

Advocacy To Make A Change

By: Aria Indrawati

Advocacy By Disabled People Organization

Advocacy to push new disability act after ratification of UN CRPD by Indonesian Government.

- Founded a “national coalition”
- Consisted of national level DPOs representing all disability group, center study for law and policy, and public legal aid office;
- Supported by international donor agent – DRF – Disability Rights Fund;
- The national coalition founded a “working group” consisted of 7 persons;

- The working group wrote the draft of the law based on UN CRPD, adjusted to Indonesian context;
- Submitted the draft to the parliament;
- Conducted series of political lobby to push and convince the parliament that they should take the initiative to process the new disability act;
- The parliament put the legislative process of the new disability act on national priority legislative program;
- The parliament especially the eighth commission formulated a “working committee” who was in charge to work on the draft of the law

- The appointed parliament working committee conducted comparative study to selected countries which were considered as good reference for Indonesia in terms of disability inclusive development, policy and practice;
- The national coalition conducted series of political actions, political lobby, as well as political pressure to push the parliament working committee to fasten the legislative process

- The national coalition conducted series of meeting with executive side, - ministries, president expert team, etc, to introduce the disability act draft, which was in the legislative process in the parliament;
- The parliament working committee send the act draft to the president;
- The president formulated a team who would work with the parliament working committee;

- There had been very strong debate between the parliament working committee and government team upon particular issues:

National commission on disability

Concessions, legal standing for intellectual disability and mental disability, etc

- There had been also silent compromise between the two parties, which had shocked the national coalition, such as:

Disability card, which was expected to be put under the ministry of home affair, but then was put under the responsibility of ministry of social affairs.

- Finally the new disability act was adopted in the parliament plannery discussion on March 17 2016,
- And it was published and put on the national gazzette on April 15 2016.
- The new disability act has become umbrella which mandate the Indonesian government to practice disability inclusive development in all sectors, / aspects.

Advocacy By Blind Person Individually

University blind student who need to lobby the faculty authority where they were studying

- The objective of the advocacy as to ask for reasonable accomodation for their special needs, such as how to get access to the university library, allowing them to use computer for doing assignments and examination, and other adjustment to enable university blind students be more independent in studying
- On top of that, the ultimate goal is the establishment of disabled student service center within the university

Self advocacy in employment:

- It's happened upon blind people who start working in offices / companies – formal employment;
- They should be able to be more assertive in informing and telling the employer what kind of adjustment should be implemented to enable them working more independently like sighted employees

Necessary Skills

- The most important skill needed for advocacy are soft skills, both intra personal and inter personal, such as:
- Understanding the advocacy goal, developing action plan, putting priority,
- Creative Communication – lobbying –
- How to convince the advocacy target;
- Using relevant network to support the advocacy effort;
- Understanding the way of thinking of the target and use it to make the advocacy effort much easier.