

ABSTRACT

An individual's level of self-confidence is significantly shaped by how they are accepted within their social environment. Persons with disabilities often face diminished self-esteem due to stigma, discrimination, and a lack of societal inclusion. Sentra Wirajaya, as a Social Rehabilitation Center, offers programs that not only develop technical skills but also create opportunities for interpersonal interaction that fosters self-confidence (Ministry of Health, 2018). This study aims to analyze the role of interpersonal communication in enhancing the self-confidence of persons with disabilities at Sentra Wirajaya Makassar. Guided by William Schutz's Fundamental Interpersonal Relations Orientation (FIRO) theory, which outlines three core interpersonal needs: inclusion, control, and affection. This research uses a qualitative case study approach. Data were collected through field observations and in-depth interviews with disabled beneficiaries, instructors, and non-disabled peers. The findings indicate that supportive communication, such as recognition of individual abilities, emotional encouragement, and constructive interactions, plays a key role in creating an inclusive environment that motivates participants to grow. The study concludes that effective interpersonal communication not only fulfills the three FIRO needs but also significantly enhances the self-confidence of persons with disabilities.

Key word: *Interpersonal Communication, Self-Confidence, Disabilities, Sentra Wirajaya Kota Makassar*