

## PalArch's Journal of Archaeology of Egypt / Egyptology

### EMPOWERING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES THROUGH THE PILOT PROJECTS OF INCLUSION VILLAGE IN REALIZING SOCIAL INCLUSION IN SLEMAN REGENCY, INDONESIA

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**Argo Pambudi, Utami Dewi, Marita Ahdiyana. Empowering People With Disabilities Through The Pilot Projects Of Inclusion Village In Realizing Social Inclusion In Sleman Regency, Indonesia -- Palarch's Journal Of Archaeology Of Egypt/Egyptology 17(4), 710-720. ISSN 1567-214x**

**Keywords— Empowerment, People With Disabilities, The Inclusion Village Program**

#### **ABSTRACT**

This study aims to illustrate the achievements of the empowerment of people with disabilities through the pilot project of the Inclusion Village in Sleman Regency, Indonesia. The findings of this study indicate that the Inclusion Village Program had succeeded in empowering people with disabilities at the research site. People with disabilities had gained many benefits from their involvement in making decisions, participating in economic, social, and political activities and gaining additional knowledge and skills through routine meetings and training conducted at the village level. Through conducting this pilot project, social inclusion was successfully achieved although it still needed some improvements in several aspects. This pilot project has succeeded in laying the foundations for empowerment for people with disabilities and realizing social inclusion in Sleman Regency.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

In Indonesia, people with disabilities still do not have equal rights to participate in the development of the country. Even though the Indonesian government has ratified Law Number 19 of 2011 concerning the CRDP (Convention on the Right of Disability Person) in 2011. Specifically, this law guarantees that people with physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory disabilities are entitled to the fulfillment of equal access rights [1]. This right is very crucial to guarantee the independence and participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of life.

Although the percentage of people with disabilities is very low, this group must have equal rights. According to the Indonesian Ministry of Social Affairs, the number of people with disabilities in Indonesia reached 6,008,640

people in 2016. Specifically in the Special Region of Yogyakarta, it is illustrated in the following table:

**Table 1.** The Data of People with Disabilities in DIY (The Special Region of Yogyakarta)

No	Regency/District	ADK	PD	The Number of Difable
1.	KulonProgo	505	5.270	5.775
2.	Bantul	625	5.900	6.525
3.	GunungKidul	1.010	7.584	8.594
4.	Sleman	627	6.041	6.668
5.	Yogyakarta	215	1.752	1.967
$\Sigma$		2.982	26.547	29.529

**Source:** Official Social Service of the Special Region of Yogyakarta, 2017

**Description:**

ADK : Children with Disabilities Age <18 years old

PD : People with Disabilities >18 years old

Based on the table above it can be seen that Gunungkidul District has the largest number of people with disabilities, Sleman occupies the second-largest while Bantul occupies the third largest. Most people with disabilities are those who are in productive age (over 18 years old).

Handling disability issues should not only be the responsibility of the government, but also the responsibility of all citizens. Therefore many parties are involved in handling the problem, including the Village Government, the organization of SIGAB (The Association for Disability and Disability Advocacy), The Asia Foundation, and Australian Aid. Supported by the Coordinator of Ministry for Human Development and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia, they designed an Inclusion Village Program. This idea is actualized as a follow-up of Local Government Regulation of DIY Number 4 of 2012 concerning Protection and Fulfillment of the Rights of People with Disabilities. Besides, the program is also supported by Law Number 8 of 2016 concerning People with Disabilities and Law No. 19 of 2011 concerning Ratification of the Convention on The Rights of People with Disabilities.

An effort to build an inclusive village is highly demanded since the facts represent that there is still a lot of discrimination against people with disabilities both directly and indirectly at the village level. The Inclusion Village Program is intended as an approach to build and develop an increasingly open environment, inviting and involving everyone to participate regardless of their differences in the background of characteristics, abilities, status, conditions, ethnicity, culture, and so forth. In this case, the village is idealized as an open environment (inclusion), meaning that all people who inhabit, exist, and have activities in the family, school or community environment feel safe and comfortable to get their rights and carry out their obligations [2].

There are several indicators employed to identify the success of the Inclusion Village Program, namely the existence of data and information on village assets that are comprehensive and constantly updated including the data of people with disabilities, the existence of a forum for people with disabilities, there is a guarantee of involvement in the policymaking process, the existence of a budget planning prioritizing the needs of people with disabilities (process, budget allocation, realization, and evaluation), supporting regulations (Perdes), equality of access to village public services, the existence of more accessible physical facilities, the existence of social responsibility from the community, and the opportunity to innovate and build a network [2].

Besides the indicators mentioned above, one crucial component in realizing inclusive villages is strengthening and empowering the people with disabilities. Empowering them is very pivotal so that they have the opportunity and ability to participate both in planning, implementing, and monitoring the development of the program in the village which will indirectly bring welfare improvement for people with disabilities. Through implementing those activities, people with disabilities will be involved in strategic planning through the development of the Annual Development Plan (RKT) and the Village Semester Term Development Plan (RPJMDes). Thus, pro-disability programs will be reflected in the two village development activities.

In Sleman Regency, the Inclusion Village Program was implemented in two villages of the two sub-districts, namely Sendangtirto Village in Berbah sub-district and Sendangadi Village in Mlati sub-district. The total number of people with disabilities in the two villages is 192 people consisting of 106 people in Sendangtirto Village and 86 people with disabilities are in Sendangadi Village (Social Service of DIY, 2017). A number of empowering and strengthening activities for people with disabilities have been carried out in those villages. In Sendangadi Village, a Joint Forum on Inclusion Education whose activities to carry out inclusive education training for teachers and school managers at PAUD, TK, SD, and SMP levels has been established. In addition, the forum which consists of schools, Sendangadi Village Government, and Village Disability Group also held workshops in schools targeting 5-6th year students to instill an appropriate perspective on people with disabilities and inclusiveness.

However, the activities of strengthening and empowering people with disabilities in Sleman Regency have not yet run conveniently. This is triggered by the lack of coordination and unclear programs that have caused some stakeholders involved in these activities to not fully understand what their tasks and functions are. In addition, the availability of infrastructure in Sendangadi and Sendang Tirto villages is not yet friendly to people with disabilities. That, of course, makes it difficult for PD to contribute maximally to realize the Inclusion Village Program. Therefore, this research will focus on analyzing the empowerment of people with disabilities through the Inclusion Village Program in Sleman Regency.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Most of the styles are intuitive. However, we invite you to read carefully the brief description below.

Empowerment is a concept related to power. The term power is often synonymous with the ability of individuals to make themselves or others do what they want. In other words, power makes other people as objects of their influence or desire. The concept of empowerment reflects a new paradigm of development that has the characteristics of focusing on people (people-centered), participatory, empowering, and sustainable [3]. Empowering the community is an effort to improve the dignity of the layers of society which in their present condition are unable to escape the pitfalls of poverty and underdevelopment. In other words, empowering is enabling and independent of society itself.

According to Parsons, empowerment is a process by which people become strong enough to participate in various controls and influence the events and institutions that affect their lives. Empowerment emphasizes that people gain enough skills, knowledge, and power to influence the lives of others they care about [4]. Rappaport defines empowerment as a way in which people, organizations, communities are directed to be able to control (or have power over) their lives [5]. [6] defines empowerment as a process to provide power or power (power) to the weak (powerless) and reduce power (disempowered) to those who are too powerful (powerful) so that there is a balance among them. The definition of empowerment emphasizes the aspects of the delegation of power, giving authority, or transferring power to the individual or community so that they regulate themselves and their environment according to their desires, potential, and abilities.

Empowerment does not merely give authority or power to weak parties. Empowerment also means the educational process in improving the quality of individuals, groups, or communities so that they can empower, have competitiveness, and be able to live independently. According to Parsons, empowerment emphasizes that people gain sufficient skills, knowledge, and power to influence their lives and the lives of others they care about. Furthermore, according to [7], empowerment is preparing the community in the form of resources, opportunities, knowledge, and expertise to increase the capacity of the community to determine their future, as well as participate and influence life in the community itself.

In its implementation, empowerment represents encouragement or motivation, guidance or assistance in improving the ability of individuals or communities to be able to live independently. Departing from this, differences in the character of each individual is a necessity. Thus empowerment is the process of increasing the ability of individuals or communities to be empowered democratically to be able to develop themselves and their environment in improving the quality of their lives so that they can live independently and prosper.

Empowerment also emphasizes the process, not merely the results (output) of the process. Therefore, the measure of success in empowerment is how much participation or empowerment is carried out by individuals or communities. The more people get involved in the process, the more successful the empow-

erment activities will be. Empowerment in the community context is the ability of individuals to actively participate in society. This level of participation includes physical, mental participation, and also the benefits derived by the individual concerned.

Although community empowerment is not formed based on the economic concept it is often intended for poverty alleviation and community economic prosperity. Poverty alleviation does not merely increase income but needs to be conducted holistically concerning all aspects of basic human life such as the nutrition of its members, level of education, environment, and other aspects that can improve the quality of people's lives. Empowerment also cannot be done partially, but it needs to be done continuously through systematic stages in changing people's behavior and habits to be better than before. Thus, through community empowerment activities all potentials are encouraged and enhanced to be empowered in fighting against the factors that cause poverty.

The concept of empowerment as explained above is what is applied in this research. The concept of empowerment is targeted to people with disabilities through the pilot project of the Inclusion Village to realize social inclusion in Sleman Regency, Indonesia. Therefore the concept of empowerment must be adjusted to the needs of people with disabilities. Two approaches have been employed to empower people with disabilities [6], namely the medical model and the social model.

#### ***Medical Model***

The Medical Model considers disability or disability as an abnormality so that people with disabilities must be normalized, corrected, overcome and cured so that the obstacles they face in society can be overcome, and empowerment of people with disabilities can work.

#### ***Social Model***

The Social Model is based on the understanding that the self-integration of persons with disabilities is defined as the process of overcoming obstacles and avoiding things that can trigger social conflict. This model emphasizes aspects of changing people's attitudes towards people with disabilities that hamper their independence and self-development.

This application of the social model is more suitable to study the empowerment of people with disabilities through the pilot project of inclusion village as the theme of this research. The powerlessness of people with disabilities not only arises from physical or psychological disability but also caused by external factors, namely the environment and society. [6] revealed that the main social problem faced by people with disabilities is that they are abnormal in certain ways so that other people do not feel comfortable or unable to interact with them. The surrounding environment which has given a stigma to people with disabilities and considers them unable to do everything can cause problems.

## RESEARCH METHOD

This paper was written based on the findings of research that applied descriptive-qualitative analysis methods and content analysis as well. The descriptive-qualitative analysis was conducted inductively and deductively, in turn, to build an empirical understanding of the phenomenon of empowerment of people with disabilities through the pilot project of the inclusion Village Program at the research site. Meanwhile, content analysis was employed to discuss phenomena found related to the process of empowering people with disabilities through the Inclusion Village Program Pilot Project at the research site.

Data collection instruments in this study were in-depth observation, interviews, and exploration of many relevant documents. Research questions for qualitative data collection and analysis strategies are open and exploratory as suggested by [8, 9, 10, and 11]. Exploratory questions, suitable as a basis for qualitative research are commonly used when: (a) there is little known in a particular field of research; (b) existing research is confusing, contradictory, or not moving forward; or (c) the topic is very complex.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The pilot project of Inclusive Village (RINDI) was implemented in 8 villages in Yogyakarta Special Province. In Kulon Progo Regency there were as many as 6 villages, in Sleman Regency 2 villages, Sendangadi and Sendangtirto. Sendangadi Village has a population of 8,647 men, 8,387 women with a total of 17,034. The percentage of people with disabilities in the village reached about 0.67% of the total population. The number of people with disabilities in 2015 was 112, in 2016 was 114 and in 2017 it reached 154 people. Meanwhile, Sendangtirto village was a village that has implemented the pilot project of Inclusive Village in Sleman Regency since 2015. Sendangtirto village is one of the villages that has implemented the inclusion village program for the first time in Indonesia. There were 116 people with disabilities in Sendangtirto Village in 2017 consisting of 99 adults and 17 children and consisting of 63 men and 53 women.

The targets for this program are (1) village disabled groups, (2) village communities in the program's assisted area, (3) villages and village government; (4) DPO / CSO who have an interest in replicating the inclusion design model; and (5) Government at the sub-district, district, provincial and even national level. The implementation of the pilot project of Inclusive Village has activities to implement and launch programs in the form of (1) preparation (assessment and socialization), (2) strengthening and empowering village disabled groups, (3) strengthening the capacity of government and village communities (village information systems, (4) strengthening the technical capacity of public service providers in the village, (5) assisting the preparation of inclusive village minimum service standards, and (6) institutionalization of inclusion in the village through rules or legal basis in the form of village regulations:

- a) Realizing equality between disabled and non-disabled people;
- b) Increased accessibility of public services;
- c) Community development;

d) Improvement of community welfare.

The collaboration between Sleman Regency Government and SIGAB organization appoints and assigns the Family Planning, Community Empowerment, and Women's Empowerment Agency of the Sleman Regency as the Sleman Regency Government. The collaboration carried out in the village inclusion pilot program is valid for 12 months (1 year). In carrying out the activities of empowerment and institutional development of the Government of the Regency of the Children of the Community of Disability Communication Forum (FKD), the Forum of Family Communication for Children of Children (Community Disability Communication Forum), Disability Indonesia (HDWI), Center for Improving Qualified Activities in Life of People with Disabilities (Ciqal), etc.

- *The success of the Inclusive Village Project in Sendangtirto and Sendangadi Village*

a. Empowerment through policy and planning was conducted by involving and providing equal opportunities in issuing village policies and planning.

b. Empowerment through Social Action, such as participation in social, economic, and political activities following their respective interests. Become a village head election (pilkades) committee, become an election committee (PPS) in the district, and so on.

c. Village policies have been responsive to people with disabilities, but the existence and participation of people with disabilities have not been legalized in the village regulations (PERDES) however they have been actively involved in decision-making activities in the village. In Sendangadi Village, the existence of the Sendangadi Village Disability Organization (ODDS) has become a forum for people with disabilities to gather, discuss, and then express their aspirations to the village government. People with disabilities in Sendangadi Village have been involved in every stage of village development planning starting from the dusun forum to the village forum.

d. Meanwhile, in Sendangtirto Village, the participation of people with disabilities in village development planning is more assured by the Village Chief's Decree to establish Village Disability Groups (KDD) or Sendangtirto Disability Organizations (ODS) to participate in village development. Through the Sendangtirto Village Chief Decree Number 12 / KPT / Kades / 2015 concerning the Inauguration of the Disabled Group of the Sendangtirto Village, Mlati District, Sleman Regency, it was explained that the Sendangtirto KDD tasks included:

- 1) Being a link between the interests and needs of persons with disabilities and their families with the Sendangtirto Village Government and other agencies
- 2) Coordinating work programs between disabled groups with the people of Sendangtirto Village, non-government agencies and the Sendangtirto Village Government as well as the regional government
- 3) Being the center of all information related to people with disabilities in Sendangtirto Village.

The Disabled Organizations of Sendangtirto Village and village assistants have a very important role in supporting the participation of people with disabilities in Sendangtirto Village.

e. The budget is in favor of the needs of people with disabilities.

The Sendangtirto and Sendangadi Village Governments in preparing the budget have gone through village meetings attended by all community leaders including the Village Disability Group (KDD). The involvement of persons with disabilities in the village discussion forum has implications for meeting the financial needs of persons with disabilities. In 2017 the Sendangtirto village government began allocating a special budget for disabled groups. The budget was for development and training for people with disabilities allocated in the amount of IDR.24 million. This fund was allocated to fund activities related to empowering people with disabilities.

f. In Sendangadi village, the village government has also succeeded in disbursing funds for the needs of persons with disabilities in the Village RKP in 2016 amounting to IDR. 15 million for 3 activities, namely Development of Village Disability Organizations, Disability Social Assistance and Training for Inclusion Village.

g. The establishment of the Village Information System (SID) becomes a reference for the data needs of people with village disabilities. The Village Information System is very necessary to plan development activities to suit the conditions and needs of persons with disabilities in the village. In updating this SID data, the village government was assisted by the NGO Combine Resource Institute (CRI), a non-governmental organization that focuses on developing data and information systems in the village. The SID websites of the two villages are [sendangadi-sleman.sid.web.id](http://sendangadi-sleman.sid.web.id) dan [sendangtirto-sleman.sid.web.id](http://sendangtirto-sleman.sid.web.id).

h. The existence of disability-friendly public services. The Sendangadi and Sendangtirto Village Governments have successfully provided public services to respond to the needs of people with disabilities. The two villages were appointed as pilots for the construction of facilities and infrastructure to support disability-friendly village servants. Disabled-friendly ram and toilets have been built in village government office buildings and community health centers (puskesmas).

i. Empowerment in the field of Education and Teaching. Various education and teaching activities as one of the empowerment parameters have been carried out in Sendangadi and Sendangtirto villages. The provision of a special budget of IDR.24 million in Sendangtirto Village in 2016 and IDR.15 million in Sendangadi Village was used by the Village Disability Group in improving the ability, insight and skills of people with disabilities in their area. In Sendangtirto Village, almost every month there are regular meetings, workshops or capacity building training for people with disabilities.

The type of training is adjusted to the needs of people with disabilities such as training in making food creations, training in stringing crafts, agricultural training through polybags, and animal husbandry training and organizational training. Besides, Kindergarten (PAUD / TK) teachers in Sendangtirto Village have been given training on understanding inclusive education so that the

community can accept the existence of persons with disabilities without any doubt.

In Sendangadi Village, aside from some training for persons with disabilities, several inclusive education institutions have also been held, namely elementary schools and kindergarten inclusions.

From this explanation, it can be seen that the empowerment of people with disabilities in those two villages has been carried out properly since 2015.

- *Pivotal achievements of the Village Inclusion Program in Realizing Social Inclusion*

Some pivotal achievements that have a significant impact on the realization of social inclusion are:

- 1) There is a dominant value in society when looking at a person or group of other people who have disabilities (religious values, culture, customs, and other social norms). The existence of this dominant value is an important part that is influential in realizing social inclusion.
- 2) some perceptions underlie attitudes which in turn have an impact on patterns of interaction and social relations that are formed.
- 3) There is a policy issued by the government (at the local and national level) as well as customary law which directly or indirectly, regulates relations between people.
- 4) Geographical, demographic, and infrastructure conditions, as well as the social environment, support the existence of the disabled.

The four factors elaborated above have contributed to the realization of social inclusion. Therefore the implementation of the Inclusion Village Program in those two villages succeeded in realizing social inclusion which was the main objective of this program.

## CONCLUSION

The pilot project of the inclusion village program that has been carried out since 2015 in the villages of Sendangadi and Sendangtirto has provided many benefits for the realization of social inclusion. People with disabilities in Sendangadi and Sendangtirto villages have been involved in the process of policymaking in the village. People with disabilities in the two villages are no longer underestimated by the community. The community does not see people with disabilities as helpless citizens but instead respects people with disabilities as a group of people who have their advantages behind their physical and mental limitations. The implementation of the inclusive village program makes people with disabilities in Sleman Regency free to express their aspirations and interact with other villagers in supporting their village development.

The Inclusion Village Program has appointed people with disabilities in both villages as community groups equal to normal citizens. Empowerment at the level of policy, social and political action as well as in the realm of education and awareness has placed people with disabilities in Sleman Regency as citizens who have the potential to support community development and welfare. At the policy level, the existence of people with disabilities has been legalized through a village government decree and has become a forum for channeling their aspirations. Besides, the involvement of people with disabilities in village discussion forums has resulted in budget allocations to fulfill the needs of

people with disabilities. Besides, the application of the Village Information System (SID) has become a reference for their villages to provide services and activities that are aligned with the needs of people with disabilities. The inclusion of the inclusive village program has succeeded in laying the foundations of empowerment for people with disabilities and realizing social inclusion in Sleman Regency.

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