## **ABSTRACT**

One of the educational institutions for children with special needs is Sekolah Luar Biasa Dharma Wanita in Sidoarjo Regency. However, the academic data recording and management processes are still carried out manually, which complicates administrative procedures and data sharing. Additionally, monitoring students' daily activities remains limited due to the lack of digital media support. This study aims to design and develop an academic information system that supports academic data recording and management, as well as assists teachers and parents in monitoring students' daily activities.

This research adopts the Design Thinking method to explore user needs and applies the Waterfall model in the system development process. The system is designed using Unified Modeling Language (UML), with functionality testing conducted through Unit Testing and user experience evaluation carried out using the User Experience Questionnaire (UEQ). Key features include student, teacher, grade, class schedule management, and a daily activity logbook.

This study resulted in an academic information system designed to support academic data recording, management, and student monitoring at Sekolah Luar Biasa Dharma Wanita Sidoarjo. Testing results show that the system functions as expected (100% passed in Unit Testing), and the UEQ produced positive average scores across all aspects: Attractiveness (1.813), Stimulation (1.719), Perspicuity (1.625), Efficiency (1.625), Dependability (1.625), and Novelty (1.625).

Keywords: Children with Special Needs (CSN), Academic Information System, Special Education School, Design Thinking, Waterfall