

## OPTIMIZING THE ROLE OF VOLUNTEERS FROM PUSAT LAYANAN DIFABEL TO CREATE AN INCLUSIVE CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT AT UIN SUNAN KALIJAGA

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**Abstract** - UIN Sunan Kalijaga is committed to ensuring inclusivity, in line with the Indonesian constitution, and its institutional vision. Central to this mission is the Pusat Layanan Difabel (PLD), part of the Lembaga Penelitian dan Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat (LPPM), which actively supports students with disabilities in their academic journey. The focus of this research is to delve into the vital role of PLD volunteers in advancing inclusivity on campus. Utilizing qualitative methods such as a direct approach to students with disabilities and using secondary sources. Participatory Research Appraisal (PRA) principles were applied, involving the community, and non-disabled students to create inclusive accessibility in the environment and in their activities. PLD aims to minimize academic and social barriers experienced by students who as active participants. This research highlights key PLD initiatives, such as the Notetaker, Sign Language Interpreter service, E-Literature, Mobility Services, International Disability Day Celebration, Volunteer School, and Media Profile Project. In conclusion, PLD volunteers are pivotal in championing inclusivity and improving services for disabled students at UIN Sunan Kalijaga. Their dedication aligns with global and national principles advocating equal rights and inclusivity for all, regardless of their abilities.

**Keywords:** Inclusive Education, Volunteers, PRA

## 1. INTRODUCTION

An Inclusive campus is an educational environment that is designed and organized by the education stakeholder to accept and support all types of individuals, including those who have special needs or are different physically, intellectually, or otherwise. The main goal of an inclusive campus program is to create a friendly and open learning environment for everyone, regardless of differences. The implementation of an inclusive education system based on the equality philosophy of education. Educational equality advocates students with disabilities have the same rights as those without disabilities, in accordance with Article 51 of Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Amendments to Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection which also stipulates that "Children with Disabilities are given the opportunity and accessibility to obtain inclusive education or special education." According to Setia Adi Purwanta, M.Pd (Coordinator of Yogyakarta Inclusion Education Resource Center 2015), the concept of "Education for All" or inclusiveness was born against the background of world socio-economic disparities. The poor, street children, minorities, the disabled, and those who are marginalized do not have their educational rights.

Of the many universities in Indonesia, not all implement this inclusive system. One of the colleges that implement this system is the State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta, which is in line with its vision, namely to become an inclusive and leading university in fulfilling the rights of persons with disabilities in Indonesia. In the process of its implementation, UIN Sunan Kalijaga formed a structural institution under Lembaga Penelitian dan Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat (LPPM), namely Pusat Layanan Difabel (PLD) which provides support to all campus residents including leaders, lecturers, staff, and non-disabled students to create inclusive accessibility in the environment and in their activities. PLD aims to minimize academic and social barriers experienced by students with disabilities so that they can have the same opportunities and level of participation as other students.

Persons with disabilities are citizens and they also have the same rights, especially regarding education, so there is no term discrimination against them. However, in reality, they also need assistance to be able to blend into the social environment, therefore the role of volunteers is very much needed in assisting people with disabilities so that their social functioning is as active as others. Talking about volunteering, based on data from the Disability Service Center, there will be 300 volunteers in 2023. The existence of volunteers is a force for change in various social spheres, including forming an inclusive society, and is not only to provide positive change but is also a participatory movement carried out by students to maintain this inclusive change. According to (Atkins, 2005) The role of volunteers is very important for sustainability in realizing an inclusive campus. In the context of inclusiveness, in addition to being social capital, volunteers also create social harmony (Maniam, 2004).

Coming from that idea, the volunteers have the spirit and motivation of altruism, namely the feeling of helping fellow humans, so they sacrifice their time, thoughts, and energy to help students with disabilities within the scope of their studies without expecting anything in return. The volunteers help in the teaching and learning process

for disabled students at UIN Sunan Kalijaga, therefore the volunteers have formed a volunteer program which is the main pillar to help the Disabled Service Center in carrying out its vision and mission of providing services to disabled students at UIN Sunan Kalijaga. In this activity, the Pusat Layanan Difabel (PLD) Disability Service Center provides opportunities for non-disabled students to become volunteers. The activities of Disabled Service Center volunteers include lecture assistance in class, study assistance, exam assistance, sign language training, book reading for the blind, volunteer school, making video profiles of the Disabled Service Center, mobility services for the blind and users wheelchairs, and the celebration of the International Day of Disabilities. Therefore, to realize this program, the role of volunteers is very much needed to optimize the realization of an inclusive campus at UIN Sunan Kalijaga.

## **2. METHODS**

This study used a qualitative research design. The data can be distinguished into primary and secondary sources. Primary data was taken from observations and interviews of daily activity at the Disability Service Center, meanwhile, secondary data was obtained from research results such as journals, books, and articles (library study). The method used in this journal is the Participatory Research Appraisal (PRA) research method which is characterized by the active involvement of the community as the target group. PRA research places the target group as subjects in the activity process and not as objects. Researchers position themselves as parties in the target group who are also active in program activities (insiders).

This research uses tools including mobile phones which are used to document activities and record sound, laptops, notebooks, stationery, and software that supports research. Meanwhile, the materials used by researchers include transcript notes, the Pusat Layanan Difabel (PLD) profile book, volunteer data, and the results of previous research related to this research.

## **3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

The activity program that has been carried out in the PLD Community Service "Optimizing the Role of Difabel Service Center Volunteers in Realizing an Inclusive Campus at UIN Sunan Kalijaga" in 2023 includes compulsory programs and additional programs. The compulsory programs are mainly considered as academic class assistance or well known as *noteker*. While supporting programs that have been provided such as Sign Language Interpreter, E-Literature, Mobility Services, International Disability Day Celebration, Volunteer School, and Media Profile Project.

### **A. Notetaker**

Notetaker or academics class assistance has been implemented by UIN Sunan Kalijaga since 2013. This program is an essential service offered by Pusat Layanan Difabel for all students with disabilities. This service was officially announced as a campus compulsory program on 19 July 2013 under the advisory of PLD in line with LPPM UIN Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta. The goals of this service are to provide inclusive access for students with disabilities to achieve a holistic understanding of academic fields.

Notetaker assistance is usually offered for deaf students in lecturing classes and other activities such as seminars or webinars conducted by the faculty or study program. The task of this notetaker is to record or translate through writing what is conveyed by lecturers or presenters in lecture activities or seminar and webinar activities.



**Figure 1.** Noteker Assistance during PBAK

### **B. JBI (Sign Language Interpreter)**

The Sign language interpreter service was developed in UIN Sunan Kalijaga after PLD was established in 2013. This service's main goal is to ensure effective communication between deaf students who use sign language and those who don't. JBI also helps deaf students to bridge understanding in seminars, webinars, and other academic events. Besides the function for deaf students, PLD also provided routine sign language skills for volunteers. These training sessions were held by deaf trainers and teachers teams twice a week. The training class mechanism is divided into three main groups such as beginner, intermediate, and advanced. The blueprint of these training sessions is spreading the knowledge of inclusivity by empowering sign language skills for all volunteers and increasing human resources capacity, especially in sign language interpreters.



**Figure 2.** JBI Service

### **C. E-Literature (Difabel Corner)**

*Difabel Corner* is a service for users with disabilities or special needs under the advisory of UIN Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta which is located on the first floor Library Building in order to make it accessible for all students with disabilities. This service unit offers various facilities and inclusive adaptive learning materials. The facilities provided include screen reader *software*, a camera which connects books on the screen, magnifying *software*, and others that assists students with visually impaired people to use various computer programs and access the internet. PLD also works together to support the *Corner* by providing face-to-face services for students with disabilities who still have difficulty accessing books in the library. The service is provided through PLD Volunteers who are organized by making a picket schedule so that they can provide daily services.

#### **D. Mobility Services**

Mobility is activity by changing the position of the body or location from one place to another by walking, running, and using various forms of transport moving by changing the position of the body or location from one place to another by walking, running, and using various forms of transportation (de Haan, Gera & van der Lijn, 2019). Then what is meant by disability mobility is accessibility that allows access for everyone, indirectly people with disabilities can also reach, enter, and use all facilities without assistance from others (Ikaputra & Sholihah, 2001). The significance of mobility for students with disabilities at UIN Sunan Kalijaga has existed since 2007, when PSLD was first established before changing to PLD in 2013. At the beginning of the establishment of PSLD, there were no Guide Block facilities available, so students with visual impairments still needed volunteers to help with their mobility.

Mobility is not only provided for students with visual disabilities but also for students with physical disabilities. Until now, PLD volunteers have been active in providing accessible facilities for students with physical disabilities. An example of providing accessible facilities is by encouraging students with wheelchair users. Before volunteers provide mobility facilities to students with visual and physical disabilities, volunteers are given an introduction and understanding of the mobility that will be carried out to students with visual and physical disabilities. Pre-orientation activities regarding mobility in the UIN Sunan Kalijaga campus environment are also organized by the PLD, namely Mobility Orientation.

Blind exam assistants are held to make it easier for blind students to face exams, both semester exams and language exams. The exam assistants are in charge of reading the exam questions and helping to write down the answers that have been answered.

#### **E. PBAK Peer Assistance**

PBAK (Pengenalalan Budaya Akademik) is a routine activity to acknowledge students about student academic and experience as college life. PLD as an inclusive agency offering peer assistance giving assistance for students with disabilities during PBAK activities. In PBAK assistance, there are several activities, namely notetaker assistance for students with deaf disabilities, mobility assistance for students with visual

disabilities, and the provision of sign language interpreters for students with deaf disabilities in PBAK events.

#### **F. International Disability Day Celebration**

International Disability Day activities is a annual celebration led by UIN Sunan Kalijaga as stakeholder, precisely on December 3 every year. This activity always involves all PLD members including students with disabilities, volunteers, and staff. The commemoration of International Disability Day aims to introduce and spread disability issues awareness which is rarely discussed among students. There are several activities carried out during the celebration such as various types of national student competitions, parenting talk shows for parents with diffable children, and an inclusive pride march.

#### **G. Volunteer School**

Volunteer school is an activity held by PLD in order to increase the capacity in knowledge and practical skill as diffable assistance in daily service during the time as volunteer so the result will build professionalism among volunteers. Professionalism will impact how volunteers can determine their rights and duties properly. This activity is an annual training platform from volunteers and is carried out every new academic year after the open recruitment of new volunteers. The activity design such as Forum Group Discussion, Seminars, Creative Inauguration, Interactive Game, and Outbond.



**Figure 3.** Opening Ceremony of Volunteer School

#### **H. Media Profile Project**

The video media profile project's main goals is to give information and introduce activities at PLD Services to the academics of UIN Sunan Kalijaga and wider society. On the other hand, this project also increases a sense of concern in realizing an optimal inclusive campus. This activity is part of the PLD Media Division agenda for public information and carried out at the beginning of each new academic year. The talents in the PLD profile video involve students with disabilities and PLD UIN Sunan Kalijaga volunteers.



**Figure 4.** Video Project Production

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

This report reflects the contribution and collaboration of the volunteer agency in carrying out inclusive programs at PLD UIN Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta, which were later converted into Community Service Program (KKN) activities. This service is of several basic laws about inclusivity such as Law Number 39 of the year 1999 on Human Rights, Article 28H paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, Article 5 paragraph (2) of Law Number 20 of 2003, Article 51 of Law Number 35 of 2014, and so forth, have mandated rights for persons with disabilities that broadly encompass the values of equality, equity, justice, opportunity, accessibility, and inclusivity.

The Disability Study and Service Center (Pusat Studi Layanan Difabel or PSLD), established in 2006, which has transformed into the Disability Service Center (PLD), is one of the inclusive initiatives in education aimed at providing sand accommodation to students with disabilities. UIN Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta has increased the capacity of students with disabilities to expand the application of inclusive education. The population of students with disabilities this around 89 students in 2023. PLD and volunteers hand in hand in assisting disabled students and providing educational needs. The Participatory Research Appraisal (PRA) method was used in this activity to actively engage the target community, in this case, individuals with disabilities at UIN Sunan Kalijaga. The work program of PLD volunteers includes various activities such as noteker, sign language interpreters, E-Literature, mobility service, PBAK peer assistance, International Disability Day celebrations, volunteer schools, and media profile projects.

With the presence of PLD volunteers, the UIN Sunan Kalijaga campus continues to move towards inclusivity and better services for disabled students. Therefore, it can be understood that PLD volunteers play a crucial role in supporting disabled students and realizing a more inclusive and better campus environment.

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