

Fulfilment of Accessibility Rights For Persons With Disabilities In Class IIA Correctional Institutions In Parepare City

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the implementation of accessibility rights fulfillment for inmates with disabilities at the Class IIA Correctional Institution in Parepare City. Persons with disabilities are a vulnerable group requiring special treatment in accordance with human rights principles and national regulations, such as Law Number 8 of 2016 concerning Persons with Disabilities and Law Number 22 of 2022 concerning Corrections. This research employs a normative-empirical method with a statutory and social approach through literature study, observation, and direct interviews with prison officials and inmates with disabilities. The results show that the Class IIA Correctional Institution in Parepare has taken significant steps to fulfill accessibility rights, such as providing special shuttle services, rooms with sitting toilets, separation of inmates with disabilities, intensive care, and wheelchair facilities. In addition, there is collaboration with the Health Office, Ministry of Social Affairs, and other agencies to support optimal services. However, there are still shortcomings, such as the unavailability of hearing aids for inmates with hearing impairments. In general, the Class IIA Correctional Institution in Parepare demonstrates a commitment to providing inclusive and non-discriminatory services, including the right to interact with other inmates. These findings highlight the importance of continuous improvement to create a disability-friendly correctional environment.

Keywords: accessibility, Correctional Institutions, human rights, inmates with disabilities

1. INTRODUCTION

Currently, with the passage of time and advancements in science and technology, crime rates are increasing. Anyone, from children to adults, men to women, can be involved in these crimes, regardless of age or gender (Romado et al., 2021). It should be noted that the crime rate in Indonesia continues to increase from time to time. According to the Indonesian National Police, 288,472 crimes occurred in Indonesia in 2023, an increase of 20.46% compared to 239,481 cases in 2021 (PMJ NEWS, 2023).

One of the institutions that take care of criminals is a correctional institution whose task is to provide special guidance to prisoners so that after serving their sentence in a correctional institution, they become better until they become good members of society. Prisoners who serve their sentences in correctional institutions and receive guidance, both from correctional officers,

must be supported by the community so that they can be accepted back by the community and actively participate in social interaction and community life (Ferry et al., 2024).

Within correctional institutions, there are various types of prisoners, including women, men, children, the elderly, and those with special needs such as people with disabilities. People with disabilities are a vulnerable group and often face various challenges in everyday life, including in the criminal justice system (Allo, 2022).

Every inmate has the right to receive the best guidance in accordance with the provisions set forth in Law Number 22 of 2022. This law states that every correctional client is entitled to guidance while in the institution, and officers play a crucial role in implementing these activities. The aim is for officers to support inmates in developing their best potential during their incarceration. During their sentence, it is essential to pay close attention to the rights of inmates with disabilities. One of the most vital rights is the right to health, as they have physical, intellectual, mental, and sensory limitations (Eric et al., 2024).

Inmates with disabilities are also more vulnerable to discriminatory actions. Therefore, special attention must be given to their health aspects. In Indonesia, the rights of inmates with disabilities are regulated in various laws, such as Law Number 39 of 1999 concerning Human Rights (Subarji, 2021). This law emphasises that every individual, without exception, has the right to fair and equal treatment before the law (Eric et al., 2024). Article 9 of Law No. 8/2016 stipulates that people with disabilities or special needs have the right to be considered equal in the eyes of the law and to be considered as subjects of law. Therefore, this article indicates that people with disabilities can be punished in both criminal and civil matters if they commit offences against the law (Wirawan, 2021).

However, regarding the fulfillment of the rights of persons with disabilities, Article 61 paragraph (2) letter e of Law Number 22 of 2022 on Corrections states that Detention Centers, Temporary Child Placement Institutions, Correctional Institutions, and Special Child Development Institutions are required to provide special treatment for persons with disabilities (Bramandita, 2023) even if they are inmates, additionally, Article 37 of Law Number 8 of 2016 concerning Persons with Disabilities states that detention centers and correctional institutions are required to provide disability service units. These units function to provide adaptation services for inmates with disabilities for six months, provide facilities and infrastructure to support accessibility, such as mobility aids (wheelchairs, canes, and other walking aids) for persons with physical disabilities, hearing aids for the hearing-impaired, and special needs, including medications required by persons with disabilities during detention and guidance, as well as rehabilitation services for those with mental disabilities (Yustina Sari, 2025).

The facilities provided must be able to support their human rights and special needs, such as physical accessibility, health services, and specialised assistance (Hasanah et al., 2024). According to a legal expert, Abdul Fickar Hadjar, emphasised that inmates with disabilities should receive facilities equal to the rights of the general public, including the right to life guaranteed by the state, in accordance with international conventions and national regulations (Febrian et al., 2024).

In this context, correctional institutions must provide access facilities that make it easier for them to follow the coaching process without hindrance, including the presence of competent assistants, translators, and medical personnel as well as assistive devices that make it easier for persons with disabilities to adapt to the correctional environment (Silpia et al., 2023). All stakeholders must be committed to providing adequate facilities and infrastructure for persons with disabilities (Yustina Sari, 2025). These efforts include improving physical facilities, special pathways, staff training, and developing policies that support the sustainability of their rights during detention (Randi Aldi Garnadi, 2023). Thus, providing adequate facilities for persons with disabilities will strengthen the principles of social justice and respect for the rights of persons with disabilities in Indonesia.

Currently, the Class IIA Correctional Institution in Parepare houses two inmates with disabilities: one with a speech impairment and one with a physical disability. Although all inmates are treated equally before the law, the prison provides essential special treatment for inmates with disabilities. This includes shuttle services when needed to facilitate their accessibility and placement in special rooms equipped with sitting toilets for their comfort and mobility. If necessary, inmates with disabilities are also separated from other inmates to receive special care.

By highlighting how correctional institution policies for inmates with disabilities are implemented at the local level, this research aims not only to fill the empirical data gap but also to understand how the fulfillment of accessibility rights for persons with disabilities at the Class IIA Correctional Institution in Parepare is realized in practice, and to identify measures taken to improve accessibility rights services in the institution. This study also focuses on the issues of how the implementation of accessibility rights fulfillment for persons with disabilities is carried out and what efforts are made to improve services for inmates with disabilities at the Class IIA Correctional Institution in Parepare. The research is expected to provide both theoretical and practical benefits. Theoretically, it can enrich academic studies on the fulfillment of accessibility rights for inmates with disabilities, especially regarding the implementation of Law Number 22 of 2022 and Law Number 8 of 2016. The results can also serve as a reference for academics,

researchers, and correctional system observers in developing concepts, methods, and instruments to evaluate the implementation of rights for inmates with disabilities.

Practically, this research can serve as input for the Class IIA Correctional Institution in Parepare and related agencies to identify barriers, needs, and strategic steps to improve services for inmates with disabilities. Thus, the results can be used as a basis for formulating policies, procedures, and the procurement of facilities and infrastructure that meet the needs of inmates with disabilities, in order to realize an inclusive, humane correctional system that upholds human rights values.

2. RESEARCH METHODS

This research was conducted at the Class IIA Correctional Institution in Parepare, located in South Sulawesi. Data collection was carried out in June, focusing on direct observation and interviews within the correctional environment. The research uses a normative-empirical approach, combining statutory analysis and social approaches. This approach integrates analysis of regulations related to the rights of inmates with disabilities (such as Law Number 22 of 2022 on Corrections and Law Number 8 of 2016 on Persons with Disabilities) with direct observation and interviews with inmates with disabilities, correctional officers, and relevant parties in the Class IIA Correctional Institution in Parepare to assess actual implementation in the field. The study is complemented by literature review to strengthen normative analysis of regulations, as well as to identify obstacles and best practices in fulfilling accessibility rights for persons with disabilities.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Fulfillment Of Accessibility Rights For Persons With Disabilities At The Class Iia Correctional Institution In Parepare City

The Class IIA Correctional Institution in Parepare is also equipped with facilities for inmates with disabilities. They have prepared special pathways for inmates with disabilities, wheelchairs, and provide shuttle services from staff when needed. The institution continues to strive to provide good facilities and infrastructure, although it acknowledges that there are still areas for improvement. One area of focus is the provision of hearing aids, as a commitment to meet the needs of inmates with hearing impairments. This commitment is strengthened by close cooperation with various related agencies, such as the Health Office, Ministry of Health, Social Services, Ministry of Religious Affairs, and the Education Office. This partnership ensures a comprehensive approach to meeting the needs of inmates with disabilities. The institution asserts that there are no significant obstacles in their services and is determined to always do its best. The



prison even has a certified clinic in collaboration with the Health Office, ensuring that medical referrals are provided as soon as necessary.

A correctional institution, managed by the Ministry of Law and Human Rights in Indonesia, functions as a place of detention and rehabilitation for inmates serving prison sentences. The main goal of correctional institutions is to rehabilitate, educate, and reintegrate inmates so they can become productive, law-abiding citizens after completing their sentences (Silpia & Vivia, 2023).

Correctional institutions are places where inmates undergo rehabilitation programs. These programs are carried out in accordance with the principles of criminal procedure law and prevailing regulations. One of the main objectives of correctional programs is to help inmates regain the ability to reintegrate into society and eliminate the negative stigma associated with their offenses (Pamungkas & Kurniawan Tri. M, 2022).

Inmates are individuals who have been found guilty by a final court decision and are serving prison sentences. However, Law Number 8 of 2016 concerning Persons with Disabilities refers to people who experience intellectual, sensory, physical, or mental limitations (Ramadhan & Novianti, 2018). Due to these limitations, persons with disabilities face challenges and difficulties in participating and interacting in society. Therefore, inmates with disabilities are correctional clients who have disabilities and limitations in physical, sensory, intellectual, or mental aspects (Ferry et al., 2024).

Correctional institutions generally have various programs and activities to assist inmates in the rehabilitation process, such as education, skills training, employment, and mental health services. They are also responsible for ensuring that the rights of inmates are protected and for supervising them during their sentences in accordance with applicable laws. However, conditions in various correctional institutions can vary, and issues such as overcrowding, violence, or poor conditions often become concerns and challenges that must be addressed by the responsible parties to improve the correctional system (Silpia & Vivia, 2023).

Ideally, correctional institutions should provide an inclusive and friendly environment for all inmates, including those with disabilities (Silpia & Vivia, 2023). This view is supported by several well-known philosophers and jurists, including John Rawls, Ronald Dworkin, and Martha Nussbaum. These theorists argue that all individuals have the same right to fair and equal treatment under the law (Alfiyah, 2018). In this case, the theory of equality (Sunardi Purwanda et al., 2024), in terms of legal protection for persons with disabilities, emphasising the importance of eliminating discrimination and ensuring equal access to services (Sunardi Purwanda, 2025), education,



employment, and participation in society as well as in the prison environment.(Sabir & Darmawansya, 2024).

However, despite the existence of strong regulations, the implementation of the fulfilment of the rights of prisoners with disabilities in several prisons in Indonesia still has challenges. In this context, this research is important and original because it specifically raises a case study in Parepare City Class IIA Correctional Facility, which has not been widely studied before in academic literature. The Class IIA Correctional Institution of Parepare City shows extraordinary dedication in providing inclusive and humane services for prisoners with disabilities. The facts on the ground show the prison's serious efforts in fulfilling their rights and special needs, ensuring that there is no form of discrimination.

The Class IIA Correctional Institution of Parepare City is a technical implementation unit under the Ministry of Immigration and Corrections in South Sulawesi, Indonesia. This correctional facility has two inmates with disabilities, one of whom is physically disabled and deaf, who has physical limitations and needs better accessibility for daily activities and requires hearing aid assistance to make it easier to communicate with other prisoners. Meanwhile, another prisoner is a speech impaired person, who requires alternative means of communication and special support in order to interact with officers and fellow inmates

As a country based on the principles of law, Indonesia has an obligation to uphold the protection of human rights (Sunardi Purwanda et al., 2025) in accordance with the applicable legal basis. When a person becomes a prisoner of a correctional institution, they are absolutely restricted in their freedom of movement. However, it is important to remember that this restriction is the only aspect that is reduced, and prisoners still have other rights like citizens in general. As stipulated in Article 28 G Paragraph 1 of the 1945 Constitution, every individual is fundamentally entitled to the protection of themselves and their families. This emphasises the importance of protecting the basic rights of individuals, including prisoners. However, this principle does not only apply at the national level, but also at the international level (Silpia & Vivia, 2023).

Parepare City Correctional Centre Class IIA demonstrates a strong commitment to providing inclusive and friendly services for prisoners with disabilities. Various specialised facilities and infrastructure have been prepared to ensure their rights are fulfilled and they can serve their sentences with comfort and dignity.

The facilities owned by Class IIA Parepare City Correctional Facility for prisoners with disabilities are medicines provided by the Correctional Facility for sick prisoners and it is free of charge, then complete medical equipment provided by the clinic such as tension devices, thermometers, or first aid equipment, there is a pick-up vehicle which is ready to take prisoners to



the hospital if needed, and last but not least the existence of assistive devices for prisoners with disabilities, namely sticks and wheelchairs to support the accessibility of prisoners who are physically disabled.

In addition to facilities, the prison also has infrastructure that is friendly to persons with disabilities, namely the existence of a special room for persons with disabilities where this room is separated from other prisoners' rooms, then there is a special toilet for prisoners with disabilities where the toilet provided is a sitting toilet to facilitate the accessibility of prisoners with disabilities when in the toilet, there is also a certified clinic, and finally there is a special path for persons with disabilities that makes it easy to move from one place to another in the prison.

Implementation of Accessibility Rights in correctional institutions

Parepare City Class IIA Correctional Facility demonstrates a real commitment in creating an accessible environment for inmates with disabilities by providing supportive physical facilities. To facilitate mobility within the correctional centre, there are ramps that allow wheelchair users to move smoothly from one place to another. Along these ramps, sturdy handrails are installed, providing extra support and safety for those who need assistance when walking. In the specialised rooms provided, there are specially designed access toilets, equipped with handrails around the toilet area for ease of use. In addition, the prison also has a ready supply of wheelchairs, ensuring that any inmate with limited mobility can move around independently and comfortably. The availability of these facilities reflects the efforts of Class IIA Parepare Prison to fulfil inclusivity standards and provide humane services to all inmates, without exception.

The synergy of Parepare City Class IIA Correctional Institution demonstrates a strong commitment in providing holistic and integrated services for prisoners through solid cooperation with various local and central government agencies. These synergies ensure that services are not only limited to legal and security aspects, but also include health, social and spiritual aspects. Partnerships with the Health Office and the Ministry of Health guarantee the availability of quality health services at the correctional centre clinics, including the provision of medicines and prompt referrals. On the other hand, cooperation with the Social Affairs Office ensures attention to the welfare and social reintegration of prisoners. Meanwhile, cooperation with the Ministry of Religious Affairs allows for continuous spiritual and moral guidance, and the partnership with the Education Office opens access for prisoners to proper education, with inmates in prison able to attend package C schools. The existence of this cross-sectoral cooperation proves that Class IIA Parepare Correctional Facility does not work alone, but rather builds a strong ecosystem of support to prepare prisoners to return to society as better individuals.



From the perspective of inmates with disabilities themselves, there are strong indications that the services provided by prisons are good and friendly. They express a feeling of comfort in correctional facilities, although they sometimes experience illness, but always get the treatment and medication needed. Public facilities such as food are also considered good, and special toilet facilities for them are considered convenient. They also appreciate that there is no charge for taking medication, indicating accessible and financially barrier free health services. Correctional officers are considered to be swift in providing assistance whenever requested, creating a supportive and responsive environment. Despite receiving special treatment and rooms, prisoners with disabilities still have the right to mingle with other prisoners, signalling the absence of discrimination in relationships. Currently, the three prisoners with disabilities are housed together in a special room. The efforts of Class IIA Parepare Correctional Facility in providing this special treatment are in line with the spirit of applicable regulations in Indonesia. The existing service practices in this correctional facility reflect the mandate of Article 9 of Law No. 8/2016 on Persons with Disabilities which emphasises the right of persons with disabilities to obtain equal access with other people. In addition, this service is also very relevant to Article 61 paragraph (2) letter e of Law Number 22 of 2022 concerning Corrections, which mandates the fulfilment of prisoners' rights to receive health services and proper food (Dwi et al., 2023), including specialised services for inmates with disabilities.

Nevertheless, in an effort to achieve optimal service delivery, this study identified one area that correctional institutions should focus on for further optimisation, namely the provision of hearing aids for inmates who are hearing impaired or deaf. This is not an obstacle that hinders overall service delivery, but rather a focus area for continuous improvement that reflects the correctional institutions commitment to improving services and meeting the specific needs of each individual.

4. CONCLUSION

Parepare City Class IIA Correctional Institution has demonstrated a strong commitment to providing appropriate and inclusive services for prisoners with disabilities, in line with the spirit of Law No. 8/2016 on Persons with Disabilities. The prison has provided various special facilities, such as rooms equipped with sitting toilets and pick-up services for prisoners with disabilities, which are a form of fulfilling accessibility rights. In accordance with Article 61 paragraph (2) letter e of Law Number 22 Year 2022 on Corrections, prisoners are separated to receive intensive care and special services according to their needs. Collaboration with relevant agencies, such as the Health Office and the Ministry of Social Affairs, also strengthens support for the health and



welfare of inmates, reflecting the collaboration mandated by regulations to support persons with disabilities. Overall, inmates feel comfortable and receive friendly and responsive services from prison officers, which confirms the absence of discrimination and is in line with Article 9 of Law No. 8/2016 which guarantees the right of persons with disabilities to interact without discrimination.

However, despite the many positive aspects that have been achieved, there are still challenges that need to be addressed, one of which is the lack of hearing aids for prisoners with hearing problems. This need indicates that there is room for improvement in the provision of more complete aids, although prisoners still feel cared for and do not experience discrimination in interacting with other prisoners. With ongoing efforts to improve service quality, the Class IIA Correctional Institution of Parepare City is committed to creating an inclusive and supportive environment for all prisoners, including those with disabilities, and continues to strive to fulfil service standards in accordance with the mandate of national regulations.

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