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Accessibility Analysis of Cafes and Restaurants for Disabled Individuals in Muratpaşa, Konyaaltı, Kepez, and Döşemealtı Districts of Antalya Province

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Abstract: This study examines the accessibility of cafes and restaurants in the Muratpaşa, Konyaaltı, Kepez, and Döşemealtı districts of Antalya for disabled individuals. The study analyzes the current status of design elements for visually and physically impaired individuals and assesses the compliance of these spaces with accessibility standards. The findings indicate that most of the spaces lack critical adjustments such as tactile surfaces for visually impaired individuals and basic accessibility elements like ramps and restrooms for disabled individuals.

This study highlights the importance of implementing universal design principles and emphasizes that interior architectural projects should be included in municipal permit processes. Designs need to be human-centered and inclusive to support full participation of disabled individuals in society. Ensuring accessibility in the physical environment will not only improve individuals' quality of life but also play a critical role in social awareness and social integration.

Keywords: Accessibility, Interior architecture, Antalya, Disabled, Access.

1. Introduction

Throughout life, humans face a variety of physical and mental conditions. From birth, individuals possess limited physical and cognitive abilities and lack many fundamental skills. During childhood, particularly between the ages of 5 and 6, basic physical skills are acquired; however, anthropometric dimensions remain a limiting factor for many activities in this period. Upon reaching adulthood, individuals exhibit anthropometric diversity such as height, sitting height, shoulder, and hip width; reach and movement capabilities such as arm, leg, and hand reach distances; detailed extremity measurements such as hand and foot length; and postural and movement diversity such as height, sitting height, shoulder, and hip width; reach and movement capabilities such as arm, leg, and hand reach distances; detailed extremity measurements such as hand and foot length; and postural and movement diversity such as knee, elbow, and eye level height. Additionally, differences based on age, gender, and ethnic groups are among the key factors influencing anthropometric diversity (Pheasant, 2003). With aging, physical and cognitive

functions decline, making it increasingly difficult to perform certain tasks.

Even individuals born without any disabilities are at risk of developing temporary or permanent disabilities over their lifetime. At a minimum, they encounter at least one of the conditions described above, ranging from infancy to old age.

Today, the increase in average life expectancy further underscores these challenges. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the global average life expectancy rose from 66.8 years in 2000 to 73.4 years in 2019 (WHO, 2023). This rising life expectancy demonstrates that physical and mental adaptation issues are inevitable at certain stages of life and highlights the importance of environmental and social adjustments in improving the quality of life.

Longer and more complex lifespans raise the likelihood of disability. According to the WHO, approximately 16% of the global population, or 1.3 billion people, live with some form of disability, a phenomenon that becomes more pronounced with aging populations (WHO, 2023). In Turkey, 2021 data indicates that 6.9% of the population aged 3 and above (4,876,000 individuals) have at least one kind of disability; this figure stands at 5.9% for men and 7.9% for women (Ministry of Family and Social Services, 2021).

The aging population is another factor contributing to the increase in disability rates. The WHO estimates that the proportion of the global population aged 60 and over will rise from 12% in 2015 to 22% by 2050, with this age group expected to grow from 1 billion in 2020 to 1.4 billion by 2030 (WHO, 2022). In Turkey, the population aged 65 and above increased from 6,895,385 in 2017 to 8,451,669 in 2022, marking a 22.6% rise (Turkish Statistical Institute, 2023). These demographic shifts necessitate a broader perspective and more comprehensive solutions to address disability-related issues.

Disability should not be perceived merely as a result of an individual's physical or mental conditions. Instead, it should be understood as a consequence of social and environmental factors that hinder an individual's full participation in society. In this context, the International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF) frames disability and functioning as outcomes of the interaction between an individual's health conditions (such as diseases, disorders, and injuries) and contextual factors. External and environmental factors, including social attitudes, architectural characteristics, legal and social structures, climate, and geography, play a significant role in shaping these outcomes (WHO, 2002).

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities United Nations (2006), ratified by the Republic of Turkey in 2008, outlines key principles aimed at securing the rights of individuals with disabilities. These principles include:

- Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy, and freedom to make one's own choices,
- Non-discrimination,
- Full and effective participation in society,
- Respect for differences and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity,
- Equality of opportunity,
- Accessibility,
- Gender equality,
- Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and their right to preserve their identities

These principles provide a universal framework for supporting the full inclusion of individuals with disabilities and removing social barriers.

In conclusion, addressing disability requires a holistic approach that considers not only individual physical or mental limitations but also the environmental and social factors influencing their participation in society. Accessibility and public awareness initiatives are critical for developing sustainable solutions and improving the quality of life for individuals with disabilities.

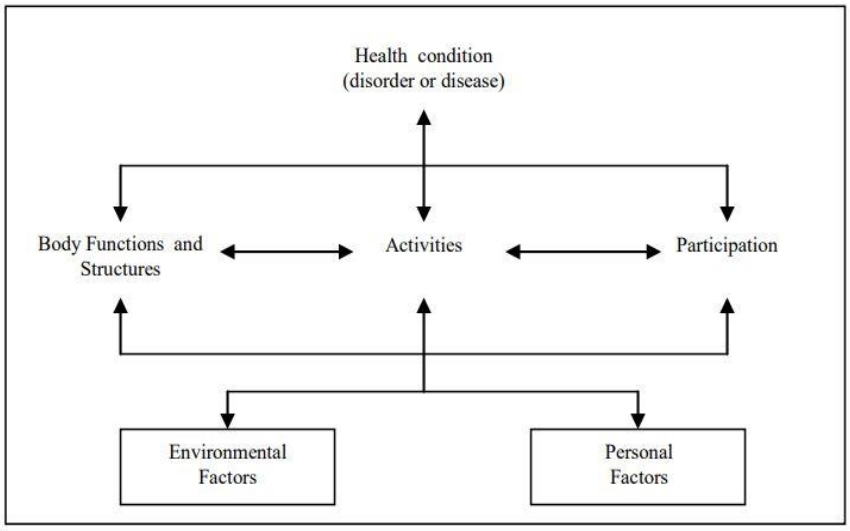


Figure 1: *International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF) Model (WHO, 2002)*

Environmental factors refer to the physical, social, and attitudinal environments in which individuals live and sustain their lives (WHO, 2002). These factors are evaluated using negative and positive scales to determine the degree of barriers or facilitators encountered by individuals and encompass the following elements:

- Products and Technology,
- Natural Environment and Human-Induced Environmental Changes,
- Support and Relationships,
- Attitudes,
- Services, Systems, and Policies

In this regard, disability is not merely a matter related to an individual's health condition but is intricately linked to the environmental and social conditions in which the individual resides. This relationship underscores the necessity for efforts to address disability and enhance individuals' participation in societal life, extending beyond healthcare services to encompass environmental and social adjustments.

Efforts to combat disability and improve functionality must adopt a multidisciplinary perspective that includes not only healthcare services but also environmental modifications and social policies. One of the most significant factors affecting the social lives of individuals with disabilities is the physical environment. Physical barriers encountered in daily life negatively impact social participation and limit societal integration. Inaccessible or physically restrictive spaces hinder the mobility of individuals with disabilities and constrain their social interactions.

Scientific studies have shown that active participation in community-based leisure and recreational activities has positive effects on the health and well-being of individuals with disabilities (Perry et. al., 2021). In this regard, the design of accessible public spaces and the creation of environments that foster a sense of inclusion and value for individuals are of paramount importance. Accessible designs that enable all individuals to actively participate in their communities serve as critical components for strengthening social equity and promoting societal solidarity (Wilkinson, 2023).

Ensuring accessibility in the built environment for everyone requires a thoughtful and comprehensive design process, as well as compliance with legal regulations that govern the construction and monitoring process. In

Turkey, submitting architectural, structural, electrical, mechanical, and fire safety plans to municipalities for approval is a legal requirement when constructing a building. These plans must comply with municipal zoning regulations, and revisions may be requested until compliance is achieved. However, interior architectural plans are not included in the project packages submitted during this process. The long-standing legal efforts by the Turkish Chamber of Interior Architects to have interior architecture recognized as a specialized discipline were concluded with a decision by the Council of State's 6th Chamber. The court annulled the phrase "architect or," legally affirming that interior design projects must be prepared by interior architects specialized in this field (TMMOB, 2021). Consequently, the preparation of interior architectural plans by interior architects is now recognized, even for smaller-scale projects, a practice previously limited to large-scale projects.

If a building is designed with a specific function in mind from the outset and no changes are planned for the interiors, this may not pose a risk to human health and safety. However, in most cases, the architectural plans submitted to municipalities depict commercial spaces as empty shells. Once construction is complete, the design of these interiors depends on the preferences of the owner or tenant, who initiates the interior design process to open a business.

Interior design is a multidisciplinary process requiring a user-centered approach. One of the primary challenges in architecture is designing buildings for general use without a specific user in mind. In contrast, the interior design process begins with identifying the user and proceeds by addressing their specific needs, preferences, and profile. However, some individuals, to reduce costs, choose to "decorate" their spaces through application firms rather than seeking professional interior design services even though these companies are operated by individuals without formal education in interior architecture. This approach highlights a gap in the inclusion of interior architectural services in project approval processes.

Interior architectural services are not limited to aesthetic arrangements but involve expertise in technical aspects such as structural systems, fire safety, and accessibility, all of which are critical for human-centric design. For this reason, incorporating interior architectural plans into building approval processes is essential to prepare user-oriented interior design projects and to eliminate the need for renovation afterwards.

Incidents such as the February 6, 2023 Kahramanmaraş earthquake (TRT Haber, 2023) and the October 30, 2020 İzmir earthquake (Anadolu Agency. 2021) have revealed that significant losses of life and property can result from interventions made to enhance the functionality of spaces that compromise the structural integrity of buildings. Similarly, a fire on April 2, 2024, in Istanbul's Beşiktaş district during the renovation of a venue that claimed the lives of 29 workers exemplifies the consequences of not requiring approval for interior architectural plans, leading to insufficient occupational health and safety measures (BBC Türkçe, 2024).

This study addresses accessibility issues and emphasizes their importance, as every individual faces a risk of encountering temporary or permanent disability at some point in their lives. Examples of temporary disabilities include aging, pregnancy, stroller use, or fractures in the arms or legs, while permanent disabilities include conditions such as blindness or physical impairments. Individuals with disabilities face various challenges in participating in education, social life, and employment, underscoring the critical importance of accessibility for social equality and quality of life.

From an anthropological perspective, daily activities such as dining and coffee drinking are not only means of meeting biological needs but also serve as significant social activities that strengthen bonds and contribute to cultural identity (Cipriano-Crespo et. al., 2023). However, for individuals with disabilities, these social activities are often fraught with difficulties, primarily due to environments that fail to make them feel comfortable.

Society's supportive and understanding attitudes towards individuals with disabilities can enable their more active participation in

social life. This approach allows individuals with disabilities to discover their potential and contribute to society. Additionally, providing the necessary support and assistance can make their daily lives easier and more comfortable.

Nonetheless, individuals with disabilities may be perceived differently due to their eating habits or limited access to spaces and services, leading to exclusion from dining out activities. This exclusion can result in social isolation and, ultimately, feelings of loneliness. These challenges range from physical barriers such as inaccessible interiors and transportation issues to societal discrimination (Cipriano-Crespo et. al., 2023). To prevent such isolation and ensure greater social interaction for individuals with disabilities, creating accessible and inclusive social spaces is of utmost importance.

The lack of accessible environments is a fundamental issue limiting the social participation of individuals with disabilities. This issue also affects those who wish to spend time with individuals with disabilities but face challenges due to the limited availability of suitable environments. Thus, incorporating interior architectural plans into municipal approval processes and ensuring that new spaces meet minimum accessibility criteria are essential as current architectural projects often include such arrangements superficially, highlighting the need for in-depth planning.

Such measures can help individuals with disabilities feel comfortable and actively participate in social life, ultimately enhancing individual quality of life and promoting societal welfare and solidarity.

This study aims to encourage academic research in this field and contribute to the standardization of interior architectural projects. It seeks to examine accessibility issues through the principles of human-centered and universal design. In this context, the accessibility status of cafes and restaurants in Antalya's four major central districts—Muratpaşa, Konyaaltı, Kepez, and Döşemealtı—will be analyzed. These evaluations aim to provide recommendations to facilitate the lives of individuals with disabilities and raise societal awareness.

1.1. Universal Design

The term "Universal Design" was first introduced in 1985 by architect Ronald L. Mace. It is defined as the design of products, environments, programs, and services to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. However, the inclusion of assistive devices for specific groups with disabilities is not excluded from the concept of universal design (United Nations, 2006), universal design is also referred to by terms such as "design for accessibility," "design for all," and "inclusive design." Despite ethical principles and terminological differences, this design approach represents a universal perspective that transcends national and regional boundaries (Mitrasinovic, M., 2008).
Ronald L. Mace, a disabled architect, emphasized that universal design principles should apply not only to public spaces but also to private spaces, such as housing. Mace and his colleagues published various articles on universal design principles for housing (Mace, 1998); (Trachtman et. al., 1999) and systematically established these principles (Story et. al. 1998). These principles, which remain valid today, provide a framework aimed at making design more accessible and usable for everyone. Principles of Universal Design (Story et. al. 1998):

- Equitable Use: Design should be useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.
- Flexibility in Use: Design should accommodate a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.
- Simple and Intuitive Use: The design should be easy to understand, regardless of the user’s experience, knowledge, or language skills.
- Perceptible Information: The design should effectively communicate necessary information to the user, regardless of environmental conditions or sensory abilities.
- Tolerance for Error: Design should minimize hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental actions.
- Low Physical Effort: The design should be usable efficiently and comfortably with minimal fatigue.
- Size and Space for Approach and Use:

> The design should provide appropriate size and space for approach, reach, and use, regardless of the user's body size, posture, or mobility.

These principles not only aim to make physical environments accessible but also serve as a foundation for promoting social equality and inclusivity.

Studies have revealed that the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities are evident both in public spaces and society at large. These challenges range from physical barriers, such as inaccessible interiors and transportation, to social barriers perpetuating discrimination. Research (Chia-Hsin, C., 2020); (Gay, 2022); (Peterson, H. 2021); (Kent, 2021); (Lee, 2023); (Gürlek, 2024) detailed the accessibility issues experienced by individuals with disabilities and highlighted the inadequacy of existing practices, policies, and regulations in addressing their needs. Even when regulations exist, their inconsistent or insufficient implementation often compounds these issues. These systemic deficiencies hinder the full participation of individuals with disabilities in daily life and underscore a broader societal failure to meet their needs effectively. Enhancing the participation of individuals with disabilities in social life and making physical environments more accessible in line with universal design principles are thus of critical importance.

Efforts to address accessibility issues must also extend to the discipline of interior architecture, where regulatory frameworks and standards play a vital role. In Turkey, the inclusion of interior architectural projects in municipal approval processes is crucial for both individual and societal well-being. Such regulations not only contribute to ensuring safety standards and ethical practices in interior architecture but also promote sustainability and creativity in the design process, enhancing accessibility for all. Effective oversight of these practices is also essential for maintaining high professional standards. Proper supervision ensures that the aesthetic value and functionality of spaces are preserved while preventing improper practices. This approach not only enhances individuals' quality of life but also strengthens the societal contribution of interior architecture and fosters the creation of more inclusive environments.

1.2. Problem Statement

Accessibility challenges that limit the social participation of individuals with disabilities stem from inadequacies in the physical and spatial environment. This study seeks to answer the question: **To what extent do cafes and restaurants in Antalya's Muratpaşa, Konyaaltı, Kepez, and Döşemealtı districts meet the accessibility needs of individuals with disabilities?** Identifying these shortcomings and developing solutions is critical for enhancing individuals' quality of life and supporting their participation in social life.

1.3. Objectives of the Study

This research aims to examine the accessibility levels of cafes and restaurants in Antalya's four major districts—Muratpaşa, Konyaaltı, Kepez, and Döşemealtı—highlighting the physical barriers faced by individuals with disabilities. Additionally, it seeks to raise awareness of the application of universal design principles in spatial design and develop recommendations for interior architecture practices in this context.

1.4. Hypotheses

- Most cafes and restaurants in Antalya fail to meet the minimum accessibility standards for visually and physically impaired individuals.
- Adopting universal design principles will improve the accessibility of these spaces and support social integration.
-Including interior architectural projects in municipal approval processes will contribute to solving spatial accessibility issues.

1.5. Scope of the Study

This study covers 49 cafes and restaurants located in Antalya's districts of Muratpaşa, Konyaaltı, Kepez, and Döşemealtı. The research evaluates five basic accessibility criteria: tactile surfaces for the visually impaired, ramps for individuals with physical disabilities, wide entry doors, circulation areas, and accessible restrooms. The aim is to analyze the current state of these spaces and provide recommendations.

1.6. Methodology

The study evaluated cafes and restaurants in various districts of Antalya based on five accessibility criteria. Observations were supported by photographs and compiled into reports. The collected data were used to analyze the accessibility levels of the spaces and to develop recommendations. The five criteria selected for establishing the conceptual framework of the study-venue, tactile surface on the floor, ramp at the entrance, door width, circulation areas, and accessible WC-are based on universal design principles aimed at enhancing spatial accessibility in interior design for individuals with disabilities. According to Steinfeld and Maisel (2012), universal design involves creating environments that are equal and usable by all people, regardless of age, ability, or status. For example, tactile surfaces on the floor are essential for visually impaired individuals to safely navigate and orient themselves in spaces. According to the World Health Organization (2011), tactile indicators are a primary means for individuals with visual impairments to find their way in unfamiliar environments. Ramps at entrances are another crucial criterion, as they facilitate access for wheelchair users when present. This criterion is also critical for barrier-free and accessible design (Preiser, 2010). According to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA, 1990) and TS 9111 (Turkish Standards Institute (2011), door width is an important factor, as it ensures that individuals with limited mobility can easily enter and exit spaces. Circulation areas, as highlighted by Goralzik et. al. (2024), must be wide enough to accommodate individuals with varying mobility needs. Accessible WCs, which meet both functional and privacy requirements, are a standard feature of universally designed environments (Mace, 1998). In this context, five different criteria have been determined for use in the study.

The five main criteria for evaluation included:

- Tactile Surfaces
- Entrance Ramps
- Wide Entry Doors
- Circulation Areas
- Accessible Restrooms

A total of 49 cafes and restaurants were analyzed, distributed as follows: 18 in Muratpaşa, 18 in Konyaaltı, 10 in Kepez, and 3 in Döşemealtı (Figure 2).

Muratpaşa and Konyaaltı are central and developed districts with higher socio-economic status, a dense urban pattern, and a concentration of commercial, residential, and mixed-use spaces. These factors contribute to a greater number of examined samples.

Kepez represents a developing district with a more diverse socio-economic structure. While urban expansion and new housing projects are increasing.

Döşemealtı on the other hand, is characterized by lower population density, suburban or rural settlement patterns, and fewer commercial or

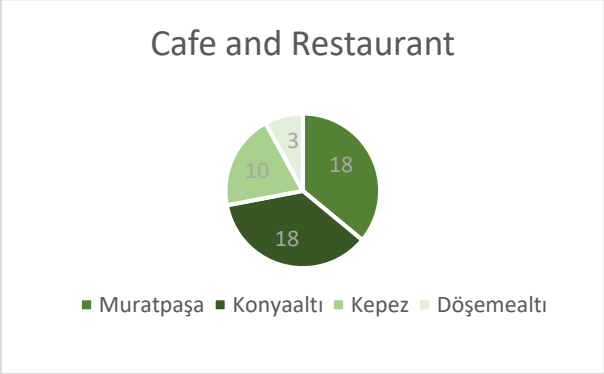


Figure 2: *Distribution of Analyzed Cafes and Restaurants by Districts*

residential spaces that require interior design modifications. As a result, the number of examined samples in this district is significantly lower.

No restrictions were placed on the selection of establishments, allowing for a broad analysis across Antalya. To ensure diversity, participants were encouraged to choose from chain establishments, luxury restaurants, newly opened cafes, and popular venues. This approach enabled the evaluation of accessibility across different types and standards of spaces.

In this process, a comprehensive dataset has been compiled to analyze the accessibility conditions of cafes and restaurants in various districts of Antalya for individuals with disabilities. This dataset not only highlights the current state of these spaces but also identifies areas that require improvements in terms of accessibility.

The methodology of this study aims to provide critical insights into the accessibility conditions of establishments in different districts of Antalya. Furthermore, this research holds significant value in raising societal awareness about interior design and accessibility while contributing to the discipline of interior architecture.

The findings of this study serve as a foundation for developing recommendations to improve accessibility standards. By addressing both the physical and societal aspects of accessibility, the research seeks to foster a more inclusive and user-centered approach in interior architectural practices.

2. Findings and Evaluation

2.1. Muratpaşa District

The evaluation of 18 cafes and restaurants in the Muratpaşa district of Antalya (Tables 1-2) revealed that none of these establishments had designs suitable for visually impaired individuals. It was determined that tactile surfaces, which are mandatory for visually impaired users, were absent from the floors of these venues, and there were no alternative design elements to compensate for this deficiency.

In terms of accessibility standards for individuals with physical disabilities and wheelchair users, it was found that three of the 18 establishments did not require ramps due to being on the same level as the ground. Among the remaining 15 establishments, only five had ramps that met the necessary standards. In one establishment, the ramp was rendered unusable due to an excessively steep slope, while in another, despite having an appropriately sloped ramp, the placement of decorative lighting elements at the end of the ramp made it impossible for users with disabilities to access the venue (Tables 1-2).

Regarding the width of main entrance doors, 15 establishments met accessibility standards which is at least 90 cm opening. According to international guidelines such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the TS TS 9111 (Turkish Standards Institute (2011) making this criterion the most successful among those evaluated.

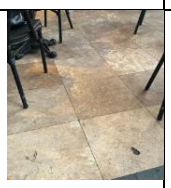
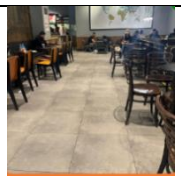
In terms of interior circulation space, only seven establishments were found to provide sufficient space (Tables 1-2). However, considering more specific criteria, such as wheelchair access to seating arrangements, access to the cashier, and whether the transaction surfaces at the cashier were at an appropriate height, it is anticipated that this number would significantly decrease. The limitations of this method include the inability to fully assess all environmental and design factors that affect wheelchair accessibility, as well as the challenge of comprehensively analyzing real-life user experiences beyond standard measurements. Additionally, factors such as surface materials, maintenance conditions, and user feedback may not be fully incorporated into the study's scope, which could lead to an incomplete or insufficient evaluation of accessibility.

As for accessible restrooms, only two establishments were found to offer this feature (Tables 1-2). One of these was a cafe located within a shopping mall, where the accessible restroom was situated in the general area of the mall rather than within the cafe itself. The other establishment was a long-standing restaurant known for its brand image and architectural identity, which has maintained its original design while incorporating accessible features.

Table 1: *Spatial Accessibility Analysis of Cafes and Restaurants in Antalya's Muratpaşa District*

Venue	Tactile Surface on Floor	Ramp at Entrance	Door Width	Circulation Areas	Accessible WC
1	No	Not necessary	Sufficient	Narrow	Yes (Shared in Mall)
2	No	No	Sufficient	Sufficient	No
3	No	Yes but not suitable	Sufficient	Narrow and there are obstacles	No
4	No	Yes	Sufficient	Narrow	No
5	No	Yes	Sufficient	Narrow	No
6	No	Yes	Sufficient	Wide	Yes
7	No	Not necessary	Sufficient	Sufficient	No
8	No	Yes	Sufficient	Sufficient	Yes but locked
9	No	Not necessary	Narrow	There are obstacles	No
10	No	No	Sufficient	There are narrow corridors and stair	No
11	No	Yes	Sufficient	Sufficient	No
12	No	No	Sufficient	Narrow	No
13	No	No	Narrow	Narrow	No
14	No	No	Sufficient	Sufficient but there is level difference inside the venue	No
15	No	No	Sufficient	Sufficient	No
16	No	Yes	Sufficient	Sufficient	No
17	No	No	Narrow	Sufficient	No
18	No	Yes but not suitable	Sufficient	Narrow	No

Table 2: *Spatial Accessibility Analysis of Cafes and Restaurants in Antalya's Muratpaşa District*

Venue	Tactile Surface on Floor	Ramp at Entrance	Door Width	Circulation Areas	Accessible WC
1					
2					
3					x

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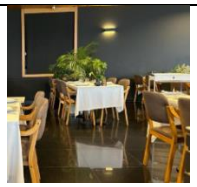
6					
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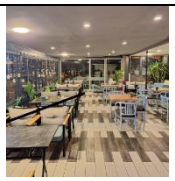
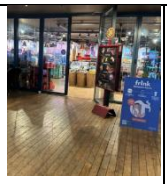
10					
11					

12					
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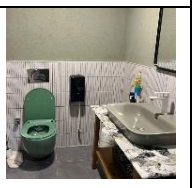
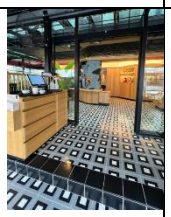
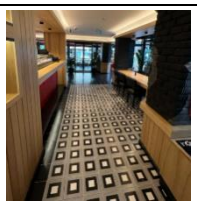
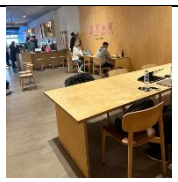
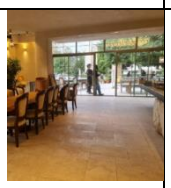
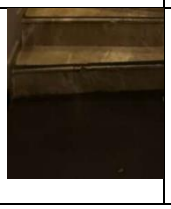
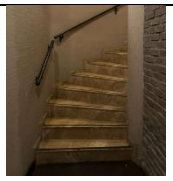
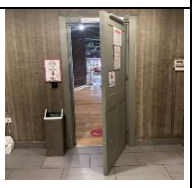
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					

The venues analyzed in the Muratpaşa district highlight the critical importance of implementing necessary adjustments in spaces to enable individuals with disabilities to sustain their daily lives and integrate into society. These adjustments not only improve accessibility but also contribute to the creation of an inclusive urban environment where individuals with disabilities can participate in social, cultural, and economic activities without barriers. Ensuring that public and private spaces are designed with universal design principles enhances their quality of life and strengthens their sense of belonging within society.

2.2. Konyaaltı District

The analysis of 18 cafes and restaurants in Antalya's Konyaaltı district revealed significant deficiencies in providing services for visually impaired individuals (Tables 3-4). None of the evaluated venues featured tactile surfaces on their floors, which are critical for visually impaired users, and no alternative design solutions were implemented to address this gap. In terms of accessibility for individuals with physical disabilities and wheelchair users, it was found that five of the 18 establishments were at the same level as the pedestrian walkway and therefore did not require additional stairs or ramps. Among the remaining 13 establishments, 10 were equipped with appropriate entrance ramps, one had a ramp that was unusable due to its steep slope, and two lacked ramps despite their necessity (Tables 3-4). These results indicate that the establishments in Konyaaltı performed better than those in Muratpaşa with respect to entrance ramps. However, it was observed that elements beyond the scope of this study, such as the material used for garden paths—especially stone surfaces—were unsuitable for wheelchair use.

The analysis revealed that 16 of the venues had main entrance doors of adequate width to allow access for individuals with disabilities (Tables 3-4). Similar to the findings in Muratpaşa, this criterion was the best-performing among those evaluated. However, it was noted that the operation of two of these doors was challenging. Regarding the width of interior circulation areas, nine establishments were found to provide sufficient space.

These findings suggest that while the venues in Konyaaltı showed better compliance with certain accessibility standards, they generally fell short of fully meeting the required criteria. Addressing these accessibility shortcomings is a priority to ensure easier access for individuals with disabilities to these establishments.

Among the 18 cafes and restaurants examined in Konyaaltı, only five had accessible restrooms for individuals with disabilities. Of these, one restroom was locked, and another was located not within the cafe itself but within the complex where the cafe was situated. These findings indicate that the establishments demonstrated the lowest performance in meeting the accessibility criteria related to restrooms for individuals with physical disabilities.

One of the primary reasons for the relatively better accessibility in Konyaaltı compared to Muratpaşa is the presence of complexes housing cafes and restaurants. Municipal-led projects, such as the Antalya Coastline Project along the Konyaaltı shoreline, have ensured the construction of venues adhering to certain standards and enabled the inclusion of establishments accessible at ground level without elevation differences. Additionally, free restrooms and restrooms designed for individuals with disabilities, provided by the municipality in this area, are important elements supporting accessibility.

Another significant factor is the construction of luxury living complexes in Konyaaltı by real estate developers. These complexes, which include commercial spaces on lower floors and residences on upper floors, integrate necessary design elements such as ramps during the project planning phase, ensuring accessibility without leaving it to the discretion of individual shop owners or designers. This approach has contributed to the superior accessibility of venues in Konyaaltı compared to those in Muratpaşa.

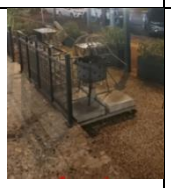
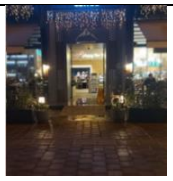
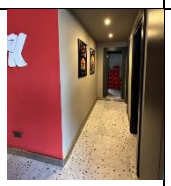
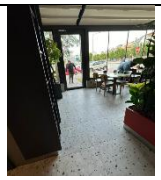
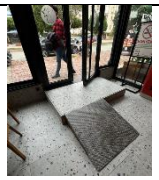
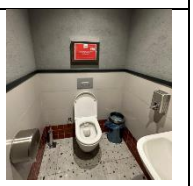
Despite these positive external factors, it was found that the needs of visually impaired individuals were not adequately considered in the design processes, and measures for individuals with physical disabilities remained insufficient in venues outside of municipal projects or residential complexes. This highlights the extent to which these venues are distant from principles of accessibility and inclusivity, and it underscores the persistence of barriers that prevent individuals with disabilities from fully participating in social life.

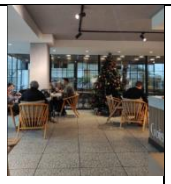
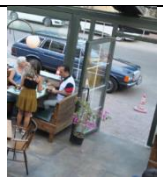
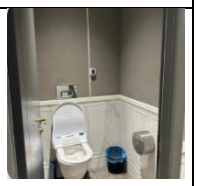
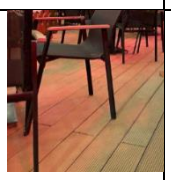
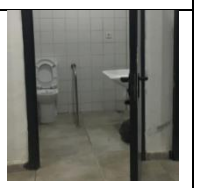
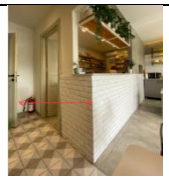
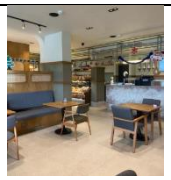
In this context, the principles of accessibility and inclusivity must be adopted as fundamental approaches in all design processes, rather than being limited to specific projects.

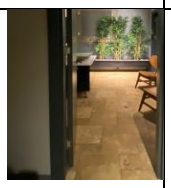
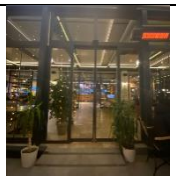
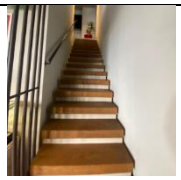
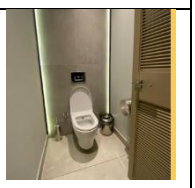
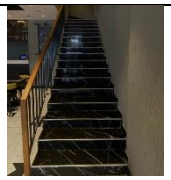
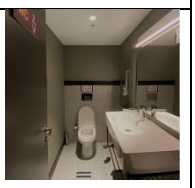
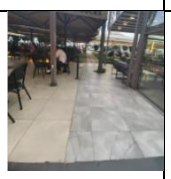
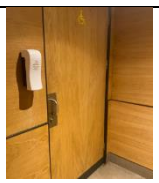
Table 3: *Spatial Accessibility Analysis of Cafes and Restaurants in Antalya's Konyaaltı District*

Venue	Tactile Surface on Floor	Ramp at Entrance	Door Width	Circulation Areas	Accessible WC
1	No	Yes	Sufficient	Sufficient	No
2	No	Yes	Sufficient but difficult to open	Sufficient	No
3	No	Not necessary	Sufficient	Sufficient	No
4	No	Not necessary	Sufficient	Sufficient	No
5	No	Yes but steep	Sufficient	Sufficient	Yes
6	No	Yes	Sufficient	Sufficient	No
7	No	No	Narrow	Narrow	No
8	No	Yes	Sufficient	Narrow	No
9	No	Not necessary	Narrow	Hard	No
10	No	Not necessary	Sufficient but difficult to open	Narrow	Yes but not belongs to the cafe
11	No	Yok	Sufficient	Sufficient	No
12	No	Yes	Sufficient	Narrow	No
13	No	Yes	Sufficient	Sufficient	No
14	No	Yes	Sufficient	Sufficient	No
15	No	Yes	Sufficient	Sufficient	Yes
16	No	Yes	Sufficient	Sufficient	Yes
17	No	Yes	Sufficient	Narrow	No
18	No	Not necessary	Sufficient	Narrow	Yes but locked

Table 4: *Photographs of Cafes and Restaurants in Antalya's Konyaaltı District*

Venue	Tactile Surface on Floor	Ramp at Entrance	Door Width	Circulation Areas	Accessible WC
1					
2					
3					
4					x

5						
6					x	
7					x	
8						
9					x	
10						
11						
12						

13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					

2.3. Kepez District

The analysis of 18 cafes and restaurants in Antalya's Konyaaltı district revealed significant deficiencies in providing services for visually impaired individuals (Tables 3-4). None of the evaluated venues featured tactile surfaces on their floors, which are critical for visually impaired users, and no alternative design solutions were implemented to address this gap. Although Antalya's Kepez district has a quieter location compared to Muratpaşa and Konyaaltı, it offers a variety of dining and entertainment venues, thanks to the presence of student neighborhoods housing Akdeniz University students. The accessibility features of the nine cafes and restaurants examined in this study revealed that these venues do not provide adequate services for visually impaired individuals (Tables 5-6). The findings showed that none of the venues had tactile surfaces necessary for visually impaired users, nor were there any alternative design elements to compensate for this deficiency.

In terms of accessibility for individuals with physical disabilities and wheelchair users, it was determined that two of the venues were at the same level as the pedestrian walkway, eliminating the need for stairs or ramps. Five venues were found to have ramps suitable for disabled access, while two lacked the necessary ramps altogether (Tables 5-6). Compared to

Table 5: *Spatial Accessibility Analysis of Cafes and Restaurants in Antalya's Kepez District*

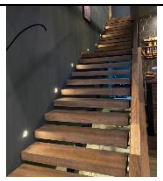
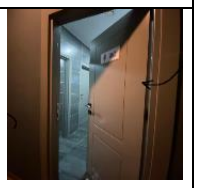
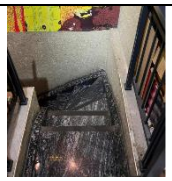
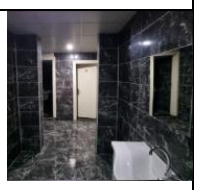
Venue	Tactile Surface on Floor	Ramp at Entrance	Door Width	Circulation Areas	Accessible WC
1	No	Not necessary	Sufficient	Sufficient	No
2	No	Not necessary	Sufficient	Sufficient	No
3	No	No	Sufficient	Narrow	No
4	No	Yes	Sufficient	Narrow	No
5	No	No	Sufficient	Narrow	No
6	No	Yes	Sufficient	Sufficient	No
7	No	Yes	Sufficient	Sufficient	No
8	No	Yes	Sufficient	Sufficient	No
9	No	Yes	Sufficient	Narrow	No

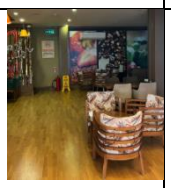
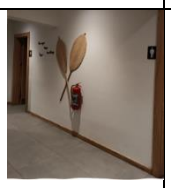
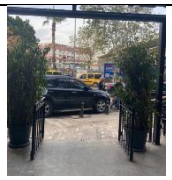
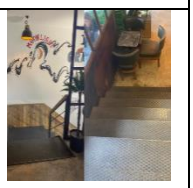
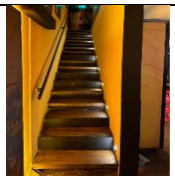
Muratpaşa and Konyaaltı, cafes and restaurants in Kepez presented a more positive picture in terms of the entrance ramp criterion.

All of the examined venues in Kepez had main entrance doors of adequate width for individuals with disabilities, making Kepez more successful in this criterion compared to the other two districts. However, when evaluating the adequacy of interior circulation areas, only five venues were found to provide sufficient space for individuals with disabilities. Considering more detailed criteria, such as access to seating arrangements with a wheelchair, accessibility to the cashier, and the appropriate height of transaction surfaces, this number is expected to decrease.

None of the nine cafes/restaurants examined had accessible restrooms, indicating the weakest performance of Kepez venues in addressing the basic needs of individuals with disabilities. This finding clearly highlights the need for more comprehensive regulations and improvements in accessibility.

Table 6: *Photographs of Cafes and Restaurants in Antalya's Kepez District*

Venue	Tactile Surface on Floor	Ramp at Entrance	Door Width	Circulation Areas	Accessible WC
1					
2					
3					
4					

5					
6					
7					
8					
9					

2.4. Döşemealtı District

Located further from Antalya's central districts, Döşemealtı has shown significant development in the variety of cafes and restaurants in recent years. However, the evaluation of the three cafes and restaurants analyzed in this study (Tables 7-8) revealed that these venues are not suitable for visually impaired individuals. It was determined that tactile surfaces, necessary for guiding visually impaired users, were absent from the floors of the examined venues, and no alternative design solutions were implemented to address this deficiency.

In terms of accessibility for individuals with physical disabilities and wheelchair users, the analysis found that one of the three venues had an appropriate ramp at the entrance. In another venue, although a ramp was present, it failed to serve its purpose due to the absence of a flat

Table 7: *Spatial Accessibility Analysis of Cafes and Restaurants in Antalya's Döşemealtı District*

Venue	Tactile Surface on Floor	Ramp at Entrance	Door Width	Circulation Areas	Accessible WC
1	No	No	Sufficient	Sufficient	No
2	No	Yes	Sufficient	Sufficient	No
3	No	Yes but is unusable; there is no flat landing area, such as a platform.	Sufficient	Narrow	No

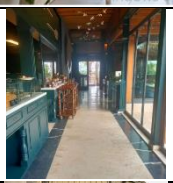
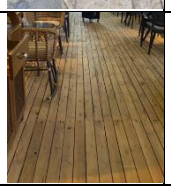
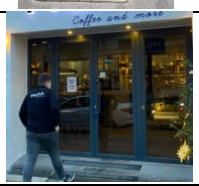
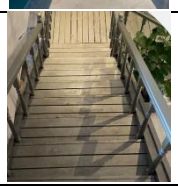
landing at the end, causing collisions with the entrance door. The third venue lacked a ramp altogether. Regarding the width of entrance doors, all three establishments were found to have main entrance doors that met accessibility standards for individuals with disabilities (Tables 7-8).

In the evaluation of interior circulation areas, two venues were found to provide sufficient circulation space for individuals with disabilities. However, when more detailed criteria—such as access to seating arrangements with a wheelchair, accessibility to the cashier, and the appropriateness of cashier height for wheelchair users—are considered, this number is expected to decrease.

The assessment of accessible restrooms revealed that none of the three venues had an accessible toilet. This indicates significant shortcomings in Döşemealtı venues' ability to meet the basic needs of individuals with disabilities. Despite the region's development, the accessibility deficiencies in Döşemealtı venues highlight a lack of full compliance with universal design principles.

A comparative analysis of the districts examined in this study reveals notable differences in accessibility features across Muratpaşa, Konyaaltı, Kepez, and Döşemealtı districts. While Konyaaltı demonstrated relatively better performance in terms of entrance ramps, the overall accessibility of public spaces remains insufficient, particularly for individuals with visual impairments. The absence of tactile surfaces and inadequate restroom facilities were common issues across all districts. Additionally, the study highlighted the impact of external factors such as municipal planning and private development projects in shaping accessibility levels. Despite some improvements in newer constructions, the lack of standardized regulations and enforcement continues to hinder full inclusivity in public spaces. These findings underline the need for a more comprehensive approach to accessibility, integrating universal design principles into both new and existing establishments to ensure equitable access for all individuals. In this regard, the role of interior architectural project planning becomes crucial, as accessibility is not solely dependent on structural elements but also on the functional organization of interior spaces.

Table 8: *Photographs of Cafes and Restaurants in Antalya's Döşemealtı District*

Venue	Tactile Surface on Floor	Ramp at Entrance	Door Width	Circulation Areas	Accessible WC
1					x
2					
3					

3. Conclusion and Discussion

Social activities hold a significant place for every group in society, and activities such as dining out or having coffee allow individuals to strengthen their social bonds and develop understanding among different groups. Cafes and restaurants are not merely spaces for eating and drinking; they serve as venues where people come together to build social relationships, experience diverse cultures, and engage with various lifestyles. These spaces play a critical role in broadening perspectives and fostering an understanding of differences. Additionally, such activities help individuals relieve stress and momentarily escape the challenges of daily life.

Enhancing the participation of individuals with disabilities in these social activities is not limited to the physical accessibility of spaces. Venues designed for individuals with disabilities must not only be physically accessible but also meet their practical needs. For example, providing tactile surfaces, suitable ramps, wide entry doors, and accessible restrooms ensures that individuals with disabilities can easily access these spaces. However, this alone is not sufficient; it is equally important for staff in these establishments to be trained in communication and support for individuals with disabilities and to adopt a service approach free from bias. Such measures play a pivotal role in making spaces truly inclusive and disability-friendly.

Universal design principles require accessibility and inclusivity to be fundamental goals in space design. Spaces designed in accordance with these principles not only ease the lives of individuals with disabilities but also raise societal awareness and reinforce social equity. Particularly within the discipline of interior architecture, applying these principles not only enhances the quality of life but also promotes sustainability and creativity, ensuring that spaces are accessible to all.

In this regard, incorporating interior architectural projects into municipal approval processes and developing relevant regulations in Turkey are of great importance. A robust legal and regulatory framework ensures that interior architectural practices comply with safety standards and ethical requirements while facilitating the creation of accessible spaces for all segments of society. Effectively monitoring these regulations is essential to maintaining high professional standards and designing spaces that encourage the full participation of individuals with disabilities in social life.

Beyond developing relevant regulations and conventional accessibility measures, solutions such as the use of high-contrast flooring materials to aid visually impaired individuals, adjustable-height service counters for wheelchair users, and sensory guidance systems incorporating auditory and tactile surfaces could be discussed. Additionally, smart technology applications, such as automated doors and app-based navigation assistance, could be highlighted as innovative approaches to improving accessibility.

In conclusion, making cafes and restaurants accessible is not only about ensuring physical compatibility but also about fostering social connections among different groups in society. A society where every individual can come together at the same table to share stories without barriers or hesitation lays the foundation for a more inclusive future. Achieving this goal requires contributions from professionals and all segments of society, which will significantly help break down prejudices about disability and recognize diversity as an integral part of society.

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