

Therapy of Community-based Art Knowledge Transfer for People with Disabilities: Sensation Method Development

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Therapy of Community-based Art Knowledge Transfer for People with Disabilities: Sensation Method Development

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Abstract--- Bandung known as one of creative cities in Indonesia, many communities are formed in this city. The communities of people with disabilities were being educated through creative programs. However, creative programs are generally become extra-curricular activities. The people with disabilities only fulfill their spare time. It does not provide a concrete and long-term impact, because it does not touch life preparation aspects of learning for the people with disabilities. Sensation Method is the result of researchers' findings which successfully implemented in community therapy activity in Art Therapy Center Widyatama. This method involved many subjects which are therapist, people with disability, parents, and government. The success indicator does not only come from the therapy activity, but also the substance of linearity among the subjects that have been mentioned earlier. The outputs include management systems, learning systems, governance, academic, and human resources. This community is guided to be a role model for other communities with the same problems, especially in remote areas in Indonesia where the condition is not properly managed whereas (while) the number of people with disabilities continue increasing every year. Knowledge transfer system through community at least will change the old system which is partial and less effective.

Keywords--- Creative, Disability, Community, Art Therapy, Sensation Method.

I. Introduction

The number of people with disability in Indonesia is increasing every year and for instance, autistic patients, according to the National Statistics Agency, increased by 500 patients every year. Not to mention when combined with a number of other disabilities. This occurrence requires special attention of every Indonesian [1].

Currently, people with disabilities are still underestimated by the public. It can be seen from various aspects of social life such as: education, transportation, job, and so many others.

Obstacles encountered in handling People with Disabilities are as follows:

1. Obstacle from the Parents

It is inevitable that every parent wants their child born with a healthy condition, physically and mentally. However, in reality, there must be possibilities of their children being born with special conditions. Sometimes, most of the parents cannot or have not been able to accept the condition of their child who holds the status of both physical and mental disabilities. Parents tend to hide their children from society life so that children with disabilities do not have the ability to make contact with others [2].

2. Obstacle from Education

After conducting some surveys to several schools in Indonesia, especially in Bandung, researchers found that most of the schools do not have convenient/ appropriate facilities and system in educating disable students. That is certainly contrary to section 28H (2) of the 1945 Constitution that every person is entitled to the ease and special treatment to get the same opportunities and benefits in order to achieve equality and justice. Moreover, can be seen also in Law 19 Article 9 paragraph 1 of 2010 on the Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Disabilities, "The state takes appropriate measures to ensure access for persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, transportation, information and communication, including technologies and information systems and communication, as well as to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and rural areas."

Thus do not happen in the education system here in Indonesia. Sometimes, parents with disable children are having trouble in finding schools for their children due to the refusal of the school which stated that the schools do not have adequate facilities for disable children. [5].

3. Obstacle of The Disables

As the result of being dissociated from the society by the parents and the systems, people with disabilities will be feeling strange and having difficulties to communicate in society. At last, they will cover themselves up from the world outside [6].

Researchers found that there is actually a quite effective way for people with disabilities to be able to adapt to their environment, i.e. art therapy. Basically, in developed countries like the United States, psychologists and therapists have been utilizing children movies as part of their therapeutic media [9]. So, in its development, audiovisual becomes the basic concept of therapy for children with autism and children with special needs. Several things that related to arts such as music, visualization objects as in PECS (Picture Exchanges Communication System) or cartoon movies that observed by Prof. Simon Baron Cohen Director of the Autism Research Center (Autism Research Center) at the University of Cambridge United[3][4]. Researchers recorded it as a sensory stimulator because the subject is stimulated in the sight and hearing senses. Those facts may indicate the same role of audio and visual for children with disabilities as children in general. So that, it is hard to be denied that there is substantive connection between the stimulus and the sensory which comes from movies objects, TV commercials, or games on the activities of these children. Therefore, researchers have found a method called Sensation Method in order to train communication response for people with disabilities. Thus, a cheap and easy method to be applied in learning system for children with special treatment is being introduced. Unfortunately, in Indonesia, there is a negative stigma that art is still considered to be extracurricular activities without concrete benefits.

II. Literature Review/Background Studies

This study is an empirical description in identifying problems associated with opportunities for sensation method through the implementation of aspects of learning systems, and communication therapy [7].

2.1. Sensation Method

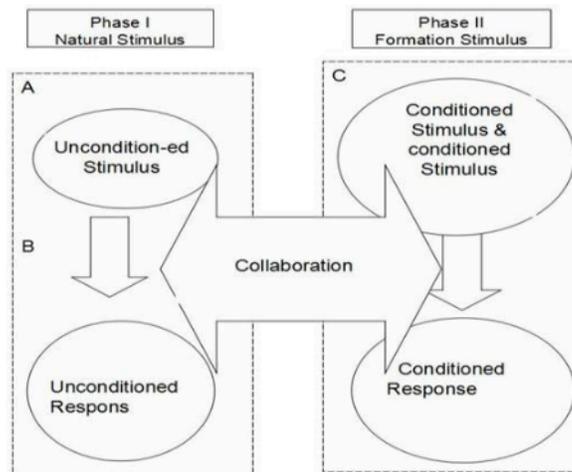


Fig. 1: Sensation Method Model

Sensation method is the result of research by the author utilizing natural stimulus / subjectivity with autism to things that are classified in three media objects i.e. TV commercials, movies and games through words or dialogue (word), a song or sound effect (sound), and visual movie (visual). Researchers call it as a method of auditory and visual sensations, using visual sensations, word sensations and sound sensations to build impressions for the subject [8].

Through those three sensations, the entry keys to interact, interrelate, and to integrate with autism children are found. Those approaches affect the subject to be more open and willing to participate in creative courses (e.g. drawing). The participatory attitude affects the idea and hence it can be identified through the work of drawing, especially the development of image objects. Subjects can develop through the stimulus image objects formed the thematic. Thus, the object is the key to communication stimulation for the cognitive development of the subject [12]

Description

1. Phase I

A. Unconditioned Stimulus (UCS)

Mapping the subject when drawing with the natural stimulus conditions audio or visual sensations stimulated by the children's film which is watched without intervention from others.

B. Unconditioned Response (UCR)

Mapping the subject's response when drawing with natural stimulus through audio or visual elements.

2. Phase II

C. Conditioned Stimulus (CS) and the Unconditioned Stimulus (UCS)

Mapping the subject in the development of image objects by utilizing the natural stimulus to synergize with the stimulus formation through figures or characters from children's films that are watched [10] [11].

D. Conditioned Response (CR)

Mapping the response of the subject to utilize the natural stimulus that is in synergy with the formation of stimulus in the development of image objects to identify communication response. [13][14]

Children with Disability as other normal children generally have an affinity and interest that are different from each other. Subjectivity is clearly an indication that the child has a desire, interest and desire.

2.1. Findings of Sensation Method for the Development of Communication Response

Sensation method is a method of learning to find the entrance in advance that utilize the sensory sensitivity of autistic children to the visual, sound or motion. It is a mediator to develop the ability of cognitive, affective and motor through the creative process [15].

The sensitivity of autistic children of visual, sound or motion are the most natural which is obtained through the five senses or sensory of daily events within the subject. This natural stimulus is a keyword to bridge the learning process through creative programs that will be executed [26-29].

Drawing is one of the creative activities that involves all aspects of learning, including external communication and internal communication [16]. If only the external communication that has been just the focal point (stimulus and learning outcomes), then the internal communication can facilitate legibility in a learning process of an autism.

The elements in drawing are form of communication, such as lines, colors and objects. Lines that created by someone who is angry will appear more assertive or colored gray which indicates that person is sad and also indicates the message of the visual element. Similarly for the image object which its information appears to be more clear.

Therefore, the sensation method through the image object can be a mediator of communication response development for people with disabilities. Sensation method begins with recognizing the natural stimulus on the subject. If the stimulus is appropriate, then the stimulus formation can be designed properly [17].

Therefore, the sensation method step in establishing communication response, are as follows:

- A. Identifying the sensitivity of the subject matters sensory auditory or visual.
- B. Learning Area: Identify the natural stimulus subject; movies, TV commercials, sound etc. Natural stimulus is the basis for building stimulus formations. Both of them collaborate into the learning process. In the case of this study, the image object becomes a formation stimulus media. Drawing the view of the objects while mentioning the name are intended to build communication and cognition response of the subject, from not knowing to knowing.
- C. Communication Area: Identifying internal and external communication by recognizing the elements. It has been mentioned in section 2 in this paper on the definition of these elements, the subject can be identified to understand the development of communication response. Sensation method can be applied to a variety of cases, this study aimed to build communication response. Then the implementation strategy is to design the study area [A] and areas of learning objectives [B].

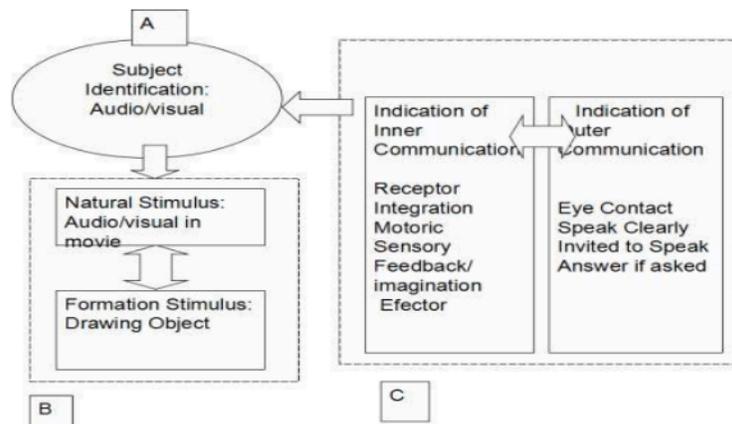


Fig. 2: Sensation methods and communication response (Source: Nurfarina, 2012)

III. Implementation

The sensation method that has been described above has been implemented in Art Therapy Center Widyatama located in Bandung, Indonesia, for 4 years. Art Therapy Center Widyatama is a place which educates disable people majoring arts and design.

This method is applied to several types of physical and mental disabilities and has been proven successfully. In one case of a child with autism, Febi, who had a problem in communicating at the first time, is successfully stimulated by automotive commercial and therapist guidance that made him finally said one whole sentence. Besides already started to be brave to communicate, Febi also eventually be able to hone his ability to use Paint and Adobe Photoshop software. Here's an example of work that uses the Paint:

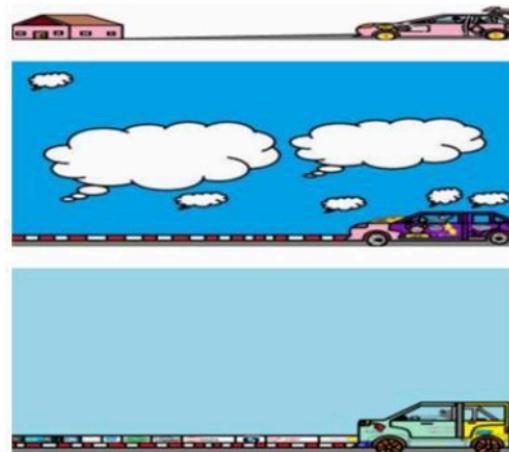


Fig. 3: Febi's Artwork

The response of children with special needs have not been implemented yet in subject life due to the lack of understanding on art potential as therapeutic medium. Departing from this problem researchers trying to create a community-based treatment system scheme through the implementation of sensation as the basic method of learning which is intended for:

3.1. Education System

Sensation method can be applied to the education system especially for inclusive school. Art Therapy Center Widyatama has teamed up with several Senior High Schools in Bandung. SMA Muhammadiyah Cimahi is one of

the high schools that Art Therapy Center Widyatama cooperate with. It has been proven that the graduate students from this school have a very good quality. The evident can be seen in the result of learning in Art Therapy Center Widyatama. It shows that students who studied in Muhammadiyah High School Cimahi are excellence in cognitive and social behavior.

3.2. Education System Policy

Art Therapy Center Widyatama cooperate with the Ministry of Education and Culture in making curriculum for primary, middle and top in Indonesia, especially for inclusion schools. Hopefully, with the appropriate and convenient curriculum, people with disabilities will be better prepared for higher education and will be ready to compete in the wider environment along with people other normative[25] .

3.3. Posdaya Training

Art Therapy Center Widyatama join some communities of people with disabilities both in cities and in districts in West Java such as the Association of Parents of people with disability Indonesia[22] (PORTADIN), West Java, PORTADIN Center , and Home Autism . Through this community, hopefully, the sensation method can be applied more broadly because the community has quite a lot of members that are spread in some areas, especially Bandung [18].

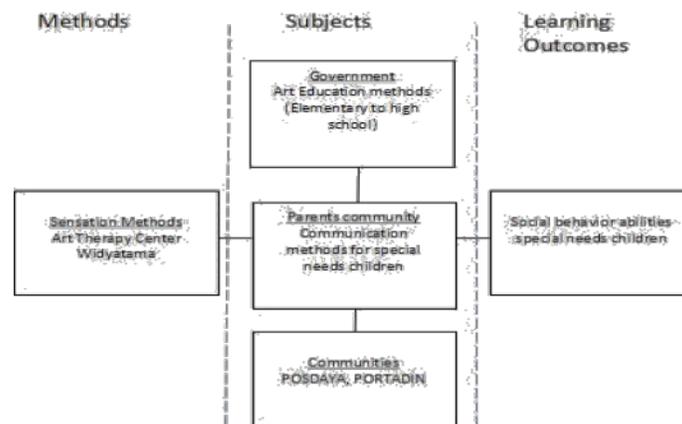


Fig. 4: Methods, Subjects and Learning Outcomes (Source: Nurfarina, 2012)

IV. Discussion and Findings

If we viewed from the explanation above, it can be seen that it is best to apply this sensation method with a collaborative and continuous systems, learning in school, studying at home, studying in a public place. Learning is the process of life itself. Drawing and movies stimulus only one substance that can be used in building the learning process because the substance was actually intertwined with each other, as familiar faces dimensional object in response to the communication, knows the face is round correlated with increased cognition.

Known as the dynamics of learning through stimulus, where the natural stimulus and formation stimulus will generate the new formation of natural stimulus, and the new formation of natural stimulus can be a formation stimulus, and so on[19].

Thus, cooperation is needed with parents, the community, government and the community of people with disabilities in order to create a learning environment that covers all aspects of living.

The socialization mechanism of sensation method to the society can be done through Posdaya. Posdaya is a community set up by local governments to collect and train people with disabilities in these areas [20] [21].

What has been done now is introducing sensation method through the Social Worker program cooperate with the Social Service of Bandung, Ramadan with the Foundation Program Dakwah Centre Indonesia in Bandung, and do cooperation assessment with Posdaya in several areas in West Java[23]. In addition, researchers together with other colleagues involved in the making of strategy program of Bandung Inclusion City and drafting the Disabilities Law

that are in the process of submission to the Parliament. Hopefully, after the policy has been put into the Law (Undang-undang), this program could be more disseminated [24].

V. Conclusions

Based on observation, testing, recording and analyzing the sample, the researchers have come to the conclusion the study as follows:

1. Sensation Method through auditory and visual stimulation can help improve cognition and response communication of people with disabilities.
2. Sensation Method is the approach through the subjectivity of people with disabilities to noise (sound) and visual (visual). Researchers call it as a method of auditory and visual sensations, using visual sensations, word sensations and sound sensation to build impressions for the subject. Through those three sensations, the entry keys to interact, interrelate, and to integrate with autism children are found in this research.
3. The idea which works through the audiovisual can establish subject to work while building social behavior.
4. The understanding enhancement of social behavior and capabilities can build the subject's ability to socialize.
5. The learning system through sensation method can be done by parents and teachers through creative learning systems that sustain.
6. By providing stimulus with sensation method can be done on a regular basis in order to encourage children with disabilities to work, whose work can be further processed to be worth selling products in various industrial fields.

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