

STORIES OF IMPACT AND RESILIENCE

FROM PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

Sharing lived experiences gives planners and policy makers valuable insights into the needs of those impacted by their decisions

My name is Anjani, I am a 44 year old woman living in Wirobrajan, Yogyakarta City. I have a psychosocial disability.

BEFORE THE PANDEMIC

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, every morning I helped my mother sell food. My mother would cook noodles, capcay, and porridge in the morning. We sold the food for breakfast to children going to school, and to workers who don't have time to cook breakfast. We also packed containers of food and I sold them from house to house so that we could earn more money.

DURING THE PANDEMIC

The pandemic made my morning activities different. Almost everyone stayed at home, the children were not in school. My mother couldn't sell food so our income dropped drastically. Both of my brothers, who were construction workers, lost their jobs.

I got some help from the government, the BPUM (Micro Business Productive Assistance), which I used to open a grocery stall behind our house. I sold daily necessities such as soap, shampoo, sanitary napkins, insect repellent, and various kinds of snacks. There were other shops nearby, so I opened my stall during the evening and night when the others were closed. I

ANJANI, INDONESIA



also went door-to-door taking orders and delivering them. My short-term memory is poor so I would take the order and immediately rush to home to collect the goods and deliver them – otherwise I would forget the order.

I also started doing odd-jobs for people, like repairing roof tiles and painting walls. Most government services went online, but hard copies of documents had to be taken to the offices so I would deliver documents for people who were isolating.

AFTER THE PANDEMIC

I still have my stall and I hope that I can grow that business, and that I can continue to do odd-jobs for people in my community.

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