



Improving Infrastructure in Child-Friendly Public Spaces RW.10 Pekalipan Village, Cirebon City

Syaeful Bakhri^{1,*}, Muhammad Fakhri Alamsyah², Anez Yuniar Pradini³

^{1,2} UIN Siber Syekh Nurjati Cirebon

³ UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung

✉ anezyuniar@gmail.com (Corresponding author's email)

ARTICLE INFO

Article history

Received : 12-7-2025

Revised : 26-7-2025

Accepted : 28-7-2025

Keywords

Child-Friendly City;
child-friendly
infrastructure;
Community
Participation; Pekalipan
Village, Cirebon

ABSTRACT

This study evaluates the availability and condition of child-friendly infrastructure in RW.10 Pekalipan Village, Cirebon City, as part of the implementation of the Child-Friendly City Program (KLA). The method used is Participatory Action Research (PAR) by involving the community, village officials, and academics in the process of identifying issues, mapping potential, and implementing infrastructure development actions. Data was collected through observation, interviews, and document studies. The results of the study show that the child-friendly infrastructure in Pekalipan Village is quite adequate, including health facilities, education, green open spaces, and playgrounds. The local government has made efforts to improve public facilities and encourage community participation in development planning and evaluation. However, challenges such as equitable distribution of facilities, renovation needs, and increased child participation still need to be addressed. Although the KLA program has been implemented, this study fills a gap in the understanding of cross-sectoral collaboration mechanisms and children's participation at the RW level, while highlighting the importance of sustainable facility maintenance and active community involvement for more effective and sustainable infrastructure development.

Penelitian ini mengevaluasi ketersediaan dan kondisi infrastruktur ramah anak di RW.10 Kelurahan Pekalipan, Kota Cirebon, sebagai bagian dari implementasi Program Kota Layak Anak (KLA). Metode yang digunakan adalah Participatory Action Research (PAR) dengan melibatkan masyarakat, aparatur kelurahan, dan akademisi dalam proses identifikasi isu, pemetaan potensi, serta pelaksanaan aksi pengembangan infrastruktur. Data dikumpulkan melalui observasi, wawancara, dan studi dokumen. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa infrastruktur ramah anak di Kelurahan Pekalipan sudah cukup memadai, meliputi fasilitas kesehatan, pendidikan, ruang terbuka hijau, dan taman bermain. Pemerintah daerah telah melakukan upaya peningkatan sarana publik dan mendorong partisipasi masyarakat dalam perencanaan serta evaluasi pembangunan. Namun, tantangan seperti pemerataan fasilitas, kebutuhan renovasi, dan peningkatan partisipasi anak masih perlu diatasi. Meskipun program KLA telah diterapkan, penelitian ini mengisi kekosongan dalam pemahaman mekanisme kolaborasi lintas sektor serta partisipasi anak di tingkat



RW, sekaligus menyoroti pentingnya keberlanjutan pemeliharaan fasilitas dan pelibatan aktif masyarakat untuk pengembangan infrastruktur yang lebih efektif dan berkelanjutan.

This is an open access article under the [CC-BY-SA](#) license.



A. INTRODUCTION

Children are a population group with potential and have an important role in contributing to the acceleration of development. Therefore, children need to be protected and given guidance during their development. In support of this, the government created the Child-Friendly City Program (KLA) whose rules are contained in the Regulation of the Minister of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Number 11 of 2011 concerning the Policy for the Development of a Child-Friendly City.

The term Child-Friendly City was first introduced in 2005 by the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection. Child-Friendly City is an effort and strategy to protect, prevent, and guarantee children's rights carried out by the Government and the private sector (Aji et al., 2021). The implementation and systems in the KLA are integrated with the commitment, resources of the government, the community, and the business world in a comprehensive and sustainable manner. In addition to protecting and fulfilling children's rights, the KLA program has a special purpose, namely to help the government initiate the transformation of the convention on children's rights in the legal framework, development intervention strategies, and special policy making in the district/city area (Rosalin et al., 2016).

The KLA policy is divided into five clusters of children's rights, including: civil rights and freedoms, family environment and nurturing, basic health and welfare, education, use of leisure and cultural activities, and special protection (Sutami et al., 2020). In the process towards the implementation of KLA, there are several levels of awards that must be achieved by each region such as the city of primary, nindya, main, and the highest level is the Child-Friendly City (KLA). The existence of the KLA program is a form of concrete efforts by the government to fulfill basic rights of children such as protection from violence, criminality, sexual harassment, and other harmful things. In addition, this KLA also guarantees children's access to natural resources, infrastructure, and technology.

Similar to Child-Friendly City (KLA), Child-Friendly City (KRA) is a term for a city that guarantees children's rights. This concept was first initiated by UNICEF in order to emphasize the importance of an environment that supports optimal child growth and development (Elizabeth & Hidayat, 2016). Cities that are categorized as decent and child-friendly have characteristics including; the availability of access to health, clean water and sanitation education, an environment safe from violence, exploitation, and discrimination, special attention to vulnerable groups, and the availability of space for participation and evaluation of urban development (PKPA, 2021). In an effort to realize KLA, it is known as Child-Friendly Schools (SRA) as part of the supporting infrastructure to ensure safety, cleanliness, health, care, and environmental culture for children (Rangkuti & Maksum, 2019).

In 2024, according to the complaint records in the Central Statistics Agency report, there will be 48 cases of violence against children in Cirebon City, and in the range from 2016 to



2018 Cirebon City was once in the emergency category of child violence (Rahman & Sarip, 2020). Therefore, the Cirebon City government under the Office of Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, Population Control and Family Planning (DP3APPKB) has set the prevention of violence and the empowerment of women and children as a priority. Collaboration between the government, educational institutions, community organizations, and the media as well as continuous education is needed to protect and prevent cases of violence against children.

Proper infrastructure is one of the factors for the success of the KLA program, and the appropriate category in question is safe, comfortable, inclusive, and supports children's growth and development, including for children with special needs (Kemenpppa, 2024). The KLA infrastructure components consist of green open spaces and play areas, education and information facilities, public transportation and mobility, and health facilities (Khumayah, 2023). Several cities have provided infrastructure that supports this KLA program, including Surabaya, Bandung, and Jakarta. Therefore, this study was conducted to review and evaluate the availability and feasibility of KLA infrastructure in Pekalipan Village, Cirebon City.

B. METHODS

The method used in this study is Participatory Action Research (PAR) where all parties concerned such as the community, figures, village officials, and the community/academics are involved in identifying issues and potentials, to intervene in developing community potentials (Suyanto & Wahyuni, 2020). Data was collected through two steps, namely observation and interviews with the community and local leaders. In addition, data is also obtained from relevant documents such as village reports and archives. This research and service was carried out in Pekalipan Village, Cirebon City.

In addition to using the PAR method, this study also uses a descriptive approach to explain the existing conditions of Pekalipan Village in providing child-friendly facilities and infrastructure. The descriptive approach shows how far the government has implemented the KLA program in Pekalipan Village. This service activity is carried out in several stages, including the following.

1. *Identification and mapping of problems*; In this stage, the researcher identifies and maps problems related to child-friendly infrastructure in Pekalipan Village by means of direct observation and field surveys.
2. *Determination of solutions and actions*; After knowing what the problems are, the researcher designs alternative solutions that involve all parties, including the community at large (in order to generate participation).
3. *Implementation of actions*; The implementation of the action is based on the design of the solution that has been prepared beforehand.
4. *Action reflection*; The implementation of actions is not completely perfect, therefore reflection and evaluation are needed in every action that has been carried out.



Figure 1. Research Location
Source: (BPS, 2024)

C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Child-Friendly City (KLA) is a concept of urban development that prioritizes the fulfillment of children's rights as a whole, including the right to protection, health, education, and active participation of children in social life. In Cirebon City, KLA development efforts have become an important focus of the local government as part of the development vision oriented towards child welfare (Rahman, 2017). However, although various policies and programs have been implemented, the evaluation shows that the development of KLA in Cirebon City still faces a number of obstacles, especially in terms of collaboration between stakeholders, data availability, and fulfillment of KLA assessment indicators.

Pekalipan Village as one of the areas in Cirebon City is an example of the implementation of the KLA policy that requires more attention in terms of providing child-friendly facilities and strengthening child protection, including the handling of street children which is still a complex social phenomenon. The Cirebon City Government through the Social and Labor Office (Dinsosnakertrans) has implemented a coaching model for street children which includes preventive measures, social rehabilitation, empowerment, and community participation (Cirebon, 2017). However, the effectiveness of the implementation of this program is still influenced by various administrative, institutional, and social factors.

Recent research and studies emphasize the importance of a collaborative governance model that involves the government, the community, the business world, and the media as equal partners to optimize the development of KLA in Cirebon City. This approach is expected to increase the effectiveness of the program, strengthen children's participation, and improve the quality of child-friendly facilities and services in areas such as Pekalipan Village.



Figure 2. Socialization of RW Suitable for Children

1.1. Availability and Conditions of Child-Friendly Infrastructure

Based on the 2018-2023 Pekalipan District Strategic Plan (Renstra) document, the availability and condition of child-friendly infrastructure in this area has received attention in regional development planning. Pekalipan District, which consists of four sub-districts (Pekalipan, Jagasatru, Pulasaren, and Pekalangan) has various public facilities that support community services, including green open spaces and children's playgrounds that are part of efforts to create a child-friendly environment (Cirebon, 2018).

In general, the facilities and infrastructure in Pekalipan District are in good condition, with office buildings, operational vehicles, and adequate administrative equipment to support public services. In addition, there is a program to establish a Child-Friendly RW that includes the provision of child-friendly spaces at the environmental level, such as playgrounds and literacy houses, especially in Pulasaren Village which is known to have these facilities.

However, even though the basic infrastructure condition is good, it still needs to be developed and improved in the quality of child-friendly facilities to be more optimal. This includes the addition of supporting facilities, routine maintenance, and increased accessibility and safety of the facility. This effort is in line with the vision of Pekalipan District to improve the quality of public services and empower the community, including children, as part of the achievement of the Cirebon City Regional Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMD).

Thus, the availability and condition of child-friendly infrastructure in Pekalipan Village has become part of the development priority, but it still needs to be strengthened through integrated programs and the active participation of the community and related stakeholders.

Research in RW.10 Pekalipan Village shows that child-friendly infrastructure is already available quite well. Health and education facilities have been evenly distributed in the region, supporting the fulfillment of children's rights such as health, education, and protection. In addition, there are real efforts from the local government to build and improve play facilities and public open spaces that can be used by children for recreational and social activities.



Figure 3. Child-Friendly RW Competition at the Cirebon City Level



The results of observations and interviews also confirm the existence of community participation in the development process, starting from the planning, implementation, to evaluation stages. This community involvement is important to ensure that the facilities built are truly according to the needs of children and the surrounding environment.

1.2. Evaluation of the Implementation of a Child-Friendly City

The evaluation of the implementation of Child-Friendly Cities (KLA) in the Cirebon City area shows a strong commitment from the local government in creating a safe, comfortable, and supportive environment for children's growth and development. The Cirebon Regency Government has issued Regional Regulation Number 4 of 2025 concerning the Implementation of Child-Friendly Regency as a legal umbrella that regulates principles, strategies, and indicators for the fulfillment of KLA. The implementation of the KLA program in Cirebon Regency includes various efforts, such as reducing the rate of child marriage, implementing smoke-free areas, providing child-friendly playroom facilities, child-friendly health centers, and child-friendly schools (Ulag & Diana, 2024).

Although it has met many indicators, an evaluation conducted by the verification team from the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection and local governments revealed that there is still room for improvement, especially in terms of synergy between stakeholders and the quality of program implementation in the field.

The Child-Friendly City (KLA) program in Pekalipan Village is considered quite effective and efficient. Indicators such as effectiveness, efficiency, adequacy, equity, responsiveness, and accuracy have been met. However, there are still some challenges, especially in the equitable distribution of facilities throughout the region and the need to renovate some existing infrastructure. This assessment is in line with recent research findings that highlight the importance of ongoing evaluation and improvement of public facilities to meet child-friendly city standards, such as safety, comfort, accessibility, and completeness of play facilities.

In Cirebon City itself, the evaluation of KLA is carried out collaboratively and evaluatively by involving various parties, including the city government, the community, and related institutions. The Cirebon City Government emphasized that the development of a child-friendly city is not only about meeting administrative standards, but also must be able to create an environment that is responsive to the needs of children in real terms. The hybrid field verification activity carried out in 2025 is an important momentum to assess achievements and develop improvement strategies for future.

Overall, the evaluation of the implementation of Child-Friendly Cities in Cirebon emphasized that the success of the program is highly dependent on cross-sector collaboration, strengthening regulations, and the active participation of the community and children. The local government is optimistic that with various improvements and innovations that are being and will be carried out, Cirebon Regency and City can achieve a higher and sustainable KLA title.

1.3. Participation and Collaboration

The involvement of the KLA Task Force, which consists of various elements of the government and the community, is the main factor in the successful implementation of the program. Training and capacity building of human resources, such as teachers, health workers, and child protection volunteers, have also been carried out consistently. Other



research confirms that cross-sector collaboration and children's involvement in urban planning processes are essential to creating a truly child-friendly environment.



Figure 4. Informal Education Activities in KLA Infrastructure

1.4. Opportunities and Challenges

The implementation of a program must be accompanied by opportunities and challenges, such as; 1) child-friendly infrastructure facilities that are still uneven, 2) some facilities that still need regular repairs and maintenance, and 3) increased children's participation so that the facilities built are in accordance with needs. The implications of the policy in RW 10 Pekalipan Village emphasized the importance of integrated policies between the government, the community, and the business world. This policy must be ensured in a system so that it can be sustainable. Child-friendly public spaces should take into account the safety, creativity, and affordability of the whole family.

D. CONCLUSION

The implementation of the Child-Friendly City in RW.10 Pekalipan Village has shown positive results, but there is still room for improvement, especially in the equitable distribution of facilities and improvement of infrastructure quality. Strong collaboration between the government, the community, and the children themselves is the main key to the success of this program. These findings are in line with various recent studies that highlight the importance of participation, continuous evaluation, and innovation in the development of child-friendly cities in Indonesia and the world.

E. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to express our thanks to the parties involved in this activity, including the people of Pekalipan Village, the chairman of RW 10 Kanoman Utara, and the Head of Pekalipan Village and his staff for the opportunity and dedication given to us during the service activities.

F. AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Syaeful Bakhri (SB) and Muhammad Fakhri Alamsyah (MFA) were primarily responsible for implementing the community engagement activities. Data collection and analysis were conducted by MFA and Anez Yuniar Pradini (AYP). The article writing and preparation were carried out by SB and AYP, with SB and MFA contributing to the literature review and formulation of the research gap. Results presentation and discussion were handled by AYP and MFA. Finally, all authors—SB, MFA, and AYP—participated in the article revision and gave final approval of the manuscript.



G. REFERENCES

- Aji, G. J., Cikusin, Y., & Anadza, H. (2021). Implementasi Kebijakan Pengembangan Kabupaten/Kota Layak Anak Di Kota Malang Dalam Pemenuhan Hak Anak Dan Perlindungan Anak. *Respon Publik*, 15(1), 14–21.
- BPS. (2024). *Kota Cirebon Dalam Angka 2024*.
- Cirebon, P. (2017). *Penilaian Kota Layak Anak, Kota Cirebon Mendapatkan Catatan Khusus dari Pakar Anak*. Pemerintah Kota Irebon. <https://cirebonkota.go.id/penilaian-kota-layak-anak-kota-cirebon-mendapatkan-catatan-khusus-dari-pakar-anak/>
- Cirebon, P. (2018). *Renstra Kecamatan Pekalipan 2018-2023*.
- Elizabeth, A., & Hidayat, Z. (2016). Implementasi Program Kota Layak Anak Dalam Upaya Pemenuhan Hak-Hak Anak di Kot Bekasi. *Journal of Management & Public Policy*, 5(2), 55–70.
- Kemenpppa. (2024). *Rekomendasi Sarana dan Prasarana Transportasi Ramah Anak*. Kementerian Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak.
- Khumayah, S. (2023). *Collaborative Governance for Child-Friendly Cities in Indonesia: Policy Analysis and Issues in Cirebon City, West Java*. Universitas Pasundan.
- PKPA. (2021). *Menuju Kabupaten/Kota Layak Anak*. Pusat Kajian dan Perlindungan Anak.
- Rahman, N. (2017). Implementasi Kebijakan Perlindungan Melalui Model Pembinaan Terhadap Anak Jalanan. *Jurnal De Jure Muhammadiyah Cirebon*, 1(1), 57–83.
- Rahman, N., & Sarip. (2020). Kebijakan Perlindungan Anak Korban Kejahatan Seksual di Cirebon. *Jurnal Hukum Dan Pembangunan*, 50(3), 619–632.
- Rangkuti, S., & Maksum, I. R. (2019). Implementasi Kebijakan Sekolah Ramah Anak Dalam Mewujudkan Kota Layak Anak di Kota Depok. *Jurnal Ilmu Administrasi*, 8(1), 38.
- Rosalin, L., Handayani, R., & Martani, S. (2016). *Kabupaten Kota Layak Anak Bahan Advokasi Kebijakan KLA*. Kementerian Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak.
- Sutami, B., Setyawan, D., & Fithriana, N. (2020). Implementasi Program Sekolah Ramah Anak Dalam Mewujudkan Kota Layak Anak. *Reformasi*, 10(1), 19–26.
- Suyanto, B., & Wahyuni, T. (2020). Pemberdayaan Masyarakat melalui Metode Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) di Desa Tambakrejo, Kabupaten Bojonegoro. *Jurnal Pemberdayaan Masyarakat*, 4(1), 15–27.
- Ulag, S. D., & Diana, R. E. (2024). Evaluating Taman Sayang Barudak: A Child-Friendly Space Perspective. *Ultimarch: International Journal of Sustainable Achitecture, Urban, and Multimedia Technology*, 1(2), 26–32.