Community Attitude to the Social Life of Mentally Retarded Teenager in Paninggilan Village

Alfiani Putri Awalia*, Dedi Mulya, Yuni Tanjung Utami

Sultan Ageng Tirtayasa University, Banten, Indonesia
*E-mail: 2287170015@untirta.ac.id

Abstract: Attitude is a form of response that a person gives to something he sees. The purpose of this study was to find out how the community's attitude towards the social life of mentally retarded adolescents in Paninggilan Village. This research use qualitative descriptive approach. The respondents of this study were the community, which consisted of 10 people and 1 parent of a mentally retarded teenager. Data were collected through observations, interviews, documentation and field notes. The data analysis used was data reduction, data presentation and conclusion drawing. The results showed that the attitude of the community towards the social life of mentally retarded adolescents in Paninggilan Village could not be said to be completely good. When viewed based on the 3 components of the attitude acceptance aspect, the community already knows and understands a little what children with special needs are, the attitude given by the community to mentally retarded adolescents in Paninggilan Village is also good, but people still think that mentally retarded adolescents cannot be united with the community in general. Generally, when in an event because mental retardation can ruin an event, some of the community also still has an understanding that children with special needs (tunagrahita) are the same as ODGJ.

Keywords: attitude, children with special needs, mental retardation.

INTRODUCTION

Humans are the most perfect living creatures created by God on this earth when compared to other living things that God also created, such as animals and plants. In everyday life, humans will definitely live in a society, where they do not only live alone in one environment but live with other individuals in the same environment. Sulfan and Mahmud (2018: 269-284) explain that society is a group or group of people who are closely intertwined due to the same traditions, systems, conventions and laws that lead to a collective life system.

Because humans live in a society, then in carrying out all the activities of human life, of course, they will need help from other individuals. The process of seeking help is commonly known as the process of social interaction in a social life. Through social interactions that occur in social life, an individual's attitude towards something will be born and formed. This is because the attitude itself is a form of a person's actions that arise due to a person's response or reaction to a form of object, event or living being which in the end there are 2 possible attitudes that will appear in individuals towards something, the attitude is a negative attitude and a positive attitude.

Berkowitz in the book Saiffudin Azwar (1995: 5) explains that basically attitude is a form of evaluation or reaction of feelings, in other words a person's attitude towards an object is a form of feeling supportive or partial or feeling unsupportive or impartial to the object. Sarlito and Eko (1995: 191) explain that attitude is an assessment process carried out by an individual towards an object in the form of objects, humans or information, where later the process of someone's assessment of an object can be in the form of positive and negative assessments.

Andi Mappiere (1982: 170) explains that several indicators of acceptance of public attitudes towards individuals are because:
a) Appreciate as a whole what is inside the individual without conditions, opinions, or judgments, in other words the individual is accepted as a whole.

b) Seeing as a valuable person regardless of background or individual circumstances.

c) Do not look down, the social environment believes that individuals have confidence in the potential that exists in themselves.

d) Individuals who are accepted do not get pressure or have freedom, in other words, individuals will feel that their environment provides an independence.

Of the many living things that God created on this earth, there must be some of them who are given shortcomings, which are precisely the deficiencies possessed by an individual are used as acts of injustice and arbitrariness in behaving by other individuals. For example, the negative attitude given by the community towards adolescents with intellectual disabilities (tunagrahita) in Paninggilan Village.

Grossman in Wardani's book (1996: 16) explains that mentally retarded children are children who have intellectual intelligence (IQ) significantly below the average (normal) which is accompanied by an inability to adapt (adapt) to the environment surroundings and this takes place during its development period. This shows that there is a difference between mental retardation and society in general, where most of the mentally retarded even overall have intellectual intelligence that is below the normal average of <70. So that indirectly it can hinder them when interacting in their daily social life.

In the social life that occurs between the community and mentally retarded adolescents, not all people both in the city and in the village understand and understand what children with special needs are, especially mentally retarded children. There are still a lot of people who think and label someone who has intellectual intelligence below the normal average (tunagrahita) is someone who is an idiot, disabled, mentally ill, crazy, someone who was born due to the curse of a previous ancestor and there are also those who think that it is is an infectious disease, so that indirectly it makes people have a negative attitude towards someone with intellectual disabilities (mental retardation).

The treatment of people's negative attitudes towards the social life of mental retardation is the same as what happened in Paninggilan Village - Ciledug, where based on the narrative of the mother who has a mentally retarded teenager, there are still a lot of people who think their children are crazy, children whose emotions like to be explosive and irregular, stupid and idiotic child and unable to communicate. From this, the attitude of the community emerged that when they met or passed the mentally retarded teenager, they actually walked very far so as not to get close to the mentally retarded teenager, when talking to the mentally retarded teenager the community often used a very loud voice like cursing someone, even on another occasion there were people who took very bad actions against the mentally retarded teenager, where the community poured water on the mentally retarded teenager who was sitting in front of the house without doing anything to hurt others. Indirectly, this is certainly a negative attitude given by the community to mentally retarded teenagers in Paninggilan Village.

The statement regarding the negative attitude of the community towards mentally retarded adolescents is only based on exposure through one party, namely the mother who has a mentally retarded teenager, finding out how the actual attitude of society towards adolescents with intellectual disabilities in Paninggilan Village is very necessary. This indirectly encourages researchers to conduct a more focused and systematic empirical study of the research that will be carried out by the researcher with the title “Community Attitudes to the Social Life of Mentally Retarded Teenager in Paninggilan Village.”

METHOD

The right research method to be used in this research is to use descriptive qualitative methods. Moleong (2011:6) explains that qualitative methods are research that intends to understand the
phenomena of what is experienced by research subjects, for example behaviour, perceptions, motivations, actions and others holistically and by means of descriptions in the form of words and language in a special natural context by utilizing natural methods. This research was conducted to try to describe the research questions that will be answered through observation, interviews, documentation and field notes. The purpose of this research is to produce an accurate picture of a group, describe the mechanism of a process and provide a complete picture through verbal language.

Observation used in this research is observation with the form of participatory observation. Where in this form of observation the researcher will be directly involved with the daily life of the informants because this form of observation is used to collect data in order to collect research data through observation and sensing, so that researchers are required to be able to interact directly with the informants.

In this study, interviews were conducted using a structured model that is systematic, the technique used is the In Depth Interview technique. Or in other words, this research was conducted based on interview instruments that had previously been made by researchers and then given to respondents, but with different answers for each respondent.

Documentation is used to strengthen the data that has been obtained in observations and interviews. In this study, researchers used personal documents, field notes and photos during observations and interviews, this documentation can provide a concrete picture of people's attitudes towards the social life of mentally retarded children in Paninggilan Village.

In this study, as long as the research took place from the beginning to the end of the study, the authors recorded all events and events that were in the field constantly. So, by using these field notes, the author will get data in the form of events or events that occur during the process of daily life taking place in Paninggilan Village in order to find out how the Paninggilan Village community's attitude towards mentally retarded adolescents.

Research Informants
The author uses purposive sampling technique to determine the informants in this study. Purposive sampling technique is how to determine informants by selecting informants according to the criteria and needs of the authors in this study. The eleven people who were selected as informants in this study were people at the top level or in other words, village officials and the general public who had houses close to mentally retarded adolescents.

Data Analysis Technique
Patton (1980:268) explains that data analysis is a process of arranging data sequences, organizing them into patterns, categories and basic units. In this study, the researcher reduces the data that has been obtained during the research process, from the beginning of the research to the completion of the research. Every new data obtained by researchers either through observation, interviews, documentation and field notes, researchers will immediately filter and select any existing data. Researchers then classify each of the existing data into different forms of code between one data code and another. Then, the next step is for the researcher to re-examine and filter any data that has the same answer and is in accordance with the formulation of the problem and research objectives, then describes the data that has been found in the form of a narrative description.

In this study, the researcher presents research data (observations, interviews, documentation, field notes) which have previously been filtered at the data reduction stage. The research data that have been classified in each of the existing research objectives are then explained at the stage of presenting the data in the form of descriptive narratives along with data from interviews, observations and documentation that have previously been classified into coded form.
In this study, the conclusions drawn by the researcher are based on all the data obtained from the initial research that has gone through the stages of reduction (filtering) and data presentation. The data that has been reduced and presented is then concluded by explaining the core of the research objectives and what the results of the research are, so that the common thread in this study can be presented as well as possible.

**Data Validity Check**

In this study, the researcher decided to check and test the validity of the data using the "extended observation" and "triangulation" techniques. In the process of extending the observation, the researcher added the observation time of the research in Paninggilan Village for 1 week, this was done so that the results of the data that had been obtained previously were stronger and more accurate. Researchers used 2 triangulation techniques, namely "technical triangulation" and "source triangulation".

**RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

**Result(s)**

Based on interviews, observations and field notes that have been carried out, the authors can describe the community's attitude towards the social life of mentally retarded adolescents in Paninggilan Village. In the people of Paninggilan Village, whose lives have been classified into the form of a modern lifestyle. The issue of children with special needs is certainly not a new thing for them, in several other alleys in Paninggilan Village, on the streets, or even in other villages, more or less people already know and have often seen children with special needs, even though what they know may be limited to children with autism, the deaf, the blind and the mute only, but in general the community has understood what a child with special needs is.

The results of the study found data that apparently the attitude of the people of Paninggilan Village was not completely good towards children with special needs (adolescents with mental retardation). This study was conducted to find out how people's attitudes are reviewed based on 3 aspects of the attitude component proposed by Syaifuddin Azwar (1995: 5) which consists of a cognitive component (knowledge/understanding), an affective component (emotional feeling) and a conative component (action or response) community towards children with special needs in Paninggilan Village. The following is a discussion of acceptance indicators based on 3 aspects of the attitude component.

**Cognitive / Understanding / Community Knowledge**

Broadly speaking, people actually already understand what a child with special needs is, people know that a child with special needs is a child who has limitations both in physical and motor skills, intelligence or emotions. The community also knows how to respond to and treat children with special needs in Paninggilan Village. However, besides this, there are still many people who do not know the group of children with special needs, especially mentally retarded.

In some cases encountered in the field during interviews, in fact, there were still people who thought that children with special needs (tunagrahita) in Paninggilan Village were the same as people with mental disorders (ODGJ) and some described them as disabled. So in this case, public knowledge of children with special needs and mentally retarded children cannot be said to be good (the community understands) completely. This can be seen from the results of interviews with residents in Paninggilan Village:

"Yes, in my opinion, yes, children with special needs are children who need help, yes, so what should I do, there is special treatment from the family, especially
families, if you say what is lacking, it was entered into ODGJ right, so there is special treatment like that, from the family especially."

"Yes, if I ever thought it was a disabled child and I was afraid to be close to him, especially children because there are people in my environment like that."

**Affective / Emotional / Community Feelings**

Most of the people of Paninggilan Village are aware and sensitive that in Paninggilan Village there is a mentally retarded teenager, the community process realizes that in Paninggilan Village there are children with special needs (tunagrahita) are also different, but the average community has realized it from the beginning the mentally retarded teenager moved to Paninggilan Village with his family. The community also never felt afraid when they were close to mentally retarded teenagers and the community also never felt disturbed by the presence of mental retardation in Paninggilan Village.

Based on the information obtained through interviews from the surrounding community regarding the bullying of local residents (children) against mentally retarded adolescents, this is indeed true, in the worst case, the family of the mentally retarded teenager was about to be punished because the parents of the bullying child did not accept that their child was being scolded by parents of mentally retarded teenagers. This can be seen from the results of interviews with residents in Paninggilan Village:

"Yes, ma'am, and his father himself also told me that his child was doused with water by someone else, in the end, the father chased the child to the house, and the parent whose child splashed water on the tuti would not accept that her child was scolded by her father got into a fight and wanted to be taken to the police, right? But yeah, if I feel like it's normal, it's normal because it's also a small child, how old is 10 years, I think, so it's only natural that I'm also a child, it's just that the parents should give more education"

From the conversation above, M said that parents should be able to provide more education to a child and still blame the parents. However, in addition to this, M as a community leader also justifies the bad attitude given by the child to the mentally retarded teenager because the perpetrators of the bullying are still children. And this kind of thinking is not only owned by M, but by all citizens or communities who become informants.

In this case, it was also discovered that people who have important roles in the community, namely the village head and RW head, are not aware of the existence of children with special needs (tunagrahita in Paninggilan Village). This can be seen from the results of interviews with residents in Paninggilan Village:

"It's clear that we don't know yet, Granny, what kind of grahita is it, if it's down syndrome, it's obvious that her face can be seen, if she says she's the same as children in general, so that was it, we really didn't know. Our understanding also doesn't understand what mental retardation is like, but if the language is idiotic, we know it. I only found out after neng submitted research on children with special needs here."

“I know his family but I don't know if his son is like that. I know the family has been around for a long time, but I only found out that this child has special needs when I told you. Yes, maybe it's because his family is embarrassed, so it's also difficult for us to approach him."
So, based on the foregoing, the affective aspect of the attitude of the Paninggilan Village community also cannot be said to be good.

**Conative /Response /Community Action**

In the daily life between mentally retarded teenagers and the people of Paninggilan Village, until now everything is going well. The parents of the teenage ATG open a grocery store stall at home, so that every day there will always be people who come to buy, in their daily life the teenage ATG often helps their parents to maintain the stall, so that the interaction between the residents of Paninggilan Village and ATG Such youth is impossible not to happen. Although it is only limited to asking the price of goods in the shop between residents and teenage ATG, this is included in a form of social interaction.

In addition to observation, during interviews conducted between researchers and community members, the community always answered that they always responded well to the ATG conversations of teenagers. This can be seen in the results of interviews of researchers with residents:

"Yes, if I was, I was waiting, that's just how it was, sis, he didn't connect when he said A suddenly to B, it's too late, sis, it's all wrong, actually, but what if the tuti asked to talk, huh? I'll just wait. It's just that as far as I can see, he often interacts with small children aged 4/5 years, because her tuti likes small children."

Basically, the community has accepted the existence of adolescent ATG in this Paninggilan Village, this can certainly be seen from the shape of the community's emotions, community feelings, and community responses or actions towards adolescent ATG, but there is a small thing that indirectly changes the author's thinking that the community has not fully accepted the adolescent ATG in this Paninggilan Village. The thing that makes researchers think that is that ATG is not included in every event in Paninggilan Village with the reason that residents are afraid that the events that have been made will be randomized by this teenage ATG. This can be seen in the results of interviews of researchers with residents:

"No sist, if she is included, she will mess up the event, so it's better not to be included."

Based on the conversation above, MY as the head of the PKK in Paninggilan Village, who happened to live not far from the ATG teenager's house, thought that the child had never been involved in various activities for fear of ruining the activities that had been made previously.

**Discussion(s)**

Seeing the above, if it is readjusted by the attitude-forming factors according to Syaufudin Azwar (1995: 5), then indirectly the attitudes that are formed in society can still not be said to be completely good, this is of course linked back to the statement of Andi Mappiere (1982). : 170 which says that in the formation of acceptance of a good public attitude, there must be 4 things in it, namely respecting, not looking at background, not looking down on and believing in one's ability and giving freedom to someone. After looking at the attitudes of the people of Paninggilan Village based on 3 Aspects of Attitude Components According to Syaufuddin Azwar (1995: 5), it can be seen that each aspect of the community in these components is still not said to be good in its entirety, which indirectly forms the acceptance of community attitudes. It also becomes bad because there are several indicators that indirectly explain and
illustrate that the surrounding community still sees the background and looks down on and does not believe in the ability of an individual.

Sudjatmoko (1983) explains that in the development of an inter-community approach there is a "top down" model or commonly known as a top-down approach, the meaning here is that the understanding related to society that has been owned by people who have high interests / positions will be easy to arrive at. subordinate structures such as society automatically. This in this study is very different, where people who have high interests / positions in Paninggilan Village (Village Head, RW) do not know at all what is going on, who is there and what problems are happening in their community, in this case (RT and community leaders and PKK leaders) have a poor understanding of children with special needs (ATG) so that this further strengthens that the attitude of the community cannot be said to be completely good based on statements from the highest village officials who stated that they were not aware of the existence of children with special needs. Specifically, so that indirectly the people under his leadership will have the same knowledge as him.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the discussion in this study, it can be concluded that the attitude of the community towards the social life of mentally retarded adolescents in Paninggilan Village cannot be said to be completely good. This is seen based on 3 aspects of the attitude component, each of which affects attitude acceptance, the three factors are cognitive, affective and conative factors. In terms of cognitive factors, there are still many people who do not understand deeply about children with special needs, especially mentally retarded children, there is still a thought that says that children with special needs are the same as people who have mental disorders. Besides this, there are still people who say that children with special needs (mental retardation) are children with disabilities and idiots. The surrounding community is also still normalizing the bad actions given by children around the Paninggilan Village environment to children with special needs (tunagrahita) who are there.

In his actions, the community also indirectly gave instructions that the residents of the Paninggilan Village community had not accepted the existence of the mentally retarded teenager in their village. This can be seen based on the attitude of the community that has not embraced mentally retarded adolescents in participating in various kinds of activities in Paninggilan Village on the pretext that later the mentally retarded youth will mess up the activities in the village or in other words there is still fear and worry. indirectly.

On the other hand, what needs to be paid attention to is the lack of care for people who have an important role in society towards mentally retarded teenagers in the village. This can be seen based on the results of interviews which found that the village head and RW head did not know that one of the residents in Paninggilan Village was a child with special needs who should receive more attention from the local village government.

SUGGESTION

For the Community

It is hoped that the community will understand more deeply about children with special needs and not normalize things that should not be appropriate.

For Village Officials

It is hoped that they will be able to better recognize and find out the characteristics and shortcomings of each community, regardless of whether it is included in the scope of children with special needs or not, but it would be even better if the village officials (village heads, RT, RW) were more concerned to the existence of children with special needs in their village, so
that in the future there will be no children with special needs who are neglected in their own environment.

Parents are the main place for their behavior to be imitated by children, so it would be better for parents to always set a good example, especially to increase their children's confidence.

For Researchers
This research is expected to be used as additional knowledge and experience. Researchers are also expected to be able to share the knowledge they have gained during their undergraduate education to the community so that it can open up public understanding and of course provide additional knowledge to the community about children with special needs and mental retardation. This research can also be used as a reference for other studies that have the same problem.

REFERENCE