



“When I use a traditional toilet it’s ground level so I’m facing many problems because I can’t sit on it. I have only one leg so I have to hold on to anything I can.”

Manu Nayek, Bangladesh

Manu Nayek and his adapted latrine,
Burjan tea garden, Sylhet, Bangladesh

WaterAid/GMB Akash/Panos



Disability and water, sanitation and hygiene

15% of the world's population is disabled. For those living with disabilities in developing countries, accessing safe water, sanitation and hygiene can be a daily struggle.

The barriers that prevent people with disabilities from accessing these basic services can be:

- physical – eg stairs, narrow doors, uneven ground
- social – eg prejudice, discrimination, stigma
- political – eg policy gaps

Social and political barriers can be more difficult to recognise and address than physical barriers.

The challenges people with disabilities face in accessing safe water, sanitation and hygiene can and must be overcome. Investing in accessible taps and toilets and influencing decision-makers will not only improve the health of people with disabilities but also help them to live with dignity.

“Most of the time it’s hard for me to find an accessible toilet in my city. I have to wait hours to get home. I have even stopped drinking water to avoid going to toilet. It’s very hard for me.”

Sagar Prasain, disability rights activist

Further information

A difficult journey to toilet (short film)

<http://youtu.be/QQYfjUM74A0>

Nepal WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) blog

<http://nepalwashblog.org/?cat=210>

Jones et al (2012) *Equity and inclusion in water, sanitation and hygiene resources* [online]

<https://wedc-knowledge.lboro.ac.uk/collections/equity-inclusion>