ABSTRACT

This study intended to investigate the accessibility of playgrounds for children in wheelchairs in public parks and public housing estates in Hong Kong. In addition to a survey study examining the accessibility of playgrounds, this study also collected views of potential users who are in wheelchairs, their parents and the social work practitioners who work with them. Interviews were conducted with the children to explore their playground experience. The views of the social work practitioners and parents were collected using interviews and questionnaires respectively. This study showed that though most of the playground sites were accessible to children in wheelchairs, a high percentage of play equipment was not accessible to them. Children who were interviewed were found to have limited playground experience. The concern of parents and social work practitioners about taking children to a playground were not only on the physical design of the playground but also on the negative attitudes they and their children received from others in the playground.