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REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH EDUCATION FOR YOUNG CHILDREN AS A MEASURE TO PREVENT SEXUAL VIOLENCE AT MI 2 ALKHOIRIYAH GARUT

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ABSTRACT

Sexual violence against children is a serious problem that affects children's physical, psychological, and social development. Young children are highly vulnerable to sexual violence due to their limited knowledge and ability to protect themselves. Therefore, early reproductive health education is an important preventive measure. This community service activity aims to provide reproductive health education to early childhood as an effort to prevent sexual violence at MI 2 Alkhoiriyah Garut. The methods of implementation include the preparation, implementation, and evaluation stages. The preparation stage is carried out through initial observation, coordination with the school, and the preparation of materials tailored to the child's development. The implementation stage was carried out using interactive lectures, educational games, picture stories, and simple simulations. The materials presented included an introduction to body parts, private body parts, gender differences, maintaining personal hygiene, and how to refuse inappropriate touching. Evaluation was carried out through observation and question and answer sessions. The results of the activity showed an increase in children's understanding and awareness of reproductive health and self-protection. Children became more courageous in expressing their opinions and understood the importance of taking care of their bodies. This activity also increased teachers' awareness of the importance of reproductive health education as an effort to prevent sexual violence in schools.

Keywords: *Community service, Early childhood, Reproductive health education, Sexual violence.*

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1. INTRODUCTION

Children are valuable assets of the nation who have the right to grow and develop optimally, physically, mentally, socially, and morally (Ningsih et al., 2021). In the process of growing and developing, children need a safe, healthy, and supportive environment. However, reality shows that children, including early childhood, are still a group that is very vulnerable to various forms of violence, especially sexual violence (Wirenviona et al., 2020). Sexual violence against children is a serious violation of human rights and can have very detrimental short-term and long-term effects, both psychologically, socially, and on the reproductive health of children in the future (Emilda, 2021).

Early childhood, especially those in the early elementary school age range, have limitations in understanding their own bodies, recognizing dangerous situations, and expressing unpleasant experiences (Augesti & Daryanti, 2020). This ignorance is often exploited by perpetrators of sexual violence, who in many cases come from the child's immediate environment, such as family, neighbors, or even the school environment (Rifai & Perceka, 2022). Therefore, efforts to prevent sexual violence against children need to be comprehensive and sustainable, one of which is through reproductive health education provided from an early age (Perceka et al., 2022).

Reproductive health education for young children is not an attempt to introduce sexual aspects in a vulgar manner, but rather to provide knowledge that is appropriate for the child's stage of development (MacLean et al., 2023). This education includes introducing body parts, the differences between male and female bodies, understanding private parts of the body, and instilling the concept of maintaining personal hygiene and safety. In addition, children are also taught to have the courage to say "no" to inappropriate touching and to report to a trusted adult if they experience or witness suspicious behavior. Thus, reproductive health education plays an important role in shaping children's awareness and self-protection skills (Winarsih et al., 2020).

In the context of formal education, schools have a strategic role as institutions that not only transfer knowledge but also shape character and protect students. Madrasah Ibtidaiyah (MI) as a religious-based primary education institution has great potential in integrating reproductive health education with moral and religious values (Li et al., 2023). This approach is expected to provide children with a comprehensive understanding of the importance of maintaining self-respect, respecting their own and others' bodies, and instilling values of responsibility from an early age (Wardani & Asih, 2022).

MI 2 Alkhoiriyah Garut, as a primary educational institution, has a responsibility to create a safe and child-friendly learning environment. However, like other primary schools, MI 2 Alkhoiriyah Garut also faces the challenge of children's lack of understanding about reproductive health and the limited availability of educational programs specifically aimed at preventing sexual violence. In addition, the prevailing view that discussing reproductive health is taboo has resulted in this education not being provided optimally, both in the family and school environments.

In fact, without proper education, children are at high risk of becoming victims of sexual violence because they lack the knowledge and skills to protect themselves (Boone, 2022). Reproductive health education provided from an early age is expected to be an effective preventive measure in reducing the incidence of sexual violence against children (Coutren, 2023). Through this education, children not only gain basic knowledge about their bodies, but also build self-confidence, the courage to speak up, and awareness of their rights as individuals (Hutapea et al., 2023).

Based on this description, reproductive health education for early childhood is an urgent necessity as an effort to prevent sexual violence. The implementation of this education at MI 2 Alkhoiriyah Garut is expected to make a real contribution to protecting children from various forms of sexual violence and supporting the creation of a safe, healthy, and character-building school environment. Therefore, a study on reproductive health education for young children as an effort to prevent sexual violence at MI 2 Alkhoiriyah Garut is important to provide an overview, understanding, and recommendations that can be applied sustainably.

2. METHODS

The community service activity entitled "Reproductive Health Education for Early Childhood as an Effort to Prevent Sexual Violence at MI 2 Alkhoiriyah Garut" was carried out using an educational and participatory approach tailored to the characteristics of early childhood. The implementation method was

designed systematically so that the objectives of the service could be achieved effectively and sustainably (Wianti & Anggraeni, 2024). The stages of the implementation method for this community service included the preparation stage, the implementation stage, and the evaluation stage (Sekarayu & Nurwati, 2021).

a. Preparation Stage

The preparation stage was the first step, which aimed to ensure that the community service activities could run well and in accordance with the needs of the target audience. Several activities were carried out at this stage, including:

1. Initial Observation

The community service team conducted an initial observation at MI 2 Alkhoiriyah Garut to obtain an overview of the school conditions, student characteristics, and children's level of understanding regarding reproductive health and self-protection. This observation also aimed to identify problems and needs at the school in efforts to prevent sexual violence against children (Marlina et al., 2018).

2. Coordination with the School

Coordination was carried out with the head of the madrasah and class teachers to convey the objectives, plans, and technical implementation of the community service activities. At this stage, the time, place, number of participants, and division of roles between the community service team and the school were also determined so that the activities could run smoothly (Aryani et al., 2022).

3. Preparation of Educational Materials

The community service team prepared reproductive health educational materials tailored to the age and developmental level of MI children. The materials are presented in simple, communicative language and do not contain pornographic elements. They cover the introduction of body parts, private parts, gender differences, how to maintain personal hygiene, and how to protect oneself from inappropriate touching. In addition, the materials are packaged with supporting media such as pictures, posters, and educational games.

b. Implementation Stage

The implementation stage is the core of community service activities. Reproductive health education is carried out using interactive and fun methods so that children can easily understand the material presented. Activities at this stage include:

1. Delivery of Educational Material

The material is delivered through interactive lectures interspersed with question and answer sessions. The community service team explains the material in a gradual and simple manner, tailored to the cognitive abilities of early childhood. Children are given the opportunity to ask questions and express their opinions to create two-way communication.

2. Play and Simulation Methods

To enhance children's understanding, education is carried out through play, storytelling, and simple simulations. Examples include games to learn about body parts, picture stories about self-care, and simulations on how to refuse inappropriate touch. This method aims to help children understand the material in a concrete and practical way in their daily lives.

3. Instilling Moral and Religious Values

As a madrasah-based educational institution, reproductive health education is also integrated with moral and religious values. Children are taught that taking care of their bodies is part of their responsibility to themselves and a form of gratitude to God. This approach is expected to strengthen children's character in maintaining their self-respect.

c. Evaluation Stage

The evaluation stage is carried out to determine the effectiveness of the outreach activities and the level of children's understanding after participating in reproductive health education. The evaluation is carried out in several ways, including:

1. Evaluation of Children's Understanding

The evaluation is carried out simply through oral questions, light discussions, and observation of children's responses during the activity. This aims to determine the extent to which children understand the material that has been presented.

2. Joint Reflection with Teachers

The community service team conducts discussions and reflections with classroom teachers to obtain input related to the implementation of activities, changes in children's behavior, and recommendations for follow-up actions that can be taken by the school.

3. Activity Report Compilation

The results of the implementation and evaluation of the outreach activities are compiled in a report as a form of accountability and as a basis for recommendations for the sustainable development of the reproductive health education program at MI 2 Alkhoiriyah Garut.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Results

Community service activities in the form of reproductive health education for early childhood as an effort to prevent sexual violence at MI 2 Alkhoiriyah Garut were carried out according to the planned stages. The target of this activity was MI 2 Alkhoiriyah Garut students in the early grades who were in the early childhood category. The activity was carried out smoothly and received positive responses from the school and students.

Based on observations during the activity, there was an increase in children's understanding of the basic concepts of reproductive health (Yunika et al., 2022). The children began to be able to recognize their body parts, understand the differences between male and female bodies, and know which parts of the body are private and should not be touched by other people carelessly. This was demonstrated through the children's answers during the question and answer session and their active participation in the educational games provided (Sinaga et al., 2025).

In addition, the children showed great enthusiasm during the educational activities. The method of delivering the material, which was combined with games, picture stories, and simple simulations, made it easier for the children to understand the material presented. The children seemed brave in expressing their opinions and answering questions asked by the community service team (Astuti, 2019). Some children were even able to give examples of unsafe situations and the right ways to protect themselves, such as refusing inappropriate touching and reporting it to a teacher or parent.

Another result obtained from this activity was an increase in children's awareness of the importance of maintaining personal hygiene and dignity (Kesehatan Masyarakat et al., n.d.). Children began to understand that taking care of their bodies is important and related to moral values and religious teachings. The integration of religious values in reproductive health education had a positive impact on children's attitudes in viewing the body as a trust that must be protected.

From the teachers' perspective, the reflection results show that this community service activity provided new insights into the importance of reproductive health education for early childhood. Teachers realized that reproductive health material can be delivered in a simple, safe, and age-appropriate manner without being considered taboo. Teachers also expressed their readiness to continue and develop this material in their daily teaching activities (Pengabdian Masyarakat et al., n.d.).

2. Discussion

The results of this community service activity show that reproductive health education provided from an early age plays an important role in preventing sexual violence against children. Increased understanding of the body and personal boundaries is an indicator that appropriate education can equip children with the basic skills to protect themselves from potential sexual violence (Tezcan-Güntekin et al., 2020).

These findings are in line with the concept of reproductive health education for children, which emphasizes body awareness, understanding of privacy, and the ability to refuse and report inappropriate behavior. Young children are in the concrete cognitive stage of development, so the use of play, storytelling, and simulation methods is very effective in helping children understand abstract concepts. This is evident from the children's active participation during the activities and their ability to answer questions related to the material (Gustina & Yuria, 2022).

The integration of moral and religious values in reproductive health education at MI 2 Alkhoiriyah Garut was also a contributing factor to the success of the activities (Ardianti, 2022). This approach

reinforced the children's understanding that protecting their bodies is not only for their own safety but also a form of moral and spiritual responsibility. Thus, reproductive health education is not only oriented towards knowledge, but also towards shaping children's attitudes and character (Pradnyani et al., 2023).

In addition to the impact on children, this community service activity also made a positive contribution to teachers and the school environment (Rohmawati et al., 2025). Teachers gained a new understanding of the importance of the school's role in preventing sexual violence against children. As the second environment after the family, schools are strategically positioned to provide continuous education and create a safe and child-friendly atmosphere. This awareness among teachers is an important asset for the sustainability of reproductive health education programs in schools (Kalpikajati, 2023).

However, this community service activity still has limitations, including limited implementation time and the absence of long-term evaluations to measure sustainable changes in children's behavior (Maharani et al., 2023). Therefore, follow-up is needed in the form of integrating reproductive health material into the curriculum or routine school activities, as well as involving parents in providing similar education in the family environment.

Overall, the results and discussion show that reproductive health education for early childhood is an effective preventive measure in preventing sexual violence. The implementation of activities at MI 2 Alkhoiriyah Garut proves that with the right methods and appropriate approaches, early childhood can understand and apply the concept of self-protection from an early age.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the results of the community service activity entitled "Reproductive Health Education for Early Childhood as an Effort to Prevent Sexual Violence at MI 2 Alkhoiriyah Garut," it can be concluded that reproductive health education provided from an early age plays a very important role in increasing children's understanding and awareness of self-protection. Children are able to recognize body parts, understand which parts of the body are private, and know the boundaries of what kind of touching is and is not acceptable from other people.

The implementation of reproductive health education using interactive methods, such as simple lectures, educational games, picture stories, and simulations, has proven to be effective in helping early childhood understand the material presented. An approach tailored to the child's stage of development makes the learning process more enjoyable and easier to understand. This can be seen from the high enthusiasm of the children and their ability to respond to questions and participate in activities well.

In addition, the integration of moral and religious values in the delivery of the material has a positive contribution in shaping children's attitudes towards maintaining their dignity and safety. Children understand that taking care of their bodies is part of their personal responsibility and a value that is in line with religious teachings. This community service activity also raises teachers' awareness of the importance of reproductive health education as an effort to prevent sexual violence in the school environment.

Overall, this community service activity can be concluded as successful in providing basic reproductive health understanding to early childhood and as a preventive measure in efforts to prevent sexual violence at MI 2 Alkhoiriyah Garut. Appropriate, safe, and sustainable reproductive health education is essential to create a friendly and safe school environment for children.

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