



Accessibility Of The Exhibition Room For Disability At The Vredeborg Fort Yogyakarta Museum

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to identify accessibility facilities in the permanent exhibition space of diorama 1, diorama 2, diorama 3, and diorama 4 of the Yogyakarta Vredeborg Fort Museum for visitors with physical disabilities and visual impairments. The research method used in this research is descriptive qualitative research methods involving visitors with physical disabilities and sensory impairments who have visited the permanent diorama exhibition room, staff at the Fort Vredeborg Yogyakarta Museum, as well as teachers and art activists in the context of people with disabilities in Yogyakarta. The theoretical approach used in this research is the theory of museums, exhibition spaces, accessibility, people with disabilities, as well as human rights and social inclusion. The research results show that the accessibility facilities in the museum exhibition room meet the standards in the form of the availability of automatic doors, corridors, maneuvering areas, ramps and guide tiles. However, accessibility facilities do not fully accommodate people with physical disabilities who are physically impaired and who are visually impaired due to the lack of adequate ramps with handrails, audio descriptions, braille text and tactile objects. This research suggests that museums can improve accessibility facilities that are not yet available to increase comfort and convenience regarding the narrative they want to convey through the collection layout and information labels presented in accordance with inclusive building design standard regulations for visitors with physical disabilities and sensory impairments when visiting the space. permanent display of dioramas at the Fort Vredeborg Museum in Yogyakarta.

Keywords: Accessibility, Disability, Inclusive Exhibition Space, Accessible Museum for Disability

INTRODUCTION

The accessibility of exhibition spaces in museums is a very important concern in an effort to create an inclusive environment for people with disabilities. As a museum that presents the history of Indonesia's struggle, Museum Benteng Vredeborg Yogyakarta needs to ensure that its exhibition spaces are accessible to all individuals, including people with physical disabilities and sensory impairments. The selection of the research focus on persons with physical disabilities who are physically disabled and sensory impaired is based on the high accessibility challenges for persons who are

physically disabled and visually impaired who often get barriers to accessibility in public spaces, especially in museum spaces as well as the relevance to the design of inclusive spaces that are accessible to all groups, especially persons who are physically disabled and visually impaired who need physical access and access to information in museum showrooms.

Museum Benteng Vredeborg Yogyakarta was chosen as the object of research because this museum is an accessible Indonesian history museum in Yogyakarta. The Ministry of Education and Culture designates Museum Benteng Vredeborg Yogyakarta as a

vulnerable, accessible museum for the disabled. (RR. Muri Kurniawati, S.IP., M.A., personal interview, 12 September 2024). Museum Benteng Vredeborg, with its status as a national history museum, is a relevant place to research the extent to which accessibility principles are applied in supporting inclusivity.

The issue of accessibility in public spaces, including museums, is an issue that is gaining increasing attention in the discourse of inclusive development. In Indonesia, although the government has issued various regulations such as Law No. 8/2016 on Persons with Disabilities and Minister of Public Works Regulation No. 30/PRT/M/2006 on Technical Guidelines for Accessibility in Public Buildings, the implementation is often not optimal. It can be seen in Museum Benteng Vredeborg Yogyakarta, which has been declared as an accessible museum for disability. However, facilities such as wheelchair ramps, audio descriptions for the visually impaired, braille text, ramps, and tactile objects are still not optimal. These shortcomings indicate a gap between policy and practice in the field.

People with physical disabilities who are physically challenged and sensory impaired were chosen as research subjects because they often face more significant obstacles in accessing public facilities, including museums. The physically disabled have limited mobility, thus requiring physical facilities such as ramps, handrails, and safe pathways. Meanwhile, the visually impaired need sensory facilities such as audio descriptions, tactile objects, and guides to understand the collections displayed. The selection of this accessibility theme is also relevant because the issue is a big concern at the national and global levels. According to accessibility theory, public environments, including museums, should be accessible to everyone without discrimination. Museums, as educational and cultural institutions, have an important role in providing an equal learning experience for all individuals. With a focus on the fixed diorama exhibition room of Benteng Vredeborg Museum, this research is expected to provide strategic recommendations for the museum in improving disability-friendly facilities, as well as contributing to national efforts in realising inclusivity in the cultural sector.

METHOD

This research method uses a descriptive method with a qualitative approach in Museum Benteng Vredeborg Yogyakarta.

Interview

Data collection techniques, such as unstructured interviews, were conducted with cultural officers, curators, preparators, and educators of the Yogyakarta Fort Vredeborg Museum, art activists, teachers and

assistants of special schools, and people with physical disabilities and sensory impairments who visited the Vredeborg Fort Museum's exhibition room from September to November 2024.

Documentation

The documentation data collection technique aims to collect photographs and visual data regarding accessibility at the Vredeborg Fort Museum Yogyakarta. The photos and visual data are used to add validity to the data from interviews and observations and to illustrate the facilities for people with disabilities that are already available. Documentation data was obtained during the observation process.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This research is entitled 'Accessibility of Exhibition Room for Persons With Disabilities At The Vredeborg Fort Yogyakarta Museum'. Museum Benteng Vredeborg Yogyakarta was chosen as the object of this research because it is one of the museums that has the potential to provide accessibility for people with disabilities, both physical and non-physical accessibility. In this research, the selection of focus on physically disabled and sensory impaired people has a reason because they have different challenges and needs to access the exhibition space both in terms of physical and non-physical accessibility in Museum Benteng Vredeborg Yogyakarta and ensure that the museum can meet the needs of physically disabled and sensory impaired people in the fixed exhibition space of diorama 1, diorama 2, diorama 3, and diorama 4. The focus of the selected subject has relevance to the availability of accessibility facilities in the fixed exhibition space of the diorama of Museum Benteng Vredeborg Yogyakarta. Based on field observations show that both groups of physically disabled and sensory impaired are the most suitable with the availability of accessibility facilities in the diorama exhibition room of Museum Benteng Vredeborg Yogyakarta at the moment.

In art governance, the exhibition space is not only a space to display historical collections. Through its spatial layout and collection layout, the exhibition space also functions as a medium for conveying cultural and historical messages. Efforts are made to create an inclusive exhibition space that not only prioritises the quality of artworks or collections displayed but also ensures that every visitor, including vulnerable groups, especially people with physical disabilities and sensory impairments, can access and interact with the artworks or collections presented.

The accessibility of this showroom includes two main aspects: physical and non-physical accessibility. These two aspects are interconnected to create equal services for all visitors, including people with physical disabilities (mobility impairment) and sensory

impairment (visual impairment). Placement of artworks should take into account the needs of people with disabilities, such as placing smaller artworks at an appropriate height so that visitors with limited vision or mobility can easily reach them. Some three-dimensional objects, such as sculptures, are placed at a height that allows visitors to see the details easily.

Although Museum Benteng Vredeborg Yogyakarta has applied the principle of universal design through the provision of physical and non-physical accessibility facilities, especially for visitors with physical disabilities and sensory impairment, there are still obstacles that hinder visitors with physical disabilities and sensory impairment in accessing the museum's permanent exhibition space in diorama 1, diorama 2, diorama 3, and diorama 4. Some of the obstacles for visitors with physical disabilities and sensory impairment in accessing the museum's permanent diorama showroom are the absence of accessibility facilities in the form of tactile objects, braille text, lighting, and accessible information. The accessibility facilities provided are good enough. However, there are still barriers to the use of facilities, such as in certain spaces that require assistance for people with physical disabilities and sensory impairment, as well as the number of accompanying staff totalling 13 people who have not met the number in a large number of visits or it can be said that visits in the number of more than 5 people for visitors with physical disabilities and sensory impairment who need special assistance in accessing the diorama museum showroom. The following table shows the need for accessibility facilities for people with physical disabilities (physically disabled) and sensory disabilities (visually impaired) in the museum's fixed diorama exhibition room, which is already available but not yet provided by Museum Benteng Vredeborg Yogyakarta.

Table 1. Availability of accessibility facilities of Museum Benteng Vredeborg Yogyakarta

Physical Accessibility Facility	For The Physical Disabled	For The Visually Impaired
Doors	Available	Available
Corridor	Available	Available
Accessibility	Available	Available
Ramps	Available	Available
Manoeuvring Area	Available	Available
Lighting	Available	Not Yet
Guiding Blocks	Available	Available
Priority Chairs	Available	Available
Physical Accessibility Facility	For The Physical Disabled	For The Visually Impaired
Braille Text	Not Yet	Available
Tactile Objects	Not Yet	Not Yet

Accessible Information	Available	Not Yet
Audio Description	Not Yet	Not Yet
Guide Staff	Available	Available
Inclusive Programs	Available	Available

Physical Accessibility Doors

The entrance of the Diorama 1 room has applied the minimum accessibility standards, referring to the theory of the Minister of Public Works Regulation Number 30/PRT/M/2006 to apply a building design with wide doors. This door has an opening width of 1.5 m to facilitate visitors with physical disabilities and sensory impairments' easy access to the showroom using mobility aids.

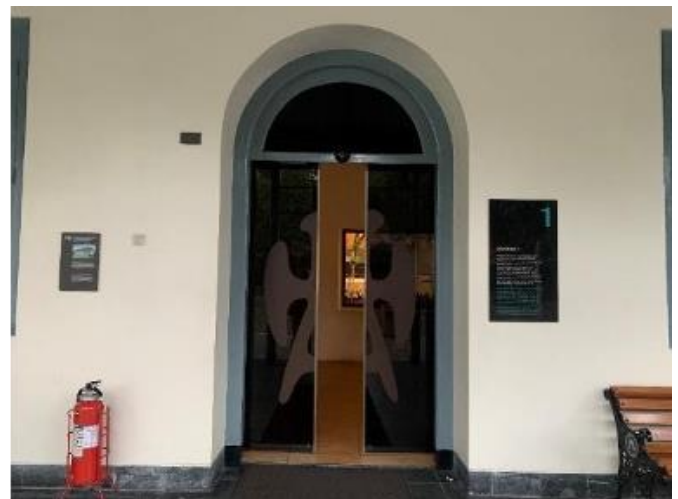


Figure 1. Diorama Room Door 1
Source: Documentation of Citra Dewi, 2024

Corridor

The corridor is designed to provide enough space for free movement without any obstacles that can interfere with the comfort of visitors with special needs. A corridor width of 4.25 metres provides ample space to allow easier accessibility for wheelchair users and freedom for visitors who use other mobility aids. The Room Height of 3.5 metres allows for good air circulation and the comfort of visitors to interact with the collection displayed in the diorama room.



Figure 2. Corridor room of diorama
Source: Documentation of Citra Dewi, 2024

Ram Accessibility

The availability of ram in the fixed diorama exhibition room of Museum Benteng Vredebung Yogyakarta has different materials, namely cement material, which means that the ram is permanent and integrated with the building, and the ram with iron plate material can be moved. The concept of different ram materials used refers to the concept of aesthetics and conservation, and the museum building is a cultural heritage building.



Figure 3. Accessibility Ramps
Source: Documentation of Citra Dewi, 2024

Manoeuvring Area

Referring to the accessibility theory used, the minimum size for the manoeuvring area as a full turnaround space has a minimum size of 200 cm wide and 120 cm long, which has been provided in the fixed diorama exhibition space of Museum Benteng Vredebung Yogyakarta. The manoeuvring area provided by the museum is integrated with the corridor space with a wide width. So, it is possible as a manoeuvring area as

a full rotation movement space to facilitate free movement in order to interact with the collections presented in the fixed diorama exhibition space of the museum without obstacles.

Lighting

Lighting in the showroom is very important to be considered to convey the narrative in accordance with the conditions of the story conveyed through lighting on the collection in the showroom. In addition, the lighting also serves as the direction of the visitors' journey in the exhibition space. Lighting in the exhibition space needs to pay attention to aspects of accessibility for people with disabilities, especially for groups of blind people with sensory disabilities who have sensitivity to light with a certain intensity.

Guide Tiles

Based on the function in accordance with the theory of accessibility according to the Regulation of the Minister of Public Works Number: 30/PRT/M/2006, guide tiles are divided into two types of textures based on their function, namely direction guide tiles which have a pattern texture in the form of parallel lines that function as directions. Attention guide tiles that have a pattern texture in the form of dots or dots as attention or warnings of changes in the situation around the road travelled by visitors with blind sensory disabilities.



Figure 4. Guide Tiles of Museum Benteng Vredebung Yogyakarta

Source: Documentation of Citra Dewi, 2024

Priority Chairs

The accessibility priority chair is marked with orange chair colour, using a blue chair cover as a sign that contains information that the chair is specifically for vulnerable groups, including physically disabled and sensory impaired people who need a place to rest for a moment while visiting the museum's fixed diorama exhibition room.



Figure 5. Priority Chairs
Source: Documentation of Citra Dewi, 2024

Non-physical Accessibility Braille Text

The availability of accessibility facilities for visually impaired people with sensory disabilities in the form of braille text in the permanent diorama exhibition room of the Museum Benteng Vredenburg Yogyakarta is not yet available in the form of labels or captions on each collection presented. The availability of braille text is still limited to the museum guidebook with braille letters that can only be accessed through the service room at the Yogyakarta Fort Vredenburg Museum, with a total of 5 units of braille guidebooks.

Tactile Objects

The provision of tactile objects must be able to cover the delivery of information and narrative. Therefore, the Museum needs to add or expand the availability of tactile objects to support the inclusiveness of the Museum's permanent diorama exhibition space.

Accessible Information

The caption of label design must consider the needs of visitors from various backgrounds, especially visitors with physical disabilities and visual impairments. Especially the group of visitors with visual impairments who cannot read alphabetical text. Placement of collection labels in the minirama collection is at a height of 100 cm from the floor so as to facilitate access, especially for visitors with physical disabilities in the wheelchair-bound disabled category.

Audio Description

Providing audio descriptions is very important to support inclusivity and accessibility facilities for people with disabilities, especially for people with visual impairments. However, the audio narration presented

cannot yet facilitate visitors with visual impairments because in its provision, the audio narration support provided must still use visuals.

Guide Staff

The Fort Vredenburg Yogyakarta Museum's guiding staff includes museum educational staff and Sigap Keren staff or the Vulnerable Group Service Alert team, which is marked by the use of red vests. The Sigap Keren team is at certain points in the museum, such as at the counter, to be able to guide people who are in vulnerable groups directly.

Inclusive Program

The inclusive program 'Jebol Keran' or Pick Up the Ball for Vulnerable Groups at the Fort Vredenburg Yogyakarta Museum aims to provide equal access and opportunities for vulnerable groups to the museum's resources, activities, and collections. This program focuses on removing barriers that marginalized or disabled groups may face so that they can experience the same benefits as other visitors.

CONCLUSIONS

The physical accessibility provided by the Yogyakarta Fort Vredenburg Museum in the permanent exhibition space of Diorama 1, diorama 2, diorama 3 and Diorama 4 of the museum is in the form of door, corridor, ramps accessibility, lighting and priority seating accessibility for physically disabled and visually impaired people. Providing physical accessibility for people with physical disabilities who are physically impaired and visually impaired in the form of entry and exit access doors which are equipped with facilities in the form of automatic sensors in the permanent diorama exhibition room of the Fort Vredenburg Museum, which meets the minimum size standards stipulated in accessibility theory so that it can facilitate access for visitors, especially for people with physical disabilities who are physically disabled and visually impaired. However, there are shortcomings in providing automatic door sensors because the door opening duration is not long enough for access for people with disabilities who require mobility aids.

The non-physical accessibility that has been provided quite well by the Fort Vredenburg Yogyakarta Museum is for the guide staff to help guide visitors from vulnerable groups, including visitors with physical disabilities, physical impairments and sensory impairments, in accessing the museum's permanent diorama exhibition space. Non-physical accessibility that is not yet available for disability-friendly museums or inclusive museum spaces is facilities in the form of narrative collection labels in braille text and audio descriptions to help visitors with visual impairments

understand clearly the information or narrative being conveyed. As well as directions and information that do not yet meet accessibility for people with disabilities, especially for people with visual impairments.

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