

ABSTRACT

People with disabilities are a vulnerable group and a diverse group of people. The causes of disability are very diverse, in general it can be caused by two factors, namely internal and external. Persons with disabilities are part of the Indonesian people who are entitled to the same rights, obligations, position and roles to have the right to a decent life and have the power to fulfill their needs independently. One of the efforts to achieve the independence of persons with disabilities is using an empowerment approach. The Social Service as a government agency that focuses on organizing and providing public services in the social sector has formulated a program called "Kula Eksis" where this program is intended for people with disabilities to develop the economy. describe the independence of persons with disabilities after getting the Kula Eksis program in Cirebon City, describe the obstacles and efforts to increase the independence of persons with disabilities through the Kula Eksis program in Cirebon City, describe the theoretical implications of social work in increasing the independence of persons with disabilities in Cirebon City. The research method used is a qualitative approach with a case research design with purposive sampling informant selection techniques. Data collection techniques in this study used in-depth interviews, non-participant observations, and document studies. Based on the results of research that has been carried out regarding increasing the independence of persons with disabilities through the Kula Eksis program, it shows that the implementation of the Kula Eksis program has a preparation stage, an assessment stage, a planning stage, an implementation stage, and an evaluation stage. The independence of persons with disabilities after getting the Kula Eksis program in Cirebon City is increasing economic independence, increasing social independence, increasing intellectual independence, increasing emotional independence. In implementing the empowerment of persons with disabilities through the Kula Eksis program in Cirebon City, obstacles and efforts were found. The obstacles are divided into two, namely barriers that come from internal and obstacles that come from external. Then the roles of social workers in empowering persons with disabilities are social workers as educators, mediators, counselors, enablers, and brokers.

Keywords: *Independence, Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Cirebon City.*