



Exploring Developmental Biology: The Influence of Sexual Education and Social Awareness on Elementary School Children

Abela Mayunita^{1*}, Nurmida Bintang¹, Puspa Dila¹, Anjarsari Putri¹, Rani Rachmawati¹, Wardah¹, Widia Nurkamileti¹

¹Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Kesehatan Abdi Nusantara, Jakarta, Indonesia.

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Corresponding Author:

Abela Mayunita

mayunitabela@yahoo.co.id

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Abstract: This research explores how sexual education and social awareness influence children's knowledge about sexual violence, bullying, and cybercrime. Education in these early stages of developmental biology is critical because children are forming their cognitive and social capacities. This research used a simple random sampling technique to select samples based on the Slovin formula and collected primary data through a pretest-posttest questionnaire. Analysis using a paired sample t-test shows a significant increase in children's understanding of these topics after education. Conclusions from the study suggest the continuation and support of sexual education and social awareness programs, given their effectiveness in increasing awareness and knowledge at an early age. It is recommended that educational institutions and parents support the implementation of similar programs that can facilitate healthy and proactive social development among elementary school children, with further research needed to optimize these educational components in various social contexts

Keywords: Developmental biology; Education; Elementary school

Introduction

According to Global Status Report on Preventing Violence Against Children 2020 published by WHO in collaboration with UNICEF, UNESCO and the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations (UN) stated that half of the children in the world or around 1 billion children every year are affected by physical, sexual or psychological violence, suffering injuries, disabilities and deaths, because countries fail to follow established strategies to protect them (WHO, 2020). According to data released by the Online Information System for the Protection of Women and Children (SIMFONI-PPA), from January to February 2024 the number of cases of violence against children has reached 1.99. This number may continue to increase,

especially when compared to cases of violence that occurred in 2023. According to the National Commission for Child Protection (Komnas PA), throughout 2023 there were 3.547 complaints of cases of violence against children.

Meanwhile, according to the Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI), from January to August 2023, there were 2,355 cases of violations of child protection. Of this number, 861 cases occurred within the education unit. In detail, children were victims of sexual violence in 487 cases, victims of physical and/or psychological violence in 236 cases, victims of bullying in 87 cases, victims of inadequate educational facilities in 27 cases, victims of policies in 24 cases. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Ministry of PPPA) stated that in 2023, there

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will be 2,325 cases of physical violence against children (Davis & Cashdan, 2019; Steinsbekk et al., 2021).

Based on the results of the 2022 National Assessment (AN) survey, as many as 34.51 percent of students have the potential to experience sexual violence, 26.9 percent of students have the potential to experience physical punishment, and 36.31 percent have the potential to face bullying. Apart from that, from complaint data received by the Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI) regarding special protection for children in 2022, it is stated that the highest category of children who are victims of sexual crimes are children who are victims of physical and/or psychological violence, as well as children who are victims of pornography and cybercrimes, with 2.133 cases.

This fact reflects a serious and worrying situation. Sexual violence against children is a serious human rights violation and has a detrimental impact on the physical and psychological well-being of children. Every case of sexual violence against children is a tragedy that requires serious attention and ongoing prevention efforts (KPAI, 2020). Children are individuals with limited physical, mental and social abilities in facing various risks and threats. In this case, children tend to depend on other parties, especially the family, for protection and supervision. Violence often occurs against children, and these actions can cause harm, harm and fear to them (Chen & Chen, 2023; Wesarg-Menzel et al., 2023).

Sexual violence, bullying are serious problems facing children today. Both forms of violence can have long-term impacts on children's well-being and development. Therefore, it is important to provide effective education about preventing sexual violence and bullying to children (Miller, 2022; Suleiman et al., 2017). Government efforts based on Ratification of Regulations Minister of Education, Culture, Research and Technology Regulation Number 46 of 2023 concerning Prevention and Handling of Violence in Educational Unit Environments on Prevention and Handling of Violence in Schools: This Minister of Education and Culture Regulation regulates the prevention and handling of bullying in schools, including the obligation for schools to form a Task Force for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in Schools (SPTPKS) (Sheppard et al., 2014). The Government's efforts to prevent bullying include providing training for teachers and school staff on how to prevent and handle bullying as well as carrying out anti-bullying campaigns through various mass media and social media platforms.

The government's efforts to prevent cybercrime include the Indonesian government collaborating with other countries to combat cybercrime, including through

exchanging information and law enforcement based on the Ratification of Law Number 19 of 2016 concerning Information and Electronic Transactions (ITE): UU ITE regulates various types of cybercrime, such as the spread of illegal content, defamation and online fraud (Li, 2023; Markland et al., 2023). Education about sexual violence, bullying and cybercrime aims to increase children's knowledge about existing risks, teach them how to protect themselves, and provide skills to deal with situations that may occur. With adequate knowledge, children can recognize the signs of sexual violence and bullying, and know how to report and prevent it (Castro et al., 2024; Maloney et al., 2024).

According to Kamangu et al. (2024) and Pinandari et al. (2023) despite the importance of this education, there are still deficiencies in children's understanding and knowledge about sexual violence, bullying and cybercrime. Several factors can influence children's low knowledge, such as lack of access to appropriate information, lack of inclusive sexual education, and lack of awareness about the importance of preventing sexual violence, bullying and cybercrime. Prevention efforts to break the chain of bullying have been carried out through the participation of all parties, including the government, teachers, health workers, parents, the role of a counselor from health workers and the role of the community environment as well as within the child himself. So far, the Government has issued a policy based on Presidential Regulation Number 87 of 2017 concerning Strengthening Character Education (PPK) which has the aim of developing and equipping students as the golden generation of Indonesia in 2045 with religious, honest, tolerant, disciplined, communicative, peace-loving character. social care and responsibility so that it is hoped that students will not commit deviant actions (Downey & Crummy, 2022; Nijhof et al., 2018).

It is hoped that increasing understanding of bullying and mental health after conducting outreach and discussions can have a significant positive impact. With a better understanding of the negative impacts of bullying and the importance of mental health, it is hoped that teenagers can change their behavior in children (Anne-Laure et al., 2024; Tzouvara et al., 2023). Through counseling and discussions, teenagers are given in-depth information about the consequences of bullying, both for victims and perpetrators. With this you can learn strategies to fight bullying and how to deal with situations related to bullying. This counseling can also help children understand the importance of maintaining mental health, identifying signs of stress or mental health problems (Jensen et al., 2017; Mutabazi et al., 2023). Based on the description of the background, the researchers were interested in taking the research title " Exploring Developmental Biology: The Influence of

Sexual Education and Social Awareness on Elementary School Children."

Method

This research was conducted to determine the effectiveness of providing education about sexual violence and bullying in increasing knowledge for preventing sexual violence, bullying and cybercrime in elementary school children in 2024 from March to June 2024. The independent variable in this research is providing education about sexual violence and bullying education and the dependent variable is increasing knowledge about preventing sexual violence and bullying in children(Elsayed, 2024; Leung et al., 2024). This research was conducted because research has never been conducted on education about sexual violence, bullying and cybercrime. The sample size in this study was used *Slovin's formula*. Random sampling technique *probability sampling* with method *simple random sampling*. SDN 03 Mangunjaya Tambun Selatan totaled 83 respondents, SDN Kertaraharja II totaled 83 respondents, MI Al-Wathoniyah totaled 83 respondents, SDIT Widya Duta totaled 83 respondents, SDN Muktiwari 02 totaled 83 respondents. The data used is primary data obtained from the results of a questionnaire asking about before and after knowledge about sexual violence and bullying education. This research uses data analysis, namely normality test analysis and difference tests using the t test, namely *paired sample t test* using SPSS statistics.

Result and Discussion

Result

Univariate analysis in this study presents the average value of knowledge for preventing sexual violence, bullying and cybercrime before and after providing education to school children at SDN 03 Mangunjaya Tambun Selatan, SDN Kertaraharja II, MI Al- Wathoniyah, SDIT Widya Duta, SDN Muktiwari 02.

Table 1. The Assessment of Knowledge about Preventing Sexual Violence, Bullying and Cybercrime before Providing Education

Knowledge	N	Mean	standard deviation	Min	Max
Before	415	48.98	9.31	36.60	73.30
After		81.05	8.07	70	100

Based on table 1, it can be seen that the assessment of knowledge about preventing sexual violence, bullying and cybercrime before providing education for 415 students obtained an average score of 48.980, and a standard deviation of 9.31400 with a minimum

knowledge assessment of 36.6 and a maximum of 73.3. Meanwhile, after providing education, the average score was 81.052, and the standard deviation was 8.0747 with a minimum knowledge assessment of 70 and a maximum of 100.

Normality Test Results

Based on table 2, the normality test results were obtained *Shapiro-Wilk* for the pretest and posttest, knowledge about preventing sexual violence, bullying and cybercrime is 0.000, which is smaller than alpha 0.005, which means that Ho is rejected because the data is not normally distributed. For this reason, non-parametric tests were carried out *Wilcoxon Signed Ranks Test*. Test *Wilcoxon Signed Ranks Test* is a non-parametric test used to measure differences in 2 groups of paired data on an ordinal or interval scale but the data is not normally distributed.

Table 2. Test *Shapiro – Wilk*

	Statistic	df	Shapiro-Wilk Say.
Pretest	.902	415	.000
Posttest	.938	415	.000

Source: processed data, 2024

The Effectiveness of Providing Education About Violence and Sexual Education in Increasing Knowledge for the Prevention of Sexual Violence, Bullying and Cybercrime in Elementary School Children at SDN 03 Mangunjaya Tambun Selatan, SDN Kertaraharja II, MI Al- Wathoniyah, SDIT Widya Duta, SDN Muktiwari 02 Year 2024.

Table 3. Uji *Wilcoxon*

	Posttest- Pretest
WITH	-17.65
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)	.000

Based on table 3 tests *Wilcoxon Signed Ranks Test* obtained Asymp results. Sig. (2-tailed) 0.000 < 0.05, this means that there is a difference in the average knowledge of students about the Prevention of Sexual Violence, Bullying and Cybercrime before being given education and after being given education about Violence and Sexual Education so that there is effectiveness in providing education about violence and sexual education towards increasing knowledge to prevent sexual violence, bullying and cybercrime in school children.

Discussion

Overview of Providing Education about Violence and Sexual Education

Education or education is indeed important in

providing knowledge and skills to a person or group of people through the learning process. The ultimate goal is to change or improve an individual's knowledge, understanding, and abilities so that they can reach their full potential and become more independent (Chiva-Bartoll et al., 2021). Providing education is the process of conveying information, knowledge and skills to other people with the aim of increasing their understanding, abilities and awareness. Education can be provided in various ways, such as formal learning at schools/universities, training and workshops, non-formal education, and independent learning (Romijn et al., 2021).

The main aim of providing education is to improve the knowledge, skills and attitudes of individuals or groups so they can overcome problems and develop their potential. Effective education requires delivery methods that suit the needs and characteristics of education recipients (Bloor et al., 2022). In efforts to ensure the effectiveness of education delivery methods that suit the characteristics of the recipient, there are several important things that need to be considered. First, it is important to identify the characteristics of the recipients, such as age, level of education, background and experience, as well as their dominant learning style (visual, auditory, kinesthetic) and their interests, needs and goals in attending education (Duane & Winninghoff, 2023).

The delivery method must be adjusted, such as using a combination of methods, such as lectures, discussions, practice, and multimedia, as well as providing material in various formats (text, video, audio, visual) to suit the participants' learning styles (Ayanwale et al., 2022). The use of outreach media in the form of videos is very effective in increasing understanding and absorption of information, especially when compared to just using static images. Movement, animation, and dynamic changes in videos can attract attention and make it easier for the audience to understand. In addition, videos can involve more than one sense, namely sight and hearing, so that information is easier to absorb and remember (Cipriano & McCarthy, 2023). Videos can also display information in a more realistic and applicable context, making it more meaningful for the audience. The speed of conveying information in the video can also be adjusted to the needs of the audience, allowing them to follow along better. In fact, videos can convey more emotional and persuasive messages, so they can motivate the audience. With all these advantages, the use of video media in counseling is highly recommended because it can increase understanding, memory and audience involvement more effectively (Aktifah et al., 2022).

This research provides education through question

and answer lectures and videos. The combination of lectures, questions and answers, and videos offers a comprehensive educational solution. Lectures convey information concisely, questions and answers encourage interaction and understanding, and videos visualize complex concepts. Applying this combination, such as starting with a lecture, continuing with questions and answers, and ending with a video demonstration, has been proven to increase understanding, information retention, participation, and learning motivation (Filippov et al., 2017).

The Effectiveness of Providing Education About Violence and Sexual Education in Increasing Knowledge to Prevent Sexual Violence, Bullying and Cybercrime in Children

Test *Wilcoxon Signed Ranks Test* obtained Asymp results. Sig. (2-tailed) $0.000 < 0.05$, this means that there is a difference in the average knowledge of students about the Prevention of Sexual Violence, Bullying and Cybercrime before being given education and after being given education about Violence and Sexual Education so that there is effectiveness in providing education about violence and sexual education towards increasing knowledge to prevent sexual violence, bullying and cybercrime in school children. Research in line with Zieher et al. (2024) states that educational activities to prevent bullying and mental health can increase teenagers' knowledge regarding bullying and mental health.

The research is in line with Cipriano et al. (2023) which explains that education regarding sexual violence against children and adolescents is important to be carried out on an ongoing basis. This is useful for preventing sexual violence against children and teenagers. Various efforts are needed to prevent sexual violence from various related parties. Education about violence and sexual education are strong bulwarks in fighting various forms of violence against children. Providing knowledge and understanding to children, parents, educators and the wider community is the main key (Romijn et al., 2021).

Through education, children are equipped with knowledge about their rights, types of violence, and how to seek help. Parents and educators have become more aware of the signs of abuse and can take preventative steps. Society at large can also increase awareness and build a culture of mutual respect (Suci et al., 2021).

This education empowers children to protect themselves, dare to speak up and say "no", and builds self-confidence. An understanding of healthy sexuality helps prevent sexual abuse and exploitation of children. Education about empathy, respect and effective communication can prevent bullying and cybercrime (Elsayed, 2024).

Education about violence and sexual education is

an important investment in children's future. By equipping them with the right knowledge, skills and support, we can help prevent various forms of violence against children and build a safer and more resilient generation (Bloor et al., 2022; Romijn et al., 2021). Based on theory and research results, providing education about violence and sexual education is fundamentally important to prevent incidents such as sexual harassment, bullying and cybercrime. This education can provide the public, especially the younger generation, with a proper understanding of what violence is, what sexual harassment is, and how to understand and express sexuality in a healthy and responsible manner. With correct understanding, it is hoped that society, especially the younger generation, can avoid and prevent these negative actions from occurring.

Apart from that, education can also help shape positive attitudes and behavior in society, such as mutual respect, respect and upholding human values. Furthermore, this education can increase public awareness, especially the younger generation, of the importance of maintaining the safety and welfare of themselves and others. Thus, it is hoped that providing education about violence and sexual education can fundamentally create an environment that is safer, more comfortable and respects the rights of each individual.

Conclusion

Statistical test results Paired T Test shows a value of $p < 0.05$, this proves that there is a difference in the average knowledge of students about the Prevention of Sexual Violence, Bullying and Cybercrime before being given education and after being given education about Violence and Sexual Education so that there is effectiveness in providing education about violence and sexual education in increasing knowledge for prevention of sexual violence, bullying and cybercrime in school children.

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Conflicts of Interest

The research has no conflicts of interest.

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