The Post Occupancy Evaluation: Analysing the Accessibility of Library Design in Australia and Indonesia

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The Problems of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) is limited access to educational facility in developing countries, such as Indonesia. On the other hand, UNCRPD and national regulations such as The Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (in Australia) and Act No. 8, the Year 2016 (in Indonesia) recommended removing the social and physical barriers to access educational facilities. Libraries play a central role to provide inclusive education to PwDs. Therefore, their accessibility is important to study. The study aims to investigate the barriers and opportunities to implement Inclusive Design (ID) in Public and University’s Libraries in Australia and Indonesia. The Research Question of the study is: “How can Inclusive Design be better implemented in developing countries?

Case Study Research with Post Occupancy Evaluation methods is proposed in this study. A research plan is prepared involving the interviews and Post-Occupancy Evaluation (POE). The data collection is to be conducted with interviews in four libraries in Australia, Belgium and Indonesia. The interviews will collect the perspectives of the actors in implementing Inclusive Design, such as decision-makers in the library, architects involved in the design, librarians and persons with disabilities that use the libraries. Post-Occupancy Evaluation with (walk-through process) will be implemented based on the Accessibility Audits checklist and involving several knowledgeable people with disabilities. The introductory study was conducted at the Library of Petra Christian University, Indonesia. Because of the infancy stage, the interviews, Focus Group Discussions and POE are conducted with the PwDs. The POE was conducted involving mixed of participants: PwDs and students simulating as PwDs. The PwDs involved are wheelchair users and persons with visual disability. The POE found that partial factors affecting, i.e. opportunities to ID are the trust among stakeholders and excellent ID knowledge of the PwDs, while barriers to ID are the limited time and limited budget. And in project’s reflection, in-depth interviews need to be further developed to answer the question.

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