

IMPLEMENTATION OF INCLUSION POLICIES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN KEDUNJAMBAL VILLAGE

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Abstract - *This study explores the implementation of policies for persons with disabilities in Desa Kedungjambal, focusing on how national regulations have been translated into local practices. The research, based on a 45-day field observation, highlights the community's efforts to provide inclusive services and facilities for individuals with disabilities. The village has adopted initiatives that ensure equal access to education, healthcare, and public spaces, in line with the principles of Law No. 8 of 2016. Educational programs and local infrastructure improvements have been key in promoting participation and integration within the community. The findings demonstrate a commitment to upholding the rights of persons with disabilities, ensuring they have equal opportunities to contribute to and benefit from village life.*

Keywords: *Disability Rights, Accessibility, Inclusive, Policy Implementation.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Inclusion is a concept that emphasizes the importance of acceptance, appreciation, and respect for individual differences within society, particularly those related to disabilities. It ensures that all individuals, regardless of physical, sensory, intellectual, or mental differences, have equal opportunities to participate in every aspect of life, including education, employment, social activities, and access to public services. Inclusion goes beyond eliminating discrimination; it aims to create a supportive and welcoming environment for all individuals.

Disability, according to the United Nations (UN), is a condition that affects a person's ability to perform specific activities or interact effectively with their environment. It results from the interaction between individuals with health conditions and environmental or societal barriers. Disabilities can manifest as physical, sensory, intellectual, or mental limitations, ranging from mild to severe. However, disability should not be viewed solely as a weakness or deficiency, but rather as part of human diversity that deserves recognition and respect.

The term "persons with disabilities" (penyandang disabilitas) was formally introduced in Indonesia through Law No. 8 of 2016 on Persons with Disabilities replacing the previous term "persons with disabilities" (penyandang cacat) used in Law No. 4 of 1997 on Persons with Disabilities. This shift in terminology reflects a change in perspective, aiming to avoid the stigma and discrimination often associated with the term "disabled." The use of "persons with disabilities" is more inclusive and emphasizes the dignity of individuals with disabilities, underscoring that disability is part of human diversity and should not be a basis for discrimination or exclusion. This terminological change and the growing awareness of disability rights are expected to promote a societal shift in attitudes, ensuring that persons with disabilities are valued and treated equally in all aspects of life, as outlined in Article 1 of Law No. 8 of 2016.

Inclusive policies are necessary because disabilities often lead to marginalization and systematic discrimination in various areas of life, such as education, employment, and access to public services. Without adequate inclusive policies, individuals with disabilities are frequently overlooked, denied equal opportunities, and face significant barriers to reaching their potential. Therefore, it is crucial to formulate and implement policies that not only ensure equal rights but also provide the support and facilitation needed by individuals with disabilities.

In Indonesia, the term inclusion in the context of disability is referred to as equality of opportunity, as stated in Article 2 of Law No. 8 of 2016 on Persons with Disabilities. This term encompasses the principle that persons with disabilities must have equal opportunities and access in all aspects of life, without facing discrimination or obstacles. Equality of opportunity is fundamental to ensuring that persons with disabilities can participate fully and effectively in society, supported by appropriate facilities and policies.

The legal framework regarding disabilities is encapsulated in Law No. 8 of 2016 on Persons with Disabilities. This law provides a strong legal foundation for

protecting and fulfilling the rights of persons with disabilities. With the implementation of this regulation, persons with disabilities are granted clear legal protection and recognition of their basic rights, including the right to life, freedom from stigma, access to education, employment, and social welfare. These rights are fundamental to ensuring that persons with disabilities are treated with dignity and equality in all aspects of life.

The rights of persons with disabilities under Law No. 8 of 2016, include:

1. Right to Life with Dignity

This law asserts that persons with disabilities have the right to live with dignity and integrity, as stipulated in Article 28A of the 1945 Constitution. This right includes protection of their lives and ensuring that they are treated with the same respect as other citizens. The right to life serves as the foundation for all other rights.

2. Right to be Free from Stigma

Persons with disabilities are also protected from all forms of stigma, harassment, and discrimination. This right acknowledges the importance of ending negative views and prejudices against persons with disabilities, which often hinder their full participation in society. The law guarantees that persons with disabilities will not be subjected to discrimination based solely on their physical or mental conditions.

3. Right to Privacy

Persons with disabilities have the right to privacy, including recognition as individuals, the right to form a family, and protection of personal data. This recognition is crucial in ensuring that persons with disabilities can enjoy private and family life without unnecessary interference and that their personal information is legally protected.

4. Right to Justice and Legal Protection

As reflected in the legal maxim "equality before the law," which states that all people are equal before the law, persons with disabilities also have the right to justice and legal protection. They have the right to be treated equally before the law, without discrimination. This includes access to banking services, property ownership rights, and protection from all forms of oppression or violence.

5. Right to Education

The law also affirms that persons with disabilities have the right to adequate education. They have the right to inclusive and non-discriminatory education, enabling them to develop their potential and actively participate in society. The

government is obligated to provide education that meets their needs and prepares them to enter the workforce.

6. Right to Work and Entrepreneurship

Persons with disabilities have the right to work and entrepreneurship, including equal opportunities to work and develop a business. The law also requires the government and companies to provide fair and inclusive employment opportunities and ensure that persons with disabilities can fully participate in the workforce without discriminatory barriers.

7. Right to Health

The right to health services is also recognized as a fundamental right for persons with disabilities. They must have equal access to quality and non-discriminatory health services. This includes access to health facilities, care, and assistive devices required according to their conditions.

7. Political Rights

Persons with disabilities have political rights, including the right to vote and be elected to public office. They have the right to participate in the political process, both as voters and as candidates in elections. The government is obligated to ensure that the election process and other political facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities.

8. Right to Culture and Tourism

The law also recognizes the right of persons with disabilities to culture and tourism. They have the right to participate in cultural activities and enjoy tourism facilities that are easy to access. The government and related parties must ensure that cultural and tourism facilities provide adequate access for persons with disabilities.

9. Right to Social Welfare

Persons with disabilities also have the right to social welfare, including access to social security, rehabilitation, empowerment, and social protection. Given the specific conditions of persons with disabilities, these rights are crucial to ensuring that they can lead independent and prosperous lives.

10. Right to Accessibility

The right to accessibility includes ease of access to public facilities. Concrete examples of this right include:

- Ramps or Inclined Paths for wheelchair users, to easily access buildings, sidewalks, and other public facilities that typically have stairs.
- Elevators with Braille Buttons and Audio Guides to assist visually impaired individuals in operating elevators independently.

- Accessible Toilets designed specifically for persons with disabilities, equipped with larger spaces, handrails, and sinks that are easy to reach.
- Automatic Doors that open without physical effort, making it easier for persons with physical disabilities, especially wheelchair users, to enter buildings.
- Special Parking Spaces located closer to entrances and equipped with larger spaces to facilitate getting in and out of vehicles for wheelchair users.
- Easy-to-read and Understand Signage clear directional and informational signage, both visually and with added auditory or tactile (touch) information, to assist all persons with disabilities, including those with hearing or vision impairments.
- Special Lanes in Public Facilities such as designated lanes in stations, airports, or shopping centers, that make it easier for persons with disabilities to access services without obstacles.
- Accessible Public Transportation buses, trains, or other public transportation must be equipped with accessibility features such as ramps, spaces for wheelchairs, and audiovisual information for passengers with special needs.

The government and related parties have an obligation to provide facilities that allow persons with disabilities to operate safely and comfortably in public environments.

With the enactment of Law No. 8 of 2016, persons with disabilities in Indonesia have been granted comprehensive legal protection. This regulation emphasizes that persons with disabilities have the same rights as other citizens and must be treated fairly without discrimination. Disabilities, whether physical or mental, should not be grounds for limiting their rights. Instead, society must ensure that persons with disabilities can fully participate in social, economic, and political life and enjoy their rights fully and equally.

2. METHOD

A. Type and Nature of Research

1. Research Type

This research employs field research, which focuses on in-depth case studies regarding the current conditions and interactions within a social unit, such as individuals, groups, or communities. This study specifically examines the Self Help Group (SHG) Difajiwa in Desa Kedungjambal, along with the Head of Desa Kedungjambal, the Kelompok Wanita Tani, and the PKK (Family Welfare Empowerment) group.

2. Research Nature

The research is descriptive qualitative, aiming to investigate and report on specific phenomena related to the implementation of policies for people with

disabilities. The study is conducted in Desa Kedungjambal, Kecamatan Tawang Sari, Kabupaten Sukoharjo.

B. Data Sources

1. Primary Data

Information is gathered through interviews and observations involving SHG Difajiwa, Head of Desa Kedungjambal, Kelompok Wanita Tani, and PKK members.

2. Secondary Data

Documents include UN Resolution No. 61/106 on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, UU No. 8 of 2016 on Persons with Disabilities, UUD 1945 Article 28A, and relevant academic journals.

C. Data Collection Techniques

Observation, Interviews, and Documentation methods are utilized to gather data. Observations focus on the activities of the targeted groups, while interviews provide insights into the implementation of disability policies within the community.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Disability is a condition involving physical, mental, sensory, or intellectual limitations that can affect a person's ability to fully participate in daily activities. This definition encompasses various types of disabilities that can impact an individual's life in different ways. Disabilities can be categorized into several main types: physical, sensory, mental, and intellectual. Physical disabilities include limitations in movement or motor skills, such as amputations or mobility impairments. Sensory disabilities involve vision or hearing impairments, while mental disabilities include conditions affecting mental and emotional health, such as depression or anxiety disorders. Intellectual disabilities involve limitations in cognitive functions and learning. This indicates a spectrum of needs, where each individual requires a different approach to meeting rights and accessibility.

The discourse on disability is closely related to the concept of inclusive environments. To create an inclusive society, it is crucial to understand and appreciate these differences and to build a community that actively supports individuals with disabilities.

An inclusive society is one that accepts and treats every individual fairly, regardless of physical, intellectual, or mental limitations. An inclusive society strives to create a friendly and supportive environment for people with disabilities, ensuring that they can fully participate in social and economic life.

The concept of an inclusive society refers to collective efforts to ensure that all members of the community, including those with disabilities, have equal access to opportunities and resources. Kedungjambal Village, as a local community example, demonstrates inclusive practices in their daily interactions. Under the supervision

of the SEHATI community in Sukoharjo Regency, the village residents have adopted a more open and supportive approach towards people with disabilities, including providing disability-friendly facilities and active participation in social activities.

With the slogan "One Heart, One Goal," SEHATI emphasizes the values of solidarity and mutual cooperation among individuals with disabilities in Sukoharjo Regency. The organization is open to collaborating with various parties, such as PPRBM Solo and Interaksi Solo, and continues to build active communication with local government.

To strengthen solidarity among members, SEHATI holds regular meetings every five weeks, known as "Minggu Pahing," as a forum for exchanging experiences, knowledge, skills, and economic activities. These meetings are fully supported by member contributions of Rp 5,000 per member and communal saving activities. Additionally, SEHATI frequently conducts independent fundraising from the community and through member contributions. In 1999, SEHATI successfully established a legal cooperative focused on savings and loans. This cooperative serves as an economic empowerment tool for SEHATI members through easier access to capital.

To expand empowerment, SEHATI formed Joint Business Groups (KUBE) or Self Help Groups (SHG) at the sub-district level, aiming to reach people with disabilities who struggle to access county-wide activities due to transportation and economic limitations. Advocacy activities are also a significant part of SEHATI's agenda, with involvement in various discussions and forums, both government-organized and SEHATI's internal initiatives. Through participation in the Musyawarah Perencanaan Pembangunan (Musrenbang), SEHATI aims to mainstream disability issues into the planning and implementation of development in Sukoharjo Regency, so that the responsibility is not solely on the Social Service Office but on all government departments.

In supporting its mission, SEHATI implements various empowerment and advocacy programs for people with disabilities through the Community-Based Rehabilitation (RBM) strategy. The main principle of this strategy is "Nothing about Us without Us," meaning that policies and activities related to disabilities must involve people with disabilities as key actors and should not be based on stigma or assumptions from non-disabled individuals. The RBM implemented by SEHATI has been recognized by the Sukoharjo Regency Government, one form of which is the implementation of Regional Health Insurance that covers all people with disabilities in the regency, regardless of economic status.

Additionally, SEHATI has successfully advocated for budget allocation from the Regional Budget (APBD) to support joint business capital strengthening for people with disabilities. Currently, there are 24 KUBE spread across 12 sub-districts, supported by regular monthly meetings. The RBM program run by SEHATI also contributes to the development of accessibility in all SKPD offices in Sukoharjo, as well as budget allocations from SKPDs outside the Social Service Office. This approach has successfully fostered a more independent and inclusive character

among people with disabilities in Sukoharjo, enabling them to make positive contributions in various fields, such as health, education, and legal access.

One important initiative under SEHATI is the formation of SHGs, which work with villages, cadres, and community health centers to facilitate people with disabilities. SHGs serve as a platform for people with disabilities to manage themselves, practice communication, and receive essential social support in the recovery process.

Self Help Groups (SHG) or Community-Based Self-Help Groups are an effective mechanism in supporting people with disabilities. SHGs provide a space for individuals with special needs to share experiences, offer emotional support, and collaborate in overcoming the challenges they face. Through SHGs, people with disabilities can strengthen their self-capacity and improve their quality of life with support from fellow group members.

Routine SHG activities, supported by facilities and budgets from Kedungjambal Village government, include health checks by posyandu cadres, such as blood pressure measurements, and group therapy sessions led by representatives from the mental health division of Tawang Sari Health Center.

In these routine meetings, SHG members are also involved in various productive activities, such as making jackfruit chips, salted eggs, and intestines chips, which are then marketed. Additionally, plant cultivation activities are part of the Community Service Program (KKN) from Diponegoro University and UIN Sunan Kalijaga, where the planted crops are taken home by SHG members.

SHG members feel greatly assisted and gain significant benefits from the routine activities held by the group. These activities not only provide a space for them to meet and socialize but also create a supportive and encouraging atmosphere among members. Through social interactions in routine meetings, SHG members, especially those with psychosocial disabilities, feel more connected with their community and receive essential moral support for their well-being.

Besides social aspects, economic activities conducted in SHG meetings, such as making chips, also open opportunities for members to engage in business. With equal opportunities to participate in economic activities, SHG members can enhance their financial independence. Participation in these joint business activities also contributes to their skill development and self-confidence in facing economic challenges.

SHG activities also play a crucial role in monitoring the health conditions of members, especially those with psychosocial disabilities. In routine meetings, members not only receive regular health checks but also access to consistent medication distribution. This monitoring is vital to keep their mental health stable, allowing them to continue actively participating in group and community activities.

Overall, SHG activities provide widespread positive impacts in social, economic, and health aspects for its members. Involvement in SHGs not only helps

improve individual well-being but also strengthens the sense of community and solidarity among people with disabilities.

Efforts to create an inclusive society in Kedungjambal Village cannot be separated from the active role of various community elements through the establishment and support of Self Help Groups (SHG). SHGs serve as a platform for people with disabilities to interact, learn, and enhance their independence in both social and economic aspects. The success of SHGs in Kedungjambal Village is achieved through strong collaboration between the village government (Pemdes), PKK women, village volunteer groups (Kopling), and posyandu cadres. All these parties work together to create an inclusive environment and support the empowerment of people with disabilities, particularly in terms of access to health, economic, and social support. This active participation from various community elements demonstrates a shared commitment to promoting social inclusion and providing equal opportunities for all individuals, including people with disabilities, to contribute to village development.

This collaboration not only strengthens community solidarity but also serves as a concrete example of how inclusion can be realized through cross-sector cooperation at the local level.

In Kedungjambal Village, the implementation of facilities and support for people with disabilities has shown significant progress but still faces various challenges. The implementation of facilities for people with disabilities in this village includes providing accessibility features such as ramps in public places and special lanes for the visually impaired at Gelora Muda Kedungjambal. However, budget and resource limitations often restrict the provision of more adequate facilities. Additionally, people with disabilities are granted equal employment rights, similar to individuals without disabilities. For example, someone with a physical disability in their hands can still work at the Kedungjambal village office, demonstrating the village's commitment to creating an inclusive work environment. Such integration not only provides economic opportunities but also helps improve the confidence and independence of people with disabilities.

The role of the Kedungjambal community in supporting people with disabilities is crucial. The local community has shown an inclusive attitude by involving people with disabilities in various social and community activities. This includes organizing accessible events and providing direct support in daily life. Furthermore, local community groups, including the Kedungjambal SHG, also play an active role in providing support and advocacy to improve the living conditions of people with disabilities.

To enhance community welfare, the Community Service Program (KKN) from UIN Sunan Kalijaga conducts collaborative activities with the Kedungjambal SHG, including organizing a seminar themed "Enhancing Inclusive Society and Boosting Self-Esteem of Psychosocial Disabilities (ODDP) and People with Disabilities." This seminar is part of an initiative to promote social inclusivity and empower ODDP and

people with disabilities through increased understanding and psychological support.

The seminar features several speakers with expertise in health and psychology, including mental health team from Tawang Sari Health Center, a psychologist, and a lecturer from the psychology program at UIN Sunan Kalijaga. Their presence is expected to provide in-depth perspectives and practical advice on how to enhance the self-esteem

4. CONCLUSION

From this research, it can be concluded that the implementation of Law Number 8 of 2016 concerning Persons with Disabilities in Kedungjambal Village has had a positive impact on enhancing social inclusion for persons with disabilities. The policy has provided legal protection and fundamental rights for persons with disabilities, including the rights to education, employment, health, and accessibility. Field observations show that this village

has successfully implemented several aspects of the inclusion policy, such as providing accessibility facilities and social support through Self Help Groups (SHGs).

Observations in Kedungjambal Village indicate that the implementation of the inclusion policy has made significant progress. Through collaborative efforts between the village government, community organizations, and volunteer groups, facilities and support for persons with disabilities have improved, including better accessibility and economic opportunities. The Self Help Group (SHG) programs supported by various community elements also play a crucial role in enhancing the welfare of persons with disabilities, providing social support, and encouraging independence and economic involvement.

Overall, the success of the inclusion initiatives in Kedungjambal Village demonstrates that collaborative efforts and the involvement of various parties in supporting persons with disabilities can have a positive impact. Activities such as seminars and empowerment programs conducted within the framework of Community Service (KKN) also strengthen public understanding and support for persons with disabilities. Through a comprehensive and sustainable approach, it is hoped that a more inclusive society can be achieved, allowing persons with disabilities to enjoy equal rights and opportunities in all aspects of life.

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