

Quality of Life for Disabled Children: Parenting Patterns, Community Social Attitudes, and Social Service Role

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Abstract: Phenomena about children with disabilities in Salatiga still show that there are some problems related to quality aspect of their life. This study aims to examine parenting patterns, social attitudes, and role of the Social Service in improving the quality of life for children with disabilities. This research is a mixed-methods research using congruent design. Research subjects consisted of 66 parents of children with disabilities selected using purposive sampling technique and 87 residents of Salatiga City selected using cluster sampling technique. Data was collected through interviews, surveys, and documentation, then analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively. The results show that parents with disabled children have a democratic parenting style, the social attitude of Salatiga City residents is good, full of empathy, and full of support; however, the Social Service Office does not yet have programs directly intended for children with disabilities in Salatiga. The research results imply on the importance of appropriate and consistent parenting patterns, supportive and non-discriminatory social attitudes of the community, as well as the increase of the Social Service role in making policies and work programs to create a quality life for children with disabilities in Salatiga City.

Keywords: children with disabilities; parenting patterns; social attitudes; role of the Social Service

Abstrak: Fenomena tentang anak penyandang disabilitas di Salatiga masih menunjukkan adanya permasalahan terkait aspek kualitas kehidupan mereka. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji pola asuh orang tua, sikap sosial, dan peran Dinas Sosial dalam meningkatkan kualitas hidup anak penyandang disabilitas. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian metode campuran dengan menggunakan desain kongruen. Subyek penelitian terdiri dari 66 orang tua anak penyandang disabilitas yang dipilih dengan teknik *purposive sampling* dan 87 warga Kota Salatiga yang dipilih menggunakan teknik *cluster sampling*. Data dikumpulkan melalui wawancara, survei, dan dokumentasi, kemudian dianalisis secara kuantitatif dan kualitatif. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa orang tua yang mempunyai anak penyandang disabilitas memiliki pola asuh demokratis, sikap sosial warga Kota Salatiga baik, penuh empati, dan penuh dukungan; meskipun demikian, Dinas Sosial belum memiliki program yang ditujukan langsung untuk anak penyandang disabilitas di Salatiga. Hasil penelitian berimplikasi pada pentingnya pola asuh orang tua yang tepat dan konsisten, sikap sosial masyarakat yang suportif dan tidak diskriminatif, serta peningkatan peran Dinas Sosial dalam mem-

buat kebijakan dan program kerja demi terwujudnya kehidupan anak disabilitas yang berkualitas di Kota Salatiga.

Kata Kunci: anak penyandang disabilitas; pola asuh orang tua; sikap sosial; peran Dinas Sosial

A. Introduction

Children with special needs, especially those with disability in mental, physical or social/emotional interactions, are marginalized. Many people still view them as being troublesome, having learning difficulties, unproductive and burdensome to society.¹ Even in the internal life of the family, many parents are not ready to accept their existence. It has an impact on parenting styles that discriminate between normal children and children with disabilities. However, with increasing reports on different forms of ostracization experienced by disabled children, more efforts are being put in place to include/consult disabled children within and outside academia.² This condition was then addressed by the establishment of various government-owned and non-governmental institutions that seek to implement various programs to improve the life quality of disabled children. Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CEE/CIS) child rights watchdog state that this group of children faces discrimination, segregation, stigma, and prejudice. They are often 'invisible' and at risk of being forgotten by policy-makers, service providers and other communities.³

The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child uses the non-definitions of tuna and disability, as is used in Article 8 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).⁴ Disability is long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory damage in their interactions

¹ Junita Batubara and Sumathi Maniam, "Enhancing Creativity through Musical Drama for Children with Special Needs (Down Syndrome) in Education of Disabled Children," *Music Scholarship / Problemy Muzykal'noj Nauki* 2, no. 2 (2019): 166-77, <https://doi.org/10.17674/1997-0854.2019.2.166-177>.

² F. Shiraani and N. Carr, "Disabled Children Are Not Voiceless Beings," *Annals of Tourism Research* 92 (2022): 103257, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.annals.2021.103257>.

³ Suruchi Sood, Sarah Stevens, and Carmen Cronin, *Desk Review for Developing Measures on Discriminatory Attitudes and Social Norms towards Children with Disabilities in Europe and Central Asia Region: North Macedonia Pilot Study* (New York: UNICEF, 2018).

⁴ Suruchi Sood, Sarah Stevens, and Kelli Kostizak, *Monitoring and Evaluation Framework to Track and Assess the Results of Interventions Aimed at Changing Attitudes and Social Norms towards Children with Disabilities in Europe and Central Asia* (New York: UNICEF, 2019).

with various obstacles that prevent them from participating fully and effectively in society.⁵ Meanwhile, the Health Service for Population and Family Control stated that there are “special” children, namely children with special needs or children with disabilities (Health Service for Population and Family Control, 2015).

There are many phenomena showing that the children with disabilities rights as human beings are often ignored, starting from the right to life, the right to obtain education and health services to the right to easy access to public facilities; even though the 1945 Constitution in Article 28H paragraph (2) states that everyone has the right to receive special facilities and treatment to obtain equal opportunities and benefits in order to achieve equality and justice.⁶ In 2011, the Indonesian government ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as stipulated in Law Number 19 of 2011 concerning Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.⁷ Furthermore, to guarantee the fulfillment of the rights of persons with disabilities, the government issued Law Number 18 of 2016 concerning persons with disabilities. In the immediate environment, the family, especially parents have a very important role in the quality of life of children with disabilities.⁸

Disability itself is understood as social and occurring from a person-environment mismatch as well as being situational or contextual and relative; having a disabled child may put a family in a disadvantaged position that outweighs whatever advantage cultural capital offers.⁹ Children’s disability is a very important task; lack of appropriate diagnosis and care increases children’s

⁵ Sood, Stevens, and Cronin, *Desk Review for Developing Measures on Discriminatory Attitudes and Social Norms towards Children with Disabilities in Europe and Central Asia Region: North Macedonia Pilot Study*.

⁶ Bambang Widodo, “Upaya Memenuhi Hak Penyandang Disabilitas,” Direktorat Jenderal HAM, March 6, 2020, <https://portal.ham.go.id/2020/03/21412/>.

⁷ Widodo.

⁸ Thomas L. Boehm and Erik W. Carter, “Family Quality of Life and Its Correlates Among Parents of Children and Adults with Intellectual Disability,” *American Journal on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities* 124, no. 2 (2019): 99–115, <https://doi.org/10.1352/1944-7558-124.2.99>.

⁹ Sigurd Eid Jacobsen, “Social Class, Disability, and Institutional Interactions: The Case of Families with Disabled Children in the Welfare State,” *Disability & Society*, 2023, 1–21, <https://doi.org/10.1080/09687599.2023.2230349>.

difficulties in adjusting to basic daily activities.¹⁰ Focus on the disabled children's was operationalized through specific emphasis on the 1) role of agency and resistance, 2) role of language in interactions between children/young people and other stakeholders, 3) interplay between the children's experiences of being disabled and the environments in which they participated, and 4) intersection of disability with other dimensions of the children's and young people's lives.¹¹ Parents have an obligation to educate and guide their children to achieve a better life in the future.¹² The role and function of parents towards children with special needs is as the main assistant, as advocates, as resources, as teachers, and as diagnosticians determining the characteristics and types of special needs and having the ability to carry out treatment, especially outside school hours.¹³

Several forms of parenting patterns include: 1) authoritarian (Stewart and Koch) with is rigid, firm, punishing, lack of affection and sympathy, limiting and punishing and demanding children to comply with parental orders and respect work and effort, establish rules and firm boundaries and do not give their children great opportunities to speak or express their opinions, 2) permissive, which do not always demand children to be responsible for household affairs, the wishes and attitudes of children are always approved by parents, children are not trained to comply with applicable regulations and 3) democratic, namely viewing equal obligations and rights between parents and children, gradually giving responsibility for their children, always having dialogue with their children, giving and receiving, always listening to complaints and opinions of their children, encouraging children to help each other and act objectively, firmly but warmly and with full understanding, setting clear expectations and high standards and monitoring children's behavior, and using reasoning discipline.

¹⁰ Agnieszka Dardzińska-Głębocka and Małgorzata Zdrodowska, "Analysis Children with Disabilities Self-Care Problems Based on Selected Data Mining Techniques," *Procedia Computer Science* 192 (2021): 2854–62, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.procs.2021.09.056>.

¹¹ Snæfríður Thóra Egilson et al., "Life Quality and Participation of Disabled Children and Young People: Design and Methods of a Transformative Study," *International Journal of Qualitative Methods* 20 (2021): 160940692110167, <https://doi.org/10.1177/16094069211016713>.

¹² Ulin Nihayah, "Mengembangkan Potensi Anak: Antara Mengembangkan Bakat dan Eksploitasi," *Sawwa: Jurnal Studi Gender* 10, no. 2 (May 30, 2015): 135–50, <https://doi.org/10.21580/sa.v10i2.1429>.

¹³ Boehm and Carter, "Family Quality of Life and Its Correlates Among Parents of Children and Adults with Intellectual Disability."

Furthermore, a good environment and social support, as well as social attitude, will bring children into a good generation. However, not all children have the opportunity to grow and develop better in their lives because of serious social problems.¹⁴ Attitude is a mental and nervous state of readiness, which is governed through experience that exerts a dynamic or directed influence on individual responses to all objects and situations related to it.¹⁵ Meanwhile, Triandis defines attitude as “an idea charged with emotion which predisposes a class of actions to a particular class of social situation”. Attitudes contain three components; the cognitive component, the affective component, and the behavioral component. Howard and Kendler define attitude as a tendency to approach or avoid, positive or negative, towards various social conditions. The social is something related to the relationship between people or groups or regarding the influence of people or groups between one another. Social attitude is individual awareness to act concretely and repeatedly towards social objects based on their experience.

According to Ahmadi, there are 3 functions of attitude, namely self-adjustment, adjustment of behavior adjustment, experience control tool, and personality statement. Meanwhile, the attitude component according to Aronson et. al includes: 1) affective, associated with a person's emotional life which consists of emotional reactions to the object attitude; 2) behavior, related to individual behavioral tendencies consisting of actions or behaviors that appear to the attitude object; and, 3) cognitive, related to belief or individual beliefs which consist of thoughts and beliefs about the attitude object. Therefore, there are 3 types of attitudes, namely affectively based attitude, behaviorally based attitude, and cognitively based attitude.¹⁶

Furthermore, the Salatiga City Social Service was established in 2017 and was ratified by Regulation of Mayor Number 29 Year 2016. The vision of the Salatiga City Social Service is “The Realization of Persons with Social Welfare Problems (PMKS) in the City of Salatiga increasingly independent and prosperous”.¹⁷ Meanwhile, the mission of the Salatiga City Social Service is: to

¹⁴ Thohir Yuli Kusmanto, “Mereka yang Tercerabut dari Masa Depan: Analisis Sosiologis Problem Sosial Anak di Indonesia,” *Sawwa: Jurnal Studi Gender* 8, no. 2 (2013): 225, <https://doi.org/10.21580/sa.v8i2.654>.

¹⁵ Bambang Syamsul Arifin, *Psikologi Sosial* (Bandung: Pustaka Setia, 2015).

¹⁶ Arifin.

¹⁷ PMKS: Penyandang Masalah Kesejahteraan Sosial

improve the quality, quantity, and reach of social rehabilitation services for Persons with Social Welfare Problems (PMKS); to improve the quality of family social empowerment and Potential Sources of Social Welfare (PSKS)¹⁸; to improve the quality, quantity, and scope of implementation of social protection and security; develop and strengthen the social welfare administration system; and, increasing the quality and quantity of resources to support the implementation of social welfare.

The Salatiga ABK¹⁹ Smart House teacher, Ratih Ertu, stated that Salatiga people are now aware of the existence of children with disabilities and since then private schools for them started to emerge, such as ABK Smart House, Talenta Kids, Institutions of Children with Special Needs Potais, SLB Wantuwirawan, and schools built by the government such as the Salatiga State SLB. The Chairperson of the Harapan Mandiri Salatiga Disabled Community Group (KDHMS²⁰), Ngatimin, also clarified that the existence of disabled schools, communities, and government agencies greatly influenced the existence of children with disabilities. In 2016 - 2019, their presence began to be recognized since the Community-Based Rehabilitation Development and Training Center (PPRBM)²¹ entered Salatiga. Under the auspices of PPRBM and Community Organizer (CO) in collaboration with the KDHMS community, people with disabilities receive advocacy to strengthen the mentality of children with disabilities and their parents, provision of physiotherapy, skill development, trainings, as well as introducing people with disabilities to the community in PKK, RT, RW, and local government, especially at Tingkir and Argomulyo Districts. Sidomukti and Sidorejo sub-districts have not been touched, so recognition of people with disabilities in these sub-districts remains poor.

Unfortunately, the efforts of the local government have not been optimal. Social Service only provides basic food assistance and money. There is no form of advocacy for mental strengthening for disabled people and parents. The work program carried out does not really touch disabled people and focuses more on poor people, homeless people and buskers. The Department of Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, Population Control and Family

¹⁸ PSKS: Potensi dan Sumber Kesejahteraan Sosial

¹⁹ ABK: Anak Berkebutuhan Khusus (Children with Special Needs)

²⁰ KDHMS: Kelompok Difabel Harapan Mandiri Salatiga

²¹ PPRBM: Pusat Pengembangan dan Pelatihan Rehabilitasi Bersumberdaya Masyarakat

Planning (DP3APPKB)²² also does not touch on violence against people with disabilities, even though it is very vulnerable, especially for women and children with disabilities. The DP3APPKB work program focuses more on cases of violence in the general public, but in the area of people with disabilities also remains poor.

The results of previous study show that the quality of life of children with disabilities is affected by physical well-being as well as social support from peers compared to society.²³ The pressures faced when caring for children with undiagnosed genetic conditions, so that parents and families experience high anxiety and stress due to lack of coordination with related parties.²⁴

Some studies show that most of the families felt anxious about the future, felt like their burden was too much to bear, and expected information and support from healthcare professionals.²⁵ In COVID-19 pandemic, the worsening medical condition of disabled children and the lack of medical supplies during isolation causes high psychological pressure on mothers.²⁶

Social supports towards physical activity participation will help the non-disabled persons become good caregivers or parents to encourage and support persons with disabilities.²⁷ The factors affecting the level of acceptance were the mother's education and the father's employment. Having a family member with

²² DP3APPKB: Dinas Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak, Pengendalian Penduduk dan Keluarga Berencana

²³ Ellen B. M. Elsman et al., "Quality of Life and Participation of Children with Visual Impairment: Comparison with Population Reference Scores," *Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science* 62, no. 7 (2021): 14, <https://doi.org/10.1167/iovs.62.7.14>.

²⁴ Susie Aldiss et al., "'We don't know what tomorrow will bring': Parents' Experiences of Caring for a Child with an Undiagnosed Genetic Condition," *Child: Care, Health and Development* 47, no. 5 (2021): 588–96, <https://doi.org/10.1111/cch.12866>.

²⁵ Serap Balci, "Determining the Difficulties Faced by Families with Intellectual Disability Children and the Burden on the Family," *Journal of Psychiatric Nursing* 10, no. 2 (2018): 124–30, <https://doi.org/10.14744/phd.2018.05657>; Imran Haider Syed, Waqar Ahmed Awan, and Unaiza Batool Syeda, "Caregiver Burden among Parents of Hearing Impaired and Intellectually Disabled Children in Pakistan," *Iranian Journal of Public Health* 49, no. 2 (2020): 249–56, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/32461932>.

²⁶ Nisreen al Awaji et al., "Quality of Life, Needs and Fears of Mothers of Children with Disabilities in Saudi Arabia during the COVID-19 Lockdown," *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 18, no. 21 (2021): 11442, <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph182111442>.

²⁷ Nagoor Meera Abdullah et al., "The Benefits and the Perceived Social Support towards Exercise Participation among Persons with Disabilities: A Preliminary Study," *International Journal for Studies on Children, Women, Elderly and Disabled* 13 (2021): 7–17, https://www.ijcwed.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/IJCWED13_003.pdf.

a disability is found to be significant factor affecting social acceptance.²⁸ Meanwhile, Asa et al., point to the need for government-owned and managed disability rehabilitation centers, provision of fully subsidized health insurance, and provision of professionally qualified therapists and health care in Indonesia.²⁹

The previous research findings indicate that there are problems related to the quality of life of children with disabilities which makes this topic still important and relevant to be studied. The writers believe that good parenting patterns, positive community social attitude, and supportive role from Social Service will meaningful to increase the quality of life for disabled children. Problems in this study include: What are the parenting styles of parents and families of children with disabilities? How do the people in Salatiga City socially behave towards children with disabilities? What is the role of the Salatiga City Social Service in efforts to improve the quality of life of children with disabilities? Theoretically, the results of this study are useful as references in scientific fields as well as reference material for further research on relevant topics. Practically, the results of this research can be used as a basis for policy making in relation to efforts to improve the quality of life of children with disabilities in Salatiga City, especially the Social Service.

B. Method

This study used a mixed-methods design; a combination and integration of qualitative and quantitative methods in the same study.³⁰ Congruent design was used, which means that in gathering both forms of data concurrently, the researchers sought to compare them to search for congruent findings. The data collection process for this research was carried out in Salatiga City from July to August 2022. The subjects of this study were 66 parents of children with

²⁸ Zdzisław Kazanowski and Agnieszka Żyta, "Socio-Pedagogical Determinants of Social Acceptance of People with Disabilities," *International Journal of Special Education (IJSE)* 36, no. 1 (2021): 35–48, <https://doi.org/10.52291/ijse.2021.36.4>.

²⁹ Gregorius Abanit Asa et al., "Understanding Barriers to the Access to Healthcare and Rehabilitation Services: A Qualitative Study with Mothers or Female Caregivers of Children with a Disability in Indonesia," *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 18, no. 21 (2021): 11546, <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph182111546>.

³⁰ Jose F. Molina-Azorin, "Mixed Methods Research: An Opportunity to Improve Our Studies and Our Research Skills," *European Journal of Management and Business Economics* 25, no. 2 (2016): 37–38, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.redeen.2016.05.001>.

disabilities selected by using purposive sampling technique and 87 residents of Salatiga selected by using cluster sampling technique. Meanwhile, the leadership and staff of the Salatiga City Social Service, the Head of the Salatiga City SLB, the Head of SLB Wantuwirawan along with teachers, and the Head of the Salatiga ABK Smart House as well as several disability activist figures became informants in this study.

Data was collected through surveys by giving questionnaires and interview. Data about parenting pattern were collected by giving closed questionnaire adapted from Parenting Styles and Dimensions Questionnaire (PSDQ) to 66 parents of disabled children and unstructured interview to 25 parents. Data about community social attitude were collected by giving closed questionnaire adapted from Sanborn's to 87 residents of Salatiga City and unstructured interview to 30 residents. To obtain the data about condition of disabled children in Salatiga City, program for disabled children, and role of Social Service, the researchers conducted interviews with the Leader and Staffs of that institution as well as looking for the data from their documentation.

In analyzing the research data, the researchers used descriptive statistics to analyze the results of questionnaire quantitatively, then referred to the modifications made by Moustakas in Cresswell from the Stevick-Collaizzi-Keen method in analyzing the data qualitatively.³¹ To check the validity of the data, researchers used triangulation, member checking, and Focus Group Discussion. Method triangulation was used by comparing the data from interviews and questionnaires. The researchers used member checking procedures by comparing the data from parents, residents, and informants. Meanwhile, FGD was conducted by discussing the research results with experts in disabled people, stakeholders, and colleagues.

C. Results

Data on Parenting Patterns for Children with Disabilities in Salatiga City

The results of interviews with the Head of the SLB Wantuwirawan, teachers, Heads of the ABK Smart House, and parents of children with

³¹ Robert Kingwill Jr. Elliott and Ladislav Timulak, *Essentials of Descriptive-Interpretive Qualitative Research: A Generic Approach* (Washington DC.: American Psychological Association, 2021).

disabilities show that there is a need to socialize from the top to the bottom level about the existence of children with disabilities in Salatiga City. It is necessary to increase their skills, such as cooking skills, sewing, due to the fact, there are several SLB Wantuwirawan graduates who work at Damatex companies. It is also important to hold mental strengthening programs for children with disabilities and their parents. The results of interviews with the heads of the SLB above is in line with the results of interviews with the community. Children with disabilities need moral support so they can remain confident and live happily like normal children. Parents with disabled children also need to be given mental reinforcement so that they are not ashamed to have children with disabilities. It is expected that they can raise their children more patiently, steadfastly, and full of gratitude. This is important because there are still many parents of children with disabilities feeling embarrassed or reluctant to bring their children into public spaces and feeling pressured.

Furthermore, based on a questionnaire to 66 parent respondents, it was found that all parents have democratic parenting style for their children with disabilities. Answers to the questionnaire on points that refer to democratic parenting pattern get answers with the most "always" and "often" options. Parents are not permissive by always giving their children's wishes or always defending their children when they are involved in disputes with their friends. Parents still try to strictly apply the rules to their children as well as to their normal children.

The research team also conducted interviews with 15 parents of SLB Wantuwirawan Salatiga students and 10 parents of Salatiga State SLB students. Based on the interview, the following results were obtained:

- a. Parents provide rules that must be obeyed in everyday life for children with disabilities. There is a rule that not everything a child wants must be obeyed:

"Iya sama... tapi kalau makanan iya, kita usahakan, tapi kalau mainan besok, kalau uangnya sudah banyak (It's the same... but if it's food, yes, we'll try, but if it's toys tomorrow, if we have a lot of money)" (ROW-02).

The same daily rules are enforced between children with disabilities and other normal children:

"Ya sama sih, dia cuma fisiknya aja, tapi untuk otak sama semuanya dia sama seperti anak yang lain gitu... (Yes, he's the same, he's just physically, but for the brain, he's the same as any other child...)" (ROW-03).

If a child breaks the rules, they will usually be advised, reprimanded, or even punished, so that the child is disciplined.

- b. Parents do not discriminate the treatment of children with disabilities from their normal children and treat children with disabilities the same as their normal children.
- c. Parents do not always defend their children when they are involved in disputes with their friends and remain neutral then try to reconcile without overly defending their child.
- d. The extended family environment, neighbors and the community treat children with disabilities well and full of support. This is stated by a respondent (ROW-03):

"Baik semua sih...Tetangga, teman main anak itu ya baik semua... (Everything is fine... Neighbors, the children's playmates are all good...)".

Data on Community Social Attitudes towards Children with Disabilities in the City of Salatiga

The results of the analysis of the questionnaire on community social attitudes towards disabled children are illustrated in Table 1. Based on Table 1, it appears that the average social attitude questionnaire data is 93.13; the minimum score is 76 and the maximum score is 99.

Based on Table 2, the total score of 94 reach the highest frequency (16 subjects or 18.4%). The lowest frequency is the scores of 76, 82, 86, and 87 (1 subject each or 1.1%). There are 20 items on the social attitude questionnaire, the categorization is showed in Table 3. Based on Table 3, the results of the social attitude questionnaire are displayed in Table 4.

Based on Table 4, there are 85 subjects (97.7%) with very positive social attitude and only 2 subjects (2.3%) with positive social attitude. There is no subject having neutral, negative, or very negative social attitudes. Results of interview with 20 respondents show that the community is very concerned with acts of discrimination or differences in treatment of children with disabilities. They hope that society can treat children with disabilities the same as normal children, no action that demeans, humiliates, or even bullies children with this disorder. People should put themselves in the position of children with disabilities or their parents and families so that they can feel what they are feeling. Even so, there were also several respondents who did not consider the issue of discrimination against disabled children important; so that the difference in treatment towards them is assumed normal and natural.

Table 1
Results of Questionnaire on Community Social Attitude

Statistics		
Community Social Attitude		
N	Valid	87
	Missing	0
Mean		93.13
Std. Error of Mean		.416
Median		94.00
Mode		94
Std. Deviation		3.881
Variance		15.065
Range		23
Minimum		76
Maximum		99
Sum		8102
Percentiles	25	91.00
	50	94.00
	75	95.00

Table 2
Frequency Distribution of Data on Community Social Attitude

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	76	1	1.1	1.1	1.1
	82	1	1.1	1.1	2.3
	85	3	3.4	3.4	5.7
	86	1	1.1	1.1	6.9
	87	1	1.1	1.1	8.0
	88	2	2.3	2.3	10.3
	89	3	3.4	3.4	13.8
	90	2	2.3	2.3	16.1
	91	9	10.3	10.3	26.4
	92	5	5.7	5.7	32.2
	93	10	11.5	11.5	43.7
	94	16	18.4	18.4	62.1
	95	13	14.9	14.9	77.0
	96	7	8.0	8.0	85.1
97	4	4.6	4.6	89.7	
98	6	6.9	6.9	96.6	
99	3	3.4	3.4	100.0	
Total		87	100.0	100.0	

Table 3
Categorization of Social Attitude Scores

Category	Lower Limit	Higher Limit
Very Positive	85	100
Positive	69	84
Neutral	53	68
Negative	37	52
Very Negative	21	36

Table 4
Data on the Community Social Attitude

Category of Community Social Attitude	Frequency	Percentage
Very Positive	85	97.70%
Positive	2	2.30%
Neutral	0	0%
Negative	0	0%
Very Negative	0	0%

On the first point, concerning discrimination against children with disabilities in Salatiga City, most respondents state that they never heard or seen discrimination against children with special needs in Salatiga City. People of Salatiga have begun to be aware and understand the existence of children with disabilities. On the point regarding feelings when they encounter unpleasant treatment of children with disabilities in public places, it is found that the respondents feel touched when there is unpleasant treatment towards children with disabilities. Despite the good condition in Salatiga, the people of this city really regret that there are not many facilities in public places friendly to children with disabilities.

Data on Social Service Role in the City of Salatiga

Based on the results of observations and interviews with the community in Salatiga, it was revealed that the local government has paid attention to, provided good services, and eliminated discrimination against children with disabilities. This is proven by holding competitions involving children with disabilities, such as singing contests, playing musical instruments, reading the

Holy Qur'an (*qirā'ah*), and others. Salatiga also produces many athletes from persons with disabilities who contribute their achievements.

In addition, in order to optimize diversity services for students with disabilities or obstacles in the implementation of inclusive education at the early childhood education level and basic education level, the Salatiga city government has formed a unit that carries out the function of inclusive education services which involves the role of the local government, educational institutions, and stakeholders. For this purpose, according to the provisions of Article 42 Paragraph (1) of Law Number 8 of 2016 concerning persons with disabilities, it is necessary to form a disability service unit in the field of inclusive education under the name Smart Resources Center (SRC) as stated in the Salatiga Mayor Regulation Number 12 of 2019.

SRC is a non-structural institution that carries out the functions of a disability service unit in the field of inclusive education. SRC is tasked with coordinating, facilitating, and managing learning, assessment, media, compensatory programs, and learning resources as well as inclusive education facilities and infrastructure. It provides referrals for students with indicated disabilities to doctors, psychologists, psychiatrists, therapists, or other professional staffs. Children with disabilities studying or doing therapy at SRC are free of charge.

Based on initial interviews on the role of the Social Service in improving the life quality of children with disabilities in Salatiga City with the Social Rehabilitation Sub-Coordinator for people with disabilities and the Social Rehabilitation Sub-Coordinator for children and the elderly, as well as the people of Salatiga city, most of the work programs carried out by the Salatiga City Social Service are aimed at helping preprosperous families, buskers, and homeless people. There is no work program aimed directly at helping children with disabilities.

Further data collection was carried out through interviews with the Head of the Social Rehabilitation Division and 2 Salatiga City Social Service staffs on Monday, 2 September 2022. Interview results with the Head of Social Rehabilitation in his office show data about programs for people with disabilities and PMKS (People with Social Welfare Problems). The first program is the provision of food packages once a year to persons with disabilities, but for adults. As explained by him:

"Intervensi Dinsos bagi para penyandang disabilitas adalah berupa pemberian bantuan paket sembako satu kali setahun untuk kaum disabilitas... (The Social Service's intervention for people with disabilities is in the form of providing assistance with food packages once a year for people with disabilities...)."

The second program is the provision of equipment assistance for persons with disabilities:

"Kemudian juga pemberian bantuan alat-alat seperti kruk, walker, hearing aid, dan lain-lain (Then also the provision of equipment assistance such as crutches, walkers, hearing aids, and others)."

Furthermore, the Social Service is very focused on handling PMKS (People with Social Welfare Problems) in the form of controlling, coaching, and returning to the family, handing over to an institution that is willing to accept, or handing it over to a Halfway House as a transit place to then look for an institution that is willing to accept. Meanwhile, for those who are not PMKS, the Social Service is trying to provide education so they do not disturb public order. The Social Service also has a team of officers who are ready 24 hours to pick up PMKS if there is a report from the public.

Meanwhile, based on the interviews with 2 Salatiga Social Service staffs, it was found that there was no Social Service program specifically aimed at children with disabilities. According to the staff (SDS-01):

"Kalau program khusus untuk anak difabel kami belum ada... program untuk kaum disabilitas itu tidak banyak; bansos setahun sekali, itu tidak untuk anak, itu untuk orang dewasa (We don't have special programs for children with disabilities... there are not many programs for people with disabilities; social assistance once a year, it's not for children, it's for adults)."

Even so, there is a special program dealing with abandoned children, although not specifically for abandoned children with disabilities. However, children with disabilities included in the neglected category also have the right to be handled, as stated by the resource person SDS-01:

"Kaitannya dengan anak, tapi saya tidak spesifik untuk anak disabilitas ya, nanti bisa panjenengan simpulkan, karena di kegiatan kami, saya dan yang lainnya itu, ada kegiatan pemberian bimbingan fisik, mental, spiritual, dan sosial bagi anak terlantar. Saya bilanginya seperti itu, nggih tho ... lha di kegiatan ini secara riil kami tu mengadakan kegiatan pemberian pelatihan kemandirian bagi anak terlantar...anak terlantar ini ada anak terlantar di dalam panti dan anak terlantar di luar panti... kebetulan kalau anak ini bukan spesifik ke anak disabilitas gitu..." (Related to children, but I am not specific for children with disabilities, yes, later you can conclude, because in our

activities, I and others, there are activities to provide physical, mental, spiritual, and social guidance for neglected children. I said it like that, really... actually, in this activity we are holding independence training activities for neglected children... abandoned children are abandoned children inside the orphanage and outside the orphanage... it just so happens that these children are not specific to children with disabilities I see...)"

Handling abandoned children is conducted through picking-up, assessing children's problems, especially tracing their family, handovering to halfway houses, and to homes that are willing to accept. Even though there is no program directly aimed at helping children with disabilities, the Social Service helps provide recommendations for disabled children willing to take part in six-month training in Temanggung. This training is conducted by the Indonesian Ministry of Social Affairs in the form of training in various skills that can be applied to earn some income, for example sewing, doing laundry, doing agriculture, holding *angkringan* business, and so on. This is in line with what SDS-02 said:

*"Kita selama ini membantu memberikan rekomendasi kepada anak yang ingin mendaftar mengikuti pelatihan di Temanggung ...ya macem-macem pelatihannya, ada menjahit, ada angkring'e apa jualan angkringan, ada laundry, ada pertanian, macem-macem... (We have been helping to provide recommendations to children who want to register for training in Temanggung... yes, there are various trainings, there is sewing, there is *angkring*, selling with *angkringan*, there is laundry, there is agriculture, various things...)"*

At last, Porseni activities were also routinely held every year before the pandemic attended by normal children living in orphanages as well as children with disabilities to show their talents, interests, and abilities in the fields of sports and arts.

D. Discussion

The results of the research imply that most parents who have disabled children are truly big-hearted and can accept their child's existence sincerely. They are capable of caring their children with a good parenting style so that their disabled children can grow relatively well physically and mentally. Previous study proposes that the pressures faced when caring for children with undiagnosed genetic conditions, so that parents and families experience high anxiety and stress.³² Parents can educate their disabled children to protect themselves from

³² Aldiss et al., "We don't know what tomorrow will bring': Parents' Experiences of Caring for a Child with an Undiagnosed Genetic Condition."

several kinds of abuse.³³ Parents and big family have a big role in determining the life quality of disabled children because how they behave will affect the mental of the children.³⁴

The results are also in conformity with Hewett and Frenk stating about the role and function of parents towards children with special needs.³⁵ Youth with disabilities were supported and encouraged to contribute to the family livelihood within the home, but less so out in the community, indicating lower parental self-efficacy beliefs about their child with a disability's capabilities to contribute in the community.³⁶ Parents with disabled children require information to guide them in managing their children.³⁷ If the disabled children are to achieve an optimal and inclusive development, as similar as possible to that of their non-disabled peers, it is important to examine if and how parents can be made capable through empowerment.³⁸ with democratic parenting style, disabled children are free to come up with their opinions and develop their talents. Then, it is expected that they can live happily with good life quality like normal children.

³³ Siti Hikmah, "Mengantisipasi Kejahatan Seksual terhadap Anak melalui Pembelajaran 'Aku anak berani melindungi diri sendiri': Studi di Yayasan Al-Hikmah Grobogan," *Sawwa: Jurnal Studi Gender* 12, no. 2 (2017): 187–206, <https://doi.org/10.21580/sa.v12i2.1708>; Muhammad Defrianto and Alfiyari Alfiyari, "Mental Health of College Students and Its Relation to Life Satisfaction and Social Media Abuse," *Sawwa: Jurnal Studi Gender* 15, no. 2 (2020): 193–218, <https://doi.org/10.21580/sa.v15i2.6590>.

³⁴ Carpi Elin, "Stress Disorder in Very Young Children Recognizing Early Trauma," *Journal of Childhood & Developmental Disorders* 9, no. 3 (2023): 1–2, <https://doi.org/10.36648/2471-1786.9.3.70>.

³⁵ Boehm and Carter, "Family Quality of Life and Its Correlates among Parents of Children and Adults with Intellectual Disability."

³⁶ Kezang Sherab and Matthew J Schuelka, "Perceptions of Youth with Disabilities in Bhutan on Family Support, Attitudes, and Encouragement towards Meaningful Community Engagement: Implications for Parental Self-Efficacy," *Disability, CBR and Inclusive Development* 34, no. 2 (2023): 27–47, <https://doi.org/10.20372/dcidj.623>.

³⁷ Mohd Ismail Ibrahim et al., "The Unmet Needs among Parents of Disabled Children at Support Institutions in Kelantan, Malaysia," *Malaysian Journal of Medicine and Health Sciences* 15, no. 3 (2019): 74–80, <https://myjurnal.mohe.gov.my/public/article-view.php?id=142548>; A. Emel Sardohan Yıldırım and A. Gönül Akçamete, "A Family Centered Training Model Proposal to Meet the Needs of Parents Having Multiple Disabled Child," *International Journal of Early Childhood Special Education* 11, no. 2 (2019): 168–82, <https://doi.org/10.20489/intjces.670476>.

³⁸ Line Jenhaug and Ole Petter Askheim, "Empowering Parents as Co-Producers: Personal Assistance for Families with Disabled Children," *Scandinavian Journal of Disability Research* 20, no. 1 (2018): 266–76.

Furthermore, the next research results imply that the people of Salatiga City have a good, positive and supportive attitude towards children with disabilities. This is in line with previous study by Elsman et al., showing that the quality of life of children with disabilities is affected by physical well-being as well as social support from peers compared to society.³⁹ Society has substantial role in determining the life quality of children with disabilities.⁴⁰ Actually, disabled children can achieve similar life quality just as normal children have; they can even do physical activities, like doing sports, and other activities.⁴¹ Children with physical impairments experience their life quality similarly to non-disabled children; meanwhile, parents assume that environment does affect the life quality of disabled children.⁴² It reflects that social supports are very influential in determining the growth and development of disabled children, especially their ability to socialize with their environment.

However, sometimes there are some people who still do not care about the existence of children with disabilities. In their perception, it is normal to treat these children differently or discriminate. This view usually arises from a lack of understanding of equal rights to life for all groups. Whereas, Stalker and Connors maintain that actually talking with disabled children is often no different than communicating with any other child.⁴³ The study revealed that the causes of traumatic situations in children with disabilities can be partly categorized and that the specificity of the violation determines the attitude to

³⁹ Elsman et al., "Quality of Life and Participation of Children with Visual Impairment: Comparison with Population Reference Scores."

⁴⁰ I. E. Kupriyanova, B. A. Dashieva, and I. S. Karaush, "Mental Health of Disabled Children: A Preventive Aspect," *Bulletin of Siberian Medicine* 18, no. 4 (2020): 72–84, <https://doi.org/10.20538/1682-0363-2019-4-72-84>.

⁴¹ Linda Björk Ólafsdóttir et al., "Child and Parent Perspectives of Life Quality of Children with Physical Impairments Compared with Non-Disabled Peers," *Scandinavian Journal of Occupational Therapy* 26, no. 7 (2019): 496–504, <https://doi.org/10.1080/11038128.2018.1509371>; Anthony J. Maher and Justin A. Haegele, "Disabled Children and Young People in Sport, Physical Activity and Physical Education," *Sport, Education and Society* 27, no. 2 (2022): 129–33, <https://doi.org/10.1080/13573322.2021.1967119>.

⁴² Ólafsdóttir et al., "Child and Parent Perspectives of Life Quality of Children with Physical Impairments Compared with Non-Disabled Peers."

⁴³ Patricia McNeilly, Geraldine Macdonald, and Berni Kelly, "Rights Based, Participatory Interviews with Disabled Children and Young People: Practical and Methodological Considerations," *Comprehensive Child and Adolescent Nursing* 45, no. 2 (2021): 1–10, <https://doi.org/10.1080/24694193.2021.1874078>.

different situations of children's activity.⁴⁴ Therefore, it is important to raise awareness among the community to treat children with disabilities fairly on a par with normal children because community social support is very important for achieving a better quality of life for them.

Meanwhile, based on the results of interviews, it can be drawn a conclusion that there were no Social Service programs that were directly aimed at children with disabilities on a routine basis. Whereas, government should manage policies concerning disabled people life; all policies should be addressed to improve their life quality.⁴⁵ The authority must ensure that children with disability and their families are not overlooked in the roll- out of social prescribing services.⁴⁶ There is a need for government-owned and managed (not religion-based) disability rehabilitation centers, provision of fully subsidized health insurance to provide free services, and provision of professionally qualified therapists and health care (to build trust) and other similar settings in Indonesia.⁴⁷ There was also crucial to improve and construct equipped natural settings specialized for children with disabilities.⁴⁸

The existence of local policy potential in the form of various policies and local regulations, the number of social institutions of children into social capital is strong physically and socially in building the collaborative model/ partnership.⁴⁹ The government should also provide public facilities which are conducive to support disabled children in their daily activities.⁵⁰ Policymakers

⁴⁴ Anna Akhmetzyanova and Lira Artishcheva, "Significant Situations of Interaction of Children with Disabilities," *Education & Self Development* 13, no. 1 (2018): 55–64, <https://doi.org/10.26907/esd13.1.06>.

⁴⁵ Peter Bredu-Darkwa and Isaac Owusu, "Activity Limitations and Life Satisfaction: A Cross-Sectional Study among Amputees in an Orthopaedic Rehabilitation Centre in Ghana," *Disability, CBR and Inclusive Development* 34, no. 2 (2023): 110–31, <https://doi.org/10.20372/dcdj.696>.

⁴⁶ Anna P. Basu, "Social Prescribing: Can It Help Disabled Children?," *Developmental Medicine & Child Neurology* 63, no. 10 (2021): 1132–1132, <https://doi.org/10.1111/dmcn.14973>.

⁴⁷ Asa et al., "Understanding Barriers to the Access to Healthcare and Rehabilitation Services: A Qualitative Study with Mothers or Female Caregivers of Children with a Disability in Indonesia."

⁴⁸ Sima Pouya, Öner Demirel, and Sahar Pouya, "Evaluating the Playground: Focus Group Interviews with Families of Disabled Children," *A/Z: ITU Journal of Faculty of Architecture* 15, no. 2 (2018): 137–46, <https://doi.org/10.5505/itujfa.2018.99608>.

⁴⁹ Noverman Duadji and Novita Tresiana, "Kota Layak Anak Berbasis Collaborative Governance," *Sawwa: Jurnal Studi Gender* 13, no. 1 (2018): 1–22, <https://doi.org/10.21580/sa.v13i1.2201>.

⁵⁰ Navjit Gaurav, Vaishali Kolhe, and Atul Jaiswal, "Universal Design: An Embedded Case Study on the Approach towards the Inclusion of Students with Physical Disabilities in Higher Education in

and those in positions to influence systems change must partner with youth and families to develop and implement federal and state policies supporting care delivery that values, prioritizes, and promotes the well-being and quality of life of the whole disabled child and family across the life course.⁵¹ Therefore, the role of the Social Service must be increased in improving the quality of life of disabled children.

E. Conclusion

Based on the results of the study, it was concluded that parents with disabilities have a democratic parenting style but still trying to strictly enforce rules for their children with disabilities, do not always defend their children when they are involved in disputes, treat children with disabilities the same as their normal siblings, and not always comply with their wishes. Meanwhile, the social attitude of the people of Salatiga City towards children with disabilities is good, full of empathy, and full of support so that children with disabilities can also enjoy life like normal children. It is almost never found acts of discrimination in public places against children with disabilities. Furthermore, the Social Service Office of Salatiga City does not yet have programs that are directly intended for children with disabilities. This agency has programs for neglected children, both normal and disabled. Nonetheless, the Social Service has the right to provide recommendations for children with disabilities who wish to attend special training for disabled persons.

At last, despite having relatively complete data, this research has several limitations, among others, potential bias in selecting the participants and that of giving interpretation towards the research results. Therefore, further research should be conducted to accomplish the better research process and results.[s]

India," *Disability, CBR and Inclusive Development* 34, no. 2 (2023): 7-26, <https://doi.org/10.20372/dcidj.577>.

⁵¹ Amy Houtrow et al., "Health Equity for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs: A Vision for the Future," *Pediatrics* 149, no. Supplement 7 (2022): 1-11, <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2021-056150F>; B Roth et al., "Descriptive Study of Young Disabled Children Aged 2-6, Enrolled in Mainstream Schools, and Benefiting from Special Needs Assistants in the Bouches-Du-Rhône in 2014," *Archives de Pédiatrie* 28, no. 1 (2021): 39-46, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.arcped.2020.10.005>; Lenka Divoká, "Professionalization of Child Protection in the Czech Republic from the Perspective of Sociological Theories," *Czech and Slovak Social Work* 17, no. 4 (2017): 30-47.

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