

## The Role of the Church in Providing Motivation to People with Disabilities through Special Worship Services for Parents and Children at the HKBP Jatiasih Congregation, Bekasi

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### ABSTRACT

The special service for people with disabilities in HKBP Jatiasih is a form of attention to motivate parents to remain enthusiastic in accompanying their children even though they have disabilities. HKBP Jatiasih, especially the Diakonia Team, want to make this activity has an impact on other churches paying attention to congregations with disabilities. Disabled worship services are held once every 3 months, provides a service of words delivered by the Pastor and then prepares blessings in the form of money and food. This activity has been carried out for more than 2 years, which is included in the program for the Year of Health, the Year of Professionalism in Service Organizers, and the Year of Inclusive Ecumenical 2024.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Along with the development of church services, especially HKBP, in the last few years, there has been a lot and will continue to see active participation in the future. Therefore, the theme of service orientation carried out by HKBP, especially starting from 2022-2024, is 2022, namely the year of unity. , in 2023 the year of Professionalism and Service Management, then in 2024 a broader service will be carried out, namely the year of Inclusive Ecumenical Affairs. One of the goals and objectives of the Program and work calendar is to have joint goals and objectives to continue and support empowerment, health and professionalism programs, one of the main objectives that has been implemented starting in 2021. In program code 008, the central direction is to prepare teaching modules for the disabled and PLWHA theme for Sunday school and catechization categorical services. The district direction is to open a service secretariat and information center for disabled people and PLWHA using the PBM method throughout the HKBP District. Then the direction of report / Huria. The theme of Disabilities and PLWHA is a teaching topic in fellowship, categorical, Sunday school and catechism. Indicator: there are teaching modules for the theme of people with disabilities, PLWHA. At least 3 times a year the theme of people with disabilities and PLWHA is taught to Sunday schools, Sidi students, school students, and there are services and information centers. The service orientation of "Inclusive Oukumene" in 2024 is that the potential, heart and profession of congregational servants are delivered inclusively to everyone.

HKBP Jatiasih Church takes part in continuing services in the disabled sector. The word disabled replaces words that emphasize deficiencies (Maftuhin, 2014). This use of disabilities shows that they differ in physical, intellectual, mental and sensory limitations which make it difficult for individuals to participate fully as citizens. Due to these limitations, the HKBP Jatiasih church took the role of helping people with disabilities by holding special services which have been held since 2022 during the year of health and continued continuously until the year of professionalism and service management as well as the year of inclusive ecumenical. The purpose of this service is to fulfill the church's special attention to people with disabilities, so that parents also remain strong and enthusiastic in caring for and educating their children. HKBP Jatiasih Church is increasingly showing attention to people with disabilities and special needs. This attention can be seen from the special facilities and service times provided. Special services are also provided to people with disabilities who are old enough to take part in special sessions. Attention to congregations with disabilities These special needs can be done in various ways, one of which is mental regradation, which can develop and find the criteria for receiving Marry Theresya in Chosmas Chriatian T (2020). sacred communication, including: (1). Relations with believers and celebrating the liturgy, (2) having respect and how to behave at the liturgy (3). Desire to receive sacred communications.

To motivate parents to receive inclusive services including character formation, physical condition, personality, status and culture that grows in society (Tugiah, Ridwal Trisoni, 2022). This is also related to parents who do not understand the condition of their children, if they lack material things, then their children have special needs. just made at home. (Ani Endriani, et al, 2020). This Disability Service is also to prevent bullying of people with disabilities, because they are very vulnerable to bullying, sometimes even those with disabilities also want to commit suicide and their parents also feel inferior. (Heri Firmansayah et al, 2021). To fulfill what must be done by the church which is often called "salt" and "light" in the world, with the hope that the church can be a pioneer in repairing the gap that occurs between citizens who have limitations from those who are "normal" and those who are grouped as normal ( Gabriel.P&Janhotner S, 2023) According to Sri Joeda Andajani in Tugiah (2022), parents need to increase their understanding and skills in providing inclusive education.

Then stated that the difficulties experienced by children with disabilities participating in inclusive learning were because they had difficulty concentrating. This condition can be understood because children with disabilities have special characteristics who study in a common environment so that they have difficulty communicating and difficulty concentrating. Likewise, for disabled people from the HKBP Jatiasih congregation, of the 17 people with disabilities, 15 have difficulty communicating, have difficulty concentrating, and even don't respond at all when being served, but parents are the ones who help God's servants to convey the meaning of God's word to their children in the style and language they choose. understand, this is possible because parents always accompany their children, 1 person is happy to follow and when he is served by the Pastor he is always happy. Smiling and hugging the Pastor, then another person named Daniel Sinaga, class. To support the implementation of special worship for parents and people with disabilities, Yusuf et al (2022), stated that the family environment is more influential in nurturing and accompanying children whose growth and development requires parents to provide positive care and protect the rights of their children as people with disabilities by continuing to provide assistance and pay attention to the needs of their children, because children lack independence.

## **IMPLEMENTATION AND METHODS**

The method of implementing this Community Service Activity is in the form of assistance in carrying out worship services once every three months, served by the HKBP Jatiasih Pastor and Church Elders as well as the Diakonia team which has been appointed to serve people with disabilities, then providing support to parents to remain patient and enthusiastic in carrying His disabled child goes to church to worship. Next, the community service team presents all activities in written form and publishes them internationally.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The implementation of special services served by the Pastor and Elders as well as the Diakonia team that handles people with disabilities is carried out for the HKPB Jatiasih congregation starting with providing information through the church newsletter every week, announced one month before the implementation of special services for people with disabilities and parents, this notification is also provided on Whats App Disabled Family Group which has been created by the Diakonia Team specifically for disabled services.

The worship service was carried out for parents and children with disabilities at the HKBP Jatiasih Bekasi Congregation. With the aim of motivating parents to remain enthusiastic about bringing their children to attend church services. Desy Chrisnatlya et al (2022). That the process of spirituality and religious assistance that is most often carried out by assistants for children with disabilities is singing and praying. Singing and praying are things that are very easy for disabled children to do. Teaching of God's word has not been carried out due to the limitations of disabled children in knowledge of the characteristics of disabled children and skills in using sign language. Alfian and Juliano (2023), the self-concept formed in people with disabilities can be influenced by caregivers in interactions carried out in daily life and is greatly influenced by the people around them. For special worship services for people with disabilities, the HKBP congregation, apart from singing spiritual songs, also provides the word of God, because this service is not only for children with disabilities, but also for parents, this is done so that parents remain enthusiastic and grateful when they are entrusted with special children.



**Picture 1. Pastor Marnaek Situmorang, S.Th, Greeting Disabled Children and Parents**

The behavior of greeting with empathy the servants with disabilities and especially Pastor Marnaek Situmorang individually to disabled children and their parents made the parents and several disabled children feel happy, some even immediately hugged the pastor, it seemed that the children were very happy. Parents all feel happy when they are greeted, but there are some children with disabilities who, when greeted, do not respond even though their parents have persuaded them, but this is one of the special features of children with disabilities, namely that they are less able to respond and less able to interact and communicate, but parents accompany their children every day. those who have

the privilege can approach it in a language they understand. HKBP Jatiasih Church has provided encouragement and motivation through spiritual songs and the sprinkling of God's word by the Pastor and Church Elders as well as the Diakonia team with various approaches. This ministry of God's word makes parents grow spiritually which can be interpreted as belief in the existence of God or a higher power (Snider & McPedran, 2014).



**Picture 2. Pastor Marnaek Situmorang, S.Th, Approaching People with Disabilities**

In each implementation of services for people with disabilities, the Pastor gives a touch of affection to people with disabilities and also parents, the parents' feelings are very happy, even expressed when after the service is finished the parents ask for a moment to express what they feel after holding this special service for people with disabilities and parents. They felt proud because the HKBP Jatiasih church paid so much attention to them.



**Picture 3. Pastor Marnaek is asking Daniel Sinaga, who Suffers from Paralysis**

The picture above is when Pastor Marnaek asked Daniel Sinaga about his dreams. Daniel answered that he wanted to become a psychologist. Daniel Sinaga suffers from paralysis, cannot walk, so he has to use a wheelchair every day, but cognitively he has no problems, so he continues to go to school, and is currently sitting in class XI at a private high school in Jatiasih.





**Picture 4. Pastor Agustina Siahaan, S.Th, Giving Blessings in the Form of Money**

In picture 6, Rev. Agustina Siahaan, S.Th, gave an envelope containing IDR 300,000/person, and this was given after every service. This was a form of the church's attention to parents and people with disabilities which created a sense of happiness because they were cared for.



**Picture 5. Group Photo with Pastor Agustina Siahaan, S.Th After Finishing Worship**



**Picture 6. Photo with Pastor Marnaek Situmorang, S.Th, Dr. Julinda Siregar, M.Pd, and a Team of Church Elders as Well as Several Children with Disabilities**

In the picture, after the service is finished, people with disabilities are given blessings in the form of money, food for people with disabilities and also parents and other companions. The blessing is not much but it can make the hearts of parents and some people with disabilities feel happy and feel cared for. After the service, some of them enjoyed their food in the church environment and they were happy.



**Picture 7. Dr, Julinda Siregar, M.Pd and Several People with Disabilities**

In the picture, Dr. Julinda Siregar, M.Pd, as a service team at Diakonia is always tasked with distributing food to people with disabilities, while blessings in the form of money are delivered by Pastor Marnaek Situmorang, S.Th, then for parents and companions it is given by another team of elders. In the picture also sitting in a wheelchair is Daniel Sinaga, who is psychologically healthy and his cognitive abilities are also good. Daniel has set his goal of becoming a psychologist. As an academic and as a graduate of Educational Psychology and Guidance, I, as a Disabled Services Team, provide motivation for Daniel Sinaga.

Furthermore, this is in accordance with Marry Theresya's statement in Chosmas Chriatian T (2020). sacred communication, including: (1). Relations with believers and celebrating the liturgy, (2) having respect and how to behave in the liturgy (3). Desire to receive sacred communication. HKBP Jatiasih Church also provides special services by celebrating Christmas specifically for disabled people and parents, even though the majority of disabled children are unable to respond and read and write, they are still given the liturgy and those who read the liturgy are parents or companions, one disabled person who has paralysis in the legs, cognitively there was no disturbance so he could follow the service comfortably, and understand what was being said by the Pastor and other disabled ministers, then at the liturgy a disabled child named Daniel Sinaga read the liturgy himself.



**Picture 8. Special Christmas Celebrations for Disabled Persons Who Are Having Liturgy Accompanied by Their Parents**



**Picture 9. Special Christmas Committee for Disabled People Taking Photo with Parents and People with Disabilities.**



**Picture 10. Preparation of Pastors, Dr. Julinada Siregar, M.Pd and the Elders and Disabled Christmas Committee in the Consistory Room of the HKBP Jatiasih Church**



In the picture, before the service, there are 4 Pastors, namely Rev. Eldarton Simbolon, M.Th, D,Min, Rev. Marnaek Situmorang, S.Th, Rev. Agustina Siahaan, S.Th and Rev, Deddy Sipahutah, S.Th, then as liturgy of St. Nursalam Hutahaean, and the MC is Dr, Julinda Siregar, M.Pd who is also part of the Diakonia team in charge of education and the disabled as well as providing community service (PKM) at the HKBP Jatiasih church.



**Picture 11. Opening Board for Disability Program Led by St. P. Hutagalung**

**Table 1. Implications of the Findings**

No	Achievement Targets	Results obtained
1	Participants are people with disabilities and parents	The Diakonia Team and the elders and Pastor who are tasked with giving the word of God, also Dr, Julinda Siregar, M.Pd as the PKM implementer
2	The implementation of this special service for people with disabilities and parents resulted in the growth of enthusiasm in the parents, and they remained grateful even though they were given entrustment to children who as people with disabilities, especially people with disabilities who did not experience psychological disorders, were also increasingly enthusiastic about worshiping and achieving their dreams as psychologists.	Through the implementation of this special service, parents and people with disabilities became more enthusiastic and parents even revealed that they had a large family specifically for people with disabilities. So when a disabled person dies in 2023, they sympathize and express their condolences and pay attention by giving condolence money instead of flowers.

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3	Parents and children with disabilities need special services.	The Head of Diakonia with the PKM team from Unindra and from UKI are willing to take part in carrying out special devotional services so that parents and children with disabilities feel cared for and feel that they are being given special treatment, so that parents are more enthusiastic and grateful for the church's services to them, who feel it the most. The impact is on parents
4	Through UKI PKM activities, disabled services can be published	This special worship service activity for people with disabilities through the PKM team can be publicized so that it has an impact on other HKBP churches and also other churches that are not HKBP

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## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the results of collaborative community service activities carried out by the HKBP Jatiasih Disability Section Diakonia Team, Indraprasta PGRI University Postgraduate PKM Team and UKI Education Management Postgraduate, it can be concluded that this special worship activity for parents and children with disabilities was successful in raising the enthusiasm of parents and some people with disabilities. disabled. Some of them have not been able to feel the impact on people with disabilities because they experience problems in responding to the information they receive, but all parents are very happy and grateful for the existence of this special worship service for people with disabilities. The implementation of special services for people with disabilities always runs well and smoothly, which is held once every 3 months at HKBP Jatiasih.

The success of this special worship service for parents and people with disabilities which was carried out well and smoothly was due to the good cooperation of the Diakonia team, the chairman of Diakonia, Muchtar Pakpahan, who was always pro-active in providing information in the Whats App group of the HKBP Jatiasih congregation with disabilities. The success of the implementation of special worship activities for people with disabilities can be seen that parents and people with disabilities really appreciate the special worship service activities organized by the diakonia team and also the PKM team of the Unindra Social Sciences Education Postgraduate and UKI Jakarta Education Management Postgraduate, then it can be seen how enthusiastic the parents and disabled people who always diligently attend special services. For parents and people with disabilities. The PKM team is trying to publicize this special worship service, which is also a request from the head of the diakonia, namely Mr. Muchtar Pakpahan.

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