

Parents Perceptions and Attitudes Towards Sex Education at Kindergarten ABA Sudagaran.

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Abstract: Cases of sexual abuse against children in Indonesia continue to increase, this has encouraged various elements of society to be actively involved in providing sexual education. This research analyzes parents perceptions and attitudes towards early childhood sex education. This type of research is quantitative research. The research respondents were all parents of Kindergarten ABA Sudagaran, totaling 80 people. The analytical method used is multiple linear regression with IBM SPSS 26 software. The research results show that perception has an influence on sex education with a significance value of $0.000 < 0.05$ and a calculated t value of $4.723 > t \text{ table } 1.994$. Then, attitude does not have a positive influence on sex education with a significance value of $0.152 > 0.05$ and a calculated t value of $1.447 < t \text{ table } 1.994$. The results of this study show that there is an influence between parents' perceptions of early childhood sexual education. Meanwhile, attitudes do not have a significant effect on early childhood sexual education. Parents believe that sexual education is important in protecting children from sexual violence. However, there are obstacles felt by parents in its implementation. As a follow-up, it is important to build communication between teachers and parents to create harmonious understanding and beliefs regarding sexual education.

Keywords: Perception, Attitude, Sex Education, Early Childhood

INTRODUCTION

Early childhood is a child aged 0-6 years who is included in the golden period or golden age (Yusuf et al., 2023). At this time 80% of the child's brain is growing very rapidly, every word or action of someone, especially parents, becomes the basis for the formation of children's behavior, temperament, and intelligence (Karam et al., 2024). It is important to pay attention to encourage their development. The golden age is the right time to provide encouragement related to life values (Manik et al., 2023).

Children are always curious about new things and topics they have heard about in their environment, including things related to sexuality (Puspita & Utami, 2023). Children begin to explore their own bodies such as putting fingers in their mouths, watching their bodies work, and playing with their genitals.

Along with the rapid development of technology, various cases of crime have also increased, especially crimes against children in the form of sexual violence cases. *Komisi Perlindungan Anak Indonesia* (KPAI) recorded 252 (14.0%) cases of child victims of sexual crimes from January to September 2023.

In the case of Child Special Protection, sexual crimes, physical and psychological violence are the biggest cases obtained from the media. Violence against children in Indonesia is reported through *Sistem Informasi Online Perlindungan Perempuan dan Anak (SIMFONI PPA)*, a recording and reporting system developed by the Indonesian Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection. As of March 20, 2024, 337 cases of child abuse aged 0-5 years, 1,055 cases of child abuse aged 6-12 years have been recorded (SIMFONI PPA, 2024).

Based on the data, related to the low awareness of parents in providing child protection, which is one of the causes of the increase in cases of sexual deviations, such as sexual abuse (Suryani et al., 2023).

Another factor that drives the increase in child sexual abuse is that children have not been educated regarding proper self-protection. The ease of accessing the internet today encourages perpetrators to view, watch, and even practice immoral videos (Hidayati & Nurhafizah, 2022).

Parents can start providing information from simple things such as introducing gender, giving directions not to go alone with strangers, daring to say no, introducing social norms such as teaching things that can and cannot be done, and giving directions about parts that can and cannot be touched and shown to people of different sexes (Rakhmawati *et al.*, 2021). Research conducted by Erfiany *et al.*, (2021) revealed that the majority of respondents have the view that sex education is adult sexual behavior. Parents consider that sex education is taboo and rarely mentioned in society. However, respondents also realize that sex education has a good purpose. Parents tend to divert the conversation to avoid discussions related to sexual matters. Research conducted by Arika (2022) revealed that 40 parents with a percentage of 80% revealed that sex education is important to be given to children from an early age, while 10 respondents with a percentage of 20% said that sex education is not important to be given to children.

Parents' perceptions of the benefits of sex education can increase knowledge, increase positive values and attitudes, and improve intrapersonal skills (Parwati *et al.*, 2021). Perceptions of sex education will affect the behavior of providing sex education for parents to children. Knowledge related to parents' perceptions can be used as the basis for implementing intervention programs to deal with children's sexuality problems through the active role of parents. Attitudes are defined as actions given to children related to sex education. The extent to which parents provide education related to sex education.

Badan Pusat Statistik, (2021) in 2020 the number of victims of violence against children in Banyumas District was 62 cases. The perpetrators of sexual abuse against children are some of the closest people, such as the head of an orphanage in West Purwokerto molested his foster child; a father had the heart to molest three of his child's playmates; a father in Cilongok committed *rudapaksa* to his stepdaughter (Yanuar, 2023). The play environment should be a safe place for children. A 5-year-old child in Kemranjen was also a victim of sexual abuse. The perpetrator is the father of her peer. The perpetrator carried out the action by leading the victim into the room and committing sexual abuse. The victim went home and cried to her parents and told them what the perpetrator had done (Miranti, 2024).

Based on observations related to the title, researchers conducted observations and interviews with several teachers in kindergartens in Banyumas District, but researchers found interesting things at ABA Kindergarten. This is interesting because ABA Kindergarten has not collaborated with parents related to sexual education, such as holding teacher and parent meetings to straighten out that sex education is not taboo, and there has been no discussion related to sex education.

The research conducted aims to analyze how much influence the perceptions and attitudes of parents towards sex education in Kindergarten ABA Sudagaran, emphasizing the importance of studying and observing the events of sexual violence that occur in the environment around the community, as well as one of the preventive efforts of sexual abuse incidents that are currently stalking children and protecting children from feelings of stress, worry and negative thoughts in the future.

METHODS

This research is a quantitative type. In order to obtain data, a five-level Likert scale questionnaire was used which was distributed to respondents. The type of data used is primary data in the form of questionnaires distributed with saturated sampling techniques and secondary data from school documents as support. The analysis method used is multiple linear regression analysis with IBM SPSS 26 software.

The operational definition of each variable:

- a. Perception, Bimo W in Fatonah *et al.*, (2023) revealed that perception is a process of managing and interpreting something that results from stimuli received by individuals. It is also influenced by emotions, thinking abilities and experiences that different individuals have to understand something. Perception is a process of the brain's ability to enter and provide stimuli, as well as the process of changing an incoming stimulus through the human senses. Through this, a person will feel something that affects human behavior into a good, positive, or negative response, both visible and invisible (Pranoto & Nafisah, 2022). Rakhmat in Zahrawanny & Fitria (2019) perception is an observation of objects, events, or relationships obtained by inferring information and messages.
- b. Attitude Attitude is a form of reaction or response in the form of an assessment of a particular object which is shown by supporting or not a response to the object (Adikusuma & Maharani, 2023). Syah in Awalia *et al.*, (2023), revealed that attitude is an internal symptom with an affective dimension in the form of giving a reaction or response in different ways to an object, person, event, and so on, either giving a positive or negative response. Attitude as a form of feeling supportive or favorable or feeling unsupportive towards an object (Sari & Fatmawati, 2021). Osears in Indrayani (2021) reveals that attitude is a mental and nervous state of readiness, which is regulated through experience which has a dynamic or directed influence on individual responses to all objects and interrelated situations.
- c. Sex Education Sex education is a lifelong process of acquiring information and forming attitudes, beliefs, and values about identity and relationships. This development, includes reproductive sexual health, intrapersonal relationships, affection, body shape, and gender roles (Olufadewa *et al.*, 2021). Sex education is knowledge related to all things related to sex. It includes the as growth of the sexes, the function of the sexs reproductive organs, the differences in the development of male and female genitals, to the signs of lust that occur due to changes in hormones. Including marriage, pregnancy, and so on (Lumban Gaol & Stevanus, 2019).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Result Research

1.1 Multiple Linear Regression Analysis

Based on the results of the multiple linear test that has been carried out, it can be seen from the regression equation determined based on the table:

Table 1. Multiple Linear Regression Analysis Results

Coefficients ^a							
Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		Sig.	Collinearity Statistik	
	B	Std. Error	Beta	T		Tolerance	VIF
1	(Constant)	21.302	4.511	4.723	.000		
	Persepsi	.582	.104	.535	5.622	.000	.945
	Sikap	.101	.070	.138	1.447	.152	.945

a. Dependent Variable: Pendidikan Seks

Source: Processed by researchers through SPSS 26 (2024)

From the output table and regression equation it can be concluded:

- a. The constant value of 21.302 indicates that if the Perception (X₁) and Attitude (X₂) variables are 0, then the value of sex education is 21.302 with the assumption that other variables outside those used by researchers can affect sex education is considered fixed.
- b. The regression coefficient value on the perception variable shows a value of 0.582, which means that every addition of the perception variable by 1 unit, there will be an increase in parents' perceptions of

sex education is considered fixed.

c. The regression coefficient value on the attitude variable shows a value of 0.101, which means that every addition of the attitude variable by 1 unit, there will be an increase in parents' attitudes towards sex education at Kindergarten ABA Sudagaran, assuming that the value is fixed.

1.2 Coefficient Of Determination

Based on the results of the coefficient of determination test:

Table 2. Coefficient Of Determination Results

Model Summary ^b					
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.583 ^a	.340	.323	3.681	1.572

a. Predictors: (Constant), Sikap, Persepsi
b. Dependent Variable: Pendidikan Seks

Source: Processed by researchers through SPSS 26 (2024)

The coefficient of determination R² (R Square) is 0.340, meaning that the perception and attitude variables of parents contribute 34% to sex education. Meanwhile, the remaining 66% is influenced by other factors that are not in this study. Because the R² value is close to zero (0), the independent variables are categorized as low or weak in describing the dependent variable.

1.3 T Statistical Test (Partial)

Based on the results of t statistical testing with a significance value (α) of 0.05 or 5% and the value of the t table determined is Df = n-k-1 which means 80-2-1 = 77 and the value is determined in the t table whose significance level is 0.05 shows a value of 1.991.

Table 3. T Statistical Test Results

		Unstandardized Coefficients	Std. Error	Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
Model		B		Beta		
1	(Constant)	21.302	4.511		4.723	.000
	Persepsi	.582	.104	.535	5.622	.000
	Sikap	.101	.070	.138	1.447	.152

Source: Processed by researchers through SPSS 26 (2024)

From the table, the sig. value of Perception (X₁) on Sex Education (Y) is 0.000 < 0.05 and the t value is 4.723 > t table 1.994, so it can be concluded that Ha₁ is accepted, which means that there is a partial influence of Perception (X₁) on Sex Education (Y). Furthermore, sig. value on Attitude (X₂) on Sex Education (Y) is 0.152 > 0.05 and the t value is 1.447 < t table 1.994, so it can be concluded that Ha₂ is rejected, which means that there is no positive influence between attitude towards sex education.

2. Discussion

2.1 Perception on Sex Education

The results of the f (partial) statistical test of the perception variable (X₁) on sex education (Y) prove that the sig. value on Perception (X₁) on sex education (Y) is 0.000 smaller than 0.05 and the t value of 4.723 is greater than the t table 1.994. The positive value also proves that there is a unidirectional relationship on Perception (X₁) with Sex Education (Y). So the conclusion is that Ha₁ is accepted and Ho₁ is rejected.

This means that parents' perceptions influence sex education at Kindergarten ABA Sudagaran Sudagaran. These results show that there is a positive influence of perception on sex education. In other

words, better perceptions increase the provision of early childhood sex education appropriately and accurately. Parents already have a fairly good awareness of sexual education for early childhood.

Parents realize that the explanation of sexual education is appropriate for the age of the child. High curiosity in children raises many new questions. For this reason, parents need to provide explanations about body parts and their functions. Parents also need to give directions to children regarding touching, hugging, or kissing not just anyone who can do it, and directing children to move away immediately if this happens (Sofyan and Muspawi, 2021).

The results of the research that has been conducted are in line with the findings by Sasea *et al.*, (2023) that 94% of parents realize that sexual violence has a negative potential for children's future, but parents do not have a deep understanding of sexual violence. Many parents know about sexual knowledge but have difficulty conveying it. Parents teaching their children to wear the right clothes resulted in 76% agreeing and 24% disagreeing. Teaching children to dress properly requires patience, concentration, and practice from parents, for example teaching children to put their hands in their arm holes, put their feet in their pants, and wear shoes correctly.

This is in line with the research of Yanuarita *et al.*, (2023) that the percentage results show an average of 57.35% so that it can be said that parents agree if sex education is given from an early age. The perception of parents in Patrang District can be said to agree and not taboo on early childhood sex education. It would be nice if parents always follow new information about sex education, so that parents always understand and gain new knowledge about appropriate sex education to be given to children early on.

2.2 Influence of Attitude towards Sex Education

The results of statistical tests (partial) for the attitude variable (X_2) on sex education prove that the sig. value on Attitude (X_2) on sex education (Y) is $0.152 > 0.05$ and the t value is $1.447 < t$ table 1.994, so it can be concluded that H_{a2} is rejected, which means that attitude does not have a positive effect on sex education. In other words, attitude has no significant effect on early childhood sex education.

Therefore, parents need to have extensive knowledge related to sex education to provide direction to children. Also, there needs to be socialization related to sex education so that it is not considered taboo by the community.

The results of the research that have been conducted are in line with the findings of Erfiany *et al.*, (2021) that respondents tend to avoid questions related to sexuality. Because of this, children will seek knowledge from other sources including gadgets. Based on the information, some respondents limit the use of gadgets to children and others only monitor children from afar as a form of supervision of children in using gadgets.

Knowledge has a major contribution in changing a person's attitude and behavior. Although the majority of respondents do not work or are housewives, respondents have good knowledge, which affects their attitudes and behaviors to be more positive to provide sexual education. This can be found due to the ease of obtaining information about sex education from health counseling, social media, educational videos distributed via the internet to short stories illustrated in videos (Lotianti *et al.*, 2019).

CONCLUSION

Based on the data parents perceptions affect sex education at Kindergarten ABA Sudagaran. There is a positive influence of perception on sex education, a better perception increases the provision of early childhood sex education appropriately and accurately. Meanwhile, attitudes do not have a positive influence on sex education. In other words, attitudes have no significant effect on early childhood sex education. Therefore, parents need to have extensive knowledge related to sex education to provide direction to children. With this research, it is hoped that it can be used as a reference for future research,

for parents need to add new sources of knowledge about the importance of sex education from an early age, how to deliver it, and for schools can add sex education programs starting from children knowing their body members, how to maintain personal hygiene.

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