Chapter 10
The Importance of Rural Library Services Based on Social Inclusion in Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

Libraries provide services for anyone, regardless of their social or economic interests, so that they have a non-discriminatory nature in providing good services in the library. Rural library into the container provision of reading materials as a source of education and community empowerment. Facing COVID-19 is not easy. It becomes a challenge for community to stay active and productive. Social inclusion has been introduced in many public libraries in Indonesia. Through this social inclusion, the library wants to further improve the welfare of community, especially in the rural areas. This chapter discusses the conceptualization of information for development which accommodates the concepts of advancement of literacy and development information for the community. The purpose of this service is to be able to provide services to rural communities so that it is easier to access information.

INTRODUCTION

Public libraries are an important entity in local communities. Not only Urban public libraries but also rural public libraries today are helping shape the future of the cities. The rural libraries or "Taman Baca Masyarakat" offered the development of various cultural resources for the community and have become a type of socio-cultural institution. They provide the capital by which people can empower themselves and their communities. Social inclusion is an effort to place individual dignity and independence as the main capital to achieve ideal quality of life. Through social inclusion, it encourages all elements of society to receive equal treatment and get the same opportunities. 2020 is the toughest year for all

people around the world, covid-19 has been hard on all of us, and getting used to a new way of living does come with its challenges. The covid-19 pandemic has an impact on the social and economic side of the community. Restrictions on doing outside activities have made many people lose their jobs and the economy is unstable. Through social inclusion, it is not only about how the library gives the services but it can provide training programs and socialization to the community, also ensures that the training program provided is on the right target and beneficial for the community. On the other hand, the library materials provided in the library must also be in accordance with the characteristics of its community, as well as the role of librarians and literacy activists who support this program of activities in society.

The purpose of this research is to see how effective the social inclusion program is through libraries, especially in rural areas in Magetan-Indonesia. How social inclusion in Indonesia can provide skills and knowledge to the community through libraries so that they can improve their economic and social conditions. The librarian has engaged directly with the communities they served. They held various events for the community, such as handicraft making, and literacy for kids. They believe that the social inclusion activities will be beneficial for the library. Rural areas are taken as research sites because sometimes rural areas are far from the reach of the central government, on the other hand, the library already exists in the rural areas joining in the empowerment of the family welfare community (PKK). This study seeks to explore how Maospati rural public libraries improve the community's socio-economy by holding various literacy activities by way of inviting them to come to the library.

BACKGROUND

Indonesia is located off the coast of mainland Southeast Asia in the Indian and Pacific oceans and Indonesia is known as an archipelagic country. There are 17,504 islands that are included in the territory of Indonesia. Meanwhile, there are 5 of them are the largest islands, namely New Guinea (generally known as Papua), Borneo (Kalimantan), Sumatera, Sulawesi, and Java.

Social inclusion is one of the government's efforts to improve public welfare and raise their standard of living again. Through the closest association in the community, which is rural or sub-district. The rural library is reactivated with creativity and innovative activities that can be participated by all people. Libraries as institutions that provide information services also have a function as a place to foster literacy which is expected to be able to foster creative and innovative ideas in society to reduce the social and economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic in particular and reduce poverty in general.

The COVID-19 pandemic took the world by surprise. Globally, everything has stopped. Projects have been delayed, workplaces closed and schools are now closed. The world seems to have ground to a halt because of the pandemic. Social inclusion has begun to be discussed since pandemic covid-19 by the community.

Literacy can be defined as the ability to find information and utilize and evaluate information effectively (Rachmawati, 2018). This information can be obtained through library materials available in the library, or through training by facilitators organized by the library. Social inclusion through libraries for the community is a new approach that is expected to be able to foster community social-economic development and broaden people's insights, especially in rural communities that are far from access to information.

The library also plays a role as a gateway to knowledge and culture. The resources and services they offer aim to create opportunities for learning, literacy, education, and help to shape ideas and perspec-

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