

## Library Transformation Based on Social Inclusion in Argosari Village Yogyakarta

**Rufus Abyater Kustiyarto<sup>1</sup>, Purnomo Wahyu Anggoro<sup>2</sup>, Farah Amalia Oktiviana<sup>3</sup>, Wahyu Cahyo Agung<sup>4</sup>, Afroga Muhakkat Destri Putra<sup>5</sup>, Margaret Vinsensia Chelly Weroh<sup>6</sup>, Hilda Junian Trapsilowati<sup>7</sup>, Muntaha Sururi<sup>8</sup>, Salmadhiya Ananda<sup>9</sup>, Cahya Karunia Wibianingrum<sup>10</sup>, Titi Yuana Wulandari<sup>11</sup>, Abdulloh Khanif<sup>12</sup>, Indah Permatasari<sup>13</sup>, Fahnarul Damayanti<sup>14</sup>, Muhammad Ari Farhan Rizqullah<sup>15</sup>, Nafida Hetty Marhaeni<sup>16</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Mathematics Education, Universitas Mercu Buana Yogyakarta, Indonesia

<sup>2</sup>Guidance and Counseling, Universitas Mercu Buana Yogyakarta, Indonesia

<sup>3</sup>English Education, Universitas Mercu Buana Yogyakarta, Indonesia

<sup>4</sup>Sports Science, Universitas Mercu Buana Yogyakarta, Indonesia

\*Email: [nafidahm@mercubuana-yogya.ac.id](mailto:nafidahm@mercubuana-yogya.ac.id)

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### ABSTRACT

Library is one of the information centers that plays a crucial role in supporting community development. The transformation of libraries has become an urgent need, especially in rural areas, to address the challenges of social inclusion. This research aims to explore and implement a library transformation based on social inclusion in Argosari Village, Sedayu, Bantul, Special Region of Yogyakarta. The research method employed is participatory action research involving active participation from the local community. Data were collected through interviews, observations, and documentation. The research findings indicate a real need to transform the library into a center for social inclusion capable of serving the diverse needs of various community groups. Through a series of participatory activities, the library in Argosari Village successfully transformed into a welcoming and inclusive space for all layers of society. The implementation of library transformation includes providing easily accessible information resources, training and skill development for the community, and efforts to build partnerships with institutions and other communities. With these changes, the library is not cultural activities that strengthen community involvement in the learning and growth process. This research contributes to our understanding of the role of libraries in creating social inclusion at the village level. It is hoped that the results of this research can serve as inspiration and guidance for the development of libraries in various other villages, supporting government efforts to enhance access and community participation in the realms of literacy and knowledge.

**Keywords:** *Library transformation, social inclusion, Argosari village*

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### INTRODUCTION

Libraries, as institutions of knowledge and education, play an integral role in shaping and advancing societies (Mangnga, 2015; Iyuk, 2021; Yantiningasih & Santoso, 2015). The transformation of libraries into entities based on social inclusion is no longer an option but an urgent necessity in the face of the dynamics of contemporary societal development (Santosa, 2022; Saleh, 2020). Amid challenges in educational access, information disparities, and social inequalities, libraries must become centers that embrace all layers of society, regardless of background, social status, or cultural identity (Noor, 2019; Saputera, 2021).

In many regions, inclusion Desa Argosari, Yogyakarta access to education and information remains a serious challenge. Some communities may not fully explore their potential due to limitations in accessing reading materials, literature, and other education resources. Desa Argosari faces a storage of adequate public facilities, including libraries. This limitation can hinder the community from developing an interest in reading, exploring knowledge, and enhancing their skills. The transformation of libraries toward social inclusion is not just about providing physical access but also about creating an environment that supports every individual (Asari et al., 2022; Aulia & Arsandrie, 2023; Susilo, 2021). Social inclusion plays a key role in building an empowered society, where every member feels valued and has

the opportunity to thrive (Putra et al., 2021; Syam, 2023).

Libraries based on social inclusion can be significant agents of change in community development (Asari et al., 2022; Ruhukail & Koerniawati, 2021). By providing broader access, libraries can serve as learning spaces, community meeting points, and sources of inspiration for local innovation. The influence of globalization and technology, which plays a crucial role in changing how people access information, requires libraries to adapt and ensure that technological utilization serves as a means to expand access rather than leaving some segments of society behind (Rohman et al., 2024; Salim et al., 2014). With a profound understanding of this background, the transformation of libraries in Desa Argosari is directed toward becoming a center of social inclusion that fulfills the educational and informational needs of the community as a whole. Therefore, this article will explore concrete steps that can be taken to realize a library that truly reflects the spirit of social inclusion and supports sustainable community development. A social inclusion-based library is a library institution that is designed and operated with the principles of social inclusion. This includes various aspects, such as accessibility, representation, and services that take into account the diversity of society.

The following are several characteristics of libraries based on social inclusion: (1) Universal Accessibility: The library's physical facilities and resources are accessible to everyone, including those with special needs or disabilities; (2) Representative Collections: The library collection reflects the diversity of cultures, languages and backgrounds of the local population, so that all members of the community can feel represented; (3) Inclusive Programs and Events: Library programs and events are designed to encompass the interests and needs of all members of the community, regardless of their background; (4) Education and training: Provide education and training on the concept of social inclusion to library staff so that they can effectively serve the needs of diverse communities; (5) Inclusion Friendly Technology: Adopt technology that supports accessibility, such as screen reader software, to ensure that electronic resources are accessible to all users; (6) Partnership with Community: Collaborate with various community groups, non-governmental organizations, and other institutions to understand and accommodate the specific needs of different communities; (7) Community empowerment: Empowering communities to actively participate in library programs and giving them a platform to share and celebrate diversity; (8) Inclusive Awareness Training: Involve library staff in training to increase their awareness of diversity and the needs of diverse communities.

Social inclusion-based libraries aim to create an environment that stimulates community development and sustainability by encouraging the participation of all community members without discrimination. This involves active efforts to overcome barriers that may hinder access and participation. Libraries are crucial information hubs that play a significant role in supporting societal development. The transformation of libraries is an urgent need, especially in rural environments, to address the challenges of social inclusion. This research aims to explore and implement the transformation of libraries based on social inclusion in Desa Argosari, Yogyakarta.

## **METHOD**

The research method employed is participatory action research involving active participation from the local community. In the context of "Library Transformation Based on Social Inclusion in Argosari Village, Yogyakarta," this method offers a collaborative approach that enables community empowerment and direct integration of their perspectives and needs into the library's changes. Here is an explanation of this research method: (1) Active Community Participation: The PAR method emphasizes the direct involvement of the community in the entire research process, including design, implementation, and evaluation. This may involve various community groups in Argosari Village, including community members, local leaders, and library users; (2) Joint Design: The local community, together with researchers, designs the library transformation project. This process includes problem identification, goal formulation, and planning the steps to be taken; (3) Joint Implementation: The local community is not just the object of research but is actively involved in implementing the proposed changes. They can contribute to organizing activities, collecting data, or providing feedback; (4) Joint Evaluation: Evaluation is a collaborative process between researchers and the local community. It involves assessing the impact of changes, identifying constraints, and adjusting plans if necessary; (5) Community Empowerment: This method encourages the empowerment of the local community. Through active participation, community members can feel ownership of the changes happening in their library.

Then used continuous reflection to collaboratively during the research. This allows for adjusting strategies based on real experiences and dynamic changes in community needs. Also, joint documentation includes recording progress, keeping meeting notes, or creating visual documentation. An the last is gradual implementation of changes. Library transformation is carried out gradually, with direct community involvement in every step. This ensures that changes truly reflect the needs and aspirations of the local community. The PAR method is suitable for research focusing on social changes actively engaged by the local community. By involving them in every aspect of the research, the results tend to be more relevant, sustainable, and can have a more significant impact on the community.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

Transforming a library based on social inclusion refers to efforts to change and enhance the role of the library to be more socially inclusive. It involves various steps and strategies to ensure that the library not only serves as a repository and lending facility but also functions as a center that opens its doors to all members of the community, including those who may be marginalized or underrepresented. Some key principles of transforming a socially inclusive library include: **Accessibility:** Ensuring that the library is accessible to all members of the community without physical, financial, or social barriers. This may involve providing access for people with disabilities, easily reachable locations, and lending policies that support diverse groups. **Diverse Collections:** Offering a collection of reading materials and resources that reflect the diversity of the community. This includes books and materials that cover various ethnic, cultural, religious, gender, and sexual orientation backgrounds. **Inclusive Programs and Services:** Developing programs and services that accommodate the needs and interests of diverse communities. This could include literacy programs for children, technology training sessions for adults, or support for specific groups such as immigrants or the LGBTQ+ community. **Community Participation:** Encouraging active participation from various groups in the planning and management of the library. This involves listening to and responding to the needs of the local community. **Training and Education:** Providing training and education for library staff to better serve a diverse community, especially those from various backgrounds. **Inclusive Technology:** Ensuring that the library uses technology in a way that supports inclusion, including digital accessibility for all visitors.

This transformation recognizes that the library is not just a place to access information but also serves as a center for social life and education in the community. By focusing on social inclusion, the library can become a truly open and welcoming space for everyone. The results of activities achieved through the transformation of the socially inclusive library in Argosari Village, Yogyakarta, are as follows: **Improved Accessibility in the Library:** The community in Argosari Village can access the library more easily, including groups that may have had limited access before. Physical and online facilities supporting accessibility will be the main contributors. **Empowerment of Vulnerable Groups:** Vulnerable groups, such as children, the elderly, and people with disabilities, can experience increased support and empowerment through inclusive programs organized in the library. **Increased Community Literacy:** There is an improvement in the literacy rate among the people of Argosari Village. Diverse collections and structured literacy programs can enhance reading, writing, and information comprehension skills. **Active Community Participation:** The formation of an active community engaged in library activities, including study groups, play and learn groups, and training groups. This participation creates an inclusive atmosphere around the library.



**Figur 1.** Support for transformation based on social inclusion

**Improvement of Digital Skills:** The community of Argosari Village can enhance digital skills through free internet access at the library. This supports the improvement of digital literacy and readiness to face technological advancements. **Diversification of Collection:** The updated and diverse library collection can meet the needs of various age groups and interests in the community. This includes books in various languages and formats. **Empowerment of Women and the Local Community:** Increased empowerment of women and the local community through programs that support education, skill training, and entrepreneurship. **Establishment of Strong Partnerships:** The establishment of strong partnerships with educational institutions, local government, local businesses, and non-governmental organizations. This can support the sustainability of programs and the growth of the library. **Promotion of Reading Culture:** The promotion of a reading culture in the community, especially among children and teenagers. This can create an environment where reading is seen as an enjoyable and beneficial activity. **Increased Community Awareness:** Increased community awareness of the importance of literacy, education, and personal development through library efforts. This can create an environment that supports positive growth in Argosari Village.

The socially inclusive library transformation activities in Argosari Village have significantly impacted the social, educational, and economic aspects of the community. Through an inclusive approach, the library has evolved beyond being a mere repository of books; it has become a community hub that focuses on empowerment and improving the quality of life. It is crucial to conduct regular evaluations to ensure that existing programs align with the evolving needs of the community. Local empowerment, partnerships, and inclusive initiatives should be maintained to sustain the positive growth of both the library and its community. Furthermore, sharing experiences and best practices with other communities can serve as inspiration for similar transformations elsewhere.

Through discussions and training activities on the transformation of the socially inclusive library in Argosari Village, Yogyakarta, the community has gained a better understanding that community involvement is crucial. By increasing community participation, the library has evolved into a more inclusive space that caters to the diverse needs of the residents. This heightened engagement enables the community to actively contribute to and benefit from the programs, activities, and resources, ultimately promoting inclusion. The transformation of the library can enhance access to information for all community members, ensuring that every aspect of the community has an equal opportunity to engage with knowledge and educational resources. Technological integration plays a pivotal role in expanding information access, reaching a broader audience as well.

The transformation of the library aims to create a space where all community members can access materials with diverse cultural backgrounds, reflecting the cultural richness of Argosari Village. Social inclusion efforts in the library contribute to empowering the community by fostering a sense of shared ownership. This program imparts skills and knowledge that can enhance their overall quality of life. Collaborations with partners result in joint activities that strengthen a broader support network, amplifying the impact of social inclusion initiatives. The inclusive library actively plays a role in improving education and literacy levels for specific communities, especially for groups facing barriers. Additionally, education provided in the inclusive library has been tailored to address specific needs.

The challenges in implementing the transformation of the socially inclusive library include financial limitations, as not all available funds are directed towards the library transformation, with some still allocated for other training and discussion activities. Additionally, technological barriers pose a significant challenge. Technological unfamiliarity is a hurdle as not all community members possess devices that support technological engagement in the library. Moreover, there are still community members lacking sufficient experience in the world of technology. Resistance from certain individuals within the community is also a factor that needs to be addressed. We also discussed the future of the library, how to maintain social inclusion goals moving forward. Therefore, we are considering feedback and community involvement to shape the sustainable development of the library.

## **CONCLUSION**

The research findings indicate a real need to transform the library into a center for social inclusion capable of serving the diverse needs of various community groups. Through a series of participatory activities, the library in Argosari Village successfully transformed into a welcoming and inclusive space for all layers of society. The implementation of library transformation includes providing easily accessible information resources, training and skill development for the community, and efforts to build partnerships with institutions and other communities. With these changes, the library is not cultural

activities that strengthen community involvement in the learning and growth process. This research contributes to our understanding of the role of libraries in creating social inclusion at the village level. It is hoped that the results of this research can serve as inspiration and guidance for the development of libraries in various other villages, supporting government efforts to enhance access and community participation in the realms of literacy and knowledge.

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