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From Information Seeking to Empowerment: Using Large Language Model Chatbot in Supporting Wheelchair Life in Low Resource Settings

About

This study explores access to assistive technologies (AT) in low- and middle-income countries, focusing on Nepal. AT access varies globally; 64% in high-income, 33% in middle-income, and just 11% in low-income countries. Globalisation has worsen this gap by fostering monopolies that limit local innovation and repairs.

Findings

This study used a collaborative approach to address the specific needs of individuals with disabilities in Nepal. **We found the following.**

- **Unmet demand:** In Nepal, official estimates suggest that 2.2% of the population lives with a disability; however, the actual figure is likely higher, indicating a substantial unmet need for AT and rehabilitation services.
- **Local initiatives:** Various organisations in Nepal are actively addressing challenges to deliver AT solutions tailored to local needs.
- **Collaborative efforts:** The project exemplifies the importance of combining global and local expertise to create impactful and sustainable AT solutions.

> Empowering local communities reduces dependence on global monopolies, making solutions more accessible, affordable, and sustainability.

The AT2030 project's work in Nepal demonstrates that collaborative, locally-driven initiatives can significantly improve access to assistive technologies in low-resource settings.

AT2030 : testing 'what works' to enable access to life-changing assistive technology (AT) for all

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