

## Implementation of the Voting Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the 2024 General Election in Koroha Village, District. Kodeoha, Kab. North Kolaka

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### Abstrak

*The purpose of this research is to identify the obstacles faced by persons with disabilities in exercising their voting rights, evaluate the efforts that have been made to improve the accessibility and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the electoral process, and provide policy recommendations that can improve accessibility and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in general elections. Researchers use a type of research in the form of qualitative research which is more concerned with forming substantive based on concepts that arise in empirical data. Researchers do not feel they know what they do not know, so the research design developed is always open to the possibility of various changes needed and flexible to the conditions in the field. This research uses interview, observation, and documentation techniques to obtain relevant data. The results of the research The implementation of voting for persons with disabilities in the village is quite good, with the efforts of local election organizers to facilitate accessibility needs. The participation of people with disabilities in the 2024 General Election in Koroha Village is quite high, showing an increase in their awareness and trust. What can be considered is increasing socialization, providing adequate accessibility facilities at all polling stations, and training for KPPS officers to be more sensitive to the needs of persons with disabilities. General elections as a means of popular sovereignty to elect members of the House of Representatives, members of the Regional Representatives Council, the President, and Vice President are a manifestation of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia (UUD NRI)*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

General elections (Pemilu) are the process of selecting someone to fill a particular political position in Indonesia. These positions can vary, from president/executive positions, people's representatives/legislative institutions at various levels of government, to village heads. General elections have an important purpose in a democratic system. The main goal is to implement a democratic system that prioritizes popular sovereignty, where government power comes from the people, by the people, and for the people. Apart from that, in the process of implementing the right to vote for persons with disabilities, the KPU experienced obstacles and challenges from the community and family, due to a lack of basic knowledge of fulfilling the right to vote for persons with disabilities who have the same rights.(Sundarti, Juwardi, & Nida, 2024)

The right to be elected in general elections is a constitutional right of citizens guaranteed by the 1945 Constitution. However, there are discriminatory regulations where citizens who are civil servants must act neutrally if they want to exercise their right to be elected in legislative general elections. Indonesian Positive Law is guaranteed in Article 43 Paragraph (1) of Law (UU) No. 39 of 1999 concerning Human Rights which states: "Every citizen has the right to be elected and vote in elections based on equal rights through direct,

general, free voting, confidential, honest and fair (luber and jurdil) in accordance with statutory provisions"(Fahlevi & B. Rahman, 2024)

The Right to Vote for Persons with Disabilities in General Elections in article 1 number 1 of Law No. 8/2016 states that persons with disabilities are anyone who experiences physical, intellectual, mental and/or sensory limitations for a long period of time who in interacting with the environment may experience obstacles. and difficulties in participating fully and effectively with other citizens on the basis of equal rights(Ndaumanu, 2020)

Korooha Village is located in Kodeoha District, North Kolaka Regency. The village has a significant population of people with disabilities. Based on data from KPPS officers, the number of people with disabilities in Korooha village is 72. From this data, those who have the right to vote in general elections are 743. However, in practice, people with disabilities often face various obstacles in exercising their voting rights. These obstacles can include poor accessibility, lack of public understanding of the rights of people with disabilities, and lack of support from local governments.

The aim of this research is to identify the obstacles faced by people with disabilities in exercising their right to vote. Apart from that, this research also aims to evaluate the efforts that have been made to increase the accessibility and inclusion of people with disabilities in the general election process. Apart from that, this research also aims to provide policy recommendations that can improve the accessibility and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in general elections, so that their participation can be increased and their rights can be respected and protected.

From the results of previous research, according to(Sundarti, Juwardi, & Nida, 2024)"The Role of the General Election Commission in Efforts to Fulfill the Rights and Access of Persons with Disabilities as a Form of Citizen Participation." The results of the research show that the Tangerang Regency general election commission is fulfilling the right to vote for people with disabilities by utilizing its role as organizer of general elections in the Tangerang regency environment. The process of fulfilling voting rights is carried out by collecting data on voters with disabilities who meet the voter requirements, providing election access services for voters with disabilities with the aim of improving the quality of voters with disabilities, and making it easier for people with disabilities to participate in the entire election implementation process in Tangerang Regency, apart from that in In the process of implementing the right to vote for persons with disabilities, the KPU experienced obstacles and challenges from the community and family, due to a lack of basic knowledge of fulfilling the right to vote for persons with disabilities who have the same rights.

Apart from that, from the research results according to(Fahlevi & B. Rahman, 2024)"Fulfillment of Citizens' Political Rights by the General Election Commission (KPU) of Banjarmasin City (Case Study of Persons with Disabilities)". The results of this research show that the implementation of the Political Rights of Persons with Disabilities by the Banjarmasin City KPU is carried out in two ways. First, by providing interpreters for deaf people in outreach activities regarding procedures and mechanisms related to general elections. Second, the provision of facilities and infrastructure for blind people with disabilities is provided with braille aids in elections. As well as providing wheelchair access and friendly services for people with disabilities in the City of Banjarmasin.

During observations, researchers found several problems in the field when conducting general elections: The 2024 General Election in Korooha Village, Kodeoha District, North Kolaka Regency faced significant challenges in implementing the right to vote for people with disabilities. Even though the law guarantees the right to vote for all citizens, the reality on the ground shows that there are obstacles that prevent people with disabilities from fully

participating in the democratic process. Lack of adequate facilities and accommodation is the main obstacle that must be overcome.

Apart from that, one of the problems that arises is the lack of election officials who are trained to provide assistance to voters with disabilities. Many officers still feel awkward and do not have sufficient skills to communicate and facilitate people with disabilities effectively. This can cause confusion, inconvenience, and even refusal for people with disabilities to exercise their rights.

Therefore, with the problems above. Researchers put this title on the Implementation of the Voting Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the 2024 General Election in Koroha Village, District. Kodeoha, Kab. North Kolaka. Because to identify the obstacles faced by people with disabilities in exercising their right to vote, evaluate the efforts that have been made to increase the accessibility and inclusion of people with disabilities in the general election process, and provide policy recommendations that can improve accessibility and protect the rights of people with disabilities disability in general elections.

## 2. RESEARCH METHOD

Researchers use this type of research in the form of qualitative research which pays more attention to substantive formation based on concepts that arise in empirical data. Researchers do not feel they know what they do not know, so the research design developed is always open to the possibility of various necessary changes and is flexible to existing conditions in the field.(Kharima & M. Ihsan, 2023). This research uses interview, observation and documentation techniques to obtain relevant data

## 3. RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1. Research result

Implementation of the right to vote for people with disabilities in the 2024 General Election in Koroha Village, Kodeoha District, North Kolaka Regency is an important effort to ensure full and equal participation for people with disabilities in the democratic process. Several results of interviews and documentation conducted during field research regarding the Implementation of the Voting Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the 2024 General Election in Koroha Village, District. Kodeoha, Kab. North Kolaka



Figure 1.  
Election atmosphere

Outside the polling station, the atmosphere was also filled with joy and appreciation. Residents congratulated each other and appreciated the active participation of people with disabilities in this democratic party. They feel that efforts to create inclusive elections have borne fruit, where the voice of every citizen, regardless of disability, can be heard and respected.

According to Jumaldi Sandi, the atmosphere outside the polling station in Koroha Village, Kodeoha District, North Kolaka Regency in this election was filled with joy and appreciation from local residents.

*"He observed that residents congratulated each other and appreciated the active participation of people with disabilities in the ongoing democratic election celebrations. Feel that efforts to create inclusive elections in the region have borne fruit, where the voice of every citizen, including people with disabilities, can be heard and respected. Highlighting the steps taken to facilitate and accommodate people with disabilities to participate in voting at the TPS in Koroha Village, as well as appreciating this positive situation as progress in creating more open and fair elections for all residents in the area."* (Results of Interview with Students, February 14 2024)

This reflects the spirit of inclusiveness and appreciation for the participation of all citizens in the democratic process, as well as pride in achieving elections that are more open and fairer for all levels of society, including people with disabilities.

Apart from that, Wahda explained that outside the TPS in Koroha Village, Kodeoha District, North Kolaka Regency.

*"There were many people gathered and observing the voting process. Some people appeared to be discussing and arguing about the election results, while others were just watching quietly. There were also several people selling food and soft drinks to voters and observers. The atmosphere around the polling station is generally peaceful and orderly."* (Results of interviews with residents, 14 February 2024)

Based on this, both of them showed that voting in Koroha Village went smoothly and positively, with high participation from the community, including people with disabilities. The positive and inclusive atmosphere at the Koroha Village TPS shows the success of efforts to create elections that are more open and fairer for all residents



Figure 2.  
Elderly People with Disabilities (Don't Know How to Read)

In Koroha Village, there is a group of elderly residents with disabilities who do not have the ability to read. They are the previous generation who lived in a time where access to education was very limited, especially for those with physical or mental limitations. However, the enthusiasm and perseverance of the elderly residents with disabilities who do not know how to read in Koroha Village should be applauded. They rely on the strength of community and help each other overcome everyday difficulties. Family and neighbors are the main sources of support, both emotional and practical. Even though resources are limited, the village government strives to provide assistance and special services for them, such as reading important information or helping them access health services. Apart from that, the younger generation in the village also plays an important role in bridging communication and ensuring that the voices and needs of elderly residents with disabilities who do not know how to read are heard and met.

According to Muhammad Salahuddin regarding Elderly Citizens with Disabilities (Don't Know How to Read) in the election in Koroha Village:

"In the election process in Koroha Village, elderly residents with disabilities (can't read) often face many obstacles. They have difficulty understanding ballot papers, candidate names and other written information. This makes them vulnerable to being exploited by certain individuals who take advantage of their limitations. Many of them end up just following other people's directions without understanding the real choices. The village government needs to provide special facilities and assistance so that elderly residents with disabilities can participate in elections independently and understand their political rights." (*Results of interviews with residents, 14 February 2024*).

In Koroha Village, elderly residents with disabilities who cannot read often face challenges in participating in elections. Without the ability to read, they have difficulty understanding the ballot and voting for the desired candidate. This situation can cause them to feel excluded from the democratic process. Apart from that, according to Mr Kamri, elderly residents with disabilities who cannot read in Koroha Village face many obstacles in participating in the elections.

"They have difficulty understanding the ballot paper and choosing the candidate they want. This makes them feel that they are not involved in the democratic process, said Mr Kamri. He added that the village government and election committee need to provide special assistance, such as assistance by volunteers or the use of voice technology, so that the right to vote for senior citizens with disabilities can be realized." (*Results of interviews with residents, 14 February 2024*)

Based on this, to overcome this, the village government and election committee need to provide special assistance, such as assistance by volunteers or the use of voice technology, so that elderly residents with disabilities can exercise their voting rights equally and with dignity.

Therefore, the results of the research on the implementation of voting for people with disabilities in this village are quite good, with the efforts of local election organizers to facilitate accessibility needs. Participation of people with disabilities in the 2024 elections in Koroha Village is quite high, showing an increase in their awareness and

trust. What can be considered is increasing socialization, providing adequate accessibility facilities at all polling stations, as well as training for KPPS officers to be more sensitive to the needs of people with disabilities.

### **3.2. Discussion**

#### **Suffrage**

The right to vote is one of the important political rights in a democratic system, where people who reach voting age are given the opportunity to participate in determining the country's leaders and policies. The right to vote is actually one of the human rights (HAM) that is inherent in humans and its implementation is guaranteed by the state. Because its nature is almost the same as other rights or is general (universal), the right to vote is believed to be a basic right that must be fulfilled regardless of differences in nationality, race or gender. (Rahmanto, 2019)

As stated by (Razak, 2023), the Election Law which provides opportunities for people with disabilities as voters is in line with the Constitutional Court Decision Number 135/PUU-XIII/2015 which states that people with disabilities in the case of this decision are mentally retarded (people with disabilities with mental disorders) have the same opportunities in elections as voters. As long as they do not experience mental disorders and/or permanent memory problems which according to mental health professionals have eliminated a person's ability to vote in elections. Every citizen has the same right to exercise active voting rights and passive voting rights. In using Active suffrage and Passive suffrage, these two rights are rights that every citizen has constitutionally based on the 1945 Constitution. Considering that Active suffrage and Passive suffrage are constitutional rights, it is not justified for anyone to deny this citizen's right. The 1945 Constitution constitutionally provides a legal basis for every citizen to be involved in administering the state administration and government of the Republic of Indonesia. (Muzayanah, 2021).

#### **Persons with Disabilities**

According to (Rahmanto, 2019) states that a person with a mental disability is actually someone who experiences disturbances in the function of thinking, emotions and behavior, however, this condition is an episodic condition or not permanent. Even though sufferers experience disabilities in some mental functions, they can still live normally and are able to determine what is best. However, to make people with mental disabilities normal as before, support is needed from the family and from the community so that the negative stigma that people with mental disabilities have already received can be immediately removed.

According to Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 8 of 2016 article 1 states that a person with a disability is anyone who experiences physical, intellectual, mental and/or sensory limitations for a long period of time who in interacting with the environment may experience obstacles and difficulties in participating fully. and effectively with other citizens based on equal rights (Madhat, 2022)

#### **General elections**

Election is an abbreviation of General Election, which is a means of popular sovereignty to be able to elect members of the People's Representative Council, members of the Regional Representative Council, Regional People's Representative Council, and the President and Vice President which are carried out on the basis of the principles of direct, general, free, secret, honest and fair (Luber Jurdil) as stated in Article 1 number 1 and Article 2 of the Republic of Indonesia Law Number 7 of 2017

concerning General Elections, hereinafter referred to as the Election Law (Razak, 2023). Conceptually, general elections are implemented through "handing over" some of the power and rights to represent the people in parliament and government. The people can hold the government accountable through this mechanism.

Community participation in elections is a basic element of democracy. In classical democratic theory, citizens are seen as interested and willing to participate in politics. In a democratic country, the people are the central point in administering the state so that all policies taken by the government must not conflict with the interests of the people (Saidah & Anggraeni, 2023). Elections are also a manifestation of channeling citizens' political participation in the context of national and state life. The higher level of political participation indicates that citizens follow, understand and involve themselves in state activities. On the other hand, a low level of political participation generally indicates that citizens lack appreciation and interest in state issues or activities. As a country that adheres to the ideology of democracy, general elections (elections) are the key to creating democracy. In Indonesia, elections are a real form and a means for society to express its sovereignty towards the state and government (Sitorus & Sitorus, Edu Society: Journal of Education, Social Sciences and Community Service).

### **The Voting Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

The right to vote for people with disabilities is an important issue in the context of democracy and human rights. In Indonesia, there are efforts to accommodate the voting rights of people with disabilities, especially people with mental disabilities. The Circular of the General Election Commission of the Republic of Indonesia states that people with mental disabilities have the right to vote and can be registered as voters. According to (Putri & Effendy, 2023), Persons with disabilities have the same position, rights and obligations as non-disabled people. What is meant by equal rights are conditions that provide opportunities and/or provide access for workers with disabilities to channel their potential in all aspects of state and community administration, including work. Persons with disabilities are subject to the law, in this case they also have the right to take legal action.

The right to elect and vote for people with disabilities is a constitutional right that should be realized and real for individuals and groups. Persons with Disabilities are those who have long-term physical, mental, sensory and intellectual limitations, this will become an obstacle to their full participation in society and the state. The principles in article 13 Number 8 of 2018 concerning Persons with Disabilities regulate very rigidly and become the operational basis for creating prosperous and independent persons with disabilities (Riva'i & Budiman, 2023)

## **4. CONCLUSION**

General Elections (Pemilu) as a means of popular sovereignty to elect members of the People's Representative Council, members of the Regional Representative Council, President and Vice President are a manifestation of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia (UUD NRI). Implementation of the voting rights of persons with disabilities in elections common in Koroha Village, District. Kodeoha, Kab. North Kolaka in 2024 is an important process to ensure that all citizens, including people with disabilities, can participate actively in democracy.

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