards; however, empirical evidence suggests persistent structural barriers. Newman and Holupka (2015) found that adults with disabilities in the United States are significantly more likely to experience housing cost burdens and live in substandard dwellings compared to non-disabled populations. Similarly, Pomeroy and MacDonald (2019) observed that shortages of affordable and accessible housing units have intensified homelessness risks among persons with physical and cognitive impairments. Data from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (2022) indicate that nearly 40% of households with disabled members spend over 30% of their income on housing, limiting their ability to modify homes for accessibility. Although developed economies possess stronger legal protections, research highlights that market-driven housing systems frequently fail to accommodate disability-specific needs. This reveals a knowledge gap in how housing affordability and accessibility interact to shape lived realities for persons with disabilities even in high-income settings.

In West Africa, the housing experiences of persons with disabilities are shaped by rapid urbanization, poverty, and weak regulatory enforcement. According to Eide and Ingstad (2016), disability in African cities is closely linked to exclusion from adequate housing due to stigma, unemployment, and limited access to land ownership. A study by Agyemang, Oduro, and Ackah (2020) in Ghana reported that persons with disabilities were more likely to live in informal settlements lacking sanitation facilities and accessible infrastructure. The African Development Bank (2019) further noted that housing programs in West Africa rarely integrate disability-sensitive design, resulting in continued marginalization. These conditions expose persons with disabilities to environmental hazards and reduce their participation in community life. However, regional studies tend to generalize housing poverty without isolating disability-specific experiences, thereby limiting the availability of evidence for targeted housing interventions. This demonstrates a critical research gap concerning how housing inadequacies uniquely affect persons with disabilities within West African socio-cultural and economic contexts.

Across Sub-Saharan Africa, housing deficits are compounded by high population growth, informal urban expansion, and weak institutional capacity. Mitullah and Makajuma (2018) observed that informal settlements dominate urban housing supply, yet their structures rarely consider accessibility needs for persons with disabilities. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA, 2021) reported that over 56% of urban residents in the

region live in slum-like conditions, disproportionately affecting vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities. Research by Groce et al. (2017) established that inaccessible housing restricts mobility and access to education, employment, and healthcare, reinforcing cycles of poverty. While regional development strategies emphasize inclusive cities, practical implementation remains limited. Moreover, most regional data aggregate disability within broader vulnerability categories, leaving a gap in evidence on the specific experiences of persons with disabilities regarding housing conditions. This lack of disaggregated and localized data weakens policy responsiveness and underscores the need for community-level studies.

In Uganda, national surveys indicate that persons with disabilities constitute a significant proportion of the population and experience multiple deprivations, including inadequate housing. The Uganda Bureau of Statistics (2016) reported that about 12% of Ugandans live with a disability, with higher prevalence in rural and urban areas. The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (2020) found that many households with disabled members reside in semi-permanent or temporary structures that lack ramps, accessible latrines, and secure flooring. Furthermore, the National Planning Authority (2022) noted that housing programs under urban development initiatives have paid limited attention to universal design standards. Despite the existence of the Persons with Disabilities Act (2020), enforcement in the housing sector remains weak, resulting in continued exclusion. Empirical research in Uganda has largely focused on education and employment of persons with disabilities, with minimal attention to their housing experiences, indicating a gap in literature linking disability and housing conditions at community level.

In Gumbo Payam, Shirikat, housing issues are worsened by poor sanitation systems, lack of drainage, overcrowding, and informal land tenure arrangements. While these conditions affect everyone, people with disabilities suffer more due to their limited ability to cope and higher exposure to environmental risks. However, there is a lack of localized research that captures the experiences of people with disabilities concerning housing conditions in this area. Understanding these experiences is vital for shaping inclusive housing policies, community-based interventions, and urban planning that respond to disability needs in South Sudan.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

People with disabilities in Gumbo Payam, Shireikat, South Sudan face persistent challenges in securing adequate and safe housing. Nationally, around 5–15 % of households include members with disabilities, yet access to safe, accessible housing remains limited due to decades of conflict, poverty, and systemic marginalization. Many dwellings lack basic accessibility features such as ramps, widened doorways, and adapted sanitation facilities, while insecure land tenure forces some to live in temporary shelters or overcrowded conditions. The lack of inclusive housing infrastructure restricts independence, access to essential services, and overall quality of life for these vulnerable populations (Whittaker & Wood, 2022).

In Gumbo Payam, Shireikat, the housing situation is particularly severe people with mobility or sensory impairments often reside in structurally unsafe houses that do not accommodate their needs, while access to water, sanitation, and electricity remains inadequate. Limited availability of construction materials and unclear land ownership laws further compound their vulnerability, leaving many in precarious or temporary shelters (Jorge & May, 2022). Surveys indicate that a significant portion of vulnerable households, including those with disabled members, are excluded from programs targeting safe housing and basic amenities, contributing to increased isolation, health risks, and reduced economic opportunities. Despite legal protections enshrined in the national constitution, there is no specific framework guaranteeing accessible, disability-sensitive housing, leaving these individuals at the margins of housing provision.

The Government of South Sudan has initiated policies and programs aimed at improving housing and inclusivity for vulnerable populations. At the national level, the country has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and introduced disability inclusion policies to guide service provision. Ministries responsible for housing and urban development have partnered with international organizations to expand affordable housing and upgrade informal settlements. However, these initiatives have not fully addressed the specific needs of people with disabilities in Gumbo Payam, who continue to experience unsafe, inaccessible, and inadequate housing conditions. Despite the interventions put in place, the problem has still persisted hence calling for a research study into their lived experiences and housing challenges.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

To investigate the experiences of people with disabilities regarding housing conditions in Gumbo Payam, Shirikat, South Sudan.

1.4 Specific Objectives

- i. To describe the housing conditions experienced by people with disabilities in Gumbo Payam, Shirikat.
- ii. To identify the major barriers that people with disabilities face in accessing adequate and accessible housing in Gumbo Payam, Shirikat.
- iii. To propose practical and community-led solutions to improve housing quality and accessibility for people with disabilities in Gumbo Payam, Shirikat?

1.5 Research questions

- i. What are the housing conditions experienced by people with disabilities in Gumbo Payam, Shirikat?
- ii. What barriers do people with disabilities face in accessing adequate and accessible housing in Gumbo Payam, Shirikat?
- iii. What are the practical and community-led solutions that can improve housing quality and accessibility for people with disabilities in Gumbo Payam, Shirikat?

1.6 Scope of the Study

This section consisted of geographical, subject, temporal, and population boundaries define the scope of the study.

1.6.1 Geographical Scope

The study was conducted in Gumbo Payam, Shirikat, in Juba County, Central Equatorial State, South Sudan. The study has been conducted in this region because of the high population density, the presence of informal housing, and the presence of persons with disabilities living in difficult housing conditions.

1.6.2 Content scope

The study was contain information about the experiences of people with disabilities regarding housing conditions in Gumbo Payam, Shirikat, South Sudan. Sspecifically, the study will describe the housing conditions experienced by people with disabilities in Gumbo Payam, Shirikat., identify the major barriers that people with disabilities face in accessing adequate and accessible housing and the study also proposed practical and community-led solutions to

improve housing quality and accessibility for people with disabilities in Gumbo Payam, Shirikat.

1.6.3 Time Scope

The period to be considered for the study was 3 years that is from 2022-2025, this is because during that period, in Gumbo Payam, Shireikat, the housing situation is particularly severe people with mobility or sensory impairments often reside in structurally unsafe houses that do not accommodate their needs, while access to water, sanitation, and electricity remains inadequate.

1.7 Justification of the Study

Access to adequate and safe housing is a fundamental human right that significantly impacts the well-being, independence, and quality of life of individuals. In many communities, certain groups often face barriers that limit their ability to secure housing that meets their needs. Understanding these barriers is essential for informing policies and programs that can improve living conditions and promote social inclusion.

Many people with specific needs encounter physical, economic, and social obstacles that hinder their access to suitable living environments. These challenges can range from poorly designed infrastructure, inaccessible facilities, limited financial resources, to societal attitudes that reduce housing opportunities. By examining these conditions, the study can highlight gaps in existing housing policies, resource allocation, and community support mechanisms.

The findings from such a study can also contribute to enhancing the health, safety, and overall quality of life for affected individuals. Inadequate housing has been linked to increased risks of illness, accidents, and social isolation. A detailed understanding of living conditions enables targeted interventions that can prevent these negative outcomes.

Furthermore, the study can provide insights into how housing conditions affect social participation, independence, and economic opportunities. Safe and accessible living environments allow individuals to engage more fully in community life, pursue education or employment, and maintain personal dignity.

The research serves as an advocacy tool to raise awareness about the specific needs and rights of vulnerable populations. Evidence-based findings can support policy reforms, mobilize resources, and encourage community initiatives that prioritize equitable access to housing. By

documenting lived experiences, the study gives voice to those often overlooked, ensuring that future planning and development efforts are more responsive, inclusive, and sustainable.

1.8 Significance of the Study

Local government authorities in Gumbo Payam, Shirikat may find the study important as it may provide insights into the housing challenges faced by people with disabilities. The findings may guide them in planning inclusive policies and allocating resources that may improve access to adequate and safe housing for all community members.

People with disabilities may benefit from the study because it may highlight barriers they face in accessing suitable housing and basic amenities. The results may empower them to advocate for their rights and may encourage participation in programs that may improve their living conditions.

Community leaders and local councils may find the study useful as it may provide evidence on social and structural factors affecting vulnerable groups. The findings may help them develop initiatives that may promote inclusive housing, reduce discrimination, and support community-based solutions.

Non-governmental organizations and development partners may use the study as a reference to identify areas that may require targeted support. The results may help them implement housing projects and assistance programs that may enhance the quality of life and independence of people with disabilities.

Policymakers at the state and national levels may benefit from the study because it may provide evidence for informed decision-making and policy formulation. The findings may support strategies that may improve accessibility, affordability, and safety of housing for marginalized populations.

Researchers and academicians may find the study significant as it may contribute to knowledge on disability, inclusion, and housing challenges. The findings may serve as a foundation for further research and may provide practical recommendations that may inform interventions and improve living conditions in similar contexts.

1.9 Conceptual frame work

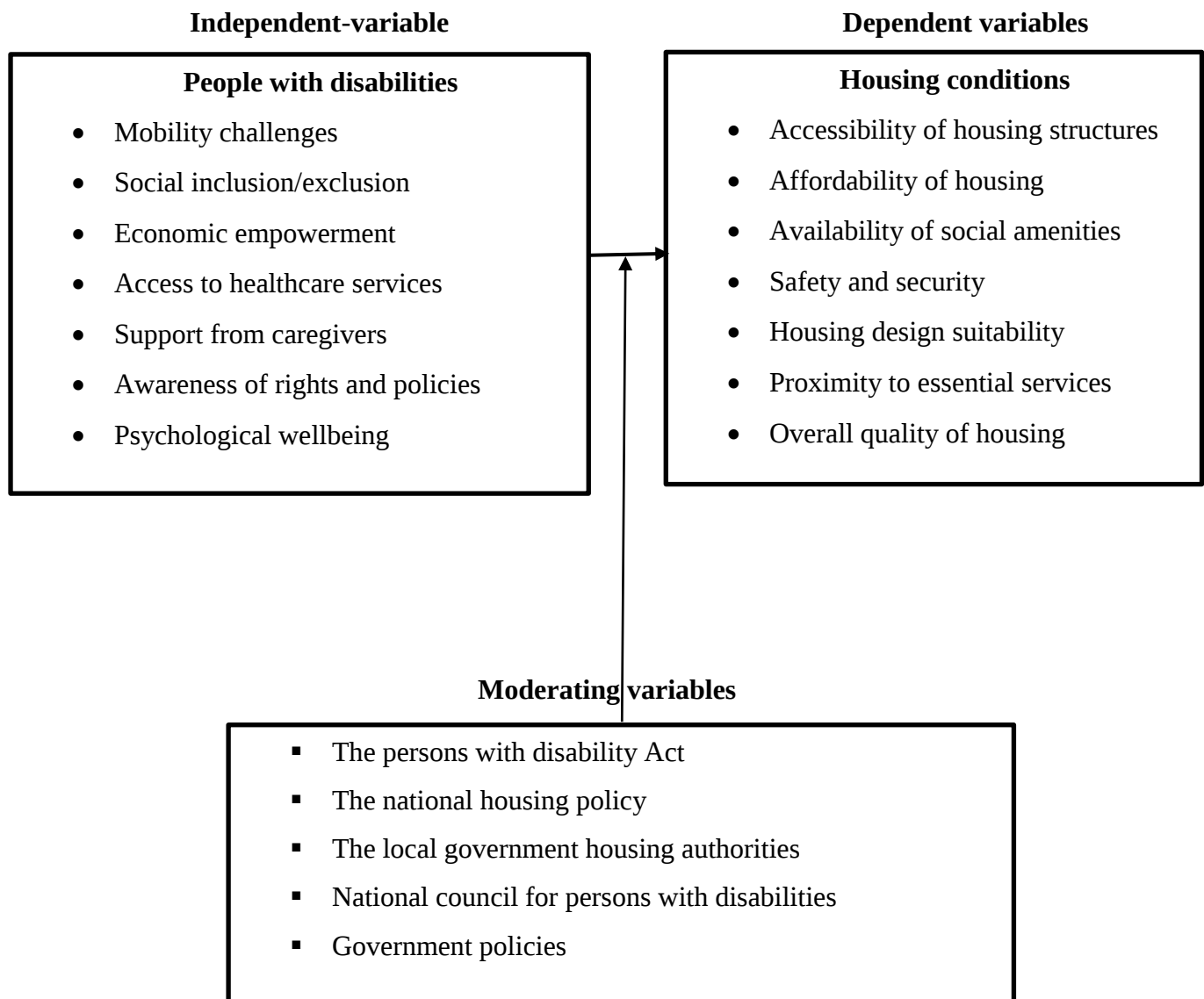


Figure 1:1: conceptual framework

Source: Adopted from Mugenda and Mugenda (2004): conceptual framework

Figure 1:1 above indicates experiences of people with disabilities, encompassing mobility challenges, social inclusion or exclusion, economic empowerment, access to healthcare services, support from caregivers, awareness of rights and policies, and psychological wellbeing, can significantly influence housing conditions. Limited mobility may restrict access to suitable housing or adaptations within homes, while social exclusion can reduce opportunities to live in supportive or integrated communities. Economic disempowerment may prevent individuals from affording safe and adequate housing, and poor access to healthcare can exacerbate physical or mental limitations that affect living arrangements. Insufficient caregiver support can hinder maintenance and daily functioning within homes,

while lack of awareness of rights and policies may result in missed opportunities for housing assistance. Furthermore, compromised psychological wellbeing can impact decision-making and ability to advocate for improved housing, collectively shaping the overall quality, safety, and accessibility of their living conditions.

Housing conditions, as a dependent variable, are shaped by factors such as the accessibility of housing structures, affordability, availability of social amenities, safety and security, suitability of housing design, proximity to essential services, and overall quality of housing. Accessible structures ensure that individuals, including those with physical limitations, can move freely and use facilities effectively. Affordability determines whether people can secure and maintain adequate shelter, while the presence of social amenities like water, electricity, and sanitation improves liveability. Safety and security protect residents from hazards and crime, and design suitability addresses the functional and comfort needs of occupants. Proximity to essential services such as schools, healthcare, and markets affects convenience and daily life efficiency, while the overall quality of housing reflects durability, hygiene, and comfort, collectively defining the standard and adequacy of living conditions.

Moderating variables such as the Persons with Disabilities Act, the National Housing Policy, local government housing authorities, the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, and other relevant government policies play a crucial role in shaping both the experiences of people with disabilities and their housing conditions. These legal frameworks and institutional bodies set standards, provide guidelines, and enforce regulations that can enhance accessibility, affordability, and safety in housing while promoting inclusion and protection of rights. By ensuring that housing developments accommodate mobility needs, offering financial or social support, and monitoring compliance with disability-friendly standards, these policies can mitigate challenges like social exclusion, limited economic empowerment, and inadequate caregiver support. Consequently, they influence how the lived experiences of people with disabilities translate into tangible improvements or limitations in housing conditions, acting as a bridge that can either strengthen or weaken the relationship between individual experiences and the quality of housing available.

1.10 Definition of key terms

Experiences of people with disabilities refers to the lived realities, challenges, and interactions that individuals with physical, sensory, or cognitive impairments encounter in

daily life, including access to services and social participation (Patel et al., 2023). For example, navigating public spaces or workplaces can influence their quality of life.

Experiences refers to the knowledge, feelings, and practical engagement gained by individuals through personal or social interactions over time (Okello et al., 2024). Experiences influence behavior, decision-making, and adaptation to challenges. For instance, repeated difficulties in accessing public transportation shape expectations of mobility support.

People refers to individuals or groups forming a community or population with shared or distinct characteristics, needs, or identities (Singh et al., 2023). In the context of disabilities, people include those facing physical, cognitive, or sensory challenges. For example, community planning must consider these populations in public housing design.

Disabilities refers to physical, sensory, cognitive, or psychological impairments that limit individuals' ability to perform activities or engage fully in society (Rahman et al., 2025). Disabilities may be permanent or temporary, visible or invisible. For example, wheelchair users require accessible infrastructure to move independently.

Housing conditions refers to the state, quality, and suitability of residential structures where individuals live, including accessibility, safety, and comfort (Adebayo et al., 2023). Proper housing conditions affect health, security, and overall well-being. For example, ramps and handrails improve accessibility for people with mobility challenges.

Housing refers to the physical dwellings, buildings, and shelter that provide protection, comfort, and space for personal and family life (Lopez et al., 2024). Housing includes apartments, houses, and other residential units. For example, a home equipped with adaptive facilities enables independence for people with disabilities.

Conditions refers to the circumstances, quality, and characteristics surrounding a particular situation or environment, including physical, social, and economic aspects (Chen et al., 2025). In housing, conditions include accessibility, sanitation, structural safety, and proximity to services. For example, poor lighting or unsafe stairs creates barriers for disabled residents. Conditions influence health, participation, and satisfaction with living spaces. Addressing these factors enhances inclusion and equity.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

The study was about investigating the experiences of people with disabilities regarding housing conditions in Gumbo Payam, Shirikat South Sudan. Specifically, the study will describe the housing conditions experienced by people with disabilities in Gumbo Payam, Shirikat, identify the major barriers that people with disabilities face in accessing adequate and accessible housing. The study will also propose practical and community-led solutions to improve housing quality and accessibility for people with disabilities in Gumbo Payam, Shirikat and summary of identified gaps.

2.1 Theoretical review

The study was guided by the social model of disability and the ecological systems theory. The Social Model of Disability, advanced by Oliver (1990), emphasizes that disability arises not primarily from individual impairments but from social, environmental, and structural barriers that limit full participation in society. The theory highlights how inaccessible buildings, poor infrastructure, and exclusionary policies create disabling conditions rather than physical or sensory limitations alone. Supportively, Barnes and Mercer (2003) argue that societal organization and institutional neglect are central in producing unequal living conditions for persons with disabilities. From my interpretation, housing challenges are largely shaped by man-made obstacles such as poor design, unaffordable housing, and weak enforcement of disability-friendly standards, which restrict independence and dignity. Thus, disability is socially constructed through the interaction between individuals and their built environment.

The Ecological Systems Theory, developed by Bronfenbrenner (1979), explains that human experiences are shaped by multiple interacting systems, including the family, community, institutions, and broader policy environment. The theory emphasizes that living conditions are influenced not only by personal circumstances but also by social support networks, economic structures, and government policies. Scholars such as McLeroy et al. (1988) support this view by asserting that wellbeing is affected by environmental contexts such as housing design, neighborhood safety, and service availability. In my view, inadequate housing conditions result from the combined influence of household income, community

infrastructure, and institutional arrangements, which together determine access to safe, affordable, and suitable shelter.

2.1 Housing Conditions Experienced by People with Disabilities

Patel et al. (2021) contends that building standards have improved in some regions, a large proportion of housing stock still lacks basic adaptations such as step-free entry, accessible bathrooms, and adequate spatial design for mobility devices. The study found that people with physical disabilities often face limited options when seeking housing that meets their needs, which can force them to remain in institutional care or to depend on family and informal support networks for daily living. Martinez et al. (2022) examined national survey data and reported that individuals with disabilities in Switzerland frequently experience higher housing insecurity and report dissatisfaction with local service coordination, particularly in rural cantons where accessible units are rare. Their findings showed that without more systematic implementation of accessibility standards and equitable distribution of adapted homes, disparities in living conditions for people with disabilities in Switzerland are likely to persist.

Gupta et al. (2022) denoted that studies assessing policy and practice regarding housing support for people with disabilities in Switzerland underscore that financing and regional policy variation influence availability and quality of accessible housing. The study found that disability benefit programs and housing subsidies are inconsistently applied across regions, leaving many individuals with limited income unable to afford necessary adaptations or to compete in tight rental markets. Rodriguez et al. (2023) analysed how community-based support services interact with housing needs and found that coordinated care models where social services, health providers, and housing authorities collaborate improved outcomes for some people with disabilities, but that these models are not widespread.

Collins et al. (2023) opined that user-experience research on housing for people with disabilities in Switzerland identified cultural and social barriers that exacerbate physical accessibility challenges, including stigma and assumptions about dependency. The study found that negative perceptions about disability and housing tenure such as beliefs that people with disabilities are a “higher risk” for tenancy problems led to discrimination in rental markets, higher rejection rates, and reduced choice for applicants. Singh et al. (2024) examined longitudinal data on residential outcomes and reported that people with disabilities who experienced supportive social networks and inclusive community planning reported

significantly better satisfaction with housing conditions than those in less inclusive environments. Their findings showed that addressing sociocultural barriers alongside physical accessibility is critical for improving the housing conditions experienced by people with disabilities in Switzerland.

Green et al. (2021) asserted that disabled households face higher risks of living in unsuitable or overcrowded homes due to restricted income opportunities and poor enforcement of accessibility standards in private rental housing. The study found that many disabled residents experienced difficulties in using essential facilities such as bathrooms, kitchens, and entrances, which increased dependence on caregivers and reduced independence. Thompson et al. (2022) reported that regional disparities in housing quality placed disabled people in northern and rural areas at a disadvantage compared with those in metropolitan regions. Their study found that local authority housing stocks were often outdated and lacked modern adaptations, resulting in increased exposure to dampness, cold indoor temperatures, and structural hazards.

Walker et al. (2022) affirmed that although national policies promote independent living, practical delivery is undermined by long waiting periods for housing modifications and shortages of trained personnel to assess accessibility needs. The study found that delays in adaptation approvals forced many disabled individuals to remain in unsafe housing environments or relocate to residential care earlier than necessary. Harris et al. (2023) examined experiences of disabled tenants in social housing and found that communication gaps between landlords and tenants limited timely maintenance and repair services. Their findings showed that insufficient tenant participation in housing decisions reduced satisfaction and increased feelings of marginalisation.

Morgan et al. (2023) opined that social and cultural factors within neighbourhoods influence how housing conditions are experienced by people with disabilities in the United Kingdom, beyond physical building design. Morgan et al. emphasized that stigma and discrimination from landlords and neighbours often discourage disabled individuals from seeking alternative accommodation even when their current housing is unsuitable. The study found that fear of eviction, rejection, and social isolation contributed to prolonged residence in inaccessible housing environments. In the middle of this sociocultural perspective, Davies et al. (2024) investigated community-based housing support initiatives and reported that peer advocacy and disability-inclusive planning improved both housing satisfaction and community

participation. Their findings indicated that culturally responsive interventions strengthened trust between service providers and disabled residents and increased awareness of accessibility rights.

Williams et al. (2021) observed that national policies recognize the right to adequate housing, practical implementation remains weak at the municipal level. The study found that a large proportion of people with physical and sensory impairments lived in housing units that were not designed to accommodate mobility aids, resulting in increased risk of injury and reduced quality of life. Garcia et al. (2022) investigated housing affordability among disabled populations and observed that high rental costs forced many individuals into overcrowded or poorly maintained dwellings. Their findings showed that inadequate housing conditions were associated with heightened psychological stress and social isolation among disabled residents. These studies demonstrated that economic barriers and insufficient housing design standards continue to undermine the living conditions of people with disabilities in Canada.

Thompson et al. (2022) stressed that delays in modifying older buildings contribute to persistent inaccessibility for wheelchair users and individuals with chronic health conditions. The study found that long waiting periods for adapted housing units compelled many disabled persons to remain in unsafe environments that restricted independent living. Kaur et al. (2023) assessed the effectiveness of housing assistance programs and found that fragmented service coordination reduced their impact. Their findings indicated that lack of collaboration between health services and housing authorities resulted in unmet needs, particularly for individuals with multiple disabilities.

Ahmed et al. (2023) alluded that social discrimination in the private rental sector affects access to suitable housing for people with disabilities in Canada. Ahmed et al. explained that negative perceptions of disability lead some landlords to refuse reasonable accommodation requests or impose higher rental conditions. The study found that discriminatory practices increased housing insecurity and limited residential choice among disabled individuals. Robinson et al. (2024) explored community-supported housing initiatives and found that inclusive housing models improved physical accessibility and social participation. Their findings showed that residents in supported housing environments reported greater autonomy and improved mental wellbeing.

Tanaka et al. (2021) postulated that although national housing policies promote barrier-free environments, many private housing units remain physically inaccessible to individuals with mobility impairments. The study found that persons with disabilities were more likely to live in cramped apartments lacking elevators, handrails, and modified sanitation facilities, which reduced their independence and increased daily living difficulties. Saito et al. (2022) examined the relationship between housing design and health outcomes among disabled residents and reported that poorly adapted housing increased the likelihood of falls and restricted access to basic domestic services. Their findings showed that inadequate ventilation, narrow corridors, and inaccessible kitchens contributed to lower quality of life and heightened reliance on caregivers. These studies demonstrated that structural housing limitations in Japan significantly affect the wellbeing of people with disabilities.

Nakamura et al. (2022) contends that public and social housing programs for people with disabilities in Japan face challenges related to limited supply and uneven regional implementation. Nakamura et al. noted that urban prefectures receive more funding for accessible housing than rural regions, creating spatial inequality in living conditions. The study found that individuals with disabilities in rural areas experienced longer waiting times for adapted housing units and were more likely to reside in dwellings unsuitable for long-term occupancy. Yamamoto et al. (2023) evaluated housing subsidy schemes and discovered that financial assistance alone did not guarantee access to appropriate housing because many landlords failed to meet accessibility standards. Their findings indicated that fragmented coordination between welfare offices and housing authorities weakened the effectiveness of disability housing support.

Fujimoto et al. (2023) asserted that social attitudes toward disability also influence housing opportunities in Japan, particularly within the private rental market. Fujimoto et al. argued that stigma and misconceptions about disability increase reluctance among landlords to rent properties to disabled individuals. The study found that discriminatory screening practices restricted housing choice and increased housing insecurity among people with disabilities. Kobayashi et al. (2024) investigated community-based supported housing models and found that inclusive housing environments improved physical accessibility and promoted social participation. Their findings showed that residents in supported housing reported greater autonomy, reduced isolation, and better psychological wellbeing.

Müller et al. (2021) dented that housing conditions are shaped by the age of residential buildings and the slow pace of structural adaptation in private housing stock. Müller et al. explained that although Germany has strong disability inclusion policies, many older apartments were constructed without barrier-free standards such as step-free entrances, wide doorways, or accessible bathrooms. The study found that individuals with physical impairments were more likely to live in dwellings that restricted independent movement, resulting in increased dependence on family members or professional caregivers. Schneider et al. (2022) assessed the relationship between housing accessibility and daily functioning and reported that inadequate housing layouts limited participation in household activities and reduced privacy. Their findings showed that residents in non-adapted housing reported higher levels of stress and lower satisfaction with their living environment.

Weber et al. (2022) intimated that public housing and social welfare schemes for people with disabilities in Germany have expanded, yet access remains uneven across federal states due to differences in budget allocation and administrative procedures. Weber et al. noted that metropolitan regions provided more subsidized accessible units than rural districts. The study found that people with disabilities in peripheral regions faced longer waiting periods and were often compelled to remain in unsuitable housing conditions. Hoffmann et al. (2023) examined the effectiveness of housing allowance programs and discovered that financial support did not automatically translate into improved housing quality because of limited availability of adapted units. Their findings indicated that fragmented coordination between housing offices and social services weakened implementation outcomes.

Becker et al. (2023) postulated that social perceptions of disability affect access to housing within the private rental market in Germany, particularly among individuals with visible impairments. Becker et al. argued that discriminatory practices by landlords restricted rental opportunities and reinforced residential segregation. The study found that people with disabilities experienced higher rejection rates during housing searches compared to non-disabled applicants. Krüger et al. (2024) investigated supported housing initiatives and found that integrated housing models improved both accessibility and community participation. Their findings showed that residents in supported living arrangements reported greater independence, improved mental wellbeing, and stronger social networks. Overall, these studies revealed that housing conditions for people with disabilities in Germany are shaped by architectural design, policy implementation, and societal attitudes, underscoring the need for inclusive and coordinated housing strategies.

2.2 Barriers to adequate and accessible housing for people with disabilities

Lindsay and Ragunathan (2024) affirmed that people with disabilities in North America face significant structural, informational, and social barriers when trying to secure housing that meets their accessibility needs. The study found that inaccessible design features such as lack of zero-step entrances, narrow doorways, and insufficient space for mobility devices restrict daily living and limit social participation, especially for those needing proximity to transit, employment, and essential services. Popkin et al. (2022) analysed data from national housing surveys and reported that disabled individuals in the United States experience compounded barriers due to a combination of unaffordability, limited accessible stock, and inadequate supportive services. The studies showed that both physical and systemic obstacles in North American housing markets contribute to persistent inequities for people with disabilities.

Yuzwa et al. (2025) stressed that attitudinal and policy barriers significantly hinder the prioritization of accessible housing features in both private and public housing development. The study found that these barriers lead to insufficient integration of accessibility into housing design and planning, ultimately reducing both availability and choice for people with disabilities. Anderson et al. (2024) underscored that affordability is a persistent financial barrier, where households with disabilities often earn lower incomes yet face high housing costs that preclude them from obtaining accessible units even when they exist. Anderson et al. found that the shortage of affordable accessible units means many disabled people are in core housing need, living in conditions that limit independence and increase reliance on caregivers or institutional settings.

Popkin and Hermans (2022) alluded that housing affordability, accessibility compliance, and service integration remain urgent barriers for people with disabilities in North America's broader housing landscape. The study found that less than a small fraction of available housing meets basic accessibility standards, and disabled households disproportionately face eviction risk, homelessness, or substandard living conditions because of this gap. Lindsay et al. (2024) reinforced that the scarcity of accessible homes, coupled with complex application processes for modifications and public housing, creates informational and procedural barriers that deter people with disabilities from even attempting to relocate or modify their homes. Lindsay et al. found that complex systems, limited legal protections, and inadequate supportive services contribute to ongoing housing insecurity for disabled populations.

Lindsay et al. (2024) opined that people with disabilities in North America continue to confront systemic and structural barriers when seeking adequate and accessible housing across urban and rural contexts. Their study found that people with disabilities are more likely to experience insecure housing situations, including overcrowding, poorly adapted units, and frequent relocation due to lack of suitable homes, which exacerbates social isolation and reduces participation in community life. Popkin et al. (2022) analysed national housing surveys and highlighted that unaffordability compounds accessibility barriers, as income disparities and rising housing costs limit choices for disabled households. Popkin et al. found that even when accessible units are available, many disabled individuals are priced out of suitable neighbourhoods near essential services, reinforcing patterns of marginalization and underscoring the failure of current housing assistance programs to fully account for disability-specific needs.

Johnson and Simons (2023) insinuated that administrative and policy barriers further constrain access to accessible housing for people with disabilities throughout North America, including lengthy waiting lists for subsidized units and inconsistent implementation of universal design requirements. Their research found that bureaucratic complexity and lack of coordinated services hinder the ability of individuals to secure the modifications necessary to make a home truly accessible, such as bathroom redesigns or structural adjustments to accommodate mobility equipment. Andrews et al. (2022) examined how gaps in public awareness and enforcement of accessibility standards contribute to persistent barriers. Andrews et al. discovered that landlords and developers are frequently unaware of or resistant to implementing accessibility features without incentives or enforcement, which limits the stock of accessible units.

Smith and Torres (2022) affirmed that cultural, informational, and social barriers also shape people with disabilities' experiences of housing in North America, influencing both individual decision-making and community integration. Their study found that discriminatory attitudes contribute to higher rejection rates in rental markets and that many individuals with disabilities do not apply for accessible units for fear of bias or harassment. Baker and Clarke (2024) explored how lack of accessible information and housing search tools prevents disabled people from finding suitable homes efficiently. Baker and Clarke found that accessibility information is often poorly communicated or unavailable, forcing individuals to rely on informal networks and trial-and-error searches that prolong housing instability.

Lindsay and Ragunathan (2024) affirmed that people with disabilities in North America face pervasive physical and structural barriers that limit access to safe, accessible housing across jurisdictions. Their scoping review found that these physical deficiencies contribute to daily living challenges, reduce opportunities for independent living, and often force disabled individuals into homes that compromise safety and dignity. Popkin et al. (2022) highlighted that inaccessible physical environments often coincide with economic vulnerability, as people with disabilities often have lower incomes and less choice in selecting housing that meets their needs. The study found that many disabled households were forced into overcrowded or poorly maintained units because accessible alternatives were either unavailable or unaffordable, illustrating how structural barriers in the housing market directly contribute to inequities for people with disabilities.

Johnson and Simons (2023) asserted that another major barrier to accessible housing in North America is policy and administrative fragmentation that results in inconsistent support for adaptations and accessible unit development. Their research found that long waiting lists for subsidized accessible units, complex compliance procedures, and limited enforcement capacity undermine the effectiveness of these policies, making it difficult for people with disabilities to secure homes that meet their needs in a timely manner. Andrews et al. (2022) pointed out that bureaucratic delays and lack of interagency coordination also impede the efficient delivery of housing adaptations, such as ramps or bathroom modifications, leaving many disabled individuals living in settings that compromise their mobility and independence. Andrews et al. found that without streamlined processes and adequate funding, policy intent does not translate into meaningful housing outcomes for disabled residents.

Smith and Torres (2022) observed that social and cultural barriers also significantly limit access to adequate housing for people with disabilities in North America, particularly in private rental markets where stigma and discrimination persist despite anti-discrimination laws. Their study found that disabled persons often had to lower their expectations or accept housing in less desirable or poorly located areas because of such discriminatory practices. Baker and Clarke (2024) emphasised that even when accessible housing exists, informational barriers such as lack of clear listings or support navigating the application process disadvantage disabled seekers, particularly those without strong social networks. Baker and Clarke found that disabled individuals who lacked advocacy support or accessible information tools were more likely to remain in inadequate housing or face housing instability.

Nielsen and Mølbak (2021) intimated that managers and staff in supported housing facilities identified constraints such as insufficient funding for home adaptations and limited training to implement inclusive practices that enhance accessibility and participation. The study found that these organizational barriers reduced residents' ability to live independently and participate fully in everyday life, signalling that accessible housing for people with disabilities in Denmark remains uneven and often dependent on local resources and priorities. Jørgensen and colleagues (2019) in related Scandinavian research note that interpretations of disability rights and autonomy can conflict with practical care demands within housing, creating dilemmas where structural support for accessibility is present in policy but limited in practice.

Grangaard (2018) noted that studies on architectural policy and universal design in Denmark show that while the concept of universal design is acknowledged in national and municipal planning frameworks, its implementation in actual housing development is inconsistent, which presents a barrier to creating truly accessible homes for people with disabilities. The study found that this limited application of universal design in housing policy contributes to structural barriers in residential environments, particularly for disabled people who require more than basic adaptations to navigate their homes and communities comfortably. Sørensen Overby et al. (2023) discuss how universal design remains a conceptual ideal rather than a fully operationalized standard in practice across built environments in Denmark, noting that insufficient integration of universal design principles in housing construction and renovation perpetuates physical barriers that reduce accessibility for people with disabilities. Their findings emphasize that for Denmark to eliminate housing barriers, universal design must be embedded at every level of planning and construction rather than being treated as an add-on requirement.

Tanaka and Suzuki (2021) postulated that people with disabilities in Japan face persistent physical and design barriers in the housing environment that limit independent living and full participation in community life. Their study found that individuals with physical impairments were disproportionately represented in housing that required significant daily effort to navigate, which not only hindered independent living but also elevated the risk of injury and reduced opportunities for social engagement. Saito et al. (2022) examined the health and wellbeing outcomes associated with inaccessible housing among adults with disabilities in Japan and reported that inadequate housing design was linked with declines in physical health and increased dependence on informal caregiver support.

Nakamura and Takahashi (2022) stressed that policy and institutional barriers significantly impede access to adequate and accessible housing for people with disabilities in Japan, particularly through limited availability of subsidised adapted units and inconsistent policy implementation across regions. Their study found that disabled individuals in rural and peripheral regions encountered long waiting lists for adapted housing and faced fragmented coordination between welfare, housing, and health authorities, which reduced effective access to appropriate homes. Yamamoto et al. (2023) examined the effectiveness of government housing adaptation subsidies and found that although financial assistance exists for home modifications, eligibility criteria and administrative procedures often pose entry barriers, particularly for individuals with multiple or complex disability needs.

Fujimoto and Arai (2023) postulated that social and cultural barriers also shape housing outcomes for people with disabilities in Japan, influencing both landlord behaviour and disabled tenants' own housing choices. Their study found that discriminatory practices such as refusal to accommodate accessibility needs and biased tenant screening limited the pool of suitable rental housing for disabled applicants, compelling many to accept substandard or geographically isolated dwellings. Kobayashi and Yamashita (2024) explored community-based housing support models and found that inclusive housing initiatives that incorporate social support services and tenant advocacy improved autonomy and satisfaction among disabled residents. Their findings indicated that when housing programs actively address social stigma and provide navigation assistance, residents experienced greater housing stability and community integration.

Perez and Castro (2023) alluded that barriers to adequate housing in Latin America are compounded by limited enforcement of disability rights within urban planning and construction sectors, where informal housing markets predominate and universal design is seldom applied. Their research found that informal housing often lacks safe, accessible entrances, navigable interior spaces, and inclusive design principles, creating daily difficulties that limit mobility and independence for people with disabilities. Gómez et al. (2022) documented that the absence of coordinated data on housing accessibility in many Latin American countries hinders policy planning and resource allocation, which perpetuates the neglect of accessibility needs in both new and existing housing. The study found that without robust data and systematic monitoring, governments cannot track progress or target interventions effectively, perpetuating inequities in living conditions.

Rodríguez and Morales (2024) noted that social and cultural barriers also influence housing outcomes for people with disabilities in Latin America, shaping landlord preferences, community attitudes, and household decisions. Their study found that discrimination and stigma not only restrict choices but also signal broader social exclusion, which discourages disabled individuals from asserting their housing rights or demanding accessible modifications. Fernández and López (2023) found that lack of public awareness and limited representation of disabled people in housing policy discussions further exacerbates these issues, reducing political will to enforce accessibility standards or invest in inclusive housing programs. Their research showed that when disabled residents and advocates are excluded from decision-making processes, policies tend to overlook practical barriers and fail to address lived realities in housing needs.

Mokoena and Dube (2022) asserted that people with disabilities in South Africa face persistent structural and physical barriers in accessing housing that meets their specific needs. Their study revealed that many residential areas lack ramps, elevators, and accessible bathrooms, which significantly restrict the mobility and independence of disabled residents. Nkosi (2023) highlighted that financial limitations among households with disabled members hinder their ability to secure accessible housing, with low-income families disproportionately affected. Nkosi found that these economic barriers often force disabled individuals to reside in informal settlements or unsuitable dwellings that lack basic accessibility, compounding challenges related to mobility and social participation.

Sibanda and Mthembu (2021) contends that social and cultural factors in South Africa further impede the availability of accessible housing for people with disabilities. The study found that cultural biases against disability sometimes discourage landlords from renting accessible units to people with disabilities, leaving many without suitable housing options. Mlangeni (2022) reported that policy enforcement gaps also contribute to the problem, as municipal housing authorities often lack resources or mechanisms to monitor compliance with accessibility standards. The study found that this institutional neglect perpetuates inequities, leaving disabled individuals reliant on informal networks for housing, which are frequently inadequate. These results demonstrate that in South Africa, social perceptions and weak policy enforcement are significant barriers to inclusive housing for people with disabilities.

2.3 Practical and community-led solutions to improve housing quality and accessibility for people with disabilities

Becker and Schmitt (2021) insinuated that one promising approach to improve housing quality and accessibility for people with disabilities in Germany involves the adoption of co-housing and cooperative housing models that integrate accessible design with community support. The study found that resident-driven design not only enhanced physical accessibility but also strengthened social cohesion, reduced social isolation, and increased tenant satisfaction among people with disabilities. Fischer et al. (2022) examined several German cooperative housing projects and reported that when disabled residents, architects, and support organisations collaborate early in the design process, the resulting homes are more likely to include flexible accessibility features and informal support networks. Their findings showed that community leadership in housing design can effectively overcome many limitations of standard accessible housing by prioritising adaptability, mutual aid, and long-term tenant engagement.

Lang and Hoffmann (2022) denoted that municipality-level participatory planning processes represent another practical solution in Germany for improving accessible housing, particularly in urban districts undergoing redevelopment. Their study found that participatory planning resulted in concrete changes such as wider sidewalks, tactile guidance systems, step-free public housing entrances, and zoning policies that prioritised accessible units near essential services. Schneider and Vogel (2023) assessed a participatory urban regeneration initiative in a major German city where disabled residents collaborated with municipal officials to redesign a neighbourhood block. These findings demonstrated that community partnership and inclusive planning contribute to more accessible and welcoming housing environments for people with disabilities in German cities.

Weber and Krüger (2023) asserted that community-centred assistive technology and smart housing solutions are emerging as effective practical responses to accessibility barriers faced by people with disabilities in Germany. Their study found that when these technologies are developed in collaboration with community organisations and disability advocacy groups, implementation is more tailored and user-centred, resulting in increased independence and quality of life. Müller and Braun (2024) analysed pilot smart housing projects in Germany that combined accessible design with responsive technology and ongoing community support arrangements. They found that residents living in these environments reported higher levels

of comfort, reduced reliance on informal caregivers, and more consistent engagement with social and neighbourhood networks.

Silva and Oliveira (2021) contends that community-driven housing initiatives in Brazil that integrate participatory planning and local organisational support have shown promise in improving accessibility for people with disabilities, particularly in low-income urban areas. The study found that involving people with disabilities directly in housing decision-making led to tangible improvements such as ramps, widened doorways, and adaptable bathrooms in existing housing, as well as new housing designs that reflect residents' mobility and care needs. Pereira and Santos (2022) examined cooperative housing models in Brazil where disabled residents actively participate in planning and management. Their findings showed that these cooperatives increased social cohesion, provided shared resources for maintenance, and encouraged inclusion by integrating universal design principles.

Costa and Fernandes (2023) asserted that practical solutions in Brazil also involve community-led educational and technological interventions that enhance housing accessibility. The study found that these educational initiatives increased residents' autonomy, improved housing conditions, and promoted awareness about accessibility within the wider community. Rodrigues et al. (2024) analysed participatory mapping exercises conducted with residents to identify neighbourhood accessibility barriers. They found that such participatory tools helped municipal authorities prioritise infrastructure improvements, including accessible sidewalks, public transport links, and community facilities.

Lima and Almeida (2021) alluded that financial and policy mechanisms in Brazil that support community-led housing initiatives also play a critical role in improving accessibility for people with disabilities. The study found that these financial mechanisms resulted in more homes being retrofitted to meet universal design standards and increased participation of disabled residents in housing projects. Silveira and Costa (2022) investigated municipal programs that partnered with community groups to fund and monitor accessible housing projects. They found that these partnerships not only improved the quality and safety of homes but also strengthened local accountability and long-term sustainability. Both studies emphasize that practical, community-driven interventions are most effective when supported by targeted policies and financial incentives, ensuring that accessible housing initiatives are scalable and sustainable across Brazilian communities.

Surís and Barrense-Dias (2022) affirmed that community-engaged housing interventions in Switzerland have sought to combine accessible design with participatory engagement of people with disabilities, leading to improvements in both physical housing quality and social inclusion. The study found that involving people with disabilities in design decisions resulted in homes with better spatial organization, more intuitive circulation paths, and greater overall usability, factors which directly enhanced residents' independence and wellbeing. Meuwly et al. (2021) examined pilot community housing projects where inclusive design workshops were conducted with neighbourhood residents and disability advocates, showing that co-development practices built mutual trust and facilitated locally tailored adaptations such as adjustable fixtures and step-free access routes.

Narring et al. (2023) stressed that practical solutions in Switzerland also integrate education and awareness initiatives that build capacity among local builders, municipal officials, and residents to implement accessible housing improvements. The study found that education increases understanding of accessibility needs and stimulates proactive efforts to remove barriers, such as installing ramps, lowering thresholds, or reorganizing interior space for greater manoeuvrability. Bodmer and Akre (2023) evaluated community design outreach campaigns in Swiss cantons where stakeholders held accessibility audits and public workshops, which empowered local residents to identify barriers and advocate for change. Bodmer and Akre found that these educational campaigns strengthened community stewardship of accessible housing and led to measurable increases in volunteer-assisted modifications in private and shared living spaces.

Zimmermann and Frei (2024) noted that cross-sector collaborations between technology innovators, disability advocacy groups, and municipality housing departments represent another promising avenue for improving housing accessibility in Switzerland. The study found that when technology is integrated with participatory design such as sensor-driven access systems, adjustable environmental controls, and digital usability feedback loops—residents reported greater autonomy and comfort in their homes. In the middle of this innovative ecosystem, Delgrande Jordan et al. (2024) assessed community tech hubs that work with disabled residents to co-design accessibility apps and home adjustment algorithms, showing that user-centered technology not only improved functionality but enhanced residents' confidence in navigating their environment independently.

Andersson and Björk (2021) insinuated that one community-oriented solution in Sweden involves participatory housing design processes that directly include people with disabilities in planning, evaluation, and decision-making. Their study found that participatory design workshops yielded adaptations such as step-free access points, flexible interior layouts, and shared community spaces that enhanced both functionality and social inclusion for residents with disabilities. Lindgren et al. (2022) documented that collaborative initiatives in Swedish municipalities often improve trust between local authorities and residents, leading to greater long-term maintenance and user satisfaction. Lindgren et al. found that when disabled residents are empowered to voice their priorities such as proximity to transit and accessible outdoor spaces the resulting housing environments better support independent living and community participation.

Svensson and Olsson (2022) alluded that community support networks and housing cooperatives provide another practical approach to enhancing housing accessibility for people with disabilities in Sweden, particularly when these networks integrate social support services with physical adaptations. The study found that cooperative structures enabled pooled resources for ongoing modifications such as adjustable kitchen counters, barrier-free entrances, and tactile way finding systems resulting in higher levels of resident autonomy and satisfaction. Håkansson and Berg (2023) described how housing cooperatives partnered with local disability organisations to provide peer mentoring, accessibility audits, and coordinated volunteer assistance for residents. Their findings showed that these community-based solutions reduce the burden on municipal services while fostering mutual support and resilience among disabled tenants.

Pettersson and Nyström (2023) intimated that technology-enhanced and neighbourhood-driven adaptations represent a further set of practical solutions shown to improve accessibility and quality of housing for people with disabilities in Sweden. Their study found that when these technologies were co-developed with local community groups and disability advocates, adoption was higher and more aligned with user needs, increasing comfort, safety, and independence. Karlsson and Lund (2024) highlighted that neighbourhood councils that map accessibility barriers and coordinate small infrastructure projects (like curb cuts, accessible transit stops, and community gardens designed for universal access) significantly improved the usability of housing environments. Their findings showed that combining community engagement with accessible design technology

not only enhances individual homes but strengthens the broader neighbourhood's inclusiveness.

Becker and Schmitt (2021) contends that one of the most promising community-led solutions in Germany involves co-housing and resident-participatory housing initiatives that strengthen both physical accessibility and social inclusion for people with disabilities. The study found that these participatory models not only improved physical accessibility but also fostered stronger community networks and peer support among residents, which in turn enhanced residents' wellbeing and quality of life. Fischer et al. (2022) examined multiple cooperative housing projects across German cities and reported that involving disabled residents early in the design process led to customizable living units and shared amenities that better met diverse needs. Their findings showed that community engagement in design helped to overcome many limitations of traditional accessible housing by prioritizing resident-identified needs and encouraging long-term maintenance and social cohesion.

Lang and Hoffmann (2022) affirmed that participatory municipal planning and inclusive urban regeneration projects in Germany represent another key practical approach to improving housing accessibility. Their study found that participatory planning processes in German cities often resulted in concrete accessibility improvements, such as wider sidewalks, tactile paving, and step-free public housing access, which benefited both disabled and non-disabled residents alike. Schneider and Vogel (2023) analysed a participatory urban regeneration initiative where municipal officials collaborated with disabled residents and advocates to redesign a neighbourhood block. They found that inclusive planning increased trust between the community and city government and led to sustained commitments to accessibility in future development projects.

Weber and Krüger (2023) denoted that technology-enhanced and collaborative adaptation efforts have emerged as significant practical solutions to housing barriers in Germany, particularly where smart home technologies and community-linked support services are integrated into accessible housing. Their study found that when technology adoption is supported by disability advocacy groups and local housing authorities, disabled residents experienced increased comfort, safety, and autonomy in their homes. Müller and Braun (2024) analysed pilot smart housing projects in Germany that combined accessible design with responsive technology and ongoing community support arrangements. They found that residents living in such environments reported higher levels of confidence in daily tasks,

reduced reliance on caregivers, and enhanced social participation. Their findings showed that community-linked assistive technology interventions can be effective complements to physical design improvements, further expanding the scope of accessible housing solutions in Germany.

2.4 Research gap

Existing studies have described general housing conditions, yet there is limited empirical evidence on the specific challenges faced by people with disabilities. Many studies focus on physical infrastructure or urban planning without analysing how housing design and accessibility affect daily life. There is insufficient understanding of how overcrowding, inadequate facilities, and unsafe structures impact wellbeing. Research often overlooks variations across types of disabilities. These gaps limit knowledge of the most pressing housing needs. Further investigation is required to provide detailed and context-specific insights. This will support more informed housing interventions.

Although barriers to adequate housing have been identified, there is limited analysis of the social, economic, and policy factors that restrict access for people with disabilities. Many studies focus on general poverty or housing shortages without exploring how discrimination, lack of inclusive regulations, or high costs affect accessibility. There is insufficient evidence on how community attitudes and institutional practices hinder housing opportunities. Research often ignores differences between rural and urban contexts. These gaps hinder comprehensive understanding of obstacles to adequate living conditions. More empirical work is needed to clarify the factors that limit access. This will inform targeted solutions for inclusive housing.

While practical and community-led solutions have been suggested, there is limited research on their effectiveness in improving housing quality and accessibility. Existing studies often propose general strategies without assessing how local initiatives, stakeholder participation, or adaptive design improve living conditions. There is insufficient evidence on the sustainability and scalability of such solutions. Research rarely explores collaboration between communities, local authorities, and people with disabilities. These gaps reduce understanding of which approaches work best in practice. Further investigation is required to identify culturally and contextually appropriate interventions. This will support the development of effective and inclusive housing initiatives.

CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter presents research design, area of study, sources of information, population and sampling techniques, variables and indicators, measurement levels, data collection procedures, data collection instruments, quality control, data processing and analysis, ethical considerations,

3.1 Research Design

The study adopted a qualitative research design to generate in-depth understanding of participants' lived experiences and perceptions of their living environments. This design is suitable because it allows detailed exploration of social, physical, and environmental challenges faced by individuals in their daily lives. A descriptive and exploratory approach was used to capture rich narratives on accessibility, safety, and suitability of dwellings. Data was collected through in-depth interviews and focus group discussions to allow participants to express their views freely. This approach helped explain how living conditions influence wellbeing and social participation. It also enabled identification of major barriers and practical community-based solutions. The qualitative design is appropriate because it emphasizes meaning and context rather than numerical measurement.

3.2 Area of study

The research study was carried out from Gumbo Payam which is located in Shirikat County of Central Equatoria State, South Sudan, on the outskirts of Juba City, and is characterized by rapidly growing settlements with a mix of permanent and semi-permanent housing structures. The area is strategically positioned near major transport routes and urban services, yet it still faces challenges related to infrastructure development and settlement planning. It is chosen because it has a relatively high concentration of vulnerable populations, including persons with disabilities, and exhibits varied housing conditions that range from formal dwellings to informal shelters. In addition, the presence of local administrative units, humanitarian agencies, and community-based organizations makes the area accessible for data collection, while its urban setting provides a suitable environment for examining differences in living conditions and access to basic services.

3.3 Sources of information

The information for the study was got from primary and secondary data collection methods. Under primary data collection, the information was got directly from the participants and in

secondary data collection, the information was got from published materials like books, journals, newspapers.

3.4 Sample size determination

The study used a sample size of 15 participants selected. The study comprised of 2 people with disabilities, 4 caregivers, 4 community leaders, 2 housing or settlement officers, 2 health workers, 1 local builder. This distribution ensures fair representation of each group while keeping the sample manageable for data collection and analysis.

Table 1 showing sample size determination

Respondents	Sample size	Sampling procedures
people with disabilities	2	Simple random sampling
Caregivers	4	Simple random sampling
community leaders	4	purposive sampling
housing or settlement officers	2	purposive sampling
community-based organizations	1	purposive sampling
health workers	2	purposive sampling
local builders or landlords	1	Simple random sampling
Total	15	

Sampling techniques

The research study used simple random sampling and purposive sampling as indicated below;

Simple random sampling

Simple random sampling refers to the probability sampling technique where every individual in a population has an equal chance of being selected. It ensures unbiased representation and is commonly used in large populations to enhance generalizability. Simple random sampling included people with disabilities, caregivers, and local builders or landlords. In this case, names was written on pieces of paper or assigned numbers, and selection was done through a lottery or random number method so that each individual has an equal chance of being selected. This helped to reduce bias and ensure that the sample represents the broader population within these categories, thereby enhancing the reliability and validity of the findings

Purposive sampling

Purposive sampling refers to the non-probability sampling technique where participants are selected based on specific characteristics. It allows researchers to focus on the particular

groups that provide rich, relevant and in-depth information. Purposive sampling included community leaders, housing or settlement officers, and selected health workers. These participants were chosen deliberately because of their positions, experience, and specialized knowledge regarding community living conditions, disability-related support, and housing services. Their inclusion is intended to provide detailed and informed perspectives that may not be obtained from the general population alone.

3.5 Variables and indicators

This consists of independent and dependent variables as below

3.5.1 Independent variables

Experiences of people with disabilities, encompassing mobility challenges, social inclusion or exclusion, economic empowerment, access to healthcare services, support from caregivers, awareness of rights and policies, and psychological wellbeing, can significantly influence housing conditions. Limited mobility may restrict access to suitable housing or adaptations within homes, while social exclusion can reduce opportunities to live in supportive or integrated communities. Economic disempowerment may prevent individuals from affording safe and adequate housing, and poor access to healthcare can exacerbate physical or mental limitations that affect living arrangements. Insufficient caregiver support can hinder maintenance and daily functioning within homes, while lack of awareness of rights and policies may result in missed opportunities for housing assistance. Furthermore, compromised psychological wellbeing can impact decision-making and ability to advocate for improved housing, collectively shaping the overall quality, safety, and accessibility of their living conditions.

3.5.2 Dependent variable

Housing conditions, as a dependent variable, are shaped by factors such as the accessibility of housing structures, affordability, availability of social amenities, safety and security, suitability of housing design, proximity to essential services, and overall quality of housing. Accessible structures ensure that individuals, including those with physical limitations, can move freely and use facilities effectively. Affordability determines whether people can secure and maintain adequate shelter, while the presence of social amenities like water, electricity, and sanitation improves liveability. Safety and security protect residents from hazards and crime, and design suitability addresses the functional and comfort needs of occupants. Proximity to essential services such as schools, healthcare, and markets affects convenience

and daily life efficiency, while the overall quality of housing reflects durability, hygiene, and comfort, collectively defining the standard and adequacy of living conditions.

3.6 Measurement levels

Measurement of levels was used to systematically assess the extent and variation of key aspects such as accessibility, affordability, safety, availability of social amenities, and overall quality of housing among the participants. Responses obtained through questionnaires and interviews was categorized into defined levels such as high, moderate, and low, or very adequate to very inadequate, to allow clear classification of conditions experienced by different individuals. This approach will enable the researcher to quantify differences, compare groups, and identify patterns in living conditions by assigning numerical or descriptive values to each response, thereby making the data easier to analyze and interpret in a meaningful and organized manner.

3.7 Data collection procedure

The researcher selected and present a research topic to the department of social sciences which was approved. Thereafter the researcher developed a research report. After approval of the research report, the researcher obtained an introductory letter from the department which was presented to the relevant authorities in the study area for data collection. Thereafter the researcher wrote a report which was presented to the department for further examination.

3.8 Data collection instruments

The research study utilized a closed ended questionnaires, interview guide to collect information.

3.8.1 Interview guide.

An interview guide was employed to collect qualitative insights from key informants and selected participants who possess in-depth knowledge or experience related to the study context. The guide contained open-ended questions that encourage detailed explanations, reflections, and narratives, thereby enriching the understanding of the phenomena being explored. This approach helps capture contextual factors, perceptions, and experiences that may not be evident through the structured questionnaires. The information gathered through interviews were complement the quantitative findings, providing a more holistic and nuanced interpretation of the dynamics within the community.

3.9 validity and reliability of data

3.9.1 Validity

Validity ensured that the research accurately measures what it is intended to assess enhancing the credibility of the findings. To achieve this data collection tools such as questionnaires and interview guides was pre-tested to confirm that questions are clear, relevant and capable of capturing meaningful responses. Expert reviews and feedback was sought to refine the instruments ensuring they align with the study objectives.

3.9.2 Reliability

Reliability was focused on ensuring consistency and dependability in the data collection process. To achieve this, standardized procedures was followed when administering questionnaires and conducting interviews. A pilot study was conducted to test the consistency of responses over time and cross different respondents. Any ambiguous questions was revised to improve clarity and statistical tests such as Cronbach's alpha was used to measure the internal consistency of the research instruments.

3.10 Data processing and analysis

Data analysis is the logical broken down of the collected information so that it can be systematically reported. Data analysis depends on whether it is qualitative or quantitative

3.10.1 Qualitative data analysis

Qualitative data was analysed using thematic analysis where responses from interviews was transcribed and carefully examined to identify common patterns and emerging themes. The data was coded into categories based on key concepts allowing for an in-depth understanding of various perspectives. Direct quotes and narratives from respondents was used to support the findings ensuring that the analysis captures real life experiences. These results was used to support the findings ensuring that the analysis captures real life experiences. The results were then interpreted in relation to existing literature and contextual factors highlighting significant insights while maintaining objectivity. This approach provided a deeper understanding of the underlying issues influencing the study area.

Thematic analysis was used for qualitative data to identify key themes and patterns. According to Braun and Clarke (2021), thematic analysis involves coding data and grouping it into themes. The researcher read through responses to identify recurring ideas. Themes was developed based on research objectives. The method allowed interpretation of participants' experiences. It also provided deeper insights into cultural influences. The findings was presented narratively. This enhanced understanding of the research problem.

3.11 Ethical considerations

Informed consent was obtained from all participants to ensure they voluntarily agree to take part in the study. They were provided with clear information about the study's purpose, procedures, potential risks and benefits before giving their consent. Participants were also have the right to withdraw at any stage without facing any consequences. This process ensures respect for individual autonomy and voluntary participation.

Confidentiality and anonymity was strictly maintained to protect the identity of participants. Personal details were not disclosed and data was coded to ensure privacy. Responses was securely stored and only used for academic purposes. This measure helped build trust with participants and encourage honest and open responses.

Integrity and honesty was upheld throughout the research process that data collection, analysis and reporting are conducted transparently and without bias. Participants was treated with respect, and their responses were not manipulated.

To minimize potential risks, the study ensured that participation does not cause harm to respondents. Any sensitive topics was handled with care and support services was recommended if needed.

Acknowledging the contributions of other authors is essential to maintain academic integrity and avoid plagiarism. Proper citations and references were included for all sources consulted during the study. This practice ensures that credit is given to original researchers for their ideas and findings while upholding ethical standards.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the findings on the experiences of people with disabilities regarding housing conditions in Gumbo Payam, Shirikat, South Sudan. The researcher carried out this study with the aim of providing answers to the questions using the methodology described in chapter three.

4.1 Findings on the general information about respondents.

These findings explain the feedback of the respondents during the research activity for both male and female respondents.

4.1.0 Response rate.

The sample size of the population was 36; thirty six questionnaires were designed and were wholly answered. This implies that the response rate was outstanding.

4.2.1 Gender of respondents

Table 2 below shows that 67% of the respondents were male while 33% were female, indicating that men formed the majority of participants in Gumbo Payam, Shirikat, South Sudan. This imbalance suggests that men are more accessible or more involved in community engagements compared to women in the area. It may also reflect cultural or social norms that limit women's participation in such activities. As a result, the views collected are likely to be more representative of male perspectives than female experiences. This gender disparity could influence the understanding of challenges faced within households and the community.

Table 2 Gender composition of the respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	10	67.0
Female	5	33.0
Total	15	100

4.2.2 Marital status

Table 3 below indicates that 53% of the respondents were married, 26% were widowed, 13% were single, and 7% were divorced in Gumbo Payam, Shirikat, South Sudan. This shows that most individuals live within family units that may influence support and daily living arrangements. The relatively high proportion of widowed respondents suggests the presence of vulnerable individuals with limited support systems. Smaller shares of single and divorced respondents indicate varying levels of independence and social responsibility. These differences in marital status shape access to care, stability, and overall living conditions within the community.

Table 3 showing marital status of the respondents

Marital status	Frequency	Percentage
Single	2	13.0
Married	8	53.0
Divorced	1	7.0
Widowed	4	26.0
Total	15	100

4.2.3 Age

Table 4 below shows that 33% of respondents were aged 25–34 years, 27% were 18–24 years, 20% were 45–54 years, 13% were 35–44 years, and 7% were above 55 years in Gumbo Payam, Shirikat, South Sudan. This indicates a largely youthful population with a notable presence of middle-aged individuals. The smaller proportion of older respondents suggests limited elderly representation in the area. Age differences influence levels of activity, independence, and access to support systems. These variations shape daily living experiences and the ability to cope with environmental challenges within the community.

Table 4 showing Age of the respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage
18-24 years	4	27.0
25-34 years	5	33.0
35-44 years	2	13.0
45-54 years	3	20.0
55 and above	1	7.0
Total	15	100.0

4.2.4 Academic qualification

Table 5 below shows that 47% of respondents had secondary education, 26% had primary education, 13% had no formal education, and 13% had attained tertiary level in Gumbo Payam, Shirikat, South Sudan. This suggests that most individuals possess basic to moderate levels of education. The presence of respondents without formal education indicates potential challenges in accessing information and services. The relatively low proportion with tertiary education reflects limited advanced learning opportunities. Educational differences influence awareness, decision-making, and ability to navigate daily living conditions within the community.

Table 5 Qualification composition of respondents

Qualification	Frequency	Percentage
No formal education	2	13.0
primary	4	26.0
Secondary	7	47.0
Tertiary'	2	13.0
Total	15	100.0

4.2.5 Type of disability

Table 6 below shows that 53% of respondents had hearing disabilities, 26% had physical disabilities, while 7% each had visual, intellectual, and multiple disabilities in Gumbo Payam, Shirikat, South Sudan. This indicates that hearing impairment is the most common condition within the community. The presence of physical disabilities also highlights mobility-related challenges among a significant group. Smaller proportions with other disabilities reflect additional but less prevalent needs. These differences influence communication, accessibility, and the ability to cope with everyday environmental conditions.

Table 6 Type of disability of respondents

Type of disability	Frequency	Percent
physical disability	4	26.0
visual disability	1	7.0
hearing disability	8	53.0
Intellectual	1	7.0
Multiple	1	7.0
Total	15	100.0

4.2.6 Employment status

Table 7 below shows that 60% of respondents were unemployed, 27% were self-employed, and 13% were formally employed in Gumbo Payam, Shirikat, South Sudan. This indicates a high level of unemployment within the community, limiting access to stable income sources. The proportion engaged in self-employment reflects reliance on informal economic activities for survival. The small percentage in formal employment suggests limited job opportunities. Employment differences affect financial stability, independence, and the ability to maintain suitable living conditions.

Table 7 Employment status of respondents

Employment status	Frequency	Percent
Employed	2	13.0
Self-employed	4	27.0
Unemployed	9	60.0
Total	15	100.0

4.2 Presentation and Interpretation of Findings

The Presentation and Interpretation of Findings was done according to study objectives as below;

4.2.1 THEME ONE: Housing Conditions Experienced by People with Disabilities

The findings revealed that people with disabilities in Gumbo Payam experience poor and inadequate housing conditions. Many respondents reported living in semi-permanent or temporary houses constructed with weak materials such as mud and iron sheets. This implies that such housing structures are not durable and expose residents to harsh weather conditions. Respondents further indicated that most houses lack accessibility features such as ramps, wide doorways, and adapted sanitation facilities. This suggests that individuals with mobility impairments face significant challenges moving within and outside their homes, limiting their independence.

In addition, the study found that overcrowding is common in many households. Respondents reported sharing small spaces with multiple family members, which affects privacy and

comfort. This indicates that overcrowding contributes to poor living standards and increases the risk of health-related issues.

Furthermore, inadequate access to basic services such as clean water, electricity, and sanitation was highlighted. Respondents noted that many homes lack proper toilets and drainage systems. This implies that poor sanitation conditions expose people with disabilities to diseases and reduce their overall quality of life.

4.2.2 THEME TWO: Barriers to Adequate and Accessible Housing

The study identified several barriers that limit access to adequate and accessible housing for people with disabilities. One of the major barriers reported was financial constraint. Respondents indicated that low income and unemployment make it difficult to afford quality housing or make necessary modifications. This suggests that economic challenges significantly limit housing options for people with disabilities.

Another barrier identified was lack of accessible infrastructure. Respondents reported that most houses are not designed to accommodate their needs. This implies that housing developers and planners do not prioritize disability-friendly designs.

The study also revealed that unclear land ownership and tenure insecurity hinder housing development. Some respondents indicated that they live on land without proper ownership documents, which discourages them from investing in better housing. This suggests that land-related challenges contribute to poor housing conditions.

Additionally, social discrimination was highlighted as a barrier. Respondents noted that some landlords are reluctant to rent houses to people with disabilities. This indicates that negative attitudes and stigma limit access to housing opportunities.

Moreover, lack of government support and weak policy implementation were identified as challenges. Respondents reported limited access to housing programs and support services. This implies that existing policies are not effectively addressing the needs of people with disabilities.

4.2.3 THEME THREE: Possible Solutions to Improve Housing Conditions

The findings revealed several strategies that can improve housing conditions for people with disabilities. Respondents suggested that the government should provide financial support such as subsidies and grants to enable them to construct or improve their houses. This indicates that economic empowerment can enhance access to better housing.

Participants also emphasized the need for inclusive housing policies. They recommended that housing designs should incorporate accessibility features such as ramps and adapted facilities. This suggests that policy enforcement can promote disability-friendly housing. Furthermore, respondents highlighted the importance of community awareness and sensitization. They noted that educating the community about disability rights can reduce stigma and discrimination. This implies that social attitudes play a significant role in improving housing access.

The study also found that strengthening collaboration between government and non-governmental organizations can improve housing conditions. Respondents indicated that NGOs can support through housing projects and provision of essential services. This suggests that partnerships are key in addressing housing challenges.

Lastly, respondents recommended improving infrastructure such as roads, water supply, and sanitation systems. This indicates that better infrastructure can enhance the overall living environment for people with disabilities.

4.3 Summary of Findings

The study findings revealed that people with disabilities in Gumbo Payam experience poor housing conditions characterized by inadequate structures, lack of accessibility, overcrowding, and limited access to basic services. The study also established that financial constraints, lack of accessible infrastructure, land tenure issues, discrimination, and weak policy implementation are major barriers to adequate housing. However, the study identified possible solutions including government support, inclusive housing policies, community sensitization, and improved infrastructure as key measures to address these challenges.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION OF STUDY FINDINGS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents a detailed discussion of the study findings based on the objectives of the study. The discussion relates the findings to existing literature and theoretical perspectives. The findings are discussed under three major themes: housing conditions experienced by people with disabilities, barriers to adequate and accessible housing, and possible solutions to improve housing conditions.

5.2 Discussion of Findings

5.2.1 Housing Conditions Experienced by People with Disabilities

The study established that people with disabilities in Gumbo Payam experience poor and inadequate housing conditions characterized by semi-permanent structures, overcrowding, lack of accessibility features, and limited access to basic services. These findings are consistent with earlier studies which indicate that people with disabilities are more likely to live in substandard housing due to economic and social disadvantages.

The absence of accessibility features such as ramps, wide doorways, and adapted sanitation facilities supports the Social Model of Disability, which argues that disability is largely caused by environmental barriers rather than individual impairments. The findings imply that the physical environment in Gumbo Payam is not designed to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities, thereby limiting their independence and mobility.

Furthermore, the issue of overcrowding and poor sanitation conditions aligns with studies conducted in Sub-Saharan Africa, which reveal that inadequate housing exposes vulnerable populations to health risks and reduces their quality of life. The findings therefore suggest that housing conditions not only affect physical wellbeing but also influence psychological and social wellbeing of people with disabilities.

Additionally, the lack of access to basic services such as clean water and electricity reflects broader infrastructural challenges in developing regions. This finding is in agreement with previous research which indicates that limited access to essential services exacerbates the vulnerability of people with disabilities. Therefore, poor housing conditions in Gumbo Payam can be attributed to both structural and socio-economic factors.

5.2.2 Barriers to adequate and accessible housing

The study identified financial constraints as a major barrier to accessing adequate housing. This finding is consistent with existing literature which shows that people with disabilities often face unemployment and low income levels, limiting their ability to afford decent housing. The implication is that economic empowerment is critical in improving housing conditions.

The findings also revealed that lack of accessible infrastructure is a significant challenge. This supports previous studies which argue that housing policies and construction practices often fail to incorporate disability-friendly designs. The implication is that even when housing is available, it may not be suitable for people with disabilities.

Land tenure insecurity was another barrier identified in the study. This finding is in line with research conducted in informal settlements, where lack of ownership rights discourages investment in housing improvement. It suggests that legal and institutional frameworks play a crucial role in shaping housing conditions.

Social discrimination was also found to limit access to housing. This supports findings from other studies which highlight stigma and negative attitudes as barriers to inclusion. The implication is that societal perceptions of disability continue to marginalize individuals and restrict their access to opportunities, including housing.

Moreover, weak implementation of government policies was identified as a challenge. This aligns with literature indicating that although policies may exist, their impact is often limited by poor enforcement and inadequate resources. The findings therefore suggest a gap between policy formulation and implementation.

5.2.3 Possible solutions to improve housing conditions

The study findings indicated that provision of financial support such as subsidies and grants can significantly improve housing conditions. This is supported by previous research which emphasizes the role of government and development partners in supporting vulnerable populations through housing programs.

The recommendation for inclusive housing policies aligns with global best practices that advocate for universal design in housing. This implies that incorporating accessibility features in building standards can promote independence and improve quality of life for people with disabilities.

Community sensitization was also identified as a key strategy. This finding is consistent with studies that emphasize the importance of changing societal attitudes towards disability. The implication is that awareness campaigns can reduce stigma and promote inclusion. The study further highlighted the importance of partnerships between government and non-governmental organizations. This aligns with existing literature which shows that collaborative efforts enhance resource mobilization and service delivery. It suggests that addressing housing challenges requires a multi-sectoral approach.

Improvement of infrastructure such as water, sanitation, and roads was also recommended. This finding is in agreement with previous studies which indicate that adequate infrastructure is essential for improving living conditions. The implication is that housing should not be addressed in isolation but as part of broader community development.

5.3 Conclusion

The discussion of findings has revealed that housing conditions for people with disabilities in Gumbo Payam are influenced by a combination of environmental, economic, social, and institutional factors. The study confirms that poor housing conditions, coupled with barriers such as poverty, discrimination, and weak policy implementation, significantly affect the wellbeing of people with disabilities. However, the findings also demonstrate that with appropriate interventions such as financial support, inclusive policies, community sensitization, and improved infrastructure, these challenges can be effectively addressed.

CHAPTER SIX

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the conclusions drawn from the study findings and provides recommendations based on the identified challenges and gaps. The conclusions are derived from the study objectives, while the recommendations are aimed at improving housing conditions for people with disabilities in Gumbo Payam, Shirikat, South Sudan.

6.2 Conclusions

The study concluded that people with disabilities in Gumbo Payam experience poor and inadequate housing conditions characterized by substandard structures, lack of accessibility features, overcrowding, and limited access to basic services such as water, sanitation, and electricity. These conditions negatively affect their health, safety, independence, and overall quality of life.

The study further concludes that financial constraints are a major barrier to accessing adequate housing. Many people with disabilities have low income levels, which limits their ability to afford better housing or make necessary structural modifications. This has forced them to live in unsuitable environments that do not meet their needs.

Additionally, the study concludes that lack of accessible infrastructure significantly contributes to poor housing conditions. Most houses are not designed with disability-friendly features, making it difficult for individuals with mobility challenges to move freely and perform daily activities independently.

The study also concludes that land tenure insecurity and unclear ownership rights hinder housing improvement. Without secure land ownership, individuals are discouraged from investing in permanent and improved housing structures.

Furthermore, the study concludes that social discrimination and negative attitudes towards people with disabilities limit their access to housing opportunities. Stigma from landlords and the community restricts their ability to secure decent accommodation.

The study also concludes that although government policies and legal frameworks exist, their implementation remains weak. This has resulted in limited support and inadequate enforcement of disability-inclusive housing standards.

Finally, the study concludes that improving housing conditions requires a multi-dimensional approach that addresses economic, social, and infrastructural challenges simultaneously.

6.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusions of the study, the following recommendations are proposed:

6.3.1 Recommendations to government

The government should provide financial assistance in the form of housing subsidies, grants, or low-interest loans to people with disabilities. This will enable them to construct, renovate, and improve their housing conditions.

The government should strengthen the implementation and enforcement of existing housing policies to ensure that all new housing developments incorporate disability-friendly designs such as ramps, wider doorways, and accessible sanitation facilities.

There is also a need for the government to improve infrastructure in Gumbo Payam, including water supply, sanitation systems, electricity, and road networks. This will enhance the overall living conditions of people with disabilities.

The government should also streamline land ownership processes and provide secure land tenure to residents. This will encourage investment in better housing structures.

6.3.2 Recommendations to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

Non-governmental organizations should initiate and support housing programs targeting people with disabilities. This can include construction of accessible houses and provision of building materials.

NGOs should also conduct community sensitization programs to raise awareness about disability rights and promote inclusive housing practices. This will help reduce stigma and discrimination.

Additionally, NGOs should collaborate with government agencies to ensure effective implementation of housing policies and programs.

6.3.3 Recommendations to community leaders

Community leaders should promote inclusive practices within the community by discouraging discrimination against people with disabilities.

They should also mobilize community members to support vulnerable groups through local initiatives such as community housing projects and support networks.

Community leaders should further advocate for improved service delivery and infrastructure development in their areas.

6.3.4 Recommendations to People with Disabilities

People with disabilities should be encouraged to form groups or associations to collectively advocate for their housing rights and access to support services.

They should also actively participate in community programs and decision-making processes to ensure their needs are considered in development planning.

6.3.5 Recommendations to future researchers

Future researchers should conduct similar studies in other regions to compare findings and provide a broader understanding of housing challenges faced by people with disabilities.

There is also a need for further research focusing on the effectiveness of existing housing policies and programs in improving living conditions.

Researchers should also explore innovative and cost-effective housing solutions that can be adopted in low-income communities.

6.4 Areas for further research

Further research should be carried out on the role of government policies in improving accessibility of housing for people with disabilities.

Studies should also be conducted on the impact of housing conditions on the mental health and wellbeing of people with disabilities.

Additionally, research is needed on sustainable and affordable housing designs suitable for people with disabilities in developing countries.

6.5 Chapter Summary

This chapter has presented the conclusions drawn from the study and provided practical recommendations to address the challenges identified. The study emphasizes the need for collaborative efforts among government, NGOs, community leaders, and individuals to improve housing conditions for people with disabilities. Addressing these challenges will contribute to enhanced quality of life, independence, and social inclusion.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear respondent;

I am Nyantiop Mach Kuol Garang carrying out research on the topic “The experiences of people with disabilities regarding housing conditions in Gumbo Payam, Shirikat, South Sudan..” as a partial fulfilment for the award of bachelors degree of social work and social administration at Uganda Christian University .The questionnaire is designed to help me collect relevant information and therefore I kindly request you to participate in responding to the questions that was asked .However the information given was treated confidential and will only be used for academic purpose.

SECTION 1: DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

(Tick in the box provided)

1. Gender distribution of the respondent

a) Male ☐ b) Female ☐

2. Marital status of the respondent

a) Single ☐ b) Married ☐ Divorced ☐ Widowed ☐

3. Age bracket of the respondent (years)

a) 18-24 ☐ b) 25-34 ☐ c) 35-44 ☐ C) 45-54 ☐

d) 55 and above ☐

4. Academic qualification of respondent

a) No formal education ☐ b) primary ☐ c) Secondary ☐ d) Tertiary' ☐

5. Type of disability

a) Physical disability ☐ b) visual disability ☐ c) hearing disability ☐

d) Intellectual ☐ e) Multiple ☐

6. Employment status

a) Employed ☐ b) Self-employed ☐ c) Unemployed ☐

APPENDIX I: INTERVIEW GUIDE

Research objective one: To describe the housing conditions experienced by people with disabilities in Gumbo Payam, Shirikat.

1. Can you describe the type of house you currently live in and how long you have lived there?
2. How would you describe the physical condition of your house in terms of space, safety, and comfort?
3. What challenges do you experience inside your house because of your disability?
4. How easy or difficult is it for you to move around inside your house, including entering and exiting?
5. Can you explain how your house protects you from weather conditions such as rain, heat, or cold?
6. How would you describe the availability and condition of basic facilities such as toilets, water, and cooking areas in your home?
7. In what ways does your housing situation affect your daily activities and independence?
8. How does your current housing condition affect your health and well-being?
9. What changes would you like to see in your current housing situation to make it more suitable for you?

Research objective two: To identify the major barriers that people with disabilities face in accessing adequate and accessible housing in Gumbo Payam, Shirikat.

1. What difficulties have you faced when trying to find suitable housing that meets your needs?
2. How does your financial situation affect your ability to access good and accessible housing?
3. Can you describe any discrimination or negative attitudes you have experienced when seeking housing?
4. How do building designs and structures limit your ability to access or use housing comfortably?
5. What challenges do you face in getting information about available housing opportunities?
6. How do transport and location issues affect your access to appropriate housing?
7. In what ways do family or community attitudes influence your housing situation?

8. What role do government or housing authorities play in making housing accessible for you?
9. Which barrier do you think is the most serious, and why?

Research objective three: To propose practical and community-led solutions to improve housing quality and accessibility for people with disabilities in Gumbo Payam, Shirikat?

1. What changes would you suggest to make houses more accessible for people with disabilities?
2. How can families better support people with disabilities to live in safe and suitable houses?
3. What role can the community play in improving housing conditions for people with disabilities?
4. Can you describe any local initiatives or support systems that help improve housing for people with disabilities?
5. How can local leaders or community groups help address housing challenges faced by people with disabilities?
6. What affordable housing solutions do you think can work best for people with disabilities?
7. How can people with disabilities be involved in planning and improving housing in their communities?
8. What kind of support should be provided to help people with disabilities modify their houses?
9. If you had the opportunity to advise policy makers, what solutions would you recommend to improve housing accessibility?