

INCLUSIVE JOURNALISM: HOW INDONESIAN MEDIA SHEDS LIGHT ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN COVID-19 REPORTING

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ABSTRACT

The media plays a significant role in constructing the public meanings of disasters/crises and influencing disaster management policy. During the process, media coverage is required to be inclusive with the essence of covering our society in all of its guises, having a variety of sources and generating a story that reflects many points of view, including the marginalized groups. Under the concept of inclusive journalism, this article analyzed how Indonesian media sheds light on People with Disabilities (PwD) in Covid-19 Reporting. This study is designed with a descriptive qualitative approach. To answer the purpose of this study, articles published in Kompas online and Detik.com which covered the issue of PwD related to Covid-19 pandemic were collected and were analyzed using the framing approach. The result of this study is significant because how the media portrays disability affects how disabled people view themselves and their wellbeing, how others treat them, and how social, economic, and health policies are created in relation to disability during this pandemic situation. Study reveals that even during pandemic when PwD suffer increased health risks and access challenges, they are still underrepresented in media or government discourse. In addition, the news coverage still strengthened the negative and/or dehumanizing stereotypes towards PwD. PwD is still framed as "victims", "others", and "inspirational" in the pandemic reporting.

Keywords: *Disability; Inclusive Journalism; Pandemic; Covid-19*

INTRODUCTION

The Covid-19 pandemic has become a major crisis in almost all parts of the world and has captured the attention of all parties, including the media (Xu et al., 2021). The role of the media is becoming more crucial in this pandemic's uncertain conditions to shape the public perceptions of disasters and affect disaster management policy (Furqan et al., 2022). The media is an important source of information that enables people at all social strata to comprehend the crises or pandemic that has occurred and adopt the appropriate response.

The practice of health, disaster, and empathy journalism should be combined in pandemic reporting (Hayati & Yoedtadi, 2020). In light of this practice, journalism needs to be inclusive in order to challenge hegemonic notions of inequality under the rubric of social diversity (Rupar, 2017). Media exposure has the power to affect cognition, attitudes, and behavior directly, indirectly, or cumulatively (Sanborn & Harris, 2019). In addition, according to the agenda-setting theory (Heath & Bryant, 1992), news media raises people's knowledge and attention about topics. The news media informs the public which concerns need to be taken into account by choosing specific information and excluding other information. Hence, the media participates in the larger process of inclusion and exclusion.

During the process, media coverage is required to be inclusive with the essence of covering our society in all of its guises. It is important to have a variety of sources and generate a story that reflects many points of view, including the marginalized groups (Ross, 2019). In addition, inclusivity is a significant part of news accuracy as it shows the real diversity of society (Ross, 2019). Within the context of an international health crisis, media coverage needs to include marginalized groups and the problems they encounter during the time of the pandemic.

This particular paper will specifically focus on how Indonesian media sheds light on People with Disabilities (PwD) in Covid-19 reporting. PwD is the largest minority population worldwide (WHO, 2021). In Indonesia alone there are more than 37 million people with disabilities and 17 million of them are children and the elderly (Rifai & Humaedi, 2020). Even before the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, disabled persons in Indonesia faced a number of obstacles to gaining employment, education, housing, and social involvement, despite the size of this community (WHO, 2021).

Such discrimination against PwD increased during the time of the pandemic. PwD group is believed to have a greater risk in the conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic. They are more susceptible to contracting the deadly virus because they are hampered in accessing prevention and hygiene information (World Economic Forum, 2020). Another factor is that there are barriers to implementing clean and healthy living behaviors, as a result of inaccessible sanitation facilities, while some people with disabilities need to touch something to obtain information or physical support (eg assistive devices such as sticks, wheelchairs, information in letters, braille, etc.) as mentioned by International Disability Alliance (IDA) (2020).

The spread of the Covid-19 virus is also increasingly vulnerable due to dependence on physical contact with the environment or companion. Symptoms of COVID-19 in PwD can also be more severe due to respiratory health conditions caused by certain disorders and at the same time, they may experience more bar-

riers to accessing health care and experience discrimination and neglect by health care workers (WHO, 2020). Apart from the health aspect, this crisis is also believed to have exacerbated inequality, discrimination, and violence for PwD in various other aspects such as the economy, education, social protection, and others (Goggin & Ellis, 2020a).

The series of policies restricting public movement during the pandemic has the potential to place PwD in increasingly isolated and marginalized situations (International Disability Alliance (IDA), 2020). During a pandemic, they have the potential to experience a higher level of difficulty in communicating or accessing information than other people in general (Xu et al., 2021). For example, the obligation to use masks has an impact on several groups with disabilities who have difficulty communicating because facial expressions and lip movements cannot be seen (WHO, 2020).

Drawing on the concept of inclusive journalism, this paper aims to analyze the representation of PwD in the media during this pandemic. Up to now, there are only a few pieces of research that discuss the news coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on marginalized groups such as PwD. Hence, this particular study addresses the gap in the academic literature as it aims to explore representations of PwD in the two most accessed online news media in Indonesia, Kompas and Detik.com during pandemic reporting. In addition, the objective of the study is to describe themes in the representation of disability that may encourage certain interpretations and stereotypes of PwD. The result of this study is significant because how the media portrays disability affects how disabled people view themselves and their wellbeing, how others treat them, and how social, economic, and health policies are created in relation to disability during this pandemic situation.

METHODOLOGY

This study used a qualitative design to explore representations of PwD in Indonesia's online media during the COVID-19 pandemic. To answer the purpose of this study, articles published in Kompas online and Detik.com which covered the issue of PwD related to the Covid-19 pandemic were collected. Using search features on both online media's website, articles were published during the period April 13, 2020, when COVID-19 was declared a pandemic in Indonesia (Furqan et al, 2022), and ending on December 31, 2021. This 20-month period was chosen because it includes numerous significant events within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, such as the rise in case of COVID-19, social restriction policies, and vaccines. The keyword used for data collection is "covid-19 disabilitas" with the criteria; published in Bahasa and during the chosen time period. Articles were analyzed if they were specifically related to PwD and Covid-19 pandemic.

Framing approach then used for data analysis. The most quoted explanation about framing is the one pointed out by Entman (1993, p. 52): Framing is promoting a certain definition of the problem or an issue by emphasizing a specific aspect of facts and making it more apparent and dominant, while the other aspects of reality were abolished. Additionally, framing has a capacity to shape the perception of the audience in interpreting a particular reality or issue and promote a particular media

agenda (Griffin et al., 2009).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A total of 50 articles related to PwD and Covid-19 pandemic were collected and analyzed from the two online media during the period April 13, 2020 until December 31, 2021. Detik.Com contributes 50 articles while Kompas.Com with 44 articles. Below are details of news coverage from the two media during the pandemic related to persons with disabilities.

Table 1. News coverage on PwD during pandemic by Kompas and Detik

No	Title of News Articles	Publisher	Date
1	When Workers with Disabilities Help People Affected by Covid-19	Kompas	23 April 2020
2	Kompas Humanitarian Fund Distributes Aid for People with Disabilities	Kompas	29 April 2020
3	Information on Covid-19 for Persons with Disabilities in Remote Areas is minimal	Kompas	17 May 2020
4	"There are those who are more difficult than us, namely Persons with Disabilities"	Kompas	17 May 2020
5	Children with Disabilities Need Special Handling to Avoid Covid-19	Kompas	27 June 2020
6	The Importance of Mentoring and Caring for Children with Disabilities to be Protected from Covid-19	Kompas	3 June 2020
7	70 Percent of Persons with Disabilities Do Not Understand Covid-19 Health Protocols	Kompas	3 July 2020
8	The Ministry of PPPA Calls Caring for Children with Disabilities at Home a Constraint for Families whose economies are disrupted by Covid-19	Kompas	3 July 2020
9	Limited Inclusive Information, Children with Disabilities Difficult to Understand Health Protocols	Kompas	3 July 2020
10	This is the Government's Efforts to Fulfill the Rights of Persons with Disabilities during a Pandemic	Kompas	7 July 2020
11	KSP Admits Many People with Disabilities Can't Get Help	Kompas	7 July 2020
12	Workers with Disabilities Experience an 80% Decline in Income During the Pandemic	Kompas	19 September 2020
13	Athletes with Disabilities intervene to reduce the number of Covid-19 cases	Kompas	27 October 2020
14	History of International Day of Persons with Disabilities and Efforts to Fulfill the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Kompas	3 Desember 2020
15	Jokowi: Protection for Persons with Disabilities Must Be Based on Human Rights	Kompas	3 December 2020
16	Staff of Jokowi: Vaccination Coverage for Persons with Disabilities in Java-Bali Almost 100 Percent	Kompas	10 January 2021
17	The Government Is Asked To Give A Complete Explanation About The Impact Of The Covid-19 Vaccine For People With Disabilities	Kompas	25 February 2021

18	People with Disabilities with DKI ID Cards Undergo Covid-19 Vaccination	Kompas	11 March 2021
19	Entering the Vulnerable Group, Persons with Disabilities are entitled to the Covid-19 Vaccination	Kompas	27 April 2021
20	Third Phase of Covid-19 Vaccination, Persons with Disabilities and Mental Disorders Enter Priority	Kompas	18 May 2021
21	Staff of Jokowi: Vaccination Centers Cannot Reject Persons with Disabilities	Kompas	21 May 2021
22	Ministry of Health Starts Conducting Covid-19 Vaccinations for 562,242 Persons with Disabilities	Kompas	2 June 2021
23	Unlimited Domicile, Disability Vaccination Available at All Covid-19 Vaccination Centers	Kompas	3 June 2021
24	Grab Launches Disability Friendly Vaccination Center in Yogyakarta	Kompas	17 June 2021
25	Jokowi's Special Staff Asks for Priority for Covid-19 Vaccination for Persons with Disabilities	Kompas	22 June 2021
26	70 Percent of Persons with Disabilities Do Not Understand Covid-19 Health Protocols	Kompas	3 July 2021
27	UGM Webinar: Risma Prioritizes Persons with Disabilities to Receive Vaccines	Kompas	3 July 2021
28	West Java Starts Vaccination for Persons with Disabilities, Kang Emil: A total of about 80,000 people	Kompas	8 July 2021
29	People with Disabilities in Malang Get Sinopharm Vaccine Injection	Kompas	2 August 2021
30	225,000 Doses of Sinopharm Vaccine Prepared for Vaccination of Persons with Disabilities	Kompas	3 August 2021
31	100 People with Disabilities in Jombang Start Taking Covid-19 Vaccinations	Kompas	12 August 2021
32	225,000 Persons with Disabilities in Java-Bali Completed Vaccination October 2021	Kompas	15 August 2021
34	Seven People with Disabilities in Kembangan are vaccinated against Covid-19 through Ball Pick-up	Kompas	16 August 2021
35	Burhan's Story, Disability in Babylon After Vaccination: A Little Pain	Kompas	16 August 2021
36	People with Disabilities in Babylon are Enthusiastic about Vaccination, Bring Home Food Packages	Kompas	16 August 2021
37	Presidential Staff: Persons with Disabilities Must Get Priority for the Covid-19 Vaccination	Kompas	26 August 2021
38	Vaccination of Disability Groups, Bogor City Receives 1,300 Sinopharm Vaccine Grants from the United Arab Emirates	Kompas	27 August 2021
39	Caring for Children Affected by Covid-19, Social Minister Risma Provides Moral and Material Support	Kompas	20 September 2021
40	Social Minister: Many People with Disabilities are Afraid of Vaccines Become Our Hardest Homework	Kompas	28 September 2021
41	Jokowi's staff: 95 percent of people with disabilities in 6 provinces are injected with the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine	Kompas	29 September 2021

42	Staff of the President Says Not Having a NIK Is The Reason For People With Disabilities Can't Get The Covid-19 Vaccine	Kompas	12 October 2021
43	Optimally Serve Persons with Disabilities, Bekasi City Immigration Provide This Facility	Kompas	15 October 2021
44	Stories of Disabilities Fighting Hoaxes for the Right to Participate in Vaccinations	Kompas	22 November 2021
45	Indonesian People with Disabilities Use Digital Technology to Survive in the Midst of a Pandemic	Detik	3 December 2021
46	Jokowi Appreciates Grab for Presenting Disability-Friendly Vaccination Center	Detik	16 September 2021
47	Vaccination of Persons with Disabilities in East Java Reaches 80%	Detik	3 September 2021
48	Banyuwangi Completes One-Dose Vaccination for Persons with Disabilities	Detik	1 September 2021
49	Minister of Communication and Informatics: Government Focuses on Paying Attention to Lay-Out Disabled Workers	Detik	30 August 2021
50	170 Special School Students in Sukabumi Regency Get the First Phase of Vaccination	Detik	28 August 2021
51	5,585 Persons with Disabilities in 13 West Java Regions Vaccinate Tomorrow	Detik	27 August 2021
52	Hundreds of People with Disabilities in Bogor City Vaccination against COVID-19	Detik	26 August 2021
53	Disability Covid-19 Vaccination Constrained Family Support	Detik	25 August 2021
54	The Story of Angkie Yudista Almost Desperate About Disability Vaccination	Detik	25 September 2021
55	The Happiness of Persons with Disabilities in Sidoarjo Get Basic Food Packages After Vaccination	Detik	25 September 2021
56	Happy Couples with Disabilities Receive Social Assistance in Malang	Detik	25 August 2021
57	6,000 People with Disabilities in West Java Have Been Injected with Corona Vaccines	Detik	24 August 2021
58	ODGJ and Persons with Disabilities in Cimahi Begin to be vaccinated against COVID-19	Detik	16 August 2021
59	200 Persons with Disabilities in Pasuruan City are Vaccinated by Sinopharm	Detik	16 August 2021
60	The elderly, disabled and ODGJ in West Jakarta are vaccinated against Corona	Detik	16 August 2021
61	Thousands of people with disabilities and ODGJ in East Java are vaccinated against COVID-19	Detik	10 August 2021
62	Dozens of people with disabilities are happy in Jombang when they are vaccinated against COVID-19	Detik	10 August 2021
63	Tricks of Pacitan Officers Calm People with Disabilities who are Afraid of Vaccination	Detik	10 August 2021
64	Cities and Regencies in East Java Hold Vaccinations for Disabilities	Detik	10 August 2021

65	Seeing the Action of Sign Language Translators in Vaccination of Persons with Disabilities	Detik	10 August 2021
66	Police Pick Up People with Disabilities in Probolinggo City for Vaccination	Detik	10 August 2021
67	This disability is afraid of being vaccinated, has time to hug the police and be calmed	Detik	10 August 2021
68	Ridwan Kamil Promises Vaccination for Disabilities to be Completed in September	Detik	7 August 2021
69	Persons with Disabilities in Banyuwangi Get Basic Food and Red and White Flags	Detik	2 August 2021
70	Police Invite People with Disabilities in Bojonegoro to Stay Enthusiastic 45 Amid the Pandemic	Detik	2 August 2021
71	121,648 Dose of Corona Vaccine Special for Disabilities in West Java	Detik	30 July 2021
72	Malang City Police Propose Additional COVID-19 Vaccine for People with Disabilities	Detik	15 July 2021
73	Compiling Vaccination Information for Persons with Disabilities in Bandung	Detik	8 July 2021
74	Meeting with the Presidential Staff, Ridwan Kamil Discusses Preparation for Disability Vaccination	Detik	28 May 2021
75	48 Blind People Undergo COVID-19 Vaccination in West Bandung	Detik	24 April 2021
76	Hello! Blind Students in Cimahi Are Productive Making Doormats During a Pandemic	Detik	18 April 2021
77	Banyuwangi Picks Up COVID-19 Vaccination Balls for Elderly and Disabled	Detik	19 March 2021
78	Banyuwangi will pick up the COVID-19 vaccine for the elderly and with disabilities	Detik	5 March 2021
79	Despite the COVID-19 Pandemic, Blitar Persons with Disabilities are Still Able to Work	Detik	16 February 2021
80	Rosid is happy, the blind are offered to be an honorary staff of the Batang Regency Government	Detik	26 January 2021
81	79 People at Triasih Foundation Orphanage in West Jakarta Positive for COVID, Majority with Disabilities	Detik	15 January 2021
82	Challenges and Expectations of Persons with Disabilities in the Midst of a Pandemic	Detik	9 December 2020
83	The Important Role of Malaysian Disabled Online Ojek Drivers in the Time of COVID-19	Detik	9 December 2020
84	Pertamina Distributes IDR 17.2 Billion for Orphans, Disability and Elderly	Detik	18 May 2020
85	Kemdikbud Asked to Pay Attention to the Learning Process of Children with Disabilities During the Corona Pandemic	Detik	17 May 2020
86	Dear Government, Pay Attention to the Education of Children with Disabilities in the Midst of a Pandemic	Detik	17 May 2020
87	Regarding social assistance, the government is asked to optimize the needs for disabled groups	Detik	17 May 2020
88	Help! Blind Couples in Cimahi Haven't Been Touched by Government Assistance	Detik	10 May 2020

89	Government Asked to Provide a COVID-19 Contact Center Special for People with Disabilities	Detik	2 May 2020
90	400 Families with Disabilities in Bekasi Get Aid Worth Rp 200 Million	Detik	22 April 2020
91	People with Intellectual Disabilities are Threatened with Lack of Attention During the Pandemic	Detik	18 September 2020
92	The Spirit of the Lumpia Trader with Disabilities from Klaten Seeks Fortune in the Pandemic Period	Detik	21 August 2020
93	It's nice for women with disabilities in Sidoarjo to get orders to make PPE	Detik	18 July 2020
94	New Normal, Researchers Reveal the Importance of Attention to Elderly-Disabled	Detik	27 June 2020

Framing data of the marginalized group revealed how people with disabilities were depicted in the early stages of the pandemic by Indonesian news portals. However, this number is relatively small compared to the total news coverage during pandemic reporting. In addition, most of the news coverage related to PwD were published in the period of August – December 2022 which is dominated by vaccination topics. Most of the news coverage is also still focused on reporting on activities/ events and it is very rare that it raises news containing discourses/issues of disability needs during the pandemic.

This indicates that both media did not significantly include PwD and the problems they encountered in the time of pandemic, particularly in the first half period of this study along with the rise case of Covid-19 and social restriction policies. Study reveals that even during pandemic when PwD suffer increased health risks and access challenges, they are still underrepresented in media or government discourse. News that raises the issue of disability is also still limited to news on ceremonial activities and is mainly related to the issue of health vaccinations. There is very little news that raises other issues faced by people with disabilities during the pandemic, such as employment or education issues. In fact, people with disabilities themselves experience wide and varied impacts during the pandemic, not only related to health issues. Many people with disabilities have also experienced a decrease in their income and have had their educational activities disrupted during the pandemic. However, these issues are very rarely discussed or raised in the news of the two media during the pandemic.

Furthermore, both media used limited information sources and did not reflect many points of views in the pandemic reporting. It was discovered that every piece of news about marginalized populations was positive. Government sources, on the other hand, became the primary actors in defining news frames because marginalized groups such as PwD and their allies had limited access to the media. As a result, inclusive journalism still has to be improved. The news that is published mostly raises the government’s agenda that targets the disability group. However, persons with disabilities themselves are not involved in the news to express their needs and desires. Thus, the news that occurs can strengthen the objectification of persons with disabilities which places them as individuals who do not have a voice and have no authority over themselves.

As can be analyzed through the selection of source person which rarely involved PwD and their individual's own voice. Even in the news related to PwD, the journalists did not take the time to listen to and adopt more of PwD's own opinions, and instead perceived the information from people without disability. For example, in two news published by Kompas, on July 3, 2020 entitled "70 percent of people with disabilities do not understand the Covid-19 Health Protocol" (*70 Persen Penyandang Disabilitas Belum Pahami Protokol Kesehatan Covid-19*) and "Limited Inclusive Information, Children with Disabilities Difficult to Understand Health Protocols" (*Keterbatasan Informasi yang Inklusif, Anak Penyandang Disabilitas Sulit Memahami Protokol Kesehatan*). The voices of PwD were absent from both news articles. There was no story from the PwD who could have shared the story from their own perspective about the problems and challenges they faced in order to understand and implement the health protocols.

In addition, the news coverage still strengthens the negative and/or dehumanizing stereotypes towards PwD. Findings of this study revealed that PwD still framed as of "victims", "others", and "inspirational" in the pandemic reporting. In other instances, a single article contained several stereotypes. Under the "victims" framing, PwD was portrait as pitiful or helpless, just because they have a disability. For instances, news articles titled "The Happiness of Persons with Disabilities in Sidoarjo Get Basic Food Packages After Vaccination" (*Bahagiaanya Penyandang Difabel di Sidoarjo Dapat Paket Sembako Usai Divaksin*) published by Detik.com on 25 Sep 2021, another news published by Detik.com on 18 April 2020 titled "These Volunteers Still Help the Blind Amid the Corona Pandemic" (*Para Relawan Ini Tetap Bantu Tuna Netra di Tengah Pandemi Corona*), and news titled "Happy Couples with Disabilities Receive Social Assistance in Malang" (*Suka Cita Pasutri Disabilitas Terima Bansos di Malang*) published by Detik.com on 25 August 2021.

All of the news articles framed PwD as "victims" who are disempowered and dependent on the state for support (Clogston, 1990). With this framing approach, support is a gift for PwD rather than a right. These kinds of prejudices affect assessments of who deserves help, and help is presented as "generous" deeds of kindness (Hudes, 2020). PwD were projected as a burden, and it was believed that assisting them would benefit the state or other groups, making PwD a vehicle for self-improvement. The news items focused more on the opinions and contributions of the non-disabled helpers rather than boosting the voices of handicapped individuals.

Another example from news article published by Kompas.com, on 15 October 2021 titled "Optimally Serve Persons with Disabilities, Bekasi City Immigration Provide Facilities" (*Layani Penyandang Disabilitas dengan Optimal, Imigrasi Kota Bekasi Sediakan Fasilitas*). Instead of seeing human rights-based services as an ideal standard and those services as part of fulfilling PwD's rights, the news narrative sees these human rights-based services as additional gifts given by government agencies to PwD.

Furthermore, PwD are still stereotyped by the media and the government as "others" Because disabled persons are viewed as a burden in this dimension, their cases are frequently "handled like charity cases." For example, two news articles published by Kompas.com, on 28 September 2021 and 17 May 2020, titled "Social

Minister: Many People with Disabilities are Afraid of Vaccines Become Our Hardest Homework" (*Mensos: Banyak Disabilitas Takut Vaksin Jadi PR Kami yang Paling Berat*) and "There are those who are more difficult than us, namely people with disabilities" (*Ada yang Lebih Susah dari Kita, yaitu Penyandang Disabilitas*). From both articles, PwD are portrayed as silent victims of both their disabilities and the pandemic, leaving them dependent on assistance from able-bodied people, especially the government. Like the majority of news pieces, this one did not interview PwD to hear about their experiences and the issues that directly affect them. The use of terms "*Kami*" and "*Kita*" (us) indicated a distance between PwD and the rest of the public and assumed that PwD is not a part of the general community. Such framing may lead to a more discrimination and marginalization towards PwD groups.

Moreover, "inspirational" or "superhero" framing (Clogston, 1990; Haller, 1998) were also used in several news articles. As can be seen in a news titled "Driving a Modified Motorcycle, Couples with Disabilities Take 1 Hour Travel to Participate in Vaccinations" (*Kendarai Motor Modifikasi, Pasutri Penyandang Disabilitas Tempuh 1 Jam Perjalanan demi Ikut Vaksinasi*) published by Kompas.com, on 19 August 2021. The news framed PwD as an extraordinary person who succeeded despite their disability. PwD as the subject in the news was presented as brave or inspirational for getting through their daily lives. Such framing will only strengthen the assumption that because disabled people's lives are so miserable, it takes strength and tenacity to even go through a typical day. It also shows that there are low expectations for what PwD can do. Similar framing was repeated on the news titled "Stories of Disabilities Fighting Hoaxes for the Right to Participate in Vaccinations" (*Kisah Disabilitas Melawan Hoaks demi Hak untuk Ikut Vaksinasi*) published by Kompas on 22 November 2021. While it's vital to acknowledge the hardships and suffering that many disabled individuals endure, accomplishing something that is typically regarded as routine shouldn't be viewed as extraordinary. Additionally, this supported the idea that PwD have less capability to achieve something than able-bodied people.

Despite the negative framing, Detik.com and Kompas.com also performed its advocacy role in order to boost change. For example, through several news published by Kompas.com titled "The Minister of Home Affairs Asks the Presidential Staff to Make a Mapping of the Obstacles Faced by Persons with Disabilities" (*Mendagri Minta Stafsus Presiden Buat Pemetaan Kendala yang Dihadapi Penyandang Disabilitas*) published on 11 October 2021, "Information on Covid-19 for Persons with Disabilities in Remote Areas is minimal" (*Informasi Covid-19 untuk Penyandang Disabilitas di Wilayah Terpencil Minim*) published on 17 May 2020, and "Persons with Disabilities Must Get Priority for the Covid-19 Vaccination" (*Penyandang Disabilitas Harus Mendapat Prioritas untuk Divaksin Covid-19*) on 26 October 2021. Several news published by Detik.com also have similar purpose for advocacy journalism such as, "Dear Government, Pay Attention to the Education of Children with Disabilities in the Midst of a Pandemic" (*Dear Pemerintah, Perhatikan Pendidikan Anak Difabel di Tengah Pandemi*) published on 17 mei 2020, "New Normal, Researchers Reveal the Importance of Attention to Elderly-Disabled" (*New Normal, Peneliti Ungkap Pentingnya Perhatian ke Lansia-Difabel*) on 27 June 2020, and "Minister of Communication and Informatics: Government Focuses on Paying Attention to Lay-

Out Disabled Workers" (*Menkominfo: Pemerintah Fokus Perhatikan Pekerja Difabel yang Di-PHK*) also published by Detik.com, on 30 August 2021. Through those news coverages, the media performed human right framing which supported PwD rights such as right to work, right to education and healthcare.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, people with disabilities in Indonesia are still underrepresented in media or government discourse during pandemic Covid-19, despite the fact they have a higher health risk and experience more challenges in accessing healthcare. Based on the thematic framing analysis in Detik.com and Kompas.com during pandemic reporting, disability is still viewed as medical and a burden on society. The domination of victims, others, and superhero framing used in the news coverages might strengthen the negative stereotypes towards PwD.

Rather than presenting the vulnerability of PwD as something that is influenced by external situations like socio political forces, such negative stereotypes framed PwD as being inherently vulnerable owing to their medical impairments. Results of this study suggest Indonesian media to apply the concept of inclusive journalism in reporting pandemic by providing positive representations of disability and more opportunities for PwD to share their version of story related to their experiences in the time of pandemic crisis. Finally, due to the limitations of this study, future research is highly needed to explore the representation of PwD in the media, particularly with a quantitative approach and/ or in depth interview with PwD and journalists.

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