

ASSESSING PUBLIC TRANSPORT INCLUSIVENESS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THOHoyANDOU CBD

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ABSTRACT

The study on "*Assessing the Inclusiveness of Public Transport for Persons with Disabilities in Thohoyandou CBD*" sought to evaluate the current state of accessibility and inclusiveness in Thohoyandou's public transportation system for individuals with disabilities. The study recognises the challenges faced by rural towns, particularly Thohoyandou, in providing inclusive and accessible public transportation. The research methodology incorporates a systematic approach, utilising qualitative and quantitative research designs. Data collection methods included surveys and interviews with participants, while data analysis techniques involve analysing the frequency of public transportation use, identifying barriers and challenges, and assessing the effectiveness of policy enhancements. The study identifies that 58,1% of the physical infrastructure is a major concern for individuals with disabilities, highlighting the need for improvements to enhance inclusiveness. The findings of this research contribute to the understanding of the current state of accessibility in Thohoyandou's public transportation system and provide recommendations for planning strategies to promote inclusive public transportation. Future research opportunities in this field, such as technological integration, long-term impact assessment and comparative studies, are also identified.

KEYWORDS: Accessibility, Barriers, Inclusiveness, Persons with disabilities, Public transportation, Rural areas.