



Accessibility of Political Participation for Different Ability in The 2024 General Election in DKI Jakarta

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Keywords

accessibility, different ability, general election, general election commission, political participation

Abstract

This research is motivated by the uneven socialization, the inaccessibility of polling stations, the absence of ballots with Braille templates, the lack of assistance for the visually impaired, and the increasing number of disabled voters in DKI Jakarta in the 2024 elections. The research results show that the accessibility for different ability in DKI Jakarta during the 2024 elections has been adequately pursued by the General Elections Commission DKI Jakarta. The presence of assistance for disabled voters, socialization, the availability of Braille template ballots. Polling stations that are friendly to disabled voters. Driving and inhibiting factors in the accessibility of different ability in the 2024 elections are as follows: the driving factor is the affirmative action taken by the General Election Commission regarding access for disabled voters. Meanwhile, the inhibiting factors are: uneven dissemination of information, lack of Braille template ballots at polling stations, and inadequate selection of polling station locations. The suggestion that can be given is the improvement of infrastructure at polling stations, The General Elections Commission DKI Jakarta can collaborate more with the disability community, and socialization is expanded in schools specifically for different ability, namely Special Schools (SLB).

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INTRODUCTION

General Elections (Pemilu) are a fundamental mechanism in the democratic system in Indonesia that allows every citizen to freely, directly, publicly, secretly, honestly, and fairly elect their representatives (Irawan, 2022). Elections in Indonesia involve legislative, presidential, and regional head elections, where the process is supervised by independent institutions such as the General Election Commission (KPU) to ensure implementation in accordance with democratic principles. (Mutia, 2023).

Inclusive elections are a form of elections designed to provide equal access and opportunities for all segments of society, including persons with disabilities, in exercising their voting rights (Arief, 2019). Inclusive elections aim to ensure that no group in society feels marginalized in the electoral process, allowing all citizens to actively participate in determining the direction of national policies. (Prihatmoko, 2020).

Inclusive elections that involve persons with disabilities in the political field, whether as voters, organizers, or candidates, have been regulated in Article 5 of Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections. This law states that persons with disabilities who meet the requirements have the same opportunity to become voters, candidates for members of the House of Representatives (DPR), candidates for members of the Regional Representative Council (DPD), candidates for president/vice president, candidates for members of the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD), and election organizers. (Dwintari, 2021).

Law Number 7 of 2017 on General Elections protects the political rights of disabled groups in the electoral process, as indicated by Article 43 Paragraph (1) of Law Number 39 of 1999 on Human Rights and Article 5, Article 28D Paragraph (3), and Article 28E Paragraph (3) of the 1945 Constitution. (Irawan & Nurmantoro, 2022). The regulation states that the government must protect and guarantee the political rights of all citizens.

However, in reality, persons with disabilities still face several obstacles during the election process. The uneven dissemination of information, inaccessible polling stations, the absence of ballots with Braille templates, the lack of assistants for the visually impaired, polling places located in fields full of thick grass, muddy ground due to rain or even flooding, and the increasing number of disabled voters in DKI Jakarta in the 2024 elections.

Before persons with disabilities can be in-

cluded in the Permanent Voter List (DPT) for the 2024 elections, the KPU will first conduct verification of their disability conditions. This verification will be carried out in stages to ensure that each person with a disability meets the requirements to vote according to their conditions.

In the case of individuals with intellectual disabilities in the 2019 elections, the KPU included individuals with intellectual disabilities or mental disabilities as voters after receiving recommendations from the Election Supervisory Board. (Bawaslu). This recommendation arose after, in the previous election, individuals with mental disabilities were not included in the voter list. Registered voters with intellectual disabilities can exercise their voting rights with assistance during the election. According to Bawaslu RI member Mochammad Afifuddin in his interview with detik.com, the recommendation is in line with the Constitutional Court (MK) decision number 135 of 2015, article 5 paragraph (3), which states that individuals with mental disabilities have the right to vote as long as they do not experience permanent mental or memory disorders. (Andayani, 2018). This step is part of the effort to protect the political rights of individuals with mental disabilities by ensuring they remain registered as voters.

In the case of individuals with intellectual disabilities, the KPU will check the level of cognitive disability experienced to determine whether they can exercise their voting rights independently or need assistance. (Putri & Nuraeni, 2021). The KPU uses that data to facilitate the decision-making process on whether the mentally disabled individual can be registered as a voter in the 2024 Election's Permanent Voter List (DPT).

The number of disabled voters in DKI Jakarta increased from a total of 10,095 people in the 2019 elections to 61,747 people in 2024, with 24,981 disabled voters exercising their right to vote. With the increasing number of disabled voters, there is a demand for improved accessibility, both in terms of physical infrastructure at polling stations and the provision of disability-friendly information. The more the number of voters increases, the more new challenges arise, especially in ensuring that they can exercise their voting rights properly and without obstacles.

This increase can be linked to various initiatives taken by the DKI Jakarta Provincial KPU to enhance the political participation of persons with disabilities. One of the efforts is the provision of facilities at polling stations, more inclusive socialization, and training for officers that is more focused on the specific needs of disabled voters. The significant increase in the permanent

voter list indicates that accessibility, both physical and non-physical, remains a major challenge. To achieve this, the KPU not only focuses on their registration as voters but also on their active participation in exercising their voting rights. With the increase in political participation for persons with disabilities in the 2024 elections in DKI Jakarta, it is hoped that the elections will be more inclusive and representative (Sofiyatul, 2021). This research will analyze the facilities provided by the DKI Jakarta Provincial KPU in ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities in the 2024 general election, both in terms of physical aspects at polling stations and in the clear and evenly disseminated communication of information.

METHOD

This analysis model used in a qualitative descriptive design to analyze the accessibility of political participation for persons with disabilities in the 2024 elections in DKI Jakarta. This approach was chosen to gain an in-depth understanding of the experiences, obstacles, and needs of persons with disabilities in the electoral process. Data will be collected through in-depth interviews with persons with disabilities, election organizers, and other relevant stakeholders (Rachmawati, 2007). The results of this research are descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from observed individuals or informants (Kusumastuti, 2019). Which is expected to provide recommendations for election organizers and policymakers to enhance the inclusivity and participation of persons with disabilities in the democratic process.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Analysis of Non-Physical Accessibility of Political Participation for Persons with Disabilities in the 2024 Elections in DKI Jakarta Province

The DKI Jakarta Provincial Election Commission has made various efforts to improve non-physical accessibility for persons with disabilities in the 2024 elections. One of the steps taken is through inclusive socialization, where election information is disseminated in formats accessible to persons with disabilities. Such as the presence of socialization and the availability of sign language interpreters for the hearing and speech impaired. Socialization is also carried out comprehensively by involving disability organizations, to ensure that all important information related to the election is accessible to those with special needs.

The efforts of the DKI Jakarta Provincial

KPU in improving non-physical accessibility are also in line with the principles and guidelines of accessibility as regulated in the Minister of Public Works Regulation Number: 30/PRT/M/2006. Principles such as fairness in use, flexibility in use, and simplicity and ease of understanding form the basis for providing information that is easily accessible to persons with disabilities. This is important to ensure that all voters, regardless of their disability conditions, can participate in the elections without experiencing discrimination. The KPU strives to meet the principle of not requiring heavy physical effort, where voters with disabilities do not need to feel burdened or have difficulty understanding the election process or accessing related information.

Technical guidance for the KPPS has been implemented to ensure flexibility in serving voters with special needs. Voters with disabilities are assisted by the friendliness of the KPPS officers who are trained to be flexible in serving disabled voters, even though there are no special signs indicating specific guidance for them.

One of the important factors in ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities at polling stations (TPS) in the 2024 elections. The design of the TPS layout and the disability-friendly service guidelines prepared by the DKI Jakarta Provincial KPU are generally recognized as quite good by voters with disabilities. The above efforts can be analyzed through the perspective of the political participation theory proposed by Russell J. Dalton in 2009. Dalton argues that political participation not only includes voting activities but also involves the active engagement of groups in the political process through various forms, such as participating in political discussions or influencing public policy during socialization events.

In this context, the policy of the DKI Jakarta Provincial KPU aims not only to increase formal participation in the form of voting rights but also to encourage broader involvement of persons with disabilities in political discourse and decision-making. By providing better access and more inclusive information, the KPU strives to create conditions where persons with disabilities are not only passively involved but also actively contribute to the democratic process, such as through direct socialization with disability organizations before the elections begin.

This shows that although affirmative action has been implemented in the design of polling stations and the provision of service guides, more effective efforts are still needed to convey information to persons with disabilities. More inclusi-

ve and intensive socialization is crucial to ensure that all voters, including persons with disabilities, can fully and independently engage in the political process, in accordance with the principles of fair political participation.

Analysis of Physical Accessibility of Political Participation for Persons with Disabilities in the 2024 Elections in DKI Jakarta Province

The DKI Jakarta Provincial Election Commission (KPU) has implemented various efforts to ensure friendly physical accessibility for persons with disabilities at every polling station (TPS) in the 2024 elections. In accordance with the principles and accessibility standards regulated in the Minister of Public Works Regulation Number: 30/PRT/M/2006, the DKI Jakarta Provincial KPU strives to meet four main principles: safety, convenience, usability, and independence. This is realized through the provision of ramps or sloped paths at polling stations to facilitate voters with disabilities who use wheelchairs, avoiding polling stations in rocky areas, and ensuring that the entrances and exits of polling stations are wide enough to accommodate the mobility of persons with disabilities. In addition, the KPU also ensures that polling stations are equipped with assistive devices, such as Braille templates for visually impaired voters, as well as visual and audio guides for hearing/speech-impaired individuals.

The DKI Jakarta Provincial KPU has ensured that each polling station is built with consideration for the safety of persons with disabilities, such as non-slippery pathways and environments free from hazardous obstacles. The polling stations are equipped with facilities that can be used by all voters, including those with disabilities. In this case, aids such as Braille templates for visually impaired voters are provided as stipulated in Article 20 paragraph 1 and Article 43 paragraph 4 of PKPU No. 3 of 2019.

The principles and fundamentals of accessibility and facilities are regulated in the Minister of Public Works Regulation Number: 30/PRT/M/2006 concerning Technical Guidelines for Facilities and Accessibility in Buildings and Environments related to the policies or affirmative actions carried out by the DKI Jakarta Provincial KPU as follows.

Safety, the DKI Jakarta Provincial KPU has ensured that each polling station is built with consideration for the safety of persons with disabilities, such as non-slippery pathways and an environment free from hazardous obstacles. For the writer's sources, namely Sohii, a visually impaired person in North Jakarta, and Nazeyla, a hearing

and speech impaired person in South Jakarta, they feel that the safety at the polling station where they cast their votes in the 2024 elections is already quite good. The DKI Jakarta Provincial KPU has ensured that the entrance, pathways, and polling station locations are safe for persons with disabilities like himself. In that polling station, there are no slippery areas or flood-prone spots.

Compared to Syafira, a wheelchair user with a disability in the Thousand Islands, and Mulyawan, a visually impaired person in East Jakarta, the polling stations where they will vote in the 2024 elections still need improvement. Although the DKI Jakarta Provincial KPU has made efforts to ensure that every polling station is safe for people with disabilities, including in terms of access, pathways, and polling station locations, there are challenges they face. Mulyawan recounted that the path to the polling station in his area is not flat, making it difficult for him to walk. This condition indicates that there is still room to improve safety at several polling stations to make them more inclusive, especially by ensuring that the paths used are safe and accessible to all voters, including those with visual and mobility disabilities.

Convenience, the DKI Jakarta Provincial KPU prepares polling stations in locations that are easily accessible for persons with disabilities, as stipulated in Article 2a of PKPU No. 3 of 2019, so that voters do not experience difficulties in accessing polling stations.

This step has been beneficial for several disabled voters, such as Sohii, a visually impaired person in East Jakarta, who stated that access to polling stations has improved and is more reachable. A similar sentiment was shared by Nazeyla, a hearing and speech-impaired individual in South Jakarta, who appreciated the disability-friendly polling station location and the clear placement of information. Dina, a person with an intellectual disability, the facilities provided at her polling station have enabled her to carry out the voting process without any obstacles.

Usefulness, polling stations are equipped with facilities that can be used by all voters, including those with disabilities. In this case, aids such as Braille templates for visually impaired voters are provided as regulated in Article 20 paragraph 1 and Article 43 paragraph 4 of PKPU No. 3 of 2019.

As visually impaired individuals, Mulyawan, Sohii, and Istiawati acknowledge that the availability of Braille templates at polling stations helps them vote more easily and ensures their voi-

ces are heard as they wish. With the help of these templates, they feel more confident in the voting process.

Independence, disabled voters are expected to cast their votes independently. The KPU ensures that voters using wheelchairs can enter and exit polling stations freely, as stipulated in Article 17, paragraph 3, which requires the entrance and exit doors of polling stations to be of adequate size.

Mulyawan, who is visually impaired, and Syafira, a wheelchair user with a physical disability, stated that although the path to the polling station is wide enough and in accordance with the provisions of the article, they faced difficulties because there were stairs at the polling station. As a result, they need to be assisted by family members to reach the ballot box, so the expected independence has not been fully realized. This shows that although some aspects of accessibility have been addressed, improvements are still needed to ensure that all facilities truly enable disabled voters to participate independently without external assistance.

The DKI Jakarta Provincial KPU itself has taken affirmative steps in accordance with the theory of affirmative action, where proactive policies based on the General Election Commission Regulation (PKPU) No. 3 of 2019 on Voting and Vote Counting in General Elections have been implemented to ensure that persons with disabilities can fully participate in elections. These steps include:

Alternative polling stations (Article 8, paragraph 1, 2b): Persons with disabilities who cannot vote at their original polling station due to care in a social shelter or rehabilitation can vote at another, more accessible polling station.

Wheelchair access facilities (Article 17, paragraph 3): The Election Commission ensures that the entrance and exit doors of polling stations are large enough for wheelchair users, so there are no obstacles for them to enter the polling station. This is evidenced by Syafira, a person with a disability, who was able to exercise her voting rights well because her polling station was accessible by wheelchair.

Priority for disabled voters (Article 38, paragraph 2): Disabled voters can be given priority to cast their votes first, if there is consent from other voters waiting in line.

Assistance for disabled individuals (Article 43, paragraphs 2-4): Disabled voters who require physical assistance can be accompanied by another person or a member of the polling station committee (KPPS), both to the voting booth and

while casting their votes. The assistant will help according to the voter's wishes, ensuring that the voter maintains full control over their choice.

Special assistance for the visually impaired (Article 44, paragraph 1): For visually impaired voters or voters without both hands, an assistant will help in casting their votes, but still according to the voter's wishes.

This affirmative action is implemented by the DKI Jakarta Provincial KPU through proactive policies, such as providing disability-friendly polling stations, offering special training for polling station officers to be sensitive to the needs of disabled voters, and ensuring that the necessary assistive devices are available at each polling station. As part of affirmative action, the KPU also strives to reduce the dependence of disabled voters on assistance from others during the voting process, so that they can cast their votes independently. The implementation of this affirmative action is important to ensure equality and justice in accordance with the principle of accessibility in the conduct of elections, where every citizen, regardless of their physical or mental condition, has the same opportunity to participate.

These efforts by the KPU demonstrate the application of Dalton's (2009) theory of political participation, which states that political participation is a right that must be guaranteed by the state for all citizens, including persons with disabilities. By providing disability-friendly polling stations and taking affirmative action steps as regulated in PKPU No. 3 of 2019, the KPU has ensured that the political rights of persons with disabilities are protected and that they can participate equally in the democratic process. These measures demonstrate the KPU's commitment to enhancing the political participation of persons with disabilities by eliminating accessibility barriers and ensuring polling stations are inclusive and safe spaces for all voters.

Factors Driving Accessibility of Political Participation for Persons with Disabilities in the 2024 Elections in DKI Jakarta Province

The factors driving accessibility of political participation for persons with disabilities in the 2024 elections in DKI Jakarta Province are closely related to the principles and tenets of accessibility.

Disabled voters stated that support from officers, the availability of Braille templates, public awareness, and special facilities such as tactile paving at polling stations greatly encourage accessibility. This reflects the principles of ease and independence, where good design allows people

with disabilities to participate with greater confidence. Istiawati also emphasized the importance of complete facilities, such as ramps and the friendliness of staff, as significant driving factors. This is in line with the theory of affirmative action, which emphasizes the importance of providing the necessary support and facilities so that people with disabilities can participate equally in the political process.

The friendliness and assistance from the KPPS officers are key in promoting accessibility, which aligns with the principle of fair use. Additionally, the presence of sign language interpreters and clear visual markers to facilitate the voting process for hearing/speech-impaired voters. The readiness of facilities such as ramps and mobility aids will greatly assist them in reaching the polling stations.

The DKI Jakarta Provincial KPU demonstrates its commitment to promoting accessibility by providing ramps for wheelchairs, Braille templates, and special assistance for individuals with intellectual disabilities or hearing impairments. In addition, the training provided to polling station officers aims to enhance their understanding in serving disabled voters. With this effort, the KPU aims to create a more inclusive electoral environment, allowing persons with disabilities to participate actively and independently in the political process, in accordance with the principles of accessibility and affirmative action theory, which are expected to reduce the barriers they face.

Factors Hindering Accessibility of Political Participation for Persons with Disabilities in the 2024 Elections in DKI Jakarta Province

Factors hindering the accessibility of political participation for persons with disabilities in the 2024 elections in DKI Jakarta Province reflect various structural and technical challenges that impede the full involvement of disabled voters.

The polling station locations that are not ideal for people with disabilities, such as slippery, narrow, or flood-prone areas, contradict the safety and usability principles outlined in the accessibility principles and guidelines. The limitations of facilities such as the delayed preparation of Braille templates or inadequate ramps, as conveyed by Mulyawan and Sohiih, indicate that the provision of facilities at polling stations has not yet fully adhered to the principles of independence and ease of access as regulated in the Minister of Public Works Regulation Number 30/PRT/M/2006.

Furthermore, the lack of understanding and sensitivity among KPPS officers towards the

special needs of persons with disabilities poses a serious obstacle. Although the KPPS has been trained according to the theory of affirmative action regulated in PKPU No. 3 of 2019, there is still a gap between training and implementation in the field. Nazeyla, a hearing-impaired individual, experienced confusion due to the lack of clear and adequate explanations regarding the voting process, and the absence of sign language interpreters to assist, which reflects a failure to adhere to the principle of simplicity and comprehensibility in service design. This experience underscores that although affirmative action has been pursued to increase disability participation, the implementation on the ground is still far from perfect.

The low public awareness regarding the importance of accessibility for people with disabilities also becomes a significant hindrance. Sensitivity to the presence and needs of disabled voters is often overlooked, worsening the situation at polling stations. As expressed by Mulyawan and reinforced by the observations of the DKI Jakarta Provincial KPU, the challenges in implementing these accessibility principles highlight the need for greater efforts to create a truly inclusive election environment. Therefore, although the KPU has made efforts to improve accessibility, there are still many challenges that need to be addressed so that persons with disabilities can participate in the elections fully and independently.

The driving and hindering factors of accessibility to political participation for persons with disabilities in the 2024 elections indicate that despite efforts from the DKI Jakarta Provincial KPU, which is the organizer of the 2024 elections, there are still several challenges that need to be addressed. Driving factors such as training for officers, the provision of special facilities like Braille templates, and raising public awareness about the importance of accessibility for the disabled are positive steps. However, hindering factors such as less-than-ideal polling station locations and limited understanding among officers indicate the need for further improvements. Therefore, to improve the quality of services and create a more inclusive election, it is very important to address these hindering factors so that persons with disabilities can participate fully and equally in the democratic process in the future.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings regarding the accessibility of political participation for persons with disabilities in the 2024 elections in DKI Jakarta, several achievements and challenges

ges have been identified. In terms of non-physical accessibility, the KPU has made efforts to raise awareness through socialization and collaboration with disability organizations related to elections. There are guidelines for disability-friendly services, TPS maps, and technical guidance for KPSS on how to assist voters with disabilities.

Meanwhile, in terms of physical accessibility, several polling stations have been equipped with more inclusive facilities, such as ballot papers with Braille templates for the visually impaired, accessible tables in voting booths, and ramps to facilitate access for wheelchair users with disabilities. However, despite the significant efforts made by the DKI Jakarta KPU to increase electoral participation and assist disabled voters, there is still an uneven implementation of accessibility, both in physical and non-physical aspects.

Factors that support the participation of persons with disabilities in elections include: the KPU collaborating with various disability organizations, the presence of companions for persons with disabilities at polling stations, and training polling station officers to address the special needs of disabled voters. Accessible polling stations in several areas and friendly polling station officers also provide a good foundation for increasing participation.

However, there are several hindering factors that still need to be addressed, including the uneven dissemination of information to persons with disabilities despite socialization efforts through both direct events and social media, the limited physical facilities such as the lack of Braille template ballots at polling stations, and the insensitivity of some polling station officers to the specific needs of persons with disabilities. The selection of polling station locations is inadequate due to densely populated areas without ramps prepared for the visually impaired or physically disabled.

This condition causes most people with disabilities to experience difficulties in exercising their voting rights comfortably and independently.

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