

The Lives of People with Disabilities during the COVID-19 Pandemic (Case Study in Medan Sunggal District, Medan City)

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Abstract

The purpose of the study was to see how the lives of people with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic, including socio-economic life. Do people with disabilities get the same rights as other members of the community. This research was conducted in Medan Sunggal District, Medan City. This study will use qualitative research methods with a descriptive approach. Using data collection techniques from interviews, observations, and documentation studies. The result of this research is that the researcher targets to get scientific publications in the form of the Sinta Journal 3. The results of the study show that all the lives of people with disabilities experience changes during the COVID-19 pandemic like society in general, there is a decrease in income, restrictions on activities, implementation of health protocols and so on. The panic and fear of people with disabilities causes people with disabilities to have a traumatized nature when they meet strangers. However, to get training and empowerment from the government, not all disabilities get this due to the lack of data collection carried out by the local government plus there are families who sometimes still like to hide their children as disabilities so that the government also finds it difficult to collect data which leads to the absence of training and empowerment programs. specifically from the government for persons with disabilities in Medan Sunggal sub-district.

Keywords

Disability; life; pandemic



I. Introduction

Today the world is being hit by a virus which is later known as the Corona Virus. Coronaviruses (CoV) are part of a family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the flu to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV). The disease caused by the Corona Virus or known as COVID-19 is a new type that was discovered in 2019 and has never previously been identified to attack humans (World Health Organization, 2019). The Corona virus appeared and attacked humans for the first time in Wuhan Province, China. Corona virus can spread and develop rapidly to cause more severe infections and organ failure. Due to this, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the corona virus a pandemic on March 11, 2020.

The case was first announced in Indonesia on March 2, 2020. When 2 positive Indonesian citizens were found, it was known from the results of contact tracing with Japanese citizens who were in Malaysia after meeting in Indonesia. Now positive cases of Corona have increased rapidly since the first confirmed cases in Indonesia. This is clearly

proven, ahead of 9 months of Covid-19 cases in Indonesia, currently the total positive cases of Covid-19 have reached half a million or 500 thousand cases. As of December 5, 2020, data obtained by the government showed an increase in the number of 6,027 cases. So that since it was first announced on March 2, 2020, the total number of Covid-19 cases in Indonesia has now reached 569,707 people (Ministry of Health: 2020 in Kompas: 5 Dec. 2020).

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on the lives of Indonesian people. The group most at risk of being affected by the COVID-19 outbreak is the lower middle class. Some of them are now living without work, without income. Others are struggling to maintain their business. If nothing changes in the near future, they may fall into the abyss of poverty. Suryo Utomo, who is the Director General of Taxes at the Ministry of Finance (Kemenkeu), said that the three major impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Indonesian economy had entered a crisis. He called the economic turmoil caused by the COVID-19 pandemic the perfect storm. First, the impact is a drastic decline in household consumption or purchasing power, which supports 60 percent of the economy. This is evidenced by data from BPS which recorded household consumption decreased from 5.02 percent in the first quarter of 2019 to 2.84 in the first quarter of 2020. Second, the impact of the pandemic created prolonged uncertainty so that investment also weakened and resulted in the cessation of business. Third, as a result, the entire world experienced a weakening economy, causing commodity prices to fall and Indonesia's exports to several countries also stalling. Another impact is that the national tax revenue sector is only able to collect as much as 44.02 percent (Republika, 2020).

Due to this, not a few of them were forced to quit or lost their main livelihood so that they also experienced economic difficulties (Luthfia, 2020: 2). Based on available data, the majority As found by the study of the Covid-19 Response Network of Organizations with Disabilities, this is because they have special needs who still lack attention to government policies during the pandemic. In line with the words of Jonna Aman Damanik from representatives of the Indonesian Inclusive Institute who are members of the network, "Disabled people are the most vulnerable people during this pandemic, so they need inclusive policies and treatments according to their variety of disabilities. (Suara.com)." In fact, this is something that deserves attention. so that people with disabilities can also get through this pandemic well. Based on data from the 2015 Inter-Census Population Survey (SUPAS), the number of people with disabilities reached 21.84 million people or about 8.56 percent of Indonesia's population (BPS, 2015 in Luthfia, 2020).

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Despite their small number, they are still an inseparable part of this nation. In addition, Indonesia has also signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on March 30, 2007 in New York, which was later ratified in Law Number 19 of 2011 concerning Ratification of the Convention on The Rights of Persons with Disabilities. disability). Then Law Number 8 of 2016 which states about equal rights which reads, persons with disabilities are everyone who experiences physical, intellectual, mental, and/or sensory limitations for a

long time who in interacting with the environment can experience obstacles and difficulties in participating. fully and effectively with other citizens based on equal rights, namely the right to protection and social services in an emergency such as a disaster or pandemic that is currently happening. Even though so far, the government has not shown serious attention to persons with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The needs and existence of persons with disabilities are often forgotten and marginalized, such as in the aspect of access to information and health services (Prabowo, 2020; CNN Indonesia, 2020; Merdeka, 2020).

Departing from a number of things above, they must get attention, one of which is manifested in research on the lives of people with disabilities during this pandemic. Exploring their daily lives, what the real obstacles they face, as well as what solutions they do to survive the pressure of the COVID-19 pandemic. It also includes the hope that when this research has been carried out later, what is found can be used by the relevant government to make a solution policy for them in living life in the midst of this pandemic.

Broadly speaking, the term life is related to the lifestyle per person or group. The term life is also interpreted as continuing to exist, moving and working as it should (humans, animals and plants) life, circumstances or in a certain way (Big Indonesian Dictionary, edition 4:2008). Describes the "whole person" that interacts with the environment (Kottler in Sakinah, 2002; 78). Susanto in (Nugrahani, 2003:19) interprets life as a combination of self-expression needs and group expectations of someone in acting based on applicable norms. Therefore, it is now known that many kinds of lifestyles are developing in society, for example, lifestyle hedonic life, metropolis lifestyle, global lifestyle and so on.

Lifestyle is a pattern of everyday behavior of a group of humans in society that shows how people regulate their personal lives, community life, behavior in public and efforts to distinguish their status from others through social symbols. Lifestyle or life style can also be interpreted as everything that has characteristics and procedures in the life of a particular society (Big Indonesian Dictionary, edition 1:1998). According to Chaney in Subandy (1997:56) forms of lifestyle, among others: Independent lifestyle, namely independence can mean being able to live without being absolutely dependent on something else. Therefore, it is necessary to be able to recognize one's own strengths and weaknesses, and to strategize with these strengths and weaknesses to achieve goals.

Reason is a tool for strategizing. Being responsible means making changes consciously and understanding the form of every risk that will occur and being ready to bear whatever happens and with discipline, an independent lifestyle is also formed. With an independent lifestyle, the culture of consumerism is no longer imprisoning humans. This means that humans will have the freedom and independence in making their choices responsibly, then lead to creative innovations in order to support this independence. Many things affect a person's lifestyle. Among them can be considered through the behavior carried out by individuals such as daily activities, including in the decision-making process on every thing that will be done.

Armstrong's statement in Nugraheni (2003:67), there are 2 factors that affect a person's lifestyle. Namely factors that come from within (internal) and factors from outside (external) an individual. Internal factors include attitudes where attitude is a state of mind and a state of mind that is prepared to respond or respond to an object through experience and directly affects behavior, experience and observation which means one thing that can affect social observations in behavior. Experience can be obtained from all the things that a person has experienced in the past and can also be learned. Through learning people will be able to gain experience, personality which refers to the configuration of individual characteristics and ways of behaving that determine the behavioral differences of each individual, motive is the need for security and the need for prestige is one thing that makes an individual's behavior

emerge. The greater a person's need for a sense of prestige, the more likely a person will have a lifestyle that leads to a hedonic lifestyle and perception which is a process when a person selects, organizes, and interprets information captured by his five senses to form a picture of the world.

While external factors include reference groups, which mean groups that have direct and indirect effects on a person's attitudes and behavior. This group has a direct effect when the group that the individual participates in becomes a member and interacts actively with each other. While the group that has an indirect influence is a group that the individual is not a member of in the group. These influences will expose individuals to certain behaviors and lifestyles. The second factor is the family where we all know that the family is an informal thing that affects the life of an individual and plays a major role in the influence of individual lives because the family is the first place of learning in the life of each individual. The role of the family is very large in the formation of attitudes and the role of an individual. Because the family is the smallest organization in society where generally all humans start their lives surrounded by their inner family. Because of this, parenting styles will form children's habits which indirectly affect their lifestyle. The next factor is social class where social class is also called social stratification which is a relatively homogeneous and enduring group in a society. Social classes are also arranged in a sequence of levels and members at each level have the same values, interests, and behaviors. Social position means a person's place in the social environment, his rights to prestige, and obligations. This social position can be achieved by someone with conscious effort or is obtained immediately by birth. There are two main elements in the social system of class division in society, namely position (status) and role. Role is a dynamic aspect of position. If the individual carries out his rights and obligations in accordance with his position, he carries out a role. For example, when rich people with high incomes get a higher tax burden and the tax funds will be used for equity at the lower levels of society. The last factor is culture where culture itself consists of knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, customs, and habits acquired by individuals as members of society.

From a number of external factors described, it can be concluded that the factors of reference groups, family, social class and culture are no less important in influencing lifestyle. Because, external factors are factors that shape a person's lifestyle and have an influence on habits that shape a person's lifestyle.

Referring to the Big Indonesian Dictionary, persons with disabilities are defined as people who have (suffered) something. Disability itself is an Indonesian word that comes from the English loan word disability (plural: disabilities) which means disability or disability (KBBI; 2008 p. 504).

In general, Disable World classifies them into eight categories of disabilities, including movement and movement barriers, spinal cord disabilities, head-brain injury disabilities, disability vision, hearing disabilities, cognitive or learning disabilities, psychological disorders and invisible disabilities (agendaasia; 2017). Law No. 8 of 2016 article 4 states that disability consists of 4 types, namely people with physical disabilities, people with intellectual disabilities, people with mental disabilities and or people with sensory disabilities. The variety of persons with disabilities as referred to in paragraph (1) can be experienced singly, multiply or multiply for a long period of time determined by medical personnel in accordance with the provisions of the legislation.

II. Research Method

This research was initially carried out on October 6, 2021 until it was completed precisely in Medan Sunggal District, Medan City, North Sumatra. This study uses a descriptive research method with a qualitative approach. Data was collected by means of literature study, observation, interviews and documentation. In other words, in data collection techniques, researchers used multiple sources of evidence, which means that researchers used different data collection techniques to obtain data from the same source. The data analysis technique used in this study is a qualitative data analysis technique. Qualitative data analysis techniques are carried out by presenting data starting with examining all the collected data, compiling them in one, which is then categorized in the next stage, and checking the validity of the data and interpreting it with analysis according to the ability of the researcher's reasoning power to make research conclusions (Moleong, 2007:247).

III. Result and Discussion

Based on the results of interviews that researchers have conducted with the main informants, in this case the first, second and third informants where all of the informants said they had never experienced symptoms of COVID-19 and all key informants experienced changes in their life order like society in general due to this COVID-19. According to the presentation of the first informant, who on this occasion was represented by the informant's biological mother, who said that none of the informants had received any special assistance for disability from the government, plus this pandemic, informants felt hampered by their interactions with the surrounding environment, but all the informants said that they still obeyed the health protocols by wearing masks, keeping their distance and always washing their hands when doing something.

The second informant also said that in this case represented by the informant's adoptive mother that the informant's life during this pandemic period underwent a change where the informant used to be free to carry out daily activities which was a parking attendant and a daily wage recipient if there were people who needed his services now when During the pandemic, life has changed where informants are no longer as much as they used to get money and wages from people around who are provided with service assistance by the informant. The informant also experienced a fear of death because what the informant had in mind about corona was a dangerous, deadly disease. Therefore, when the researcher interviewed the informant, the informant was very careful because the informant knew that a foreigner was a carrier of a deadly virus for him.

In line with the narrative of the second informant, the third informant who is blind also said that his life changes from before the pandemic until this pandemic period changed drastically, where he, who was a masseuse, received at least 15 massage patients per month, now only 4 people per month. Because patients and informants themselves are afraid to touch due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For government assistance, according to the narrative, the first informant said that the informant had never received special assistance for disability, but only PKH assistance because the informant's family was the recipient of PKH, while the second informant never received any assistance at all. Whatever it was, but the third informant had received basic food assistance and massage equipment as well as massage training until 1995 from the government.

The Medan City Disability Coordinator also said that the informants studied in this study were people who had not been registered to receive a training program from the Medan City disability coordinator due to the lack of data collection from the head of the

neighborhood as well as the kelurahan and sub-district authorities regarding data for persons with disabilities. Plus the narrative from the head of the environment and the coordinator of PKH Medan Sunggal Sub-district who said that there were many obstacles to this, coupled with the lack of facilitators and the lack of funds to conduct data collection to empowerment and disability training programs.

IV. Conclusion

Based on the results of the data analysis carried out, it can be concluded about the lives of people with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic in the Medan Sunggal sub-district that all the lives of people with disabilities experience changes during the COVID-19 pandemic like society in general, there is a decrease in income, restrictions on activities, implementation health protocols and so on. The panic and fear of people with disabilities causes people with disabilities to have a traumatized nature when they meet strangers. However, to get training and empowerment from the government, not all disabilities get this due to the lack of data collection carried out by the local government plus there are families who sometimes still like to hide their children as disabilities so that the government also finds it difficult to carry out data collection which resulted in the absence of special training and empowerment programs from the government for persons with disabilities in the Medan Sunggal sub-district.

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