

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Currently, many films explore social issues and highlight injustices within society. One such film is *Miracle in Cell No. 7* by Hanung Bramantyo, a remake of a South Korean film. This adaptation sheds light on the discrimination faced by people with disabilities. Discrimination, often rooted in social prejudices, manifests in various forms, including disparities in health based on race and ethnicity. Socially disadvantaged racial groups tend to experience poorer health conditions compared to more privileged populations, such as the white majority. These inequalities are pervasive, affecting numerous aspects of life, and persist over time, reflecting deep-rooted systemic issues (Williams et al., 2019).

According to Aislinn Bohren et al., (2023), discrimination is not only a moral issue, but also has significant economic collateral. By understanding the definition of discrimination from an economic perspective, it is better to analyze and overcome the problem of discrimination in society. Economics often defines discrimination as aimed at weakening that arises from the direct effects of group identity. Our country has guaranteed that everyone has the same rights. stated in Article 281 paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution. However, in everyday life, there are still many different people, such as people with disabilities, who are treated unfairly.

Persons with disabilities are part of Indonesian society who have the same position, rights, obligations and roles as other Indonesian people in their lives and livelihoods. Therefore, a government policy is needed that pays attention to and accommodates the rights of persons with disabilities in their life activities in society. Disability Refers to long-term conditions that include physical disorders and mental limitations in carrying out daily activities. As well as barriers to full participation in community life. This condition is

experienced by individuals who have certain health problems and is influenced by their interactions with various environmental factors, both physical and social, which can be friendly or facilitate their involvement in various aspects of life (Hackett et al., 2020).

According to Muster (2023), the long history of the struggle for the rights of persons with disabilities, which reflects collective efforts to achieve equality and inclusion, still contains many aspects that have not been fully understood or explored. The significant impact of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), particularly on individuals with disabilities involved in the criminal justice system, although it has brought about a number of changes, also still leaves gaps in understanding that require further research. In addition, the application of the concept of disability justice and critical disability theory in the field of social work, which has the potential to provide new and more inclusive approaches, has received insufficient attention. These three topics are not only important for strengthening advocacy for the rights of people with disabilities, but also open up space for the development of policies that are fairer and centered on the needs of individuals with disabilities. Taruk Allo (2022), claims that inappropriate understanding or stereotypes attached to disabilities are often the root of unfair treatment, which affects various aspects of the lives of people with disabilities, from education, employment, to social participation. This emphasizes that changing society's perception of disability is an important step in reducing discrimination and creating an inclusive environment that respects human diversity.

As told in this film, his father had a disability since childhood. He is a trader who sells balloons around using his bicycle. He carries out this simple job with great joy because every morning he sells and takes his daughter to school. Their lives change drastically when Dodo Razak is tragically accused of a crime he didn't commit, namely killing a girl, who happens to be the daughter of a high-ranking police officer. Due to his cognitive limitations, Dodo Razak was unable to explain what actually happened, so he was imprisoned and sentenced to death.

In prison, Dodo Razak was placed in Cell No. 7, which was originally occupied by high-class inmates. But as time went by, his sincere and kind personality melted the hearts of the cell residents. Together, they devise a plan to smuggle her daughter into prison so that Dodo Razak can meet her daughter. Kartika's presence in the cell brought happiness to her father and the other cell occupants, creating a warm and touching moment in the midst of a gloomy situation. Meanwhile, outside prison, the struggle to prove Dodo Razak's innocence continues. However, pressure from the authorities who wanted to protect their good name made this case filled with injustice. Even though Dodo Razak was finally executed, his love and sweet memories still remained in Kartika's heart. Years later, the adult Kartika became a lawyer. He tried to clear his father's name through a rehabilitation trial. With strong evidence and arguments, he managed to win the case, proving his father's innocence.

From the description above, the film *Miracle in Cell No. 7* emerges as an interesting subject for research centered on the theme of discrimination. The film serves as a sharp lens through which to view the lived experiences of people with disabilities in a society that often marginalizes and misunderstands them. Moreover, *Miracle in Cell No. 7* offers powerful evidence of the resilience of the human spirit, showing how love, empathy and solidarity can flourish even in the most oppressive environments, ultimately transcending seemingly insurmountable odds. The main focus of this research is an exploration of the specific forms of discrimination faced by the main character, a man with an intellectual disability who is accused of a heinous crime. The movie vividly depicts how his disability makes him vulnerable to misunderstanding, exploitation and harassment within the legal system.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The central theme the author seeks to convey is the discrimination faced by people with disabilities who are denied justice. This is exemplified through the character Dodo

Rozak, who has a mental disability yet is wrongfully accused of murdering the daughter of a high-ranking police officer. In relation to this theme, the research focuses on the following problem formulations:

1. What impacts does discrimination have on the rights and lives of the disabled protagonist as portrayed in the film?
2. How are the forms of discrimination against the disabled protagonist depicted in *Miracle in Cell No. 7*?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the identified problems, the objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To analyze the impacts of discrimination on the disabled protagonist, focusing on social and legal aspects.
2. To examine how the protagonist navigates and confronts real-life conditions of discrimination as portrayed in *Miracle in Cell No. 7*.

1.4 Scope of the Study

The analysis focuses on exploring critical areas of the rights of persons with disabilities, with the aim of fostering a deeper understanding and higher awareness among the general public of the importance of social justice for this marginalized group. The analysis will specifically examine the challenges faced by persons with disabilities, particularly those who struggle with social welfare issues. These individuals often face significant barriers to full and equal participation in society, hindering their ability to realize their potential and make meaningful contributions to society. By highlighting the specific needs and rights of people with disabilities, this study seeks to advocate for a more inclusive and equal society where everyone, regardless of ability, can thrive.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The study is expecting to provide relevant benefits both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this research is expected to enrich literary studies through works of fiction, such as those in this film. In general, films contain ideas that are realized in text or words in the film. These ideas are a means of conveying ideas that are reflected as a real picture of human life. Therefore, studying literary works such as films means expanding knowledge or understanding about what human problems really are.

Practically, it is hoped that it will provide benefits to readers as moral learning material about justice for humans, because this film can increase public awareness about the impact of discrimination and stigma against people with disabilities, thus encouraging the creation of a more inclusive and friendly environment for all individuals.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Discrimination

Discrimination is an unfair act done to others. People who are marginalized and have no power over their rights are denied justice. Discrimination can take many forms, ranging from acts of physical violence to more subtle forms such as verbal abuse, social exclusion or restricted access to opportunities. Discrimination not only harms the targeted individuals, but also undermines the social fabric and hinders inclusive development.

Rizky (2015) states that discrimination is a serious violation of human rights. Discriminatory actions can cause a range of negative impacts, such as feelings of isolation, low self-esteem and depression in targeted individuals. In addition, discrimination can also hinder individuals' full participation in society and limit their opportunities for development.

According to Tezcan & In (2013), discrimination is produced in the discourse of biological difference. In this case, discrimination is a category of disadvantaged that is discourse of biological difference but latently constituted by being outside the “normal” and manifestly excluded from the production process and is manifestly excluded from the production process. Disability is a form of discrimination and social oppression. Society designs the world by ignoring disability as the cause of their distance from the ideal body pattern and in relation to the producti process.From the production process. This design belongs to the physical and perceptual worlds and the reciprocal interactions between the two reproduce barriers and the mutual interaction between the two reproduces barriers around power relations.

Mann (2022) claims that discrimination experienced by marginalized groups is a complex problem that has long been entrenched in the world of work. It occurs when certain individuals or groups, such as women, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, or certain

age groups, receive lower wages than the majority group for equivalent work. In this case, discrimination is not taken for granted in the world of work and in the community, they are marginalized due to physical limitations and make them very small in the surrounding environment.

Discrimination is a complex issue rooted in history, culture and social structures. However, with concerted efforts from all components of society, we can create a more just and inclusive world. Every individual has an important role to play in bringing about this change. This phenomenon involves not only tangible actions, such as denial of rights or access to services, but also attitudes and policies that systematically disadvantage certain groups. This discrimination not only violates people's human rights, but also prevents them from contributing optimally to society. Discrimination is generally perceived as negative, but in some cases, such as affirmative action, differential treatment aims to correct injustices and create equality. In essence, discrimination can be justified if the goal is positive and does not harm other groups.

Agustang & Syukur (2022) argue that social strata refer to the classification of society into hierarchical levels. Individuals occupying the lowest strata often experience discrimination from those in higher strata. People with higher social positions typically receive respect and authority, while those with lower status face unfavorable treatment from their communities. This concept is reflected in findings from interviews conducted by researchers, which reveal that individuals with leprosy often face discrimination rooted in perceived differences in social strata. These individuals are frequently seen as low-status and impoverished, even when some are financially well-off. The stigma surrounding leprosy, perceived as a strange or abnormal condition, subjects them to discrimination regardless of their actual economic status. This highlights how social strata and associated stigmas contribute significantly to discriminatory treatment. According to Bahrudin (2022) disability

discrimination is a fundamental form of injustice. Indonesian Law Article 1, Paragraph 3, Number 39 of 1998 concerning Human Rights explicitly addresses discrimination and emphasizes the need for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, particularly within judicial processes. This includes providing accessibility measures, such as sign language interpreters or adequate facilities, to ensure fair and equal treatment for individuals with physical, mental, or sensory impairments. The absence of such accommodations constitutes a form of discrimination, underscoring the necessity of protecting and guaranteeing the rights of persons with disabilities to enable their full participation in all aspects of life, including the legal system.

Discrimination infringes on the inalienable human rights of individuals. Every person is entitled to fair and equal treatment, effective legal protection, and the opportunity to live in an inclusive society. It is the responsibility of states and communities to foster environments that are safe and free from discrimination. An inclusive society values differences and treats them as assets, ensuring that no one feels afraid or marginalized. Such a society upholds the principles of equality, tolerance, and mutual respect, enabling individuals to participate fully in community life without fear or exclusion.

2.2 Types of Discrimination

Agustang & Syukur (2022) highlight that social strata are hierarchical divisions within society, where individuals in lower strata often experience discrimination from those in higher strata. Those with higher social positions generally receive respect and authority, while individuals with lower status frequently face unfavorable treatment. This is evident in cases where stigma, such as that associated with leprosy, exacerbates discrimination. Despite the economic status of some individuals, they are still perceived as “low” due to societal biases, further illustrating how social stratification and stigma perpetuate discriminatory practices.

Adolph (2016) explains that discrimination can be evaluated through two primary legal theories. The first is *disparate treatment*, which refers to the unequal treatment of individuals or groups within legally protected classes. This treatment does not need to be overt; even patterns of inequality in treatment based on race, gender, religion, or other protected characteristics can qualify as discriminatory. This theory emphasizes direct intentions or actions that reveal differential treatment and undermines fairness and equality in societal and workplace contexts.

Caroline (2022) presents views from scholars such as Cox and Theodorson, who define discrimination as biased behavior or systemic actions targeting individuals or groups based on their identity. Cox emphasizes that discrimination often stems from group identity, resulting in unequal treatment, while Theodorson expands this definition to include race, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, age, and social class. From these perspectives, discrimination is not limited to words but also includes harmful actions that negatively impact individuals or groups. It can manifest in various forms, including racial, religious, age-based, health-related, or gender-based discrimination.

The four types of discrimination, as outlined by the Equality Act of 2020, include:

1. Direct Discrimination

Direct discrimination is a type of discrimination that occurs when certain individuals or groups are treated unfairly or at a disadvantage compared to others based on certain characteristics, such as race, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, disability or social status. This unequal treatment occurs directly, with the difference being the main reason behind the injustice received (Rika Widianita, 2023). In the movie *Miracle in Cell No. 7*, an example of direct discrimination can be seen through the unfair treatment experienced by the main character, Dodo Rozak, who has an intellectual disability. This discrimination occurs when Dodo Rozak is unfairly accused of murder and violence against a child without

sufficient evidence. Due to his disability, Dodo Rozak is unable to defend himself properly and is found guilty only because of stereotypes and prejudice against his condition. In addition, the law enforcement and justice system in this story treat Dodo Rozak cruelly and inhumanely, denying him the opportunity to prove his innocence. This is a form of direct discrimination as the decisions and treatment he receives are directly influenced by a discriminatory view of his disability, rather than based on facts or fairness. The movie clearly illustrates how direct discrimination can ruin a person's life, as well as being a critique of an unfair and biased legal system.

2. Indirect Discrimination

According to Campbell & Smith (2023), indirect discrimination is a form of discrimination that occurs when a rule, policy, or practice that appears to be neutral or applies to everyone equally actually negatively impacts or disadvantages certain groups, either directly or indirectly. While the rule may not explicitly mention a particular group, its implementation can create barriers or injustices for individuals with certain characteristics, such as race, religion, gender, disability or social status. In the movie *Miracle in Cell No. 7*, this can be seen through situations where rules or policies that seem to apply to everyone equally have a detrimental impact on Dodo Rozak due to his intellectual limitations. For example, in his legal process, the justice system requires the defendant to provide a logical and coherent defense. This rule seems neutral as it applies to all defendants, but it indirectly discriminates against Dodo Rozak, who lacks the capacity to understand and respond to the allegations in the same way as others. The inability of the system to provide the necessary support or adjustments for individuals with special needs indicates indirect discrimination. This reflects how policies that appear fair on the surface can unfairly impact certain groups, especially those in vulnerable positions.

3. Harassment

According to Gunawan et al. (2020), harassment is a form of overwhelming discrimination suffered mostly by women; it usually includes unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and also sexual conducts which are directed to a person because of gender.

It is important to note that the harassment depicted in the film does not only affect Dodo as an individual, but also reflects a broader social problem of discrimination against people with mental disabilities. The movie is not just about one person's suffering, but also highlights how society treats people with disabilities in general. Through its depiction of Dodo's abuse, the film seeks to raise awareness of discrimination and encourage a more inclusive and accepting environment. The film invites viewers to reflect on how prejudice and negative stereotypes towards mental disabilities can lead to discriminatory and harmful actions. Thus, it is hoped that this film can be a catalyst for social change for the better, where every individual, regardless of their disability, has the same right to be respected and treated fairly.

4. Victimization

According to Sugiarto (2016), victimization is defined as suffering, either physically or psychologically or mentally related to the actions of another party. Actions carried out by an individual, a particular group, a particular community, even the government, are group, a particular community, or even the government, so that the victims are not only individuals, but groups of people or community or a portion of the people who suffer, not only physically but inclusive in the sense of financial, economic, social, religious in the sense of psychological in a broad sense. In the film *Miracle in Cell No. 7*, victimization becomes a central theme that illustrates how a mentally challenged father becomes a victim of an unfair legal system. Dodo Razak, who is falsely accused of killing the daughter of a police

commissioner, experiences tremendous pressure from the law enforcement officers who are supposed to protect him. Instead of getting fair treatment, he was forced to plead guilty through intimidation and threats to the safety of his daughter, Kartika. The speedy legal process and lack of proper procedures show how systematic this victimization is; Dodo Razak not only lost her freedom but also her right to a proper defense. The film highlights the indifference of society and authorities towards mental conditions and how stigmatizing people with disabilities can lead to violence and discrimination. As a result, the victimization in the film not only harms the individual, but also creates a broader social impact, illustrating how vulnerable a person can be when faced with unjust institutional forces.

2.3 Mental Disabilities

Taylor (2018) explains that the definition of disability can vary depending on the context. In some situations, disability is seen as a medical condition that requires treatment or therapy, while in other contexts, it is understood as the result of the interaction between impairment and environmental conditions.

People with disabilities are a vulnerable group prone to discrimination. Long-term physical, intellectual, mental, or sensory conditions often prevent them from fully participating in various aspects of life due to the barriers and challenges they face in interacting with their environment. According to Law No. 8/2016 on Persons with Disabilities, individuals with disabilities are defined as those who experience limitations that affect various aspects of their lives, including education, employment, and access to public facilities. As a result, they often face significant challenges in enjoying the same fundamental rights and opportunities as other citizens.

Discrimination against people with disabilities can manifest as unfair treatment, exclusion, or humiliation. This discrimination can occur in various public spaces, including workplaces, schools, public transportation, and other public facilities, often due to a lack of

public awareness about the rights of individuals with disabilities, as well as prejudice and negative stereotypes. In reality, every individual, including those with disabilities, has the same right to live with dignity and receive equal treatment. Therefore, there is an urgent need to create an inclusive, discrimination-free environment for people with disabilities.

Sakdeyhlely (2024) argues that people with disabilities are often labeled as limited individuals who cannot interact with others. This negative stigma stems from the assumption that they are incapable of accomplishing many tasks and are burdens to society. However, despite their physical or mental limitations, people with disabilities often possess a strong desire for independence and strive to overcome the challenges they face in order to contribute meaningfully to society.

In Indonesia, people with disabilities are part of society and possess the same rights and obligations as other citizens. Yet, many still encounter difficulties related to social welfare, often facing stigmatization and discrimination. These individuals are frequently underestimated, seen as different, or excluded. Therefore, there is a need for policies that not only protect the rights of people with disabilities but also create inclusive spaces that ensure they are treated with dignity and respect, helping to mitigate issues of discrimination.

People with mental disabilities, who often face social welfare challenges, require attention and support to fulfill their roles within society. Disabilities, particularly mental ones, create barriers that hinder a person's ability to engage in social functions.

Those with psychological disabilities often experience feelings of inferiority and struggle to adjust to society, as the perceptions and treatments they receive from others are frequently negative. In many cases, people with disabilities are treated with reproach or pity. However, there are also individuals who view people with disabilities positively, recognizing them as equals and valuable members of society, deserving of the same respect as all people.